

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

**Held at**  
**Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN**

Vice Chairman Tom Wichlinski called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski  
Tom Gozdecki  
Dave Castellanos  
Anthony Broadnax  
Ron McAhrn  
Levon Whittaker

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus  
Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Roy Deda - USACE  
Judy Knapp, Forest Ave, Hammond  
John Beckman – IWLA - PCC  
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council  
Charles Svitko – Munster resident  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal  
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster  
Erik Sprenne - NWIPA  
Evangeline Stanford – Coolidge St, Hmd  
Peter Yackovich – Forest Ave, Hammond  
Bob Paulson – Northcote Ave, Munster  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.  
Sandy O’Brien – Izaak Walton, Hobart  
Bill Emerson, Sr – Councilman 4<sup>th</sup> Dist Hmd  
Paul Daniels – Castle Drive, Munster  
Craig Zandstra – Lake County Parks  
Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond

Vice Chairman Tom Wichlinski referred to the minutes from both the April 8th meeting and the April 27 Special Meeting. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Dave Castellanos; motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

**Chairman’s Report** – No Chairman’s Report

**Finance** – Vice Chairman Wichlinski referred to the May claims in the amount of \$359,914.73. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Tom Gozdecki. Commissioner Broadnax asked what services were covered under the engineering oversee claim for Garcia Consulting Engineers – General Services. Mr. Repay explained that this claim covers items that do not attach to a specific project or for projects already completed. Commissioner Whittaker asked for clarification on the claim from USGS in the amount of \$6,897.50. Mr. Repay responded that this claim reflects a quarterly invoice from the U.S. Geological Survey which covers the operation and maintenance of the monitoring stations along the Little Calumet River and Hart’s Ditch. Motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

**Executive Director’s Report** – Mr. Repay presented a slide show highlighting some of the recent projects, inspections and maintenance:

• Army Corps inspections began on May 4<sup>th</sup> and are proceeding as planned. The inspections should be completed on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Several pictures were shown of the inspection process.

- Mr. Repay reported that the closure exercise at 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase went very well. There was participation by the City of Gary, Gary Fire Department, INDOT and USACE. Several pictures of the closure exercise were shown.
  - Several pictures were shared of pump stations including the Marshalltown Pump Station and the Ironwood Pump Station. Mr. Repay explained that Sweeny Electric is performing monthly inspections on all the pump stations to make sure they are operating properly.
  - A picture of C&H Mowing cutting the grass on the levee was shown. Mowing is done 3-4 times per year.
- Operation of the sluice gates was explained and a picture of the Grant St. sluice gate was shown. There are 37 gates in Gary.
- The manhole extension project is substantially complete. Pictures of the newly vented manholes were shown.
  - The High Velocity Channel Project has begun. A small fire on the construction site was extinguished by the Highland Fire Department. Pictures of the ongoing project were shown.
  - Army Corps inspections with INDOT were also conducted. This is a new inspection this year. Photos were shown of the inspection process.

This is Sandy Mordus' last meeting, she is retiring after 32 years with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. The commissioners thanked Sandy for her years of dedication and said she will be missed very much. Sandy was presented with a plaque and framed map from the commission. Army Corps Deputy Directory Roy Deda presented Sandy with a letter from the Army Corps and thanked her for her years of service. Sandy also received a letter with best wishes from the Congressmen's office.

Other Issues/New Business – No Other Issues or New Business to report.

Statements from the Floor –

- Erik Sprenne, Northwest IN Paddling Assoc, announced that there will be a Little Calumet River Festival again this year on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Carlson/OxBow Park with a canoe trip starting at 9:00. He invited all to attend the event.
- John Beckman, Izaak Walton in Porter County stated that he had talked to Cindy McKee with INDOT regarding the use of herbicide to control the invasive fragmites along I-94. He asked the commission to coordinate efforts with INDOT to control the fragmites. Mr. Repay replied that he would get in contact with INDOT.
- Evangeline Stamford, from Hammond stated that she is still paying flood insurance and asked about the status of the State Line project. Roy Deda responded that the Corps is reviewing the design and will forward a letter to the Commission if additional information is needed. The process will take some time, no timetable was given. Commissioner McAhron asked how many homes are left in the flood plain, Roy Deda responded there are approximately 10 left in the Forest Avenue area.
- Sandy O'Brien, from Hobart and Porter County Izaak Walton League asked for an update on Hobart Marsh and the cost share basis. Roy Deda answered that they are coordinating with IDEM regarding the 401 Quality Certification in the mitigation. They are in the process of doing surveys and looking at some erosion issues and will be submitting plans and specs to the proper agencies.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Munster Town Hall.