

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Location: MUNSTER TOWN HALL, Munster, IN

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Anthony Broadnax
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
LuAnn Franklin – NWI Times
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Ruth Mores – Hammond
Judy Knapp – Hammond
Ron Ware – Munster
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O-Brien – Hobart
James Dedelow – Munster
John Beckman – Catalysteco Consulting
Peter Yackanich – Hammond
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council
Charlie Svitko – Munster
Jeff Yatsko – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group
Krista Tracy – PNW Student
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal

Chairman Baker introduced and welcomed Derek Nimetz, as the new appointee from Indiana Department of Natural Resources appointment to the Board. Mr. Nimetz stated that he is originally from Highland and has been with the IDNR since 2004. He is an ecologist overseeing areas in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. Mr. Nimetz replaces Ron McAhron on the board.

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the August 9, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker stated that today is the 9th anniversary of the devastating 2008 flood event. Referencing the yellowing pictures of the flood, Mr. Baker asked that we not lose sight of the events currently happening around country, remembering that this happened in our community. This \$275 million man-made flood project requires ongoing maintenance to

ensure something like the 2008 flood event does not happen again. While we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. The reorganization of the Commission and the work done by many to obtain a funding mechanism has allowed us to continue to move forward and remove over 1,400 properties from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts \$4 million dollars annually back into the economy, making this project an economic development project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the August claims in the amount of \$579,217.27. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the claims, starting with a \$62,700.00 payment to Patrick Engineering for continued work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad \$18,551.80 was paid to Rieth-Riley Construction for work on the Gary South Levee Paving Project. This is the final payment and the project came in under budget by \$60,000.00. R.A. Oros was paid \$28,000.00 to clear blockages in Schererville/Dyer Ditch in conjunction with the Lake County Surveyor's Office. \$15,650.34 was also paid to R.A. Oros for fire clean-up of an area near 35th & Chase Street in Gary. Reimbursement to Town of Highland and Hammond Sanitary District in the amounts of \$42,000.00 and \$182,000.00 were issued. These reimbursements are paid when the municipalities pass annual USACE inspections. Finally, \$83,724.00 was paid to Flores Insurance Group for general liability insurance for the project area. Discussion was held regarding refund due do to cancelling the previous liability insurance policy. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The addition of USGS rain gages is moving forward. We are working with the National Weather Service to make one of the Deep River gauges predictive, similar to the current gauge at Hohman Avenue. Predictions will be made based on indicators such as saturation, current rainfall and river levels. A contract for the new gages should be received at the beginning of the new fiscal year. This new contract will add 6 new gages to the system along the Little Calumet River and Deep River.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in summer of 2018.
- The Harrison Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in winter of 2018.
- The Gary North Levee Paving Project should start tomorrow, dependent on weather. This project will pave the levee tops from Martin Luther King Blvd. to Colfax Street.
- The Hammond Levee Paving Project has been completed. This project paved the levee tops from Calumet Avenue to Northcote. An enhanced crossing at the Northcote Bridge was included in the project.
- An Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for September 26th. The Advisory Board consists of a member from each community within the watershed.

Mr. Repay gave a presentation regarding current issues and a historical perspective of the 2008 flood. The complete audio & visual of the presentation can be found on our website at: www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to open proposals for demolition of Lake Station properties and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay stated that we worked with the City of Lake Station to secure licensed contractors for demolition. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote; motion passed 6 aye votes. Proposals were sought from 3 companies licensed in the City of Lake Station. One proposal was submitted by JM Industrial Services in the amount of \$54,000.00.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

The contractor continues to make progress on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. Earthwork, clearing, herbicide application and fence/gate work is being completed.

The contractor has completed the line of protection at the State Line Tie-Back Project with both the wall and earthen levee complete. Grading and top soil work is being completed. As-built drawings for both the wall and earthen levee were submitted and returned for comments. Resubmittal is anticipated by the end of the month. \$50,000 from the contract is being withheld to ensure completion of the as-built drawings in a timely manner.

A ribbon-cutting for the State Line Tie-Back Project is scheduled for October 10th at 2pm.

A bid opening was held for the In-Project Mitigation. The In-Project Mitigation encompasses 65 acres near Chase Street and Clark Road in Gary. The low bidder was Encap in the amount of \$777,000.00. The bid is scheduled to be awarded on September 30, 2017.

Crediting continues to move forward with \$290,000 in credits issued this month.

Discussion was held regarding the ribbon-cutting for the State Line Tie-Back Project and whether it was in the best interest to have the ceremony when people are still paying flood insurance.

Statements from the Floor –

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that she recently went on an ecological tour of Hobart Marsh and found it very informative. She also welcomed Derek Nimetz to the board.

Statements from the Board –

Chairman Baker reflected on the 2008 flood event and encouraged everyone to continue to be vigilant. This is a true regional project with over 1,400 properties removed from the mandatory

flood insurance requirement. This puts \$4 million dollars annually back into the economy, making this project an economic development project.

Commissioner Gozdecki welcomed Derek Nimetz to the board and looked forward to his participation on the various projects of the Commission.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 11th at the Munster Town Hall.