

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 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 six (6) 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

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee
Natalie Mills - USACE
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Erik Sprenne - NWIPA

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from June 12, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded everyone that our minutes and audio of the meetings can be found on our website. Our website is a great place to find information on the Commission and the work that we do throughout the watershed. The Commission continues the practice of meeting with communities in the watershed on a monthly basis. 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. Our goal is to make sure that all communities are protected. But keep in mind that we are much better prepared than in the past.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the July claims in the amount of \$1,655,670.36. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with final payment to IHC

Construction in the amount of \$1,250,114.44 for work on the CFER Railroad Bridge Project in Hobart. \$6,065.00 was paid to Patrick Engineering for their construction management and observation of the CFER Bridge Project. Final billing from Patrick Engineering on this project is expected in August. Ellas Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$196,385.90 for continued work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. \$21,724.00 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for monthly pump station inspections. They also assisted with the annual USACE inspections this month. Finally, C&H Mowing was paid \$23,300.00 for mowing and trimming of the entire length of the levee. The next mowing is scheduled for the end of August. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- We have completed the USACE annual inspections. Draft inspection reports for the INDOT and the Gary sections should be submitted to the Commission later this month.
- The CFER Bridge Project over Deep River has been completed. This bridge, located immediately downstream of Old Ridge Road and the Lake George Dam, was found to be a major bottleneck, restricting the flow of water during high flow events. The original structure was removed and replaced with a structure having a larger opening to reduce water restriction along Deep River.
- The Harrison Street Bridge Project is progressing slowly. This project was initially delayed due to utility relocations and inclement weather. It is anticipated that the bridge will be opened this fall.
- Work has begun on the Hammond North Stage V-2 Levee Paving Project. This project was awarded to Walsh & Kelly at the April 10, 2019 meeting.
- The Gary North and South Culvert Cleaning and I-Wall Maintenance Project has begun. This project was awarded to Grimmer Construction at the April 10, 2019 meeting.
- The USACE annual inspection reports for the Hammond, Munster and Highland Sections of the project are complete. The inspection reports can be viewed on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org.
- Lake County has begun the permitting process and survey work on The Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. This is a joint project with the Town of Munster, The Lake County Drainage Board the Commission.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

- The emergency repairs on the leaking wall in Munster and Cady Marsh trash rack repairs will be awarded to Rausch Infrastructure. The USACE has asked for an aggressive schedule from the contractor. Commissioner Castellanos asked about the minority participation goals for this contract. Ms. Mills stated that this was a Small Business Contract award.
- The In-Project Mitigation is progressing. There is a beaver dam that needs to be removed as it is delaying seeding work. This project is on track to be completed in 2023.

- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project is also progressing smoothly with completion in 2021. This month they continued to work on planting and clearing.
- Work continues with 2D modeling on Hart Ditch near Wicker Park. The surveying has been delayed by the recent high water. Ms. Mills stated she is evaluating whether the cost of repairs can be added to the project cost. More information will be available in the next few months.

Other Issues/New Business –
No Other Issues/New Business

Statements from the Floor –
No Statements from the floor

Statements from the Board -

Commissioner Castellanos thanked all for attending the meeting. He stated that the guest on the Commission's WLTH radio program was Kay Westhues, Indiana University South Bend to discuss the natural spring on Chase Street. The radio program is held the 2nd Monday of the month at 9am on WLTH AM 1370.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked everyone who makes the effort to attend our meetings.

Commissioner Whittaker stated he was glad to see the public attend our meetings to remain informed on the work by the Commission. He also stated he has been asked many times about when the Harrison Street Bridge will open and he hopes it does not extend beyond the start of the school year.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.