



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road

Portage, Indiana 46368

(219)763-0696
Fax (219)762-1653



MEETING NOTICE

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, IN**

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order by Chairman Robert Huffman
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Visitors, Guests
4. Approval of minutes of February 6, 1997
5. Executive Director's Report

- NAFSMA membership acknowledgement
- Griffith levee meeting scheduled for March 7th to discuss permitting and design

✓ ROBERT HUFFMAN, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

✓ ROBERT TRELO, Vice Chairman
Governor's Appointment

✓ CHARLES AGNEW, Treasurer
Governor's Appointment

✓ EMERSON DELANEY, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

✓ GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's
Appointment

✓ ROGER CHIABAI
Governor's Appointment

✓ ARLENE COLVIN
Mayor of Gary's
Appointment

✓ STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources'
Appointment

✓ JOHN DEMEO
Governor's Appointment

✓ NATHANIEL LEONARD
Lake County Commissioners'
Appointment

✓ WILLIAM TANKE
Porter County's Commissioners'
Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE
Attorney

1-6

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7. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Chuck Agnew, Chairman

- ☒ Appraisals, offers, acquisitions, recommended actions
- ☒ Corps Real Estate meeting held February 20, 1997
- ☒ Action needed on filing of condemnations
- ☒ COE letter received allowing postponement of street vacates - Can now send COE right-of-entry for IV-2B 8
- ☒ Agreements in place for Phase I recreation project
- ☒ Other issues

B. Project Engineering/Construction Committee - Robert Huffman, Chairman

- ☒ Flood Preparedness Planning meeting on 2/25/97 9-10
- ☒ Other issues

C. Legislative Committee - George Carlson, Chairman

- ☒ State legislative schedule
 - House Budget recommendations includes \$2 million for project 11-12
 - Federal budget at \$5.3 million

D. Marina Development Committee - Bill Tanke, Chairman

- ☒ Request for Marina Bond second payment due April 1
- ☒ RFP for engineer for Phase II construction
- ☒ Other issues

E. Finance/Policy Committee - Charles Agnew, Treasurer

- ☒ Financial status report
- ☒ Approval of claims for February 1997
- ☒ IDNR request for gaging stations operation for 10/96 - 9/97 13-14
- ☒ Auditing of 1994 & 95 books now completed 15-16
- ☒ Other issues 17

8. Other Business

9. Statements to the Board from the floor

10. Set date for next meeting; adjournment

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman
Emerson Delaney
Robert Trelo
Arlene Colvin
Roger Chiabai
Charles Agnew
George Carlson

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong
Denis Buksa - Munster
Ken Smith - IDNR, Div.of Water
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
R. L. Frum - Lefty's Coho

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Melissa Stefanovich
James Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the January 7, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Trelo; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman referred to the Committee assignment sheets distributed to Board members. If there are any changes or additions, please see staff.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board that we are still engaged in ongoing communications with the city of Gary. He referred to the December 30th meeting in which staff met with several Council members; the COE also attended. Thank you letters were written to the Council.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter staff wrote to Deputy Mayor Suzette Raggs giving her a schedule and synopsis of the upcoming construction projects.

Mr. Gardner also referred to the February 4th meeting with Mayor King. Several Commissioners attended, as well as the Colonel. He thanked Commissioners Huffman, Davis, Agnew and Colvin; he especially thanked Arlene Colvin for being the point of contact with the administration. Col. Gerber gave a slide presentation and

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stressed the importance of the project being completed. Mr. Agnew added that in all the meetings he has ever attended with the city, this was the most positive. He said the Mayor said he sees the levee project as a benefit to the city and wants it completed without delay. Chairman Huffman added his appreciation to fellow Commissioners and Mr. Gardner for preparing the right documentation to use in our meeting. He added that the COE has been very responsive to use every time we have asked them to attend a meeting. The Colonel's appearance, he felt, plays an important role in our dealings with the city. Mr. Carlson added that he was impressed with the Colonel's presentation, especially for the short amount of time he has been involved with the project. He stated that the Mayor agreed to support the recreation agreement. He knows we have had a problem with the City Council and he pledged he would do whatever he could to help us.

Commissioner Emerson Delaney made a motion for staff to draft a letter to Council members (similar to the one sent to the Deputy Mayor) giving them up-to-date project information; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner brought the Board members up to date on the Burr Street pump station. We had previously committed to an amount of \$384,399. After finding out that the cost was going to be higher, Mr. Gardner conferenced with several Commissioners and a 1/28/97 letter to Gary Sanitary District was sent stating a maximum amount of \$575,399 would be contributed (the original \$384,399 presently available; the difference of \$191,000 would be made available at a later date). Local share cost of the project is \$1.65 million. Mr. Agnew made a motion to ratify the commitment of \$575,399 for the LCRBDC share of the cost; if bids come in lower, the amount would be reduced; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously. A meeting will be held on 2/14 to discuss the bids received.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve increasing the purchase price on two parcels: DC147 increase to \$1500 and DC387A increase to \$1250 and if the increased price is not acceptable to the owner, staff is to proceed with condemnation; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew also made a motion to approve the replacing and laying of a 8" pipe across Commission's property at Clay Street between 15th Avenue and Burns Ditch contingent upon all needed permits and licenses being obtained; review by Jim Flora; and appropriate agreement from attorney; motion was seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman referred to Jim Pokrajac, who gave a short synopsis of the upcoming recreation project. The attorney has prepared resolutions for Commission approval regarding these recreational features and he is also preparing Interlocal Agreements to be signed with each entity receiving the recreation benefits.

