

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
Location: Munster Town Hall

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski 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:

Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
David Castellanos
Robert Ochi
Ron Ware
Derek Nimetz

Visitors:

Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Gary Lee - Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary

Commissioners Absent:

William Baker, Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
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 December 21, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Chairman's Report –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski welcomed all to the first meeting of 2023. He reminded everyone why we are here, so that the devastating events of 2008 do not happen again. The Commission is moving in the right direction, and we are far better prepared than we were in 2008.

Finance –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the January 2023 claims in the amount of \$716,471.97. Commissioner Ware 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 Garcia Consulting Engineers in the amount of

\$15,244.40 for INDOT Inspections. Garcia is going over the punch list of INDOT deficiencies from the USACE Inspections so they can be addressed before the next round of inspections scheduled for April. Garcia Consulting Engineers also submitted a claim in the amount of \$1,666.35 for the 80/94 culvert crossing. This is a culvert that runs underneath the expressway and will need to be opened up so that it flows freely. Martin Mechanical submitted a claim in the amount of \$14,410.00 for work at the Grant West Pump Station. Pump One was pulled for routine maintenance and the sump pump was replaced. The next pump will be pulled for similar maintenance to ensure they are working properly for the spring season. \$34,500.00 was paid to the Lake County Commissioners for smoke testing on the Hermits Lake Sanitary Infiltration and Intrusion Reduction Watershed Project. The Hobart Sanitary District submitted a claim in the amount of \$33,700.00 for continued design of the Stinky Creek Diversion Watershed Project. The drawings are currently 50% complete on the project. Austgen Equipment was paid \$496,196.00 for work on the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. The good weather has allowed them to continue the project throughout the winter months.

Commissioner Gozdecki requested further information on payment to NIRPC for the electronic trail counters. Mr. Repay stated that the counters have not been installed yet, but there will be one at Wicker Park and one near the Visitor's Center in Hammond.

Commissioner Ware asked for further clarification on the repairs needed on the Harrison Street Retaining Walls that were listed on an invoice from Garcia Consulting Engineers. Mr. Repay stated that this was a concern listed on the INDOT Inspection Report. The USACE wanted to determine if the wall in that area was shifting. It was determined that the wall was not moving, but INDOT will make repairs and grade the area.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any further 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:

- Pump One was re-installed at the Grant West Pump Station, it had been pulled for routine maintenance. The new sump pump was also installed. Pump Two is being pulled for similar maintenance to make sure they are all working properly for the spring season.
- Questions from FEMA and USACE are still outstanding on the Gary/Griffith LOMR. The City of Gary will be reviewing all the options as they move forward with the LOMR. The Commission does not have any outstanding issues with regards to the LOMR at this time.
- Work on the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization continued through the holidays. There were a few safety concerns that were brought to the attention of the contractor.
- The Board at the North Township has agreed to sell us 2 parcels of land. We are currently working with their attorney on the necessary documents to complete the sale.
- The Commission continues to move forward on the four final USACE required property acquisitions. INDOT is working on our requested easement, and it is currently undergoing environmental review. Condemnation suits were filed on two easements, MOB I and MOB II, in early December. Additionally, the court

has appointed appraisers on the Ingram acquisition, with a ruling due no later than February 27th on that acquisition.

- Wessler Engineering will be conducting a study on Cady Marsh Ditch and its impact on Hart Ditch and the Deep Tunnel.
- Christopher Burke Engineering will be conducting a study of Deep River. While we have done studies on parts of Deep River, their modeling will fill in the gap of previous studies, from the confluence of Beaver Dam Ditch and Niles Ditch extending north to approximately 61st Street in Merrillville.
- Wessler Engineering will be conducting spot checks of up to 5 locations to determine if the design of the USACE project is working as planned. Some areas they will review include the Diversion Structure, the overtopping structure at the Rookery and undersized culverts at Martin Luther King Blvd.

Over the last few weeks, I have met with several communities regarding future projects that they may seek funding for in the upcoming year including the following:

- During most recent USACE Inspections, certain areas of the levee system have been identified as needing stabilization which will need to be addressed. Additionally, the Town of Highland has requested a ramp that could be used for emergency purposes.
- A flood control feasibility study on the Hartdale Pond located between Highland and Schererville to determine if it can be used for storage of water that feeds into Spring Ditch.
- We are looking into the modeling of the Lake George Dam in Hobart to gauge the impact of adding another draw down structure.
- Plans are currently at 50% complete on the Stinky Creek Diversion. The City of Hobart would like to bid out the project in the summer of 2023.

Other Issues/New Business –

No Other Issues/New Business.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of the WLTH AM 1370 radio show that the Commission hosts on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. He stated that there was great discussion on the last show and invited everyone to tune-in.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, 2023.