

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall**

Chairman Baker presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Visitors:**

Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC  
Gary Lee - Gary  
Dave Taborsky – Gary  
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee

**Commissioners Absent:**

Anthony Broadnax

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from October 19, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting. He reflected on the 2008 flood event and the devastation that can occur when maintenance to a \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission's task right now is the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this regional flood control project. We continue to meet with communities once a month to make sure we are ready to take on Mother Nature. Keep in mind that when you pour 10 gallons of water into a 5-gallon bucket, problems can occur. But we are far better prepared now than we were in 2008.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the November 2022 claims in the amount of \$650,828.47. 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 Gariup Construction in the amount of \$242,582.50 for continued work on Spring Park. This project is nearly complete with just the delivery and installation of the shade structure remaining. \$114,823.62 was paid to Dyer Construction for continued work on the Stage 7 Sealant Project. This project is approximately 50% complete. The Hobart Sanitary District submitted a claim in the amount of \$52,500.00 on the Stinky Creek Diversion Watershed Project. The City of Crown Point participated in our Tree Program and was reimbursed \$10,000.00. Hasse Construction submitted invoices totaling \$39,665.64 for completing repairs on several gates throughout the system. \$5,784.00 was paid to 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance for inspection & exercise of sluice gates. Finally, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$5,768.00 for their monthly pump station inspection.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

### **Executive Director's Report –**

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

- The Natural Spring Project is nearing completion. The final component is the installation of the shade structure which is expected to be on site the first week of December.
- Both Grant Street Pump Stations went through a deep clean of the wells and trash racks. Pump One from the Grant West Pump Station was pulled for maintenance. We plan to inspect all three pumps this winter to make sure they are all working properly for the spring season.
- Work has begun on Phase Two of the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project with clearing of trees and brush along the bank. The contractor plans to work throughout the winter on the project.
- The Deep River clean-up has been paused until warmer weather in the Spring. Our contractor, Wiltjer Excavating, cleared the river up to Veteran's Park. The Lake County Highway Department took care of all the trees and other debris at no cost to the project.
- The Commission would like to pursue opportunities to further study of different areas of the watershed. There are several areas/studies under consideration. The Cady Marsh Ditch to determine if the deep tunnel diversion is working as intended. The Little Calumet River Features Analysis to look at particular features within the Federal Control Project such as the diverter structure and Highland Rookery overflow to determine if they are working as designed. Finally, a continuation of previous Deep River and Beaver Dam Ditch studies to have an updated hydraulic model.
- A preliminary report was completed on the Calhoun Ditch Seepage Study. Our engineer, DLZ, would like to wait for a high water event to issue a final report with recommendations.

### **Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve a proposal with Encap Incorporated for long-term maintenance of the Little Calumet River Mitigation Site in an amount not to exceed \$88,500.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement provides for the long term maintenance of the 60+ acre site as required by the USACE.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve a Joint-Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of three (3) water quality streamgages during the period October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The combined agreement amount is \$15,330.00, with the LCRBDC contributing \$10,665.00 and USGS contributing \$4,665.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that these gages monitor water temperature at three locations throughout the watershed and are in addition to the thirteen streamgages already in place. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the Town of Merrillville's Hayes Farm Drainage Improvements Watershed Application for engineering and planning in the amount of \$23,425.00, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the Town of Schererville's Sunset Blvd. Detention Watershed Application in the amount of \$340,000.00, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission participated in the engineering of the project and this request is for the construction. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Lake County Parks Sarros Land Acquisition Watershed application in the amount of \$200,000.00, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that the initial request for funding was brought to the Commission in 2020. Since then, Lake County Parks was able to secure additional funding sources to assist with the project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve Lake County Parks Penn Oak Property Acquisition Watershed Application in the amount of \$25,800.00, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve the Hammond Sanitary District's Southeast Combined Sewer Overflow Treatment Facility Design Watershed Application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by

Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that project will address combined sewer overflows and our commitment reflects about 13% of the design cost. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0 (Commissioner Whittaker abstained).

**Statements to the Board –**

Tom Silich, Hobart Township Trustee, thanked the Commission for all the help they have offered over the years and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Ware thanked the public for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Whittaker wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked those for attending our meetings. He stated that this has been a bumpy year but stay tuned for projects in 2023. He also stated that the Commission hopes to head to other communities for meetings in the future.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked those for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Castellanos wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels. He also thanked the public for coming out to our meetings during the year.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 21, 2022.