

Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

8149 Kennedy Avenue Highland, Indiana 46322 (219) 923-1118

JOHN DEMEO, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

DOYLE NIEMEYER, Vice-Chairman
Governor's Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's
Appointment

CLYDE BAUGHARD, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's
Appointment

WILLIAM CRITSER
Governor's Appointment

JERRY PAGAC
Dept. of Natural Resources'
Appointment

DAVID SPRINGMAN
Governor's Appointment

JACK SWIKE
Lake County Commissioners'
Appointment

WILLIAM TANKE
Porter County Commissioners'
Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

MEETING NOTICE

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1989
AT THE OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order by Chairman John DeMeo
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of public officials attending, visitors/guests
4. Approval of minutes of May 4, 1989 meeting
5. Business items requiring Board approval
 - A. Finance/Policy Committee - Arlene Colvin, Chairperson
 - Financial status report and approval of claims for May
 - B. Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Charles Agnew, Chairman
 - Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m.
 - Award of Lake Etta Maintenance Building contract
 - Other required action
 - C. Breakwater/Marina Committee - Bill Tanke, Chairman
 - Award of Engineering services contract

+ Charles Peterson
+ Rick Salamon

Col. Francis
Jan Miller
Richard Carlson

6. Special presentation of Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation project - Schedule and Implementation
 - Col. Jess Franco, Chicago District Engineer
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Statement of Position of Development Commission
regarding project sponsor commitment - Dan Gardner,
Executive Director
 - Questions, Statements, Discussion by attending
public officials
7. Other Business
8. Set date for next meeting, adjournment

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1989
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

- - - - -

Chairman John DeMeo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. There were ten (10) Commissioners present. Guests were recognized and quorum was declared.

Development Commissioners:

Dave Springman
George Carlson
Charles Agnew
Jack Swike
Doyle Niemeyer
Clyde Baughard
Jerry Pagac
John DeMeo
Arlene Colvin
William Tanke

Visitors:

Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Harold Mauger - Gary
Dick Wawrzyniak - DNR, Div.
of Water
Stephen Davis - IN DNR
Robert Huffman - Basin Comm.
Sharon Bohling - The TIMES

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale, Attorney
Sandy Mordus

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the April 6th meeting; seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Arlene Colvin presented the financial report for March as well as the claims. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the claims as presented; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that at the April 12th State Budget Committee hearing, the committee approved the remaining \$1.5 million from 1985-86 monies be released to the Development Commission for claim drawdown. There is still \$2 million in the budget from 1987-88 monies. Another \$2 million has just been approved in the recently adopted 1989-90 budget.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to a letter contained in packet from Senator Dan Coats stating he has submitted written support of the Little Calumet River project to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to commit funds in the FY90 Energy and Water Appropriations bill (Corps is requesting \$2.4 million to complete engineering and begin construction).

Mr. Carlson stated a meeting was held with Corps personnel (Paul Benkowski and Dave Wallin) and attorney Casale, staff Dan Gardner and himself for the purpose of discussing the Local Cooperation Agreement. The LCA must be mutually agreed upon and signed before the project startup. Issues centered on the financial capability of the Commission; separable elements and separable elemental construction of the project; and concurrence by the Commission in construction contracts and modifications thereof.

Mr. Gardner stated that after the Commission receives a Corps schedule of the project, he will pursue obtaining a letter of support from the Governor's Office stating continued project backing.

Mr. Carlson stated that the Basin Commission was up for review by the Sunset Committee of the Legislature. Mr. Carlson made a motion that the Legislative Committee meet prior to the next regular meeting and review the state sunset report and advise the Basin Commission on their position; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner announced that Col. Jess Franco, District Engineer for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be at the next meeting (June 1) to give a special presentation of the construction schedule and project description of the Little Calumet River Project implementation. A special mailing will go out to Congressional staff, selected State offices, area legislators, elected city and town officials and others announcing the Corps presentation.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported property closing of DC 181. Mr. Agnew stated that a letter has been received from the Corps approving the real estate appraisers to do the selected project work.

Attorney Casale read the resolutions prepared for the Tract 12 easement acquisition in Porter County. Appraisals have been received; respective appraisal value is \$1,650 for Conrail property and \$550 for South Shore RR property. The resolution directs pursuance of offer to be made; if offer is refused, attorney is authorized to commence proceedings to acquire said real estate under eminent domain laws. The other Tract 12 easement is owned by the State Highway Dept. and hopefully, the Commission can negotiate a satisfactory agreement with them. Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to accept the resolutions as read; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew reported that the attorney has sent the Uniform Land Acquisition Offer on the acquisition of the Erie RR bridge to owners and those who have an interest in the property. Notice was also placed in newspapers.

