

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016

Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Tom Gozdecki
David Castellanos
Anthony Broadnax
Levon Whittaker
Debbie Long

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Bill Rochford – USACE
Mike Padilla – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Ruth Mores – Hammond
Charles Svitko – Munster
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
Dave Nellans – Town of Munster
Judy Knapp - Hammond
Jim Busch – Lake Station
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. of Indiana
Peter Yankovich – Hammond

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman’s Report – Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood as a great reminder of what happens when a structure such as this is neglected. This flood control project is an asset to the community, and ongoing maintenance and attention will ensure that the region is far better protected than it was in 2008. The commission is tasked with care and upkeep of this eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project and projects throughout the watershed. We continue to meet with communities every month to ensure that we are all better prepared. It is important to remember that, due to the completion of this federal control project, more than 1,400 properties have been removed from the mandatory requirement to pay federal flood insurance, saving residents premiums in the amount of \$4.1 million each year. These dollars are put right back into the community, making this a real economic development project.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the April claims in the amount of \$367,538.36. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with a payment to Hasse Construction in the amount of \$152,833.50 on the Sandbar Modification Project located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. This project is nearing completion with just a few minor items remaining. Next discussed was a payment to the Town of Griffith in the amount of \$50,000.00 for reimbursement on the Cady Marsh Ditch maintenance. The Commission issues the reimbursement once Griffith passes their annual inspection. \$35,000.00 was paid to Dawson & Associates for continued assistance with crediting. Crediting is progressing, we now have a positive cost share balance and can continue to move

forward with projects such as Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tie Back. Payment to Superior Engineering in the amount of \$25,572.50 represents their work on the Burr Street North Back-up Generator specifications. We should be ready to advertise for bids on installation of the generator in May, with bid opening at the June meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay discussed some of the current and upcoming projects:

- The annual inspections are in progress. The Griffith and Gary areas of the system are currently being inspected with an expected finish date for these segments of Friday, April 15th. Munster, Highland, Hammond, and Pump Station inspections are scheduled to begin May 9th.
- The floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair project that was awarded to Grimmer Construction has been substantially completed.
- Bids for electrical repairs at the Burr Street South Pump Station will be opened later in the meeting.
- Bids for periodic mowing of the levee will be opened later in the meeting.
- The levee paving project bid awarded to Rieth-Riley Construction has been reviewed and executed. The project will begin as soon as the weather permits.
- The Lyman Manhole Rehab project, located between Hohman Avenue and Calumet Avenue in Hammond, has been started by Grimmer Construction.
- The notice to proceed was signed for the project to inspect and video all culverts in Hammond, Highland, Munster and INDOT. The contractor, Greenline Environmental will coordinate with the local communities to begin the project. This is part of the normal 5 year inspection project.
- The 35th & Chase design project is proceeding. This project will eliminate the current post and panel closure system. The Gary Board of Public Works recently gave approval to proceed with required soil borings needed to continue with the design process.
- The notice to proceed was signed for the Georgia Street Project. This project, located at approximately 33rd Avenue and Georgia Street will raise and repave Georgia Street. We were given approval by the Gary Board of Public Works this week for the necessary street closures and detours to allow the project to proceed.

Bill Rochford and Mike Padilla of the USACE gave an update on the current inspections and stated that, so far, process is going well and the project looks well maintained.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to open bids for the Burr Street South Pump Rehabilitation Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This project is for electrical repairs at the Pump Station which was recently acquired from the Gary Sanitary District. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. The bids were as follows: Sweney Electric Company - \$294,000, Midwestern Electric Inc. - \$321,559 and Emcor Hyre Electric - \$312,450.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to open bids for Periodic Levee Mowing and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. The entire length of the levee is typically cut 4 to 5 times per year. Commissioner Whittaker stated that we should use more media outlets for bid advertising to ensure we are reaching all who would like the opportunity to bid on our projects. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-1. The bids were as follows: C&H Mowing, Inc. - \$23,300 and Suburban Landscaping - \$29,000.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to extend our Farm Lease Agreements through 2016; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained that approximately 400 acres of Commission owned lands will be farmed. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-01, establishing the Commission's credit card policy; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Attorney Wickland explained that the State Board of Accounts advised that we have a written policy in place for credit card usage and this Resolution will ensure the Commission is compliant with the SBOA. Chairman Baker called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Baker stated that the Commission will do more advertising with upcoming projects so that we can reach more people who are interested in bidding on the projects. Additionally, we will put the bid notices on our website.

Commissioner Wichlinski said that the Commission should explore advertising opportunities with different media outlets when advertising for bids.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that we are improving as a group of Commissioners and the work that we do on the Commission can be beneficial to all communities. He further stated that there are still numerous properties that are still mandated to pay flood insurance and he wants to do more to assist in the process to have them removed.

Commissioner Castellanos expressed a desire to utilize different media outlets for advertisement of bids so as many people as possible can have the opportunity to participate in our projects. He also looks forward to having our monthly meetings in different communities.

Statements from the Floor –

- Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, invited everyone to the Little Calumet paddling trip to be held on May 21st and asked to Commission to consider adding additional river access points.
- Laurie Czulno, Hammond, expressed her frustration at the amount of red tape in dealing with the USACE regarding the State Line Tie-Back and stated that people are still paying thousands of dollars in flood insurance. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the project timeline and the FEMA map revision process.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 11th at the Munster Town Hall.