

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1993  
AT THE NIRPC COMMISSION OFFICE  
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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Chairperson Arlene Colvin 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  
John DeMeo  
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  
Leon Wells - Lake County  
Highway Dept.  
Allison Galosich - Highland News  
Louise Hiddle - Highland  
Jim Hiddle - Highland  
Siavash Beik - DNR, Div. Water  
James Flora - RWArmstrong  
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina  
Mary Jane Zak - "  
Mike Vander Heyden - Dyer  
Construction Co.  
Ron Platt - Highland  
Emily Platt - Highland  
Eloise Gentry - Urban League  
Bill Petrites - Highland

Chairperson Arlene Colvin announced that Clyde Baughard and Dave Springman have been replaced on the Commission with new members. The Governor has appointed two new people: Robert Huffman from Munster and Robert Trelo from Highland. Both were present at the meeting and welcomed by the Chairperson.

The minutes of the December 3rd, 1992 meeting were approved by a motion from John DeMeo; seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Charles Agnew, acting as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for 1993. They are:

Chairman - George Carlson  
Vice Chairman - Charles Agnew  
Treasurer - John DeMeo  
Secretary - Nathaniel Leonard



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There were no other nominations from the floor. Arlene Colvin made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented; Steve Davis seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson then took over the meeting as Chairman. He presented Ms. Colvin with an outgoing Chairman placque for her dedicated service as Chairperson for 1991 and 1992.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that he has sent a letter of deviation to the Corps in an effort to maximize minority subcontracting and labor participation in the flood control construction project. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Congressman's Office. Mr. Gardner quoted from the letter which asked that "A deviation be granted from standard regulations to permit a clause to be placed in future federal bidding and contracting for this project to provide a greater level of local labor preference and minority participation than the 29% figure by utilizing Lake County as a whole as the catchment area. With the focus of this project in the urban heart of lake County and over one-half of the project in the city of Gary, we believe a figure of 40% would reflect a fairer target." Mr. Gardner stated that the request letter would have to go through federal channels in Washington. The Corps will pursue this. He stated that the major contractor for construction this year is Keiwi Western.

Mr. Gardner also referred to the letter from the Urban League of Northwest Indiana signed by Bob Freeland and the Greater Gary Assoc. of Contractors relative to support of the deviation letter in order to allow for increased minority participation and identifying Mr. Ray Young as the "point of contact" for minority contracting issues.

Finance/Policy Committee - Mr. Gardner presented the financial status report for December as well as the claims for approval. Mr. DeMeo made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

The proposed 1993 operating budget was presented. It is basically the same as the 1992 budget. The Administrative budget will remain at \$140,000; the land acquisition/project development budget (state drawn) will change to \$4,541,052. There is not any new monies reflected from the 1993-95 biennium because it is not known at this time what we will receive. A motion was made by Charles Agnew; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner presented the 1993 services contract with NIRPC. He noted the increased changes; the changes being \$5500 from \$5250

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which reflects increased direct salary and fringe benefit costs for Dan Gardner and Sandy Mordus, accounting services from \$300 to \$400, additional space increase from \$235 to \$250, telephone charges increase from \$90 to \$100. Arlene Colvin made a motion to accept the NIRPC contract as presented with noted changes; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee - Mr. Carlson referred to Dan Gardner for report. Mr. Gardner stated he was able to emphasize the need for the Commission's \$7 million request to a select group of legislators who attended a NW Indiana Forum presentation. Along with other items the Forum is supporting, the Little Cal request is included.

It was stressed to everyone that if they have the opportunity to speak to any legislators, stress the need for the \$7 million. The Congressman is trying to meet with the Governor personally. The State Budget Agency & the Congressman's Office had us put together a letter listing the implications if full funding is not met. It is contained in the packet. Almost \$52 million in federal monies has been earmarked in federal construction for Federal FY 93, 94 and 95. The \$7 million is needed to keep on schedule with the Corps.

If we do not receive it, what will suffer will be 1) the restoration of the levee at Wicker Park Manor; (2) the additional structural levee at Burr Street, which is local cost; (3) a dramatic slowdown and possibly postponement of the west reach construction; and (4) possible risk of not even finishing the east reach of the project.

We have asked for claim draw down of the '89 appropriation of \$2 million. This is a more critical need at the moment - the need to release money for use that has been already appropriated.

Commissioner DeMeo expressed concern that perhaps our letter listing the implications was not worded strongly enough. It was an unanimous feeling that the project would definitely suffer if the entire \$7 million was not appropriated to the Commission. Had the Commission received the requested monies in years past, there probably would not be such an urgent need this biennium. The Budget Agency has consistently appropriated less than we have asked for citing that federal construction was not here yet. Construction is here now and now we have to be able to keep up. Our \$7 million request will buy \$52 million of federal money.

