

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

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 seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Ron Ware
Dave Castellanos
Robert Ochi

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee
Frank Stewart - DLZ
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Charlie Svitko – Munster
Lauren Varga – Commonwealth Engineering
George Barth – IDNR
Tom Silich – Hobart Trustee

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded everyone that minutes, audio from the monthly meetings and the stream gages located throughout the system can be found on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org. Chairman Baker further added that the yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event that we display each meeting are a great reminder of what can happen if a project such as this is neglected. There are numerous issues from the original design and decades of deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made project that the Commission is completing. Keep in mind, when dealing with Mother Nature, 10 gallons of water in a 5-gallon bucket will cause problems. However, we are far better prepared than in the past and the Commission continues to maintain open communication with the communities in the watershed by meeting on a monthly basis.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the November claims in the amount of \$1,010,302.23.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Ellas Construction Co. in the amount of \$363,344.53 for continued work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. The bridge is now open to traffic, however there is some clean-up work that will still need to be completed before we close-out the project. \$209,405.04 was paid to Walsh & Kelly for the Marshalltown Levee Paving Project. Additionally, Walsh & Kelly was paid \$49,797.00 for paving of the Rugby Parking Lot in Hobart. This parking lot was used for equipment staging on the CFER Bridge Project. R.A. Oros, Inc. submitted a claim for \$90,644.00 for completion of the tree clearing project at the Lake Station Levee site. The Town of Munster was reimbursed \$12,867.17 for expenses incurred during the September heavy rain event. The Town of Griffith was also reimbursed for expenses from the September rain event in the amount of \$2,975.00.

Chairman Baker asked about the expense associated with the closure of the Northcote Bridge. Mr. Repay explained that the Northcote Bridge is one of the first closures for the system and the September closure happened over the weekend. Additionally, when the river gets that high, it is necessary for the communities to continually monitor the situation.

Commissioner Ware asked if the paving of the Hobart Rugby Parking Lot completes the CFER Bridge Project. Mr. Repay stated that with this completed paving, the project is completely closed out.

Commissioner Whittaker asked how many sandbags were eliminated with the completion of the Harrison Street Bridge Project. It was determined that 2,150 sandbags were eliminated from the project. Additionally, this completes the line of protection for Indiana University Northwest. Mr. Repay added that this information can be found in the flood handbooks which are available on our website.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- The Harrison Avenue Bridge opened for traffic Friday afternoon. There is still some work that the contractor, Ellas Construction, will need to complete from time to time and will utilize flaggers to control traffic if necessary.
- The last mowing of the year was completed last week. We had four mowing cycles of the entire system this year. Mowing is expected to begin again in May of 2020.
- Design work continues on the Lake Station Levee Project. There is a pending change order to perform additional soil borings and sediment samplings and locate various utilities.

- The drone survey of Hart Ditch and Deep River is scheduled to take place during the second week of December.
- Plans for the I-94 Culvert Inspection Project should be completed within the month. It is anticipated that we will bid the project in December with a start date in the spring of 2020.
- The Lake County Drainage Board will be opening bids on the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project at their November 20th meeting.
- There were a few O&M repairs completed including small fixes of duck bills and gauges and cutting down trees that were too close to the levee wall near Colfax Street. As weather permits, we will continue to correct some of the issues that were brought up in our last USACE Inspection.
- Documents required from the contractor for the Emergency Wall Repair in Munster are ongoing. Work cannot begin until the temperature is consistently above 40 degrees, so the project may not begin until the spring.
- The Hobart Marsh and In Project Mitigation Projects are both on schedule with invasive species removal continuing throughout the winter months.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Patrick Engineering Change Order 02 in the amount of \$53,150.00 for the Lake Station Levee Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the change order covers three different components including additional sediment sampling near the dam, additional geotechnical services and utility locating. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the Merrillville Stormwater Utility Watershed Application for the Kaiser Ditch East Tributary Flood Control Improvement Project in the amount of \$61,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Discussion was held regarding the costs of the project. Frank Stewart from DLZ spoke on behalf of Merrillville and state that the costs stated in the application were from the initial Stormwater Masterplan. Merrillville is asking for \$61,000.00 to cover engineering costs. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0 (Commissioner Gozdecki - abstain).

Commissioner Ware made a motion to extend the Leaf Compost Agreement with the Lake Solid Waste Management District; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that LCSWMD has operated the leaf compost site near 35th & Chase Street since 2013 and accepts leaves from all area communities. This motion would extend the agreement for an additional three years. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve an agreement to assist WLTH Radio with addressing stormwater issues; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that

from time to time the radio tower shorts out during high water events. The owner of the radio station approached us to participate in a fix to elevate the wires and hopefully eliminate the issues at the tower as this is a primary means of emergency communication throughout the region. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

No Statements from the Floor.

Statements from the Board -

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone for attending our meetings. He stated that the Commission is in the process of planning for 2020 and we have a lot to accomplish this upcoming year. He added that he was glad to drive over the Harrison Street Bridge after a 17-month closure. In the future, he hopes that we can do better to avoid this type of lengthy closure. Commissioner Whittaker additionally expressed an interest in improving minority participation in the Commission's contacts.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked all for attending and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Ware wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked those that attend our meetings on a regular basis.

Commissioner Ochi wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of the Commission's monthly radio show on WLTH AM 1370 which is held the 2nd Monday of every month at 9am. This month the guest will be Congressman Peter Visclosky.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at Munster Town Hall.