

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023
Location: Bulldog Park, Crown Point, IN

Chairman Baker presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Treasurer
Anthony Broadnax
Ron Ware (via Zoom)
Dave Castellano

Visitors:

Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary
Doug Brite – City of Crown Point
Jim Basada – Lake County Parks
Terry Ciciora – City of Crown Point
Neil Simstad – Nies Engineering
Chip Greenburg – City of Lake Station

Commissioners Absent:

Robert Ochi
Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15, 2023, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0. (Commissioners Whittaker and Broadnax abstained)

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker thanked the City of Crown Point for generously offering to host our monthly meeting. He further added that 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 April 2023 claims in the amount of \$313,530.12. Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims, starting with payment to Gariup Construction in the amount of \$71,543.50 for work on the Spring Park Project. This project is complete apart from lighting. We are waiting for NIPSCO to run the electric to the site. Security Door Inc. completed fence repairs to the Marshalltown and Grant West Pump Stations and removed a fence along Hart Ditch in segment 5-2 at a total cost of \$29,564.00. Wiltjer Excavating was paid \$32,800.00 for clearing and tree removal at various locations throughout the system. \$4,410.00 was paid to Weedpatch Co., Inc. for USACE required weed control application. Martin Mechanical submitted several claims totaling \$13,883.93 for work at the Grant West and Burr North Pump Stations. Finally, \$68,500.00 was submitted to the Clerk of the Court on the DC-1397/1397A acquisitions. This is the final USACE required acquisition that is needed for the project.

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

Executive Director's Report –

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

- Annual USACE inspections for the Gary, Griffith and INDOT segments were held last week. The biggest issue noted was rutting due to ATV's and other unauthorized vehicles on the levee. We plan to fill in the low spots and will continue to work to secure the top of the levee.
- We continue to recondition our Pump Stations. Last month we completed work at the Grant West Pump Station. Currently we are replacing the sump pump at the Burr North Pump Station. Once the sump pump is put back into service, we will pull Pump #1 for service. This pump was identified by GLEM as needing repair due to the hours of use. Additionally, we are looking into upgrading some of the Pump Station control panels.
- We have been assisting the City of Gary with their LOMR response to FEMA. In FEMA's initial response to the City's application, they requested the City perform several tests before it would accept the application. We are currently reviewing the cost of these studies and geotechnical tests.
- The Commission continues to make progress on the remaining USACE required property acquisitions. On April 10, the three court-appointed appraisers filed their land value report with the court on the MOB I & II properties. We anticipate getting a Court Order naming the LCRBDC as having an easement on both properties in the next few weeks. We have received all the required signatures for the INDOT easement. Once the easement is recorded, the credit package will be sent to USACE for their review and approval.
- The contractor is finishing up work on the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. They were able to make great progress during the recent nice weather. Planting and demobilization is ongoing with all activities expected to be wrapped up by May 1st. Plans for the next phase are already being drawn up by the Engineer.

- Work on the Stage 7 Sealant Project was restarted today. Since the temperature has been consistently above 50 degrees, the contractor was able to continue the work. This project is about 50% complete.
- We completed repair work on the fences at the Marshalltown and Grant West Pump Stations. Additionally, we removed a fence along Hart Ditch that was put in by the USACE. This fence was cited in prior USACE inspections as being too close to the toe of the levee. In anticipation of the West Reach inspections in June, we had the fence removed.
- We hosted an Advisory Board Meeting earlier this month to hear the applications that were put forth for funding. Applications from Crown Point, Dyer, Lake County and Schererville will be heard later in this meeting. Merrillville and Hobart will present their applications at our May meeting.

Presentations –

The following Watershed Applications were presented at the meeting. The links to the video presentations are included below:

- Town of Dyer – Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering presenting:
[2-Stage Channel for Hart Ditch \(Engineering\)](#)
Funding Request: \$34,150.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/b4KhULyB5Jw>
- Lake County Parks – Jim Basala, CEO, Lake County Parks presenting:
[Three Rivers County Park \(Construction\)](#)
Funding Request: \$184,000.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/WqGq9QPstOo>
- Town of Schererville – Neil Simstad, Nies Engineering presenting:
[Eagle Ridge Culvert Replacement \(Construction\)](#)
Funding Request: \$331,000.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/8WZ8tp2SCWI>
- City of Crown Point – Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering presenting:
[113th Avenue Culvert Replacement \(Construction\)](#)
Funding Request: \$439,000.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/KPaiJDJsKl>

Other Issues/New Business –

No New Business.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the presenters for their informative presentations and requested that the communities consider minority participation in their contracts.

Commissioner Broadnax stated it was good to be home for a meeting and commended the communities on their presentations to the Board. He also thanked the City of Crown Point for hosting our meeting.

Commissioner Ware apologized for not attending the meeting in person. He also thanked the presenters for the watershed application presentations.

Commissioner Gozdecki commended the communities for their watershed presentations. He also thanked the City of Crown Point for hosting our monthly meeting.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked the City of Crown Point for their offer to host our meeting. He further thanked the presenters for their informative presentations.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the City of Crown Point and commented on their nice facility at Bulldog Park. He further added that the quality of the presentations has improved over the years and thanked the presenters for their effort.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, 2023.