The land liability insurance policy has been received. Cost was contained at \$13,500 for the year 1989.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to settle with Maurice Curran on past monies due the Commission. Settlement price is \$1,500. Motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

It was announced that the Notice to Bidders has gone out and has been placed in newspapers for the construction of Lake Etta maintenance building. Bid Opening scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 31st.

Interim Flood Control/Planning Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard reported that the Northcote Bridge reconstruction is almost complete and the road should be opened shortly.

Mr. Gardner referred to letter contained in packet on Grant Street engineering. He has passed on appropriate name and number of Corps personnel who can supply pertinent information to the engineering firm. Mr. Gardner added this is the first commitment from the state on replacing the Grant St. culverts.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commission of the progress thus far that has taken place on the Penn Central RR culvert replacement project. He stated that the Basin Commission has made this project a priority and recently authorized Ten Ech Engineering to meet with Conrail personnel in Philadelphia in order to work out problems and concerns with them. They are concerned about the soil stabilization under the railroad. The cost of replacement

was originally estimated to be about \$150,000. Additional modifications that must be made will increase the cost about \$70,000. Attorney Casale will research drainage laws in regard to Conrail cost sharing the replacement.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - Committee Chairman William Tanke reported that a committee meeting was held with Chuck Eckenstahler of ABONMARCHE to discuss engaging in a contract for consulting purposes in order to develop a workable marina plan and financial plan for marina development. Mr. Tanke made a motion to engage Mr. Eckenstahler as a project manager to prepare a Request for Proposals for selected engineering firms and provide other services as needed for marina development; motion seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commission that he has recently met with Mayor Maletta, John Shepherd and John Hannon of Portage and updated them on marina issues. The city will work with the Commission in obtaining the use of NIPSCO right of way. Clyde Baughard added that he and Mr. Gardner met with NIPSCO officials to reopen the pursuance of the NIPSCO lots.

Sand removal on the marina site was discussed. Johnson, Johnson & Roy is doing an analysis on the possibility of sandmining on the site. They will be contacting the Commission after inspecting the site and doing some borings there. Mr. Tanke made a motion to allow JJ&R to do the borings; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Staff was directed to obtain a copy of the results of the borings from JJ&R.

Statements from the floor - Harold Mauger expressed concern that the river was still higher than normal.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 1989.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/sjm

MERCANTILE NATIONAL BANK

JANUARY 1, 1989 - APRIL 30, 1989

CASH POSITION - JANUARY 1, 1989

Checking Account		
Land Acquisition	\$ 17,248.62	
General Fund	21,502.53	
Tax Fund	1,126.60	
Investments	<u>896,500.00</u>	\$936,377.75

RECEIPTS: January 1, 1989 - April 30, 1989

Lease Rents	\$ 27,068.02	
Interest	18,940.43	
Land Acquisition	62,512.42	
Taxes	<u>549.57</u>	\$109,070.44

DISBURSEMENTS: January 1, 1989 - April 30, 1989

1988 Expenses paid in 1989	\$ 15,117.87
Legal Services	1,005.99
NIRPC	8,769.29
Bonds & Insurance	305.00
Emergency Maintenance Costs	106.97
Meeting Expense	867.77
L/A Legal Services	2,772.00
L/A Professional Services	
(a) Appraisal Services	1,085.00
(c) Engineering	1,181.24
(d) Land Purchase Contractural	8,340.86
(e) Operational Contractural	15,336.75
L/A Land Purchase Cost	32,442.14
L/A Land Capital Improvements	134.40
L/A Insurance	<u>161.00</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 87,626.28

CASH POSITION - APRIL 30, 1989

Checking Account		
Land Acquisition	\$ 17,046.21	
General Fund	22,526.67	
Tax Fund	1,749.03	
Investments	<u>916,500.00</u>	\$957,821.91