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Staff will do a mailing to the rest of the area delegation. We may attempt to set up a briefing for them.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to increase the offered price on DC148, DC152 and DC299 to \$1500 (all three parties have agreed to settle for that amount, thus avoiding the cost of condemnation proceedings); motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Staff will get concurrence from the Corps.

After receiving and considering a request from the town of New Chicago for the use of the pole barn building on Commission's property at 35th & Chase, Nathaniel Leonard made a motion to let the town of New Chicago dismantle and relocate the building to their town for their use; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. As per Corps specs, the building would have been demolished because it is in the levee line.

Mr. Agnew referred to a letter in the packet to George Rogge, president of Gary Park Board. The letter attempts to identify the critical need for their transfer of properties to us in the levee project area. The letter outlines our commitment to the Gary park land improvements; the Corps also lists some recreational benefits to the parks and city lands. An appraiser is currently appraising the existing greenhouse; we have committed to replacing the greenhouse at our cost. The appraisal should be in shortly.

Project Engineering/Construction Committee - Dan Gardner reported they met today with Wicker Park officials. Bruce Stouffer previously had met with Woodmar Country Club to work on design layout of levee system within that area. Each has certain designs and needs and we are attempting to satisfy and make the project work at the same time. Bruce attended both meetings and earlier meetings. He stated that both Wicker Park officials and Woodmar Country Club officials are showing more positive tendencies to help work out problems. The confluence of Hart Ditch and the Little Calumet River is a critical juncture in the project and efforts will continue to reach a satisfactory final design.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter to Corps regarding the west reach design. The Corps has indicated there will be some impact to the Kennedy Industrial Park and some structures in Munster. In the letter Mr. Gardner stressed the need to make every effort to be sensitive to what is already there and design around it. It would be less costly in most cases.

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Marina/Breakwater Committee - In Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence, Mr. Gardner gave the report. He distributed a draft copy of the Abonmarche proposal contract for engineering services. It was indicated that after this contract, the city would take over further development of the public marina. Staff and Commissioner Tanke has met several times with the city and Abonmarche. A discussion ensued on the proposed contract. It was agreed that the total contract price should not exceed \$72,820; any work above that price must be authorized in writing and brought before the Board at that time. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the conception of the draft agreement with Abonmarche, subject to the final contract approval by attorney Casale and negotiation with Abonmarche; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Other Business - Jim Flora from R. W. Armstrong, acting as project engineer, presented a new 1993 rate schedule. They have been charging services against the 1991 rate. Mr. DeMeo made a motion to approve the rate schedule; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Statements to the Board from the Floor - Bill Petrites inquired about the latest status on the Wicker Park Manor levee. He was informed that the Commission has requested the Corps by letter dated August 1992 build the Wicker Park Manor portion of the levee as early as spring of '93. The Commission does not have a response letter yet committing the Corps to build it this year. Staff will try to get a letter in writing before the next meeting. Siavash Beik from DNR stated that it was the DNR who did the plans & specs for the levee. Mr. Gardner urged the residents in that area to contact the Corps themselves and make their concern known.

Jim Hiddle, resident of Wicker Park Manor, inquired about FEMA removing the area out of the floodplain. Response - this cannot be done until a percentage of the project is complete. There were four items that had to be put in place: 1) DNR to put up sheet pile wall and reinforce it; 2) tie back levee project for north levee; 3) U.S. 41 bridge raising; and 4) north levee constructed by Corps.

Discussion was held on the latest rainfall that the area experienced. Mr. Hiddle stated that with the heavy rain and the reality of the town almost closing Indpls. Blvd. at the bridge, he complained that the town of Highland kept pumping storm water into the river.

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Resident Emily Platt stated that the Lincoln St. pumping station kept pumping into the river also. She indicated there was debris in the middle of the river and the river did not flow like it should. It was freezing in areas which indicates there was no flow.

Leon Wells, Lake County Highway Dept., stated he thought the Commission should do a little public relations work and let the general public know of the Commission's need for \$7 million this biennium.

Commissioner Robert Huffman inquired whether the water flowed any faster/better since the project of the enlargement of Conrail culverts.

Mike VanderHeyden asked whether the Corps has made any kind of a decision regarding Chase Street road closure structures versus street raising. Mr. Gardner stated he thought the Corps was still going with the closures. Mr. VanderHeyden feels that eliminating the structures and raising a portion of Chase St. would save a significant amount of money.

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

/sjm

