

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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
Natalie Mills - USACE
Frank Stewart - DLZ
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Tom Silich – Hobart Trustee
Sandy O’Brien - Hobart
Chris Wells – Hobart Councilman
George Barth – IDNR
John Beckman - Hammond
Jake Dammarell - BFS
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal River

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 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.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to table Resolution 2019-03 to Establish Responsible Bidding Practices and Submission Requirements for Submitting Bids to Perform Construction Work; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Commissioner a made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-04 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Merrillville Stormwater Utility for the Kaiser Ditch East Tributary Flood Control Improvement Watershed Project in the amount of \$61,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that this Project was approved at last month's meeting and the approved funds will be put towards engineering costs. 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 authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the I-94 Culvert Inspection Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that we are required by the USACE to clean and inspect these culverts every 5 years. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Tom Silich, Hobart Township Trustee, wished everyone a Merry Christmas asked for the Commission's help regarding the culverts near Rosser Lake.

Chris Wells, Hobart District 5 Councilman Elect, introduced himself to the Board and thanked the Commission for their hard work and looks forward to working with them in the future.

Statements from the Board -

Commissioner Castellanos wished everyone Happy Holidays. He 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 was retiring Congressman Peter Visclosky.

Commissioner Ochi wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked everyone for coming out to the meetings this year and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Whittaker congratulated Councilman-Elect Wells and thanked him for attending the meeting. He wished everyone a safe & happy holiday. He stated he is happy to see the progress being made regarding our bid process and minority participation. He further stressed the importance in reinvesting in Northwest Indiana.