

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**  
**Location: Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were nine (9) 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  
Anthony Broadnax  
Derek Nimetz

**Visitors:**

Virtual Meeting

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 9 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Commissioner Baker welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked those who joined. As a reminder, the Commission is tasked with the maintenance of a \$275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are completing. However, this Commission is far better prepared than was in the past and we continue to maintain open communication and work with all communities within the watershed.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the August claims in the amount of \$1,490,374.51. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the August claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to

Contech Engineered Solutions in the amount of \$115,314.00 for the deposit on pedestrian bridge for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. This project was awarded in July and expected to be complete by early 2021. \$204,357.85 was paid to Austgen Equipment Inc. for continued work on the Twin Creek Blvd. portion of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. Additionally, \$114,971.85 was paid to R.A. Oros for work on the 45<sup>th</sup> Street portion of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. \$370,000.00 was committed to purchasing property along Deep River from the School City of Gary. In partnership with Lake County Parks and Recreation, we plan to purchase approximately 68 acres in Lake Station. The county will reimburse the LCRBDC \$160,000.00 upon closing. Dyer Construction was paid \$134,104.90 for replacement of a collapsed culvert on Chase Street. C & H Mowing completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of mowing for the season and submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00. Gariup Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$50,139.65 for continued work on the Marshalltown Sloughing Project. Hasse Construction completed the cleaning and inspection of culverts under 80/94 and submitted claims in the amount of \$79,034.40 and \$83,250.00. Finally, JM Industrial Services was paid \$47,700.00 for demolition work on properties in Lake Station for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the September claims in the amount of \$689,259.56; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims starting with payments to the Hammond Sanitary District in the amount of \$182,000.00 and the Town of Highland in the amount of \$42,000.00. These amounts represent reimbursements for Pump Station Maintenance during the year. C & H Mowing completed the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of mowing for the season and submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00. It is anticipated that there will be one more mowing before the end of the year. Hasse Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$18,615.60 for continued work on the 80/94 Culvert Clearing Project. Our liability insurance policy with Flores Insurance was renewed in the amount of \$79,361.00. Czaplicki-Lopez, PLLC was paid \$4,977.50 for engineering work on the redesign of the Burr Street Flood Control Closure. Finally, several blockages were removed along the system with \$3,603.40 paid to Northern Indiana Mechanical for clearing on the Little Calumet River near Kennedy Avenue and \$6,250.00 paid to Wiltjer Excavating for blockage removal on Hart Ditch near Stewart Park.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

#### Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- We have completed and passed all USACE Inspections for 2020. Next year the gates and culverts along the west reach will need to be video inspected. Some monolith joints in segments 7 and 8 need to be repaired as well as some settlement areas along the wall.

Additionally, we will need to cut back some saplings and shrubs that have grown inside the levee.

- Our Contractor, Hasse Construction has completed the cleaning and inspection of the culverts under 80/84. No issues were found during the inspection. The completed videos will be forwarded to the USACE and INDOT for their records.
- The Hart Ditch Stabilization Project is progressing. The last remaining segment to be completed this year is 45<sup>th</sup> & Camellia.
- Work will begin this week on clearing the High Velocity Flow Channel from all the sediment that has accumulated over the last couple of years. This project was combined with the Wicker Park Overbuild Project. The levee trail will be closed for 2-3 weeks, depending on the weather. Staff at Wicker Park have been notified of the closure.
- We are currently waiting for permits from IDNR on the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. We have already had an initial meeting with the contractor. Once the permit issue is cleared, we can begin work on the project.
- There are still several outstanding easements with the City of Gary that are required by the USACE. Significant progress has been made over the past few months. We will continue to work with the City, The Redevelopment Department and the Parks and Recreation Department to secure the necessary easements.
- Audubon Great Lakes will give a presentation at our October meeting to discuss their work throughout the watershed.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve a joint-funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the watershed during the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. The combined agreement amount is \$110,340.00, with the LCRBDC contributing \$99,640.00 and the USGS contributing \$10,700.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement covers thirteen streamgages throughout the watershed. All the gages can be viewed by the public from our website. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Statements to the Board –**

Jeanine Harrison, Highland, gave information about a group of which she is a member, the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Ochi thanked all for attending our virtual meeting.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone that attended and participated in the meeting.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked Ms. Harrison for her comments during the meeting and reminded everyone of the recent anniversary of the 2008 flood event.

Commissioner Wichlinski reminded everyone to stay safe and looks forward to have meetings in person in the future.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the LCRBDC has a monthly radio show on WLTH AM 1370 that is broadcast every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 9am.

Chairman Baker reminded all that it has been 12 years since the 2008 flood event and the Commission has done much work and is better prepared than in the past.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, 2020.