

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023
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 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 (via zoom)
Robert Ochi
Ron Ware

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Gary Lee - Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary

Commissioners Absent:

Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Derek Nimetz
Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes from February 15, 2023, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

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 addressing. Despite this, the project has been constructed to manage Mother Nature and at some time there will be an issue when we get 10 gallons of water for our 5 gallon bucket – but we are better prepared today for that situation than we were before the flood of 2008.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the March 2023 claims in the amount of \$937,950.75. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Austgen Equipment in the amount of \$711,486.55 for continued work on the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. The contractor was able to work on the project through the mild winter. Martin Mechanical submitted several claims totaling \$32,765.61 for work at the Grant West Pump Station. A complete rehab was completed of this station, we plan to head to the Burr Pump Stations next. \$9,651.11 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for Pump Station inspections and maintenance for the months of January and February. \$7,578.40 was paid to 1st Response Maintenance for clean-up work between Colfax and Chase Streets. Finally, Metropolitan Industries was paid \$1,805.50 for SCADA repairs at the Burr North Pump Station.

Chairman Baker asked for status on the Floodwall caulking project. Mr. Repay stated that the contractor, Dyer Construction, is about 50% complete with the project. They will restart once the weather is consistently above 50 degrees. The USACE has inspected the work completed to date and is happy with the progress.

Chairman Baker 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:

- Annual USACE inspections begin next month. We will start on April 10th with INDOT and the rest of the Gary and Griffith Segments. The Munster, Hammond and Highland inspections are scheduled to begin on June 5th.
- The Commission continues to move forward on the four final USACE required property acquisitions. The appraisers submitted a value on the Ingram Property. Payment has been submitted to the Lake County Clerk's Office and we anticipate the official order from the Court soon. INDOT has completed their legal review and routed the easement for signatures. We have filed a motion to appoint appraisers on the MOB I & II acquisitions. A final order on the appraisers' report is expected on April 10th.
- An Advisory Board meeting will be held in early April to review the 6 Watershed Applications we have received since the beginning of the year. It is anticipated that the applicants will present to the Board at our April and May meetings.
- Delivery of the equipment needed for the Cady Marsh Screen Raker Project is scheduled for late July or early August.
- Work continues on the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. Our contractor, Austgen Equipment, has some stone work to complete, then they will transition to seeding the banks with native grasses and plants. We anticipate the job being completed within the next 3-4 weeks, weather permitting.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve an Addendum to the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield for the Hidden Creek Subdivision Watershed Project, increasing the funding by \$100,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by

Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that the Town of Winfield originally came in front of the Board to request funding in 2021. The project was recently bid out and came in over budget. The Town requested an additional \$100,000.00 from the Commission to complete the project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked those that attended our meeting this month.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked everyone for attending the meeting and apologized for not attending in person. He further asked the Board to consider having the next meeting in Gary. He also wished all a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2023.