

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1993
AT THE NIRPC COMMISSION OFFICE
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
William Tanke
Charles Agnew
Robert Trelo
Nathaniel Leonard
Steve Davis
Robert Huffman
Arlene Colvin

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus
Bruce Stouffer

Visitors:

Virgil Meier - Highland
Donald Shapiro - Highland
Clyde Baughard - past Commission member
Dave Springman - past Commission member
Emerson Delaney - Hammond
Siavash Beik - DNR, Div. Water
James Flora - RWArmstrong
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak - "
Mike Vander Heyden - Dyer Construction Co.
Ray Young - Contract Community Services & Greater Gary Assoc. Contractors
Bill Petrites - Highland
Stanley Petrites - Highland
Sunita Singh - Congressman Visclosky's Office
Dominic Vasile - Highland
Jerry Castle - Munster
Ola Kennedy - Lake County Parks
Howard Anderson

The minutes of the January 7, 1993 meeting were approved by a motion from Charles Agnew; seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Carlson recognized outgoing members Clyde Baughard and David Springman and presented them with a placque as a memento of the Commission's thanks for their years of service.

LCRBDC Minutes
February 4, 1993
Page 2

Mr. Carlson and Mr. Gardner talked about their meeting with Mayor Dedelow of Hammond. They briefed the new mayor on the project and what it would mean to Hammond, the reconstruction of Indianapolis Blvd. bridge, Wicker Park Manor levee, the oxbow park development plan, the Erie R.R. bridge issue, etc. Mr. Carlson thought the meeting went quite well and he offered his assistance in any way he could be of help. Mr. Gardner requested the Mayor talk to Hammond legislators to support Little Cal funding in the General Assembly as the best way to speed the project start in Hammond.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that he has received a response letter from the Corps stating the Corps will schedule the construction of the Wicker Park Manor levee this year. Mr. Gardner thanked the Congressman's Office for their role in urging the Corps to make this decision. There have been subsequent meetings with the Corps, with DNR and SEG (firm that prepared the plans & specs for levee) present to work out details and technical coordination. Discussion then took place on contacting the property owners along River Drive whose backyards abut the levee along the river. Land Acquisition Agent Bruce Stouffer stated that in most cases, those property owners will gain some footage in their backyards as the new levee will be further north than the old levee. Since the benefits are so great, it is hoped that there will be cooperation from all 18 property owners involved. Mr. Tanke made a motion authorizing staff to contact in writing by certified mail all property owners on River Drive affected to invite them to a meeting to hear about the plans for the new levee; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated the hearing was just recently held for public input for the reconstruction of Indianapolis Blvd. bridge. The Commission submitted comments (contained in packet as well the town's comments). Main issue at hearing was whether Indianapolis Blvd. could be kept open during construction. INDOT pledged to work to keep the road open. The scheduling of the work is now at 1994, a slippage of one year. Siavash Beik of DNR stated they are trying to meet to get it back on schedule for this year. Mr. Gardner stressed the need for close coordination with INDOT because the levee project will be taking place in the same area at approximately the same time. The new bridge is anticipated to cost about \$1.1 million.

Discussion also took place on Erie R.R. bridge buildup again. Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from Highland stating their concern about debris buildup. Siavash Beik and Dale Baker from DNR have inspected the bridge and realize that there is a problem. Mr. Beik stated he would investigate at DNR to see about the possibility of removing the bridge without jeopardizing the Hammond LWCF grant.

LCRBDC Minutes
February 4, 1993
Page 3

Mr. Tanke made a motion for staff to write a letter to DNR inquiring about the Commission having the bridge demolished; motion seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to pursue having the bridge debris cleaned in the interim; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commission that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has voted to move their facility to Portage. The new NIRPC office would be located off the 249 exit on the north side of the Borman. After a brief discussion, Mr. Tanke made a motion to appoint a committee which will study the move and report back within 2 meetings from now; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson appointed a committee consisting of Bill Tanke (chairman), Bob Trelo and Nathaniel Leonard to look into the move and see if it is a feasible move for the Development Commission.

