

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall**

Chairman Baker 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  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Anthony Broadnax  
Derek Nimetz  
David Castellanos  
Ron Ware

**Visitors:**

Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Gary Lee – Gary  
Dave Taborski – Gary  
Chris Wells – Hobart Councilman  
Bill Leber – Wessler Engineering  
Jabez Anderson – Wessler Engineering  
Paul Daniels – CCxPD, LLC

**Commissioners Absent:**

Robert Ochi

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 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 with 6-0 (Commissioners Gozdecki and Broadnax abstain).

**Chairman's Report -**

Chairman Baker thanked the public for attending our meeting. The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event are shown at every meeting as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project such as this is neglected. He stated that the Commission is tasked with the continued 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 in the process of completing. As we continue to work with the local municipalities, the Commission is far better prepared than we were in the past.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the April 2022 claims in the amount of \$312,920.21. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the April claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Microbac Laboratories in the amount of \$51.75 for monthly water testing at the Natural Spring. \$2,125.00 was paid to Czaplicki-Lopez, PLLC on the Burr Street Flood Control Closure. This project eliminates another closure within the City of Gary. Christopher Burke Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$6,200.50 for continued work on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation Project. 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$13,335.12 for clean-up work along Chase Street. Additionally, 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance was paid \$6,720.00 to exercise sluice gates along the system. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$7,074.00 for monthly pump station inspections. Finally, the Town of Winfield was reimbursed \$204,000.00 for the 109<sup>th</sup> Culvert Upgrade Watershed Project.

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 first round of USACE Inspections were conducted last week. This round of inspections included Hammond, Highland and Munster. There were a few minor issues including animal burrows, settlement and bank erosion. Several of the joints between the wall segments in stage 7 are eroding. We will need to address this issue in the upcoming months.
- There will be a kick-off meeting for the Spring Park project tomorrow morning. We will have a better idea of the construction schedule at that time. Additionally, the USGS will be conducting water quality testing at the site. They will coordinate with the contractor during construction.
- We look to work again this year with the Lake County Drainage Board on the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. The Drainage Board has already put the project out for bid for the area approximately 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Twin Creek Blvd. It is anticipated that the bid will be awarded in May with construction this year. There may be funds available for emergency fixes that arise as work continues along Hart Ditch.
- The Griffith Levee Rehabilitation project continues to move forward. We are working on some real estate acquisitions necessary for the project.
- Once the weather breaks, we will begin clearing and snagging work in Deep River. We plan to continue where we left off a few years ago. Lake Station and the Lake County Surveyor's Office will assist in this project.

**Presentation –**

Bill Weber from Wessler Engineering gave an update on the Beaver Dam Ditch Watershed Study. The presentation can be viewed on our website or at the following link: <https://youtu.be/5IABXe7kwJs>

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Phil Gralik, City Engineer for the City of Hobart addressed the board regarding Hobart's Stinky Creek and Turkey Creek Lateral 6 Diversion Regional Stormwater Project. Discussion was held regarding the Interlocal Agreement previously approved by the LCRBDC on October 20, 2021 for the amount of \$450,000.00. It was agreed that the City of Hobart would reach out to Mr. Repay and discuss the best path forward on this Watershed Project.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to open proposals on a new Flood Control Closure Structure for the Munster side of the Northcote Bridge and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney, engineer and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Town of Munster is transitioning from cement blocks to a post and panel flood control closure when it is necessary to close the bridge during high water events. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-1. (Chairman Baker voted nay). One bid was received from Gariup Construction in the amount of \$ 139,470.00.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve a service agreement with United Consulting for the Flood Control Gatewell Structure Replacement and Wicker Park Stormwater Lift Station Project in the amount of \$196,600.00, pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement looks to address inadequate secondary closures in Hammond and Highland as well as review the drainage at Wicker Park. United Consulting had previously designed the INDOT Indianapolis Blvd. Pump Station. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0. (Commissioner Broadnax abstained).

**USACE Real Estate Crediting Update –**

Mike Rohde, Chief of Real Estate for the Chicago Division of the USACE gave an update on the current status of real estate acquisitions for the project. He stated that the USACE and Commission have been working on acquisitions for many years. We are now down to the final 60 parcels. The USACE has recently approved 21 parcels with the goal of approving approximately 5-10 per month. Further discussion was held regarding the additional documentation needed for properties received on tax sale and properties donated by local municipalities. Commissioners questioned the delays in the approval process, stating these final crediting packages were submitted to the USACE in 2020. Additionally stating that our records show only 12 parcels were approved. The USACE agreed to provide monthly updates on the real estate crediting.

**Statements to the Board –**

Craig Zandstra, Lake County Parks gave an update on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative. Work included park interns, a management plan for the MLK South area of the project as well as a water control structure that would be built on Gary Parks property.

Terry Steagall, Highland, stated that he sent an email to the Commission members asking them to reconsider the Request for Proposals on the Grant Street Property. The Commission is the steward of the watershed and it needs to be taken seriously. The Commission needs to rethink the disposal of any land it currently owns. He also would like the Commission to do what it can to terminate the agreement with Maya Energy.

Stephan Gunty, Public Works Director for the Town of Munster thanked the Board for funding the new Northcote Bridge Flood Control Closure Structure. He stated this is a welcome improvement to the current closure used by the town.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their comments. Additionally, he stated that it's a good idea to continued updates from the USACE.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked all for attending the meeting. He thanked the USACE and Wessler Engineering for their presentations.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated he was glad to be back in person for the meeting. He further thanked the USACE for their update on the status of real estate crediting.

Commissioner Castellanos reminded all of the Commission's monthly radio show on WLTH AM 1370. He stated that previous guests included Chuck Hughes and Gary 5<sup>th</sup> District Councilperson Linda Caldwell.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2022.