**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA
REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

8149 Kennedy Ave. 219-923-1060
Highland, Indiana 46322 312-731-2646

DATE: MAY 4, 1989

CONTRACT NO: P1.01

ORGANIZATION: LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

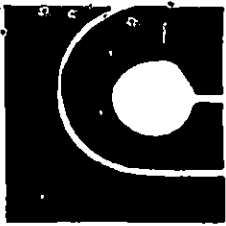
CONTRACT CODE: 952

PROJECT: FOR SERVICES PERFORMED DURING APRIL, 1989

INVOICE NO: 04

I N V O I C E

SALARIES AND FRINGE BENEFITS: DAN GARDNER & SANDY MORDUS	\$ 3,600.00
ROOM RENTAL FOR ADDITIONAL LCRBDC STAFF	200.00
ACCOUNTING SERVICES	150.00
TELEPHONE: LOCAL SERVICE	60.00
TELEPHONE : BILLABLE CHARGES (ATTACHMENTS) (3/27/89-4/17/89)	38.83
POSTAGE	59.15
COPYING CHARGES @ \$.05 PER COPY (1,934)	96.70
COPYING CHARGES @ \$.025 PER COPY	-0-
GRAPHICS/PRINTING TIME @ \$16.00 PER HOUR (ATTACHMENTS)	20.00
STAFF MILEAGE/EXPENSES	24.00
OTHER CHARGES (ATTACHMENTS)	-0-
TOTAL APRIL 1989 COSTS	\$ 4,248.68
OUTSTANDING PAYMENT DUE	4,289.61
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE	\$ 8,538.29



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

8149 Kennedy Avenue Highland, Indiana 46322 (219) 923-1118

May 23, 1989

JOHN DEMEO, Chairman
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ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
*Mayor of Gary's
Appointment*

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CHARLES AGNEW
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JACK SWIKE
*Lake County Commissioners'
Appointment*

WILLIAM TANKE
*Porter County Commissioners'
Appointment*

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

NEWS RELEASE

You are cordially invited to a special presentation of the construction schedule and a project description of the Little Calumet River Project implementation on Thursday, June 1, 1989 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, 8149 Kennedy Avenue, Highland. Making the presentation will be Col. Jess Franco, District Engineer of the Chicago District Corps of Engineers, the agency responsible for the Federal flood control and recreation project construction. This presentation will be the first public opportunity to view the actual construction schedule since the Federal Office of Management and Budget has approved funding the full structural flood protection plan of the river - including the Gary stretch from Cline Avenue to the I-65 area. The project presentation will follow a brief business meeting of the Little Calumet River Development Commission and will allow time for discussion and questions regarding the project.

This project will protect over 9,500 structures in northwest Indiana from flooding, create significant construction jobs, and provide a 2,000 acre linear recreation system. We feel this project will have a major positive impact upon this area for many years to come and we urge your covering this important project kickoff.

Contact person: Dan Gardner, Executive Director
219/923-1118

2-92
 5-10-92
 10-15-92
 10-15-92
 10-15-92

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

Name of meeting: LCRBDC

Date: June 1

	NAME (please print)	Organization and/or Address	
1	Stephen E. Davis	IND DNR	1
2	DICK WAWRZYNIAK	" "	2
3	Jim P. Seeto	Thabast	3
4	Dee Cobb	Berkeheimer Co/PRITCH WISES	4
5	Party Parish	LCRBC	5
6	Louis Larson	" " "	6
7	Pete Zak	to the manna	7
8	Mary Jane Zak	South Shore Marina	8
9	Mike Doyne	Doyne's Marina, Inc.	9
10	Mark Riecklin	Indiana Univ Northwest	10
11	Ken Jackson	WSOB	11
12	John Egan	2250 W 35TH AVE Gary	12
13	Richard Buncely	Salmon Unlimited of Ind	13
14	JOHN H. SIMPSON	INDIANA DNR	14
15	Marie B. Morris	LCRBC	15
16	Dewey R. Lemley	Lake Station Parks & Rec.	16
17	Harry M. Clelland	L.C. HWY DEPT.	17
18	Eldred Ruck	LCRBC	18
19	Bob Huffman	LCRBC	19
20	Chris Huffman		20
21	JOHN LAR	Org. Uisclosky	21
22	CHARLES R. KESLIN R	Bldg Comm. Town of Munster	22
23	Tom Dughely	Post-Tribune	23
24	Tim Sanders	from Senator Lugar's Coats	24
25	LANE RALPH	Senator Lugar's Of-Indpls.	25
26	Ala. Kennedy	Lake County Parks	26
27	Bob Nickooich	Supt. Lake City PARK DEPT.	27
28	BART Petersen	Gov. 's Office	28
29	MARK HERAK	TOWN Bd. member-Hold	29
30	Dolly Millendar	Only of 6.	30
31			31

Chairman: John DeMeo

Location:

