

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 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
Ron Ware
Robert Ochi
Anthony Broadnax (via zoom)

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Gary Lee – Gary
Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC
Dave Taborski – Gary
Nick Zaluzec – RES, LLC
Doreen Carey - Gary

Commissioners Absent:

Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from June 15, 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 7-0 with Commissioner Broadnax abstaining.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from July 7, 2022 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0 with Commissioner Gozdecki abstaining.

Chairman's Report -

Chairman Baker began the meeting saying how proud he is of the Commission and the work we have accomplished. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood control project. The yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event shown at every meeting are a reminder of what can happen if maintenance is neglected. While the Commission's work is ongoing, we are far better prepared than we have been in the past.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the July 2022 claims in the amount of \$1,764,947.58. Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve the claims in the total amount of \$1,264,947.58. This amount reflects a reduction to the payment request from the City of Hammond by \$500,000.00 for the Calumet Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Watershed Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Wessler Engineering in the amount of \$22,300.20 for continued work on the Beaver Dam Ditch Study. Wessler Engineering will give a presentation on the progress of the study later in the meeting. \$3,565.00 was paid to HWC Engineering for continued project management of the Spring Park Project. Gariup Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$101,792.50 as first payment on the Spring Park Project. Actin submitted claims totaling \$24,000 for Pump Station and outfall clearing completed last month. The Town of Dyer was reimbursed \$203,136.52 on the Hart Ditch Two Stage Ditch Watershed Project. Finally, the Hammond Sanitary District and Town of Highland were reimbursed \$182,000.00 and \$42,000.00 for annual Pump Station Maintenance.

Commissioner Ware requested further information on the two invoices from 1st Response Maintenance as they stated that a portion of the work was completed on the weekend at weekend rates. Mr. Repay stated the work was to cut and clear the culvert on Calhoun. The first round of clearing the area was more challenging so that is why that invoice was a higher amount. Mr. Repay also stated he would get clarification from the contractor.

Chairman Baker asked for additional information regarding the reimbursements to the Hammond Sanitary District and Town of Highland. Mr. Repay explained that those municipalities operate and maintain the Pump Stations. The Pump Stations are inspected by the USACE as part of our annual inspections. The municipalities are reimbursed \$14,000 per pump station each year, provided they received a minimally acceptable rating by the USACE.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0 with Commissioner Gozdecki abstaining.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We continue to clear and video culverts in Hammond, Highland and Munster. This is an ongoing project as some culverts required extensive cleaning. Clearing and video of the culverts is required every 5 years by the USACE.
- Phase 2 of the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project was awarded to Austgen Equipment by the Lake County Drainage Board. Additionally we are working with the Surveyor's office to extend the bank stabilization by an additional 800 feet to the north. This would bring the total of bank stabilization for this year to approximately 1800 feet.
- With cooperation from the Cities of Lake Station and Hobart, Wiltjer Excavating, began clearing the segment of Deep River between Veterans Park and State Road 51. Portions of Deep River have not been cleared in over 30 years.
- The monitoring period for the Calhoun Seepage Study has been extended due to the low water flow in the river. We hope to have some rain events soon so we

can get some good data as to whether any issues exist within that part of the system.

