

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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
Ron Ware
Anthony Broadnax (via Zoom)
Robert Ochi
David Castellanos

Visitors:

Gary Lee - Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
John & Laurie Czulno - Hammond

Commissioners Absent:

Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 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 final meeting of 2021. 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 is far better prepared than was in the past, but there is always room for improvement. We continue to work with Communities within the watershed so that events such as the flood in 2008 does not happen again. The Commission has worked to remove over 1,400 properties

from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts 4 million dollars back into the local economy, making this project an economic development project. He thanked everyone involved with the Commission for making it a great year.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the December 2021 claims in the amount of \$140,018.80. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the December claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Jerry Kulik, MAI in the amount of \$2,700.00 for a review appraisal of the former Griffith Golf Center. This review appraisal was required by the USACE for crediting purposes. \$15,000.00 was paid to C & H for the 5th and final mowing of the season. We will start mowing again in early spring 2022. Northern Indiana Mechanical submitted a claim in the amount of \$3,450.00 for work clearing a blockage at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. \$5,800.00 was paid to R.A. Oros for clearing blockages near Northcote Avenue. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted claims in the amounts of \$3,055.00 and \$6,336.00 for monthly pump station maintenance for October and November. Finally, Christopher Burke Engineering submitted claims in the amounts of \$9,633.75 and \$8,261.50 for continued work on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation Project. They will give an update on this project later in the meeting.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We have submitted our permit to IDEM for the Spring Park Project. IDEM has 90 days to render a decision on our permit.
- The post and panel has been ordered for the Northcote Bridge closure. The vendor is anticipating the panels to be delivered at the beginning of March.
- We cleared trees at two locations, at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge and just east of the Northcote Bridge.
- All Pump Stations are working and running. We plan to pull a couple of pumps for routine maintenance. We will also talk to some engineering firms about developing specs for some much needed pump station upgrades.
- Later this month we plan to break up a large beaver dam located between Chase and Grant Streets.
- I met with the Chancellor of IU Northwest. We discussed some of the improvements that we have made over the years to better protect the campus. We plan on taking a tour in the spring so the Chancellor and his executive staff learn more about the project and what to be concerned with when it comes to high water events.
- We continue to work on USACE real estate crediting. We currently have 6 parcels that are still outstanding.

Siavash Beik and A.J. Frike of Christopher B. Burke Engineering joined the meeting to give an update on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation Project. They stated that it is expected to have complete engineering drawings for the project in March 2022.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the 5th Addendum to the Employment Agreements of the Executive Director and Office Manager based on legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements to the Board –

Gary Lee, Gary, asked about the status of the ditch behind his home and what the plan is moving forward to solve the problems of water seepage and erosion.

Craig Zandstra, Lake County Parks, gave an update on the Phase II of the Little Calumet River Marsh Bird Conservation Corridor stating that crews are working in the MLK South and Highand Rookery areas. He thanked the Commission for their contributions and support of project.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ochi thanked those for attending the meeting and wished everyone Happy Holidays

Commissioner Wichlinski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Gozdecki wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped to see everyone in January.

Commissioner Ware thanked Lake County Parks for their update and expressed appreciation for everyone that attended our meetings. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Castellanos wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 19, 2022.