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

F O R J U N E M E E T I N G

M O N T H L Y B U D G E T R E P O R T

BUDGET CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	BUDGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT PAID PREVIOUSLY	UNPAID BALANCE	AMOUNT READY FOR PAYMENT	PROJECTED BALANCE
119	PER DIEM EXPENSES	16000.00	0.00	16000.00	0.00	16000.00
311	LEGAL SERVICES	7500.00	1289.32	6210.68	367.33	5843.35
312	NIRPC SERVICES	94000.00	13058.90	80941.10	4248.68	76692.42
323	TRAVEL & MILEAGE	6000.00	0.00	6000.00	0.00	6000.00
331	PRINTING & ADVERTISING	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	106.23	2393.77
341	BONDS & INSURANCE	7500.00	5690.50	1809.50	0.00	1809.50
361	EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE COSTS	3500.00	106.97	3393.03	0.00	3393.03
399	MEETING EXPENSES	3000.00	1091.51	1908.49	309.55	1598.94
411	LEGAL SERVICES	50000.00	7476.00	42524.00	2268.00	40256.00
412	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100000.00	28137.05	71862.95	15424.00	56438.95
413	LAND PURCHASE COSTS	3607916.00	32442.14	3575473.86	5152.91	3570320.95
414	LAND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	150000.00	134.40	149865.60	0.00	149865.60
415	BURNS WATERWAY BREAKWATER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
416	STRUCTURES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	40000.00	0.00	40000.00	0.00	40000.00
417	PROPERTY/STRUCTURES INSURANCE	25000.00	13661.00	11339.00	342.50	10996.50
		4112916.00	103087.79	4009828.21	28219.20	3981609.01

C L A I M S R E A D Y F O R P A Y M E N T

BUDGET CODE	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	EXPLANATION OF CLAIM
311	LOUIS CASALE	283.33	ATTORNEY RETAINER FOR MAY 1989
311	LOUIS CASALE	84.00	GENERAL & MISCELLANEOUS LEGAL SERVICE MAY 1989
312	NIRPC	4248.68	FOR SERVICES PERFORMED DURING APRIL 1989
331	POST-TRIBUNE	39.68	LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION FEE
331	THE TIMES	47.85	LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION FEE
331	MACTAVISH OFFICE PRODUCT	18.70	COST INCURRED RE: OFFICE SUPPLY
399	THE SPA	293.59	MEETING EXPENSES INCURRED ON 5/23/89
399	HIGHLAND BAKERY	15.96	MEETING EXPENSES INCURRED 6/1/89
411	LOUIS CASALE	2268.00	LEGAL SERVICES FOR LAND ACQUISITION 4-28 TO 5-25-89
412	NIPSCO	30.64	PUMPING EXPENSES INCURRED FROM 4-15 TO 5-15-89
412	COLE ASSOCIATES, INC.	271.52	ENGINEERING SERVICES 10/1 TO 10-28-88
412	CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE	5.00	TITLE WORK INCURRED ON DC 181
412	CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE	285.00	TITLE WORK INCURRED ON DC 124
412	ABONMARCH DEVELOPMENT	13800.00	AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES
412	COLE ASSOCIATES, INC.	151.84	ENGINEERING SERVICES THRU 3-1-89
412	SOUTH SHORE MARINA, INC.	880.00	REINSTALL HANDRAILS ON BREAKWATER
413	PORTER COUNTY TREASURER	252.91	1988 PAYABLE 1989 REAL ESTATE TAXES
413	ESTATE OF GEORGE HOMIDAY	4900.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF PROPERTY DC 124
417	DON POWERS AGENCY, INC.	342.50	FIRE POLICY ON LCRBDC PROPERTY
		28219.20	

Federal Representatives

Congressman Pete Visclosky

Ramon Arredondo - District Director for Congressman

John Laue - Projects Director for Congressman

Lane Ralph - Office of Senator Richard Lugar, Indpls.

Tim Sanders - Area Director for Senators Lugar & Coats

State Officials

Bart Petersen - Executive Assistant to the Governor

Frank Sullivan - State Budget Agency Director

Garland Ferrell - State Budget Agency staff

Jeff Hoffman - State Budget Agency staff

Patrick Ralston - Director of Dept. of Natural Resources

John Simpson - Director of Div. of Water, DNR

Greg Henneke - State Highway Dept.

