

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020**

**Location: Virtual Meeting**

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:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Ron Ware  
Dave Castellanos  
Robert Ochi  
Anthony Broadnax

**Visitors:**

Virtual Meeting

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from June 17, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 8 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Commissioner Baker welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked those who joined. As a reminder, the Commission is tasked with the maintenance is a \$275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are completing. However, this Commission is far better prepared than was in the past and we continue to maintain open communication and work with all communities within the watershed.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the July claims in the amount of \$182,063.34. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Patrick Engineering in the amount of \$56,715.40 for continued engineering and design of the Lake

Station Levee Project. Bids for this project will be opened later in the meeting. \$22,135.00 was paid to C & H Mowing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of mowing this season. The mowing was completed right before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. A 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle will be completed at the end of the month. Northern Indiana Mechanical submitted a claim for blockage removal at Kennedy Avenue in the amount of \$6,063.14. The City of Crown Point was reimbursed \$4,180.00 for continued work on the Sauerman Woods Watershed Project. Finally, the Town of Griffith was reimbursed \$4,760.00 for clearing needed after the heavy rains earlier this season.

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 received 4 bids on the Deep River Rock Riffle Improvements Project. The bids will be opened later during the meeting.
- 5 bids were received on the Stage V, Phase 2 Levee Modifications Project, these bids will be opened later in the meeting.
- Inspections on the Gary/Griffith Levee portion of the system are complete and considered minimally acceptable. This means we have a passing grade for another year and are acceptable to USACE and the federal program eligible for any reimbursements if an event were to occur.
- We recorded easements in the last month for easements belonging to: City of Hammond, Hammond Sanitary District, Town of Munster, Town of Highland, North Township Trustee and Griffith Redevelopment Commission (Griffith Golf Course). A meeting will be taking place with the City of Gary and their Park Board in the next week which will complete 11 additional parcels.
- The Hart Ditch Stabilization Project is progressing. The Independence Park Stabilization section is complete; the Twin Creek section of the project is wrapping up the initial phase. Finally, the Camellia Bank Stabilization section of the project is progressing nicely now that the utility conflict has been resolved.
- The 80/94 Culvert Clearing Project is progressing. The contractor has completed the clearing and videotaping of the culverts under Georgia Avenue. One of the four culverts under I-94 has been complete which leaves three more to complete. The improved weather conditions over the last 3 weeks have allowed them to make good progress and get the project back on track.
- Work on the Marshalltown Levee Repair will be wrapping up by the end of this month. Once again, the weather has cooperated and allowed work to be done. We will likely need to seed the levee later this summer or fall for it to take properly.
- The culvert under Chase Street just south of 35<sup>th</sup> Street collapsed, necessitating emergency repairs. This collapse compromises our protection and potentially cause harm to the police and fire training center, Gary Transportation center, and several other businesses along 35<sup>th</sup> street. 3 contractors submitted proposals to repair the culvert. The lowest and most responsive of the three bidders was Dyer Construction.

- We are reviewing plans for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge to possibly add one support in the middle of the channel. By adding one support we hope we can still raise the bridge and reduce the cost for the construction of the bridge.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04 and an InterLocal Agreement with the Merrillville Stormwater Utility for the Meadowdale Lateral Floodwater Storage Basin Watershed Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that this watershed application was approved at the June meeting for funding in the amount of \$426,625.00. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call-vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-05 and an InterLocal Agreement with the Merrillville Stormwater Utility for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Outlet Watershed Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that this watershed application was approved at the June meeting for funding in the amount of \$74,572.00. 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 approve a consulting agreement with Deanna Francoeur-Schmidt to conduct and compile interviews of necessary individuals with respect to the 2008 flood event in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that this project has been discussed for several years and it is important to document the history of the flood control project, including the 2008 flood event. Chairman Baker added that we just passed the 10 year anniversary of the 2008 flood event and with this documentation, we can show the community why this flood control project is so important to the region. 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 a Sluice Gate Maintenance and Operation Agreement with First Response Maintenance to operate and grease all sluice gate structures in within the Griffith Burr Street, Gary North, Gary South and Marshalltown segments; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that First Response Maintenance is a local minority contractor and will complete the maintenance on a bi-annual basis. 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 Motion to open bids for the Stage V, Phase 2 Levee Modifications at Wicker Memorial Park Golf Course Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed by 8 aye votes. The bids opening were as follows: Dyer Construction - \$118,500.00; Austgen Equipment - \$73,094.00; Grimmer Construction - \$90,330.00; F.H. Pashen - \$261,000.00; and Gariup Construction - \$79,700.00.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to open bids for the Deep River Rock Riffle Improvements Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 8 aye votes. The bid openings were as follows: Grimmer Construction - \$6,436,472.00; Hasse Construction - \$4,685,000.00; F.H. Pashen - \$9,059,312.00; and Earthwerks - \$4,423,532.00.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Patrick Engineering Construction Services Agreement No. 2C0WR0040 for the Deep River Rock Riffle Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$413,400.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that Patrick Engineering, who completed the design documents, will provide construction management of the project which also includes a pedestrian bridge. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-2. (Commissioners Broadnax and Castellanos nay).

**Statements to the Board –**

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, thanked the Commission for offering virtual meetings these past few months.

Antonio Xavier, Hammond, requested information regarding installing a billboard on property he owns along the Little Calumet River.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Gozdecki stated he is looking forward to the upcoming construction projects for the Commission.

Commissioner Wichlinski stated he is glad that we have several construction projects for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone that attended and participated in the meeting. He also encouraged more minority participation in all the Commission contracts and agreements.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked all for attending the virtual meeting and also encouraged more minority participation with all Commission contracts.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 19, 2020.