

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022
Location: Munster Town Hall

Acting Chairman Gozdecki presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Derek Nimetz
David Castellanos
Ron Ware
Robert Ochi

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Gary Lee – Gary
John Kennedy – American Structurepoint

Commissioners Absent:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2022 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed with 5-0.

Chairman's Report -

Acting Chairman Gozdecki thanked the public for attending our meeting. He reminded everyone of the progress the Commission has made over the past years including numerous parcels removed from the flood plain. The work is ongoing and the Commission continues to address ongoing maintenance and repairs throughout the entire watershed. We encourage the public to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Finance –

Acting Chairman Gozdecki referred to the May 2022 claims in the amount of \$307,357.62. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the April claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with reimbursement to Lake County Parks in the amount of \$17,984.48 for work on the Phase II Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative. \$17,634.31 was paid to Austgen Equipment for work on the Beaver Dam Ditch Lateral 5 Culvert Replacement. The first mowing of the season was completed by C&H Mowing for the amount of \$27,500.00. Cressmoor Landscaping also completed mowing and trimming of lots in Lake Station and submitted a claim in the amount of \$1,200.00 for their work. Weedpatch Inc. submitted a claim in the amount of \$3,825.00 for weed control application throughout the system. \$34,542.00 was paid to Christopher Burke Engineering for continued work on the Griffith Levee Design. It is anticipated that the project will be ready to bid this summer with bid opening in August. Finally, several municipalities including the City of Hammond, Hammond Sanitary District, Town of Highland, Town of Munster, Lake County Parks and North Township were paid a total of \$59,600.00 for various easements required by the USACE.

Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We continue to work on USACE acquisitions for the project. We were recently informed by the USACE that additional documentation was required for the twelve easements that were donated by municipalities. It was determined that paying for the easements would be the most efficient way to have the parcels approved for credit. It is our goal to have all parcels acquired for the project by November 1, 2022 in order to close out the project.
- A contract with American Structurepoint Engineering is on the agenda for approval. This agreement for environmental documentation preparation on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge is necessary to receive federal funding for the project. It is anticipated that the environmental survey will be finished in 10-12 months.
- Last week our first cycle of mowing for the season was completed on the entire levee system. Additionally, a contractor is cutting back small trees and saplings that have grown too close to the levee in stages 7 and 8.
- We have received the draft USACE inspection reports for Hammond, Highland and Munster. Overall there were no major issues to report. We will look to complete some bank stabilization and joint sealant work before inspections next year.
- DLZ Engineering has already met with homeowners to discuss their concerns regarding the Calhoun Ditch. A geotechnical study is being conducted to investigate possible seepage issues along the drainage ditch.
- We will have the official groundbreaking for Spring Park at 10am tomorrow morning. There is some work already in progress at the site as USGS and Gariup Construction broke apart the concrete block that encased the pipe for the

natural spring. USGS is doing research on the age and depth of the aquifer that is supplying the spring.

- The next phase of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project will begin in June. The Lake County Drainage Board opened bids for the segment from approximately 45th Avenue to Twin Creek Blvd. at their meeting earlier today. There may be funds available for emergency fixes that arise as work continues along Hart Ditch.
- The remainder of our USACE inspections are scheduled to begin June 6th. The areas inspected will include INDOT, Griffith and Gary.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to open sealed proposals on the license of land located at approximately 2100-2400 West 35th Street in Gary, Indiana. These proposals will be reviewed and taken under advisement; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that we received one proposal from Bradford Gary LLC / Crow Holdings Industrial. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve our Resolution 2022-05 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board for Phase III of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project, subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this phase will address 1000-1200 feet of bank stabilization. Additionally, \$500,000 of emergency funds will be available to address concerns as they arise in the field. Mr. Repay added that the Lake County Drainage Board is submitting and preparing all permits and engineering. Discussion was held regarding the Town of Munster's contribution to this phase of the project. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve a service agreement with Czaplicki-Lopez for a feasibility study to raise the Norfolk Southern Bridge over the Little Calumet River and eliminate the flood gates in Hammond/Highland in an amount not to exceed \$29,000.00 pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement will study the means and costs of eliminating the manual hand-crank closure at this location while still maintaining the required flood control. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve a service agreement with American Structurepoint, Inc. for environmental documentation preparation on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge over the Little Calumet River in an amount not to exceed \$54,835.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that we completed the engineering and design on the bridge in 2019. This environmental study is necessary in order to qualify for federal funding. The study is expected to take 10-12 months to complete. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals for floodwall joint sealant, replacement and repair in stages 7 and 8; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that during USACE inspections it was observed that some of the joint material was failing in these stages making it necessary to replace and repair the sealant. The work will be completed prior to the next inspection in spring of 2023. Acting Chairman Gozdecki asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

USACE Real Estate Crediting Update –

Representatives from the USACE were not present in person or Zoom to provide an update.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos announced the Groundbreaking for the Spring Park Project will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 10am. Mayor Prince and representatives from the City of Gary, Commissioner Allen, representatives from Congressman Mrvan's office and other local organizations will be in attendance for the Groundbreaking.

Commissioner Ware reminded all of the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, he also commended Commissioner Castellanos on his work in arranging the Groundbreaking for the Spring Park Project and noted that this is a great project for the City of Gary.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2022.