

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
Location: Griffith Town Hall

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

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
David Castellanos
Derek Nimetz
Robert Ochi

Visitors:

Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC
Doreen Carey – Gary
Gary Lee - Gary
Sam Berg – FH Paschen
Lee Olson - Griffith

Commissioners Absent:

Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax
Ron Ware

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from August 17, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Town of Griffith for their hospitality in allowing us to hold our meeting at their town hall. He further stated that Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood control project. The 2008 flood event shown is 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 September 2022 claims in the amount of \$589,031.21. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Christopher Burke Engineering in the amount of \$35,414.51 for continued work on the Griffith Levee

Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Project. This project is currently out for bid with bid opening at our October 19th meeting. Wessler Engineering submitted claims totaling \$84,354.38 for continued work on the Beaver Dam Ditch Study. They presented their findings at our July meeting. Grimmer Construction was paid \$122,611.69 for the videoing and clearing of culverts as required by the USACE. The segments videoed were in Highland, Hammond, and Munster. The Hobart Sanitary District was paid \$42,250.00 on the Stinky Creek Lateral 6 Diversion Watershed Project. Lake County Parks was paid \$23,633.37 on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Watershed Project. Finally, \$66,731.00 was paid to Flores Insurance Group for renewal of our general liability insurance policy.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- The Spring Park Project is about 75-80% complete. The contractor is on track to finish the project next month.
- The Northcote Bridge Flood Control Barrier project has started. The work should take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete. The bridge will be closed during the time of construction.
- Design work on the City of Hobart's Stinky Creek Lateral 6 Diversion project is ongoing, they are currently talk with impacted homeowners.
- The City of Crown Point recently awarded Phase 1 of the Sauerman Woods Project. The first phase consists of mainly drainage and flood control improvement items. There is an Addendum on the agenda that will clarify the Commission's obligations as the project has now been split into two phases.
- Dyer Construction continues to work on the Stage 7 Floodwall Joint Sealant Repair Project. The USACE was out inspecting sections of the project today.
- The USACE conducted a table-top exercise today with communities to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation. The communities of Griffith, Munster, Highland, and Hammond participated in the exercise.
- United Consulting continues engineering work on the Wicker Park Lift Station. We should have an estimated construction amount in the next 2 months. We will look to bid the project in the winter of 2022.
- We have completed our financial commitment to the Dyer Two Stage Ditch Project. The Town of Dyer, Franciscan Hospital and Lake County all participated in the project.
- Plans for the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Improvements Project are out for bid and available to any interested contractors. Bids on the project will be opened at the October meeting.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to open bids on the Cady Marsh Ditch Intake Screen Raker Replacement Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder; pending review by attorney, engineer, and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that this project will replace the current trash rack at that location that has never worked properly. Chairman Baker asked if there

were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0. The bids received were as follows: F.H. Paschen - \$940,810.00.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve proposal #10706 R10 from Duperon Corporation in the amount of \$626,000.00 for the purchase of Screen Raker Equipment for the Cady Marsh Ditch Intake Screen Raker Replacement Project; pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission opted to purchase the equipment outright for this project in hopes to expedite the process as there is a lengthy lead time on the screen rake. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-07 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Griffith for the Cady Marsh Ditch Intake Screen Raker Replacement Construction Project. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos 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 October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The combined agreement amount is \$191,140.00, with the LCRBDC contributing \$100,440.00 and USGS contributing \$90,700.00; pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that this is the annual contract with USGS for our monitoring gages throughout the system. The real time data for the gages can be found on our website. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08 adopting the USACE Operation and Maintenance Manuals dated February 25, 2011, and the September 2022 Operation and Maintenance Information Update Annex. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that this motion is related to the City of Gary's efforts to obtain a LOMR for the city. The Commission had already adopted the USACE Flood Protection Handbooks via resolution at our July meeting, and FEMA is now requesting that we formally adopt the Operation & Maintenance Manuals as well. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve an Addendum to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Crown Point for the Sauerman Woods Drainage Improvements Project. This addendum states the LCRBDC shall commit the sum not to exceed the amount of \$2,600,000.00 for the total project. Phase 1 will be 100% funded by the LCRBDC, for flood control items only, up to \$2,600,000.00, with any remaining funds allocated to Phase 2 of the project. If Phase 2 is not awarded by October 1, 2023, the City of Crown Point shall reimburse the LCRBDC 20% of the total cost for Phase

1 of the project. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Addendum was necessary as the City of Crown Point decided to split this project into two phases after the initial Interlocal Agreement was approved. The LCRBDC is still committing the same dollar amount for flood control items only. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to Approve a contract with American StructurePoint, Inc. for construction inspection services on Phase I of the Sauerman Woods Drainage Improvements Project, in an amount not to exceed \$96,000.00, pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that American StructurePoint was the engineering firm that designed the project, and they will monitor the progress on the Commission's behalf. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to reject the proposal submitted by Bradford Gary LLC in partnership with Crow Holdings Industrial, for the license of land located at approximately 2100-2400 West 35th Street in Gary, Indiana; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that we received only the one submittal when we opened bids at our May 2022 meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Statements to the Board –

Doreen Carey, Gary, asked if there was any information on the payment that is due from Maya Energy by October 11, 2022. She further stated her opposition to the project and asked that the Commission consider holding a future meeting in the City of Gary.

Lee Olson, Griffith, asked about the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Improvements Project and if it would have any effect on his property east of the railroad tracks in Griffith.

Gary Lee, Gary, asked what the next steps are if Calabria doesn't make the payment and are in default. He also thanked the Commission for rejecting the proposal earlier in the meeting on the property located on 35th Street in Gary.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked those for attending the meeting. He stated it was nice to have the meeting in Griffith and hopes we can have future meetings on the road as well.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the Natural Spring Project is going well and that he sees a lot of people getting water from the spring. Additionally, he wanted to address previous comments on the diversity of the board. He stated that he feels we have a diverse board that works together and always for the good of Northwest Indiana.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2022.