State Legislators

Senator William Alexa

Senator John Bushemi

Senator Thurman Ferree

Senator Sue Landske

Senator Carolyn Brown Mosby

Senator Frank Mrvan

Representative Ralph Ayres

Representative Anita Bowser

Representative Charlie Brown

Representative Mary Kay Budak

Representative Chester Dobis

Representative Esther Fifield

Representative Earl Harris

Representative Paul Hric

Representative John Matonovich

Representative Jerome Reppa

Representative Earline Rogers

Representative Walter Roorda

Representative Jesse Villalpando

Representative Esther Wilson

County Officials

Lake County Commissioners:

Rudolph Clay

Steve Corey

Ernie Niemeyer

Lake County Councilman:

Ms. Frances Dupey

James Fleming

Andrew Smith

Richard Galambos

George Van Til

Robert Crossk

Sydney Garner

Steve Manich - Lake County
Surveyor

Larry McClelland - Lake County
Highway Superintendent

Frank DeRisi - Laporte
District Engineer - IN
Dept. of Highways

Municipalities

Hammond

Thomas McDermott - Mayor
Robert Markovich - City Councilman
Edward Repay - President, City Council
Gerald Mazur - City Councilman
Bernard Strbjak - City Councilman
Pete Torres - City Councilman
Rev. John Parrish - City Councilman
Janet Moran - City Councilwoman
Charles Pettersen - City Councilman
Robert Golec - City Councilman
Stan Dostani - City Engineer
Valerie Dehner - City Planner

Munster

Stanley Jones - President, Town Board
Larry Illingworth - Town Board member
Don Johnson - Town Board member
Hugh Brauer - Town Board member
Tom DeGiulio - Town Manager
James Mandon - Public Works director
Chuck Kessler - Building Commissioner

Highland

Dennis Tobin - President, Town Board
Ray Borowiec - Town Board member
Dominic Noce - Town Board member
Mark Herak - Town Board member
John Oakley - Town Board member
Paul Doherty - Clerk Treasuer
Ron Bradley - Public Works Director

Griffith

Merle Colby - President, Town Board
Ronald Szafarczyk - Town Board member
L. E. Owen - Town Board member
Patricia Schaadt - Town Board member
Stanley Dobosz - Town Board member
John Bach - Public Works Director

Gary

Thomas Barnes - Mayor
Richard Comer - Deputy Mayor
Roy Pratt - President, City Council
Clemmons Allen - City Councilman
Dharathula Dolly Millender - City Councilwoman
Gardest Gillespie - City Councilman
Gerald Hayes - City Councilman
Frank Ballard - City Councilman
Vernon Smith - City Councilman
Cleo Wesson - City Councilman
Wilfredo Sanchez - City Councilman

Gary, cont'd.

Roland Elvambuena - City Engineer
Taghi Arshami - Director of Planning

Indiana University N.W.

Peggy Elliot - Chancellor
William Staehle - Director of Community Relations
Dr. Mark Reshkin - Dean of Academic Affairs

N.W. Indiana Forum

Ed Bowles, Interim Director
Mitch Montgomery

Margaret Kuchta - Mayor of Hobart

Dewey Lemley - Superintendent of Lake Station Park Dept.

James Ranfranz - Executive Director of Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning Commission

Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission:

John DeMeo, Chairman
Doyle Niemeyer, Vice Chairman
Arlene Colvin, Treasurer
Clyde Baughard, Secretary
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
William Critser
Jerry Pagac
David Springman
Jack Swike
William Tanke

Little Calumet River Basin Commission:

Robert Huffman, Chairman (Munster)
Elizabeth Williamson, Vice Chairman (Lake County)
Don Bengel, Treasurer (Porter County)
Edith Root, Secretary (Crown Point)
Richard Watson (Highland)
Richard Galambos (Regional Planning Commission)
Louis Larson (Griffith)
Steve Collins (Porter County)
Ernest Davis (Gary)
Charles Pettersen (Hammond)
Courtney Van Lopik (Ogden Dunes)
William Leets (Hobart)
Maxie Morris (New Chicago)
C. D. Green (Schererville)
Eileen Hunley (Cedar Lake)
Martin Barich (Portage)
Charles Oliver (Merrillville)
Daniel Murphy (Dyer)
Richard Wawrzyniak (Indiana D.N.R.)

Little Calumet work to start

Corps to outline schedule

By Rich James

Staff writer

Dwight Eisenhower was president and Ray J. Madden was in the early years of his four-decade career in Congress when the Army Corps of Engineers started looking for a solution to the Little Calumet River flooding problems.

Today, more than 30 years later, the slowly meandering, silt-clogged river still floods. And the Army Corps is still on the job.

But other than for a farmer who illegally dredged a portion of the river under the cover of darkness in 1982, Gardner



and limited spot maintenance, the river stretches 22 miles virtually unchanged.

