

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

Location: Munster Town Hall

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 Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax
Ron Ware
Derek Nimetz
Robert Ochi
David Castellanos

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC
Erik Sprenne - NWIPA
Phil Gralik – City of Hobart
Mayor Brian Snedecor – City of Hobart
Councilman Chris Wells – City of Hobart

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from May 19, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to our meeting. As a reminder, USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recording of our meetings can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org. 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. The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event serve as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project is neglected. 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 June claims in the amount of \$646,440.68. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the May claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment in the amount of \$285,631.95 to Earthwerks for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. This project is in the final phase and nearly complete. Hasse Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$28,450.00 for damming of the river. In coordination with local authorities, our contractor installed a temporary dam to shut down the flow of the river in order to aid in the search for a child that went missing in the area. Additionally, local municipalities shut down their pumps to the river in order to expedite draining the search area. \$150,000.00 was paid to the Town of Griffith for the operation and maintenance of the Cady Marsh Ditch. The City of Lake Station submitted a claim in the amount of \$26,500.00 for the Viking Village Watershed Project. \$5,220.00 was paid to Greater Indiana Title for updated title work on several properties needed by the USACE. C & H Mowing submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00 for the second levee mowing of the season. Finally, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$8,982.00 for the monthly Pump Station inspections. 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 are in the final phases of the Lake Station Rock Riffle Project. This 4.4 million dollar project has come in on time and without change orders. A ribbon cutting will be held in the near future.
- The Spring Park design is still ongoing. It is anticipated that the project will be bid out later this summer.
- Paving for the Hart Ditch Levee Project has been finished. By completing this paving, the levee in this area is now the correct height and should now cause issues with the adjoining neighborhood during high water events.
- USACE inspections for Hammond, Highland and Munster and scheduled to begin June 21st. This is the last of the inspections for this year. Reports will be posted on our website when they are complete.
- Dewatering and inspection of the Arbogast Tunnel is scheduled for later this week. The USACE requires inspection and videotaping of the tunnel every five years.
- We are working with the Lake County Surveyor's office on final design work for the Hart Ditch Stabilization projects that we plan to complete this year.
- We are also working with the Lake County Surveyor's office on improvements at Rosser Lake to reduce the level of the lake and relieve pressure from an adjoining neighborhood that is experiencing a high water table.
- We participated in a discussion with the National Audubon Society, Lake County Parks and the Nature Conservancy regarding the status of our current project as well as potential future partnerships. The Audubon Society will be at our July meeting to give a presentation and answer questions.
- The Burr Street Closure Project agreement is being circulated for signatures. The project will then be scheduled by the railroad and completed by their contractor.

- The Gary Sanitary District has requested that we extend manholes that are currently located outside the levee, but within the ditch line that feeds the river. The manholes are located off of Harrison and Chase Streets.
- Funding for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is making its way through Congress. It is anticipated that we will hear word on the funding by late summer.

Presentation –

Phil Gralik from the City of Hobart gave a presentation on the Stinky Creek and Turkey Creek Lateral 6 Diversion and Regional Stormwater Project Watershed Application. Mayor Snedecor and Councilman Wells from the City of Hobart also spoke regarding this Watershed Application. This project is designed to reduce flooding in residential areas and along Deep River within the Stinky Creek Watershed and at the headwaters of Turkey Creek Lateral 6. The funding amount requested by the City of Hobart is \$786,000.00.

The video presentation can be viewed on our website or at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3KFsJkgLAK>

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the following Resolutions and Inter-local Agreements (items a-g); motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos.

- a) Resolution 2021-01 and an InterLocal Agreement with the City of Crown Point for the Sauerman Woods Drainage Project. (Funding amount: \$2,600,000.00)
- b) Resolution 2021-02 and an InterLocal Agreement with the Town of Dyer for the Hart Ditch 2 Stage Ditch Project. (Funding amount: \$600,000.00)
- c) Resolution 2021-03 and an InterLocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board for the Beaver Dam Ditch Lateral 5 Culvert Replacement Project. (Funding amount: \$126,000.00)
- d) Resolution 2021-04 and an InterLocal Agreement with the City of Hammond for the Calumet Avenue Hammond Pedestrian Bridge Project. (Funding amount: \$1,000,00.00)
- e) Resolution 2021-05 and an InterLocal Agreement with Lake County Park and Recreation Board for the GEO Group Property Acquisition Project. (Funding amount: \$246,000.00)
- f) Resolution 2021-06 and an InterLocal Agreement with the City of Lake Station for the Viking Village Pump Station Project. (Funding amount: \$230,000.00)
- g) Resolution 2021-07 and an InterLocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield for the Hidden Creek Subdivision Regional Stormwater Project – Phase 1. (Funding amount: \$200,000.00)

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

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to renew a Resolution and Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Griffith for the operation and maintenance of the Cady Marsh Ditch; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. This agreement provides for an annual reimbursement of \$50,000 to the Town of Griffith. The payment is contingent upon the Town of Griffith

passing inspection by the USACE for the Cady Marsh Ditch. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Statements to the Board –

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, thanked the Commission for approving the GEO Group Watershed Application earlier this year, and also expressed her concerns for the Stinky Creek and Turkey Creek Stormwater Watershed Application.

Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, stated he had the opportunity to review the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. He shared with the board his safety concerns and lack of downstream access.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked all for attending the meeting and thanked the City of Hobart for their presentation.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the City of Hobart for their presentation and for everyone that continues to attend our meetings. He also stated that this is the time for unity and healing for the country.

Commissioner Ochi thanked the City of Hobart for their comprehensive presentation on the Stinky Creek Watershed Application.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Father's Day.

Commissioner Gozdecki wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and thanked the City of Hobart for their presentation.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the City of Hobart for their presentation.

Commissioner Nimetz thanked the City of Hobart for their detailed presentation on the Stinky Creek Watershed Application

Commissioner Castellanos thanked Commissioner Broadnax for participating on the WLTH AM 1370 Radio program to discuss our partnership with Earth Charter Indiana and interns that will be working to inventory greenhouse gasses this summer. He also stated that he is proud to be a member of the Board and that the members put politics aside and come together to do what is right for the community.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2021.