

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
Location: Munster Town Hall

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Anthony Broadnax (via Zoom)
Robert Ochi
David Castellanos
Ron Ware
Derek Nimetz

Visitors:

Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Liam Ochi – F.H. Paschen

Commissioners Absent:

Levon Whittaker, Secretary

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Election of Officers –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to re-elect the current slate of officers for the upcoming year: William Baker – Chairman, Tom Wichlinski – Vice-Chairman, Tom Gozdecki – Treasurer, Levon Whittaker – Secretary; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2022 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker thanked the board for the vote of confidence as we move forward into 2022. 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. He reminded all that 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. However, 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.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the February 2022 claims in the amount of \$196,818.76. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the February claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Christopher Burke Engineering in the amount of \$24,557.50 for continued work on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation Project. We recently had a meeting to review the 50% plans on this project with anticipated plan completion late spring to early summer. Gariup Construction was paid \$54,650.00 for work on replacing bollards within the system. Approximately 60 bollards have been replaced to date. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted claims in the amounts of \$7,920.00 and \$5,544.00 for pump station inspections during the months of December 2021 and January 2022. \$24,910.00 was paid to the U.S. Geological Survey for the quarterly operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the system. Finally the City of Lake Station submitted a claim in the amount of \$10,625.52 for the completion of their Stormwater Master Plan.

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

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We are working with Lake County to get all the necessary permits for the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. The planned areas are between the Twin Creek and Park West subdivisions. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- Beginning this spring, we plan to clear and snag a portion of Deep River from 51st Avenue north to Veteran's Park. The City of Lake Station and the Lake County Surveyor's office will assist in removing some of the trees and debris.
- Wessler Engineering is still working on the flow models for portions of Beaver Dam Ditch. They plan to give an update on their progress at an upcoming meeting. The model and report should be complete in June.
- The 50% plans for the Griffith Levee have been reviewed and discussed. The design should be complete and ready for bid by summer. Barring any complications with permitting and utility coordination, the project could start late summer to early fall.
- We are moving forward on the 3 tax sale properties that are required by the USACE. Additionally, the City of Hammond will be deeding over parcels that we requested by the end of the month.

- We are still working on getting the proper permits and federal guidance to obtain federal infrastructure dollars for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge project. We have reached out to NIRPC and our state contact to see if there is a more efficient way to receive these dollars. We would anticipate a 2023 construction date for this project.
- We have been in contact with Mitch Barloga at NIRPC regarding the potential extension of the Little Calumet Trail from Martin Luther King Drive and connect it with Three Rivers Park. NIRPC will work to put together the land ownership issues in order for this project to proceed.
- We will be seeking proposals to raise the railroad crossing that is located between Indianapolis Blvd. and Kennedy Avenue. It is a struggle to keep this area clear as debris builds up against the wooden supports in the river channel. Additionally, the USACE built closure structure is challenging and would be difficult to operate under high water conditions. We hope to have proposals by April.
- Two bids were received on the Spring Park Project. Commissioner Castellanos and I talked extensively about how to get involved in the project on WLTH in February. The bids will be opened later in the meeting.
- We are working with an engineering firm to do a study on the stability and effectiveness of the landside drainage of the Colfax Ditch. We hope to have additional information on this by our next meeting.

Presentations –

Daniel Suarez of Audubon Great Lakes and Harry Kuttner of The Wetlands Initiative gave a brief overview of the progress made on our Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative.

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

<https://youtu.be/LFettBVeKeM>

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to open bids on the Spring Park Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney, engineer and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and call for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0. The bids are as follows: F.H. Paschen/S.N. Nielsen & Associates - \$641,100.00; Gariup Construction Co. - \$399,900.00.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the Town of Griffith's Cady Marsh Ditch Diversion Sewer Intake Screen Raker Replacement Watershed Application, for engineering only, in the amount of \$140,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. 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 Town of Merrillville's Kaiser Ditch East Tributary Flood Control Improvement Project Watershed Application in the amount of \$345,000.00, 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 Gozdecki made a motion to approve the Town of Merrillville's Hickory Ridge Apartments Flood Control Improvements Watershed Application in the amount of \$81,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the Town of Dyer's Dyer Ditch/Hart Ditch Streambank Stabilization Watershed Application in the amount of \$81,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve the 6th Addendum to the Employment Agreements of the Executive Director and Office Manager based on legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Statements to the Board –

No statements to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the Audubon and Wetlands Initiative for their update and looked forward to the progress on the Spring Park Project.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the Audubon and Wetlands Initiative for their presentation.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked the Audubon and Wetlands Initiative for their update and also thanked the staff for a great 2021.

Commissioner Ware thanked this evening's presenters for the updates and also thanked the staff for their great work in 2021.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, 2022.