The decades of work—planning, revising, pleading and complaining—are about to pay off, Daniel Gardner, the project director for 14 years, said at a Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) meeting last week.

"We are out of the planning and engineering stage," Gardner said.

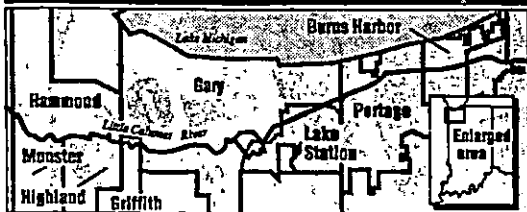
But Highland Clerk-Treasurer Paul Doherty, a NIRPC board member, wasn't convinced.

"In 1963 when I was first elected to the Highland Town Board, we were speaking in the same terms," Doherty said.

Nonetheless, Lt. Col. Jess Franco of the Army Corps

See Calumet, Page A16

Little Calumet River



Calumet

from Page A1

will be in Northwest Indiana Thursday to outline the seven-year construction schedule.

Work begins next May, Gardner said, initially in the Black Oak section of Gary where the first segment of the levee will be constructed.

Although it hasn't been appropriated yet, \$2.5 million in federal money should be coming for next year's work, Gardner said.

The federal government is expected to provide \$46 million of the \$87 million cost of the project.

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, primarily through Gardner's lobbying efforts, has secured about \$14 million from the Indiana General Assembly over the years. Another \$8 million will be sought over the next three bienniums, Gardner said.

The history of the project is almost as complex as the river itself. It is one of the few rivers in the country that flows in two directions—heading west into Illinois and east into the Portage/Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan. The river divides where Hart Ditch empties into the river in Highland.

The project is as much recreational as flood control, something Madden found out when he went to the Army Corps during severe floods in the 1950s.

The Army Corps told Madden the project would have to include a recreational aspect to obtain federal support, Gardner said. Canoeing, hiking and biking trails, wetlands for laboratory studies, picnic areas and play areas will appear as the project progresses.

Despite Madden's initial prodding, little happened until 1965. "Sen. Birch Bayh and Ray Madden carried the first resolu-

tion to get the study going in 1965," Gardner said.

Initially the plan called for a 600-foot-wide channel with the thought of boaters running between Lake Michigan and Lansing, Ill.

"It would have looked like the Panama Canal," Gardner said.

In 1972, the Army Corps scrapped the wide channel because it was too costly and environmentally insensitive, Gardner said. The plan now is for a channel 40- to 50-feet wide.

In 1975, then state Sen. Adam Benjamin Jr. acquired the first state money—a \$550,000 appropriation for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to study a modified levee proposal, with the thinking an improved channel alone might not prevent flooding.

Between 1975 and 1980, the DNR set aside money and began acquiring land. About 2,500 acres along the river are owned by public agencies, with the state owning 1,810 of the total.

"Adam had moved to Washington, D.C. (as congressman) and was pushing on the corps," Gardner said.

At the same time, state legislators were securing state funding each time the budget was adopted. Gardner credited state Sen. John Bushemi, D-Calumet Township, former state Sen. Ernie Niemeyer, R-Lowell, and state Reps. Chester Dobis, D-Merrillville, Earline Rogers, D-Gary, and Jerome Reppa, R-Munster, for their participation.

"Those folks have been there every year for us," Gardner said. "From 1975 to 1989, we haven't done anything. That's a lot of money to get out of the Indiana General Assembly for something in the future."

The plan calls for construction

or reconstruction of levees from the Indiana-Illinois state line to where the Penn Central Railroad tracks intersect with Interstate 65, Gardner said.

While there have been many frustrating times, Gardner said the project twice came close to collapsing—once near the start and once after President Reagan took office.

"The early days funding at the state level was touch-and-go," Gardner said. "One of the most frustrating things is the planning process the corps imposes. There are always new regulations, and you take two steps forward, one to the side and one back."

The second crucial point was Reagan's intent to make all projects cost effective. That stance essentially divided the project in two, eliminating levee construction in Gary.

"With no Gary levees, we would have dropped out," Gardner said, adding that the original plan remained intact despite the efforts of the Reagan administration. U.S. Rep. Peter J. Visclosky helped in that effort. "That was the most fearsome time."

When construction is completed, there remains the job of cleaning up the water, Gardner said.

"If recreation is ever going to be an attractive reality, you have to clean up the water quality," Gardner said. "It is not toxic, but it is polluted. Better flow is needed."