

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall**

Chairman Baker 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 (arrived after roll call)  
Anthony Broadnax  
Ron Ware  
Derek Nimetz  
Robert Ochi  
David Castellanos

**Visitors:**

Laurie Czulno - Hammond  
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC  
Gary Lee – Gary  
Dave Taborski – Gary  
Kathy Sipple – Earth Charter Indiana  
Julianne Roser – Earth Charter Indiana  
Kathy Luther - Portage

**Commissioners Absent:**

Levon Whittaker, Secretary

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 7-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to our meeting. USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recording of our meetings can be found on our website at [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org). 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 completing. 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. This Commission, however, is far better

prepared than was in the past. We continue to work with all communities and our partners within the watershed to ensure an event like 2008 does not happen again. (Commissioner Gozdecki arrived at meeting)

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the August 2021 claims in the amount of \$494,395.35. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the August claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with reimbursement to Lake County Parks for the GEO Group Property Acquisition. The Commission approved this Watershed Project at the March 2021 meeting. \$22,448.00 was paid to 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance for the clearing of the Deep Tunnel in Griffith. We are required by the USACE to clean and video the tunnel every 5 years. Austgen Equipment submitted a claim in the amount of \$41,125.00 for sediment removal under the Indianapolis Blvd. Bridge. Security Door Inc. was paid \$37,730.00 for fence installation at the Burr Pump Station. Earthwerks submitted a final claim in the amount of \$11,000.00 for placing additional boulders at the Deep River Rock Riffle Site. Finally, \$19,895.10 was paid to Reliance Foundry for purchase of bollards needed for the east reach sections of the project.

Commissioner Broadnax asked if HWC Engineering would have the Spring Park plans ready on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Repay stated that he has had several meetings with them and the plans should be ready, and we are still planning to open bids at the September meeting. Additionally Commissioner Broadnax asked if 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance provided timesheets for their claim for clearing the Deep Tunnel in Griffith. Mr. Repay responded that 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance has provided the additional documentation as requested.

Commissioner Ware asked if there were before and after pictures of the sediment removal under the Indianapolis Blvd. Bridge. Mr. Repay stated that we do have pictures of the 400 cubic yards of sediment that was removed that he would be happy to share.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0. (Commissioner Gozdecki abstain)

**Executive Director's Report –**

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

- I am working to schedule a ribbon cutting in coordination with Lake County Parks and the City of Lake Station for the Deep River Rock Riffle project. We have a few more rocks to place and installation of security cameras and NIPSCO light at the corner of 29<sup>th</sup> & Wyoming.
- I participated in the Gary North, Gary South, Burr Street and Marshalltown out-briefs at USACE headquarters. There is some minor tree trimming and a gate that needs to be repaired. The levees will be considered minimally acceptable for another year by the USACE.

- We received draft reports from the USACE inspections for the Hammond, Highland and Munster segments. There is a trash rack at our gate in Riverside Park that needs to be replaced. Additionally, a property owner on 179<sup>th</sup> in Hammond has a drainage system that is causing some issues at the toe of the levee. We will need to send him a letter directing him to remove the drainage device.
- A resident of Gary, Mr. Lee appeared at our meeting last month to discuss issues with an easement on his property. We are working with our attorney as well as the USACE to address his concerns. We hope to have the issue resolved by next month.
- Both USACE Mitigation projects are winding down. It is expected that the Hobart Mitigation project will be turned over to IDNR in October.
- Our contractor will be doing some routine tree trimming and blockage removal inside Hart Ditch over the next few weeks. We have also partnered with the Lake County Surveyor's office to conduct an emergency stabilization on Foliage Street.
- The design for Spring Park is nearly complete. We anticipate that we will open bids at the September meeting.
- We have made good progress on our scanning project. Numerous documents, including minutes, agendas and draws have been scanned. Next we will work on scanning parcel data and as-builts.
- A closure exercise at River Road in Munster is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am. These closure exercises are required by the USACE.
- Installation of the Burr Street Closure is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>. The railroad will need to shut down the track for the day as they install the closure. This project will remove another closure in the system that the local communities will need to deal with during a flood emergency.
- We plan to purchase the post and panel closure for Northcote Bridge and will contract with a company to build and initially install the closure before turning it over to the Town of Munster.

**Presentation –**

Kathy Sipple from Earth Charter Indiana and Julianne Roser, a Purdue University student and intern on the project, gave a presentation on the Northwest Indiana Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project.

The video presentation can be viewed on our website or at the following link:

[https://youtu.be/gf\\_bBWG1nB8](https://youtu.be/gf_bBWG1nB8)

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the Stinky Creek portion only of the City of Hobart – Stinky Creek and Turkey Creek Lateral 6 Diversion and Regional Storm Water Watershed Application in an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the Lake County Parks – Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Phase II Watershed Application for one year of funding in the amount of \$175,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Spring Park Natural Spring Project based upon approval of plans; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that bids for this project will be opened at the September meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids to clean and video culverts within the Hammond, Highland and Munster segments of the river; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to purchase (3) 6" diesel pumps for emergency use, pending legal review and final execution of a Memorandum of Understanding; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that during the June rain event, two Pump Stations went down. While we were able to get one operating quickly, the other station experienced an extended outage. We reached out to our vendors, but there were no available portable pumps. During our monthly O&M Meetings, the situation was discussed and it was recommended to purchase several pumps to have available during emergency situations. Chairman Baker asked where the pumps would be stored and who would be responsible for the maintenance. Mr. Repay stated several Highland, Munster and Griffith expressed an interest in housing the pumps and then would bring them out to the location when needed. Our Pump Station maintenance contractor, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance would then take over the operation of the diesel pumps. Commissioner Gozdecki stated that he didn't think it necessary to purchase a total of 3 pumps for use in emergency situations. Commissioner Ware asked if maintenance logs and testing would be provided by the municipalities that store the pumps on our behalf. Further discussion was held regarding the municipalities ability to use the pumps when not needed by the LCRBDC. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion failed 4-4. (Commissioners Broadnax, Ware, Castellanos and Nimetz – yes, Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki and Ocho – nay).

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve two Joint-Funding Agreements with the U.S. Geological Survey:

- a) Joint-Funding Agreement for the operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the watershed during the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. The combined agreement amount is \$110,340.00 with the LCRBDC contributing \$99,640.00 and the USGS contributing \$10,700.00.
- b) Joint-Funding Agreement for Little Calumet River Water Temperature Monitoring during the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022. The combined agreement amount is \$15,330.00 with the LCRBDC contributing \$10,665.00 and the USGS contributing \$4,665.00.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Statements to the Board –**

Gary Lee, Gary, IN requested status and a timeline on when he could expect answers to the questions he asked at the last meeting regarding an easement on his property.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Ware thanked all for attending the meeting and thanked Earth Charter Indiana for their presentation.

Commissioner Gozdecki apologized for his late arrival to the meeting and thanked Earth Charter Indiana for their presentation.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the representatives from Earth Charter Indiana for their presentation. He also reminded all of the anniversary of the flood event that happened in September of 2008.

Commissioner Nimetz commented on great presentation by Earth Charter Indiana.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked Earth Charter Indiana for their presentation and reminded everyone of the Commission's radio show on WLTH AM 1370.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, 2021.