- The Northcote Bridge Flood Control Barrier project is expected to begin in August and should take about 5 weeks to complete. The bridge will be closed during the time of construction.
- The Stage 7 Floodwall Joint Sealant Replacement and Repair Project was awarded to Dyer Construction. The sealant they proposed was approved by the USACE. Paul Daniels will be assisting in the management of the project as the contract is heavily dependent on the amount of material used.
- The design and engineering work for the Griffith Levee is almost complete. It is anticipated the bids for the project will be opened at our October meeting with construction during the 2023 construction season.
- Design and engineering is complete on the Screen Raker at the Cady Marsh Diversion Tunnel. The trash rack was installed in 2012 as part of a separate flood control project and has never worked properly. This tunnel when functioning, reduces the amount of water that feeds into Hart Ditch. It is anticipated to bid out the project next month with bid opening at our September meeting.
- The City of Crown Point opened bids on Phase I of the Sauerman Woods Drainage Project today. The lowest bid was from Austgen Equipment at \$2,361,094.00. The Commission has committed \$2,600,000.00 to the total project. We will need to review the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Crown Point to determine how we will allocate the funds over the stages of the project.
- I will be touring the Hart Ditch Two Stage Ditch Project on July 19th with representatives of the Town of Dyer. They have submitted their first claim and the project seems to be progressing as expected.
- After a few delays with permitting, the Calumet Avenue Pedestrian Bridge Project is going along well. We are been working with the City of Hammond's contractor in dealing with a cracked storm sewer line.
- The Commission will need to formally adopt the USACE Flood Protection Handbooks. This will assist in the City of Gary's efforts to obtain a LOMR for the city. One of the comments from FEMA was that the Flood Protection Handbooks were approved by the Commission.
- Our scanning crew continues to make good progress with the scanning project. They are working on scanning all of the real estate acquisitions and then we will work to attach them to our existing GIS map.

Presentation –

Bill Leber, Senior Project Manager II from Wessler Engineering gave a presentation on Beaver Dam Ditch Watershed Study. Mary Atkins and Lori Latham from Wessler Engineering were also in attendance at the meeting. The complete presentation and follow-up discussion can be found on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org or at the following link:

https://youtu.be/UVBX_eBurXQ

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Drainage Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that the bids will be opened at our October 2022

meeting with a project completion date expected in November of 2023. 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 authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Cady Marsh Screen Raker Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that bids will be due and opened at our September 2022 meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-06, adopting the USACE Emergency Flood Protection Handbooks dated November 14, 2018 for the Gary, Marshalltown, Burr Street, Hammond, Highland, Munster and Forest Avenue segments of the Little Calumet River Local Flood Protection and Recreation Project, including the addition of the as-builts for the Harrison Avenue Bridge and Burr Street Railroad Closure into the Gary Levee System Handbook; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay explained that this motion is related to the City of Gary's efforts to obtain a LOMR for the city. One of the comments from FEMA was that the Flood Protection Handbooks were not formally adopted by the Commission. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Statements to the Board –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, commented on the poor condition of the stop logs at the Forest Avenue Tieback. Mr. Repay stated that the City of Hammond is aware of the state of the stop logs and there is also a secondary closure procedure for the location.

Doreen Carey, Gary, had comments on the proposed Maya Energy LLC license transfer to Calabria Capital LLC. She stated that in the presentation to the Commission, Mr. Zappia of Calabria Capital LLC did not appear to have an understanding of what Maya Energy LLC was proposing at the Gary site and most of their presentation had little to do with what was planned at the site. She also noted that two separate objections have been filed with the Indiana Office of Environmental Adjudication to oppose the renewal of air permits for Maya Energy LLC. Ms. Carey stated that Maya Energy LLC has not constructed anything since the issuance of permits and there are various environmental concerns including truck emissions and the issue of the nearby existing school. She further asked the Commission if the Calabria Capital LLC proposal would be returning to the Board for consideration. Chairman Baker stated that it was unknown at this time if the license transfer would come before the Board again. Chairman Baker also noted that Calabria Capital LLC would have to abide by the same contractual obligations of the original agreement.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked those who continue to attend our meetings and thanked the representatives from Wessler Engineering for their presentation.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also appreciated the comments on Maya Energy and noted that he has remained opposed to the project from the beginning.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the public for attending our meeting and for their continued interest in the Commission.

Commissioner Ochi thanked the public for their comments and thanked Wessler Engineering for their presentation.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked those who attending our meeting and for their comments.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that he visited the Hammond Pedestrian Bridge project and was impressed by the work. He is also encouraged by the work Gariup Construction is doing at the Spring Park site. He further thanked Doreen Carey for her comments and added the he also remains opposed to Maya Energy.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2022.