Mr. Gardner thanked the Congressman's Office for the pressure they have kept on the Corps relative to minority participation in the federal project. To date, we have not received a letter from the Corps in response to the deviation request we sent on December 8th. Mr. Gardner does not know whether it has been sent onto Washington yet. Mr. Ray Young stated there was a meeting coming up with Kewit. He said that one problem is that the big contractors that bid have already made arrangements with sub-contractors. It is a problem but he stated with the Commission's continued help, he feels inroads can be made.

Finance/Policy Committee - In Treasurer John DeMeo's absence, Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report for January as well as the claims for approval. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Nathaniel Leonard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that we have placed the requested first payment of \$150,000 in escrow for the design of the levee at Burr St.

He also reported that the Commission has been audited by the State Board of Accounts for the years 1989-90-91. No discrepancies exist and the audits were clear of any comments/exceptions.

Legislative Committee - Mr. Carlson referred to Dan Gardner for report. Mr. Gardner referred to a letter he has sent to Representative Earl Harris regarding the Commission's need for support of a \$7 million budget request. He also referred to a

LCRBDC Minutes
February 4, 1993
Page 4

letter that the Congressman has sent to the Governor in our behalf. He stated that House or Senate budget hearings may not be held - they may just deliberate based on the Budget Committee testimony. We need to rely on the legislators to fight for the full amount of \$7 million. Mr. Carlson expressed concern that we may not be emphasizing enough the critical need for the monies.

Mr. Gardner stated the Federal budget submitted by outgoing President Bush included \$16 million for next year. The Corps is confident that will not change because of the new administration.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew reported that farm leases would be re-advertised. He also stated that a new tenant may be moving into Chase Street Meat Market. He announced that staff is meeting with Gary Park Board on February 11th to discuss Park lands that are needed for the project.

Project Engineering/Construction Committee - Dan Gardner referred to letters in packet requesting the Commission to take an official position on Georgia and Chase Streets. After discussion of these road closures vs. road raisings, Mr. Agnew made a motion to request the Corps to engineer and construct Georgia St. over the south levee as the preferred approach, thus eliminating the need for closure gates; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Staff will also raise the issue of the cost being cost shared and not entirely a local cost.

Arlene Colvin then made a motion to request the Corps to modify the design at Chase St. north levee by partial raising to achieve a 10 year level of protection; motion seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner referred to the letter from the Corps asking for status of needed easements for Stage II, Phase 3A. Before we can give certification to the Corps for this contract phase, Gary park property must be in our ownership. It is a critical need.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke informed Commission we have received a contract from Abonmarche for continued engineering services for the Commission and City to sign. The contract details seven tasks for a sum of \$72,820. The attorney has reviewed it; changes need to be made. Mr. Casale has prepared an addendum to the contract. Issues covered in the addendum are (1) the city shall be billed for and be solely liable for the first 50% of contract sum and the Commission shall be billed for and liable for the remaining 50% (2) city or Commission may terminate the agreement with 7 days written notice (3) in the

LCRBDC Minutes
February 4, 1993
Page 5

event of termination, work product generated to date shall become property of city and Commission and they may hire a new engineer to complete the work (4) engineer shall commence work only on tasks for which it has received written authorization to proceed (5) designated project representatives shall be John Hannon for the city and Dan Gardner for the Commission (6) Task 6A design work shall be done in conformance with existing contract with the earthworks contractor and engineer shall provide assistance as part of the lump sum price and (7) Task 1 and 7 shall be undertaken only upon written authorization by city and Commission and at a price agreed upon by all parties. With this addendum in place, Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the Abonmarche contract; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Addendum will go to city for their approval.

Mr. Tanke made a motion authorizing Tasks 1 to 5; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that he and Mr. Casale, along with the city, has recently met with NIPSCO. Issues needing final agreement are the use of NIPSCO property, the necessary protection of gas lines and electrical transmissions lines and moving the line along Crisman Road. Meeting was productive; feels progress is being made.

There were no statements from the floor.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 1993 at 6:30 p.m.

/sjm