(1) Lake Etta Park - Mr. Pokrajac gave a brief description of the recreational features that include a parking area, overlooks and a canoe launch. Since the Commission already owns the property and has an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Park Board, an addendum has been prepared for their approval and they will pass a similar resolution. The County Parks will maintain the features. Attorney Casale read Resolution 97-1 (attached hereto as Exhibit A) allowing us to sign an Addendum with the Lake County Park Board. Resolution is approved by a motion from Arlene Colvin; seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

(2) Gleason Park area - Mr. Pokrajac gave a brief description of the recreational features that include a parking lot, trails, fishing pier, observation deck and picnic shelter. The Gary Park Dept. will deed the real property to us and we will, in turn, lease it back to them at \$1 for a 50-year lease (COE federal regulations state that all recreational areas must be in local sponsor ownership). The Park Dept. will maintain the features. Attorney Casale read Resolution 97-2 (attached hereto as Exhibit B); resolution is approved by a motion from George Carlson; seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

(3) Chase Street Trails - Mr. Pokrajac gave a brief description of the 10' strip of property needed for the recreation trail system. The Gary Board of Public Works will give us fee simple title and we will lease it back to them. Attorney Casale read Resolution 97-3 (attached hereto as Exhibit C); resolution is approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

(4) OxBow Park - Mr. Pokrajac gave a brief description of the recreational features that include a boardwalk, parking lot and at-grade trails. The Hammond Park Board will deed the property to us in fee; we will lease back to them; they will maintain. Attorney Casale read Resolution 97-4 (attached hereto as Exhibit D); resolution is approved by a motion from Arlene Colvin; seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carlson then spoke on the January 29th meeting held in Hammond regarding the OxBow park. The COE was present at that meeting. It was agreed that the Hammond Park Board will sign right-of-entrysts that are needed for ingress and egress onto the site.

Mr. Carlson made a motion to obtain approval and signature of Hammond Sanitary District and Park and sign right-of-entrysts; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson informed the Board that the legislative session is continuing and there is "0" funding in the Governor's budget for the LCRBDC. Mr. Gardner added that this is not unusual; we have only been in the budget one biennium. Mr. Gardner talked to Representative Chet Dobis who said that recommendations for funding are usually made in conferences they have. He suggested that we may want to do another mailing to our legislators; he offered his assistance if we would want any meeting scheduled.

Mr. Gardner added that the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission has requested \$1.5 million for the Portage Public Marina. It also has no funding at this time.

There are new people that we are working with at the State Budget Agency. Mark Brown is the Commission's new contact person and Mr. Gardner talked to him today and informed him that as soon as the session concludes, the Commission needs to be on the agenda at their first budget meeting to request appropriated funds from 91/93 biennium for draw-down. Our draw-down funds are very low and we will need to access new funds as soon as possible.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Dan Gardner gave the committee report in Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence. He met with John Hannon, Abonmarche and Mike Doyne regarding some marina issues. Mr. Gardner read a letter written by John Hannon addressed to Abonmarche relaying their concern that some of the wood fender piles installed by the contractor are rising out of the ground and feels this should be redone under the construction warranty. Audience attendee Bob Frum also added that the basin piling is also loose and the lights are being left on 24 hours a day. Mr. Gardner stated he would be talking again with Mr. Hannon and that we were aware that the lights are always on but there is an agreement with NIPSCO to allow for that.

Discussion was held on what was needed to allow Phase 2 development of the marina. Mr. Gardner referred to a letter from Abonmarche summarizing the conditions that need to be met.

Bob Frum added that there has been no accidents or injuries on Burns Waterway since 1962.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for December and approve the claims for payment totaling \$210,231.59; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion approved unanimously.

Chairman Huffman inquired about two claims listed for Northwest Indiana Water Company totalling \$170,419.44. Mr. Pokrajac clarified this billing is for the completed work in the utility relocation of the north and south transmission mains at I80/94.

Mr. Agnew made a motion approving the NIRPC contract for administrative services; seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously. Changes include a modest increase for staff salaries for Dan Gardner and Sandy Mordus (increase from \$6,240 to \$6,400 per month); space rental increase from \$520 to \$540; and accounting service increase from \$450 to \$465.

Mr. Gardner talked briefly on the news articles that Lake County government is considering dropping NIRPC from allowing it to participate in their insurance plan. NIRPC is looking at their options.

Mr. Agnew, after stating the attorney has not raised his fee to the Commission for about ten years, made a motion to increase the attorney's hourly rate by \$10; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Other Business - No other Commission business at this time.

Statements from the floor - Bob Frum from Lefty's CoHo, commented that he will work with the Commission but will be a watchdog for the private industry to make sure the public marina does not go against the private marinas. He commented further that in our recreation plans, we have not included fishing piers. Mr. Pokrajac added that we will have fishing piers at OxBow and several other areas. Commissioner Delaney emphasized that the levee construction for flood control has to come first; once that is in place, we can concentrate on the recreational aspects, which includes fishing facilities. Mr. Frum stressed, and Ken Smith from IDNR agreed, that tapping into the fishing enthusiasts for lobbying efforts would be a real benefit and help to the Commission.

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LCRBDC Minutes
February 6, 1997
Page 6

Denis Buksa, Munster resident, commented on the terrible condition that the Hohman Avenue bridge is in. The elevation is OK but there are structural problems with the bridge. Mr. Gardner says the bridge is county-owned. He will have to check into it to see if any repair/replacement work is scheduled. Commissioner Delaney commented that he has seen engineers out there looking the bridge over. Mr. Gardner will see what he can find out for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 1997 in Portage.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 97-1
OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER
BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (hereinafter the COMMISSION) is the local sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project (hereinafter the PROJECT) located in the County of Lake, State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, a portion of the PROJECT consists of the design, construction and maintenance of certain recreational features on real property described in Exhibit "A" in The Lake Etta Park, Gary, Indiana, and upon real property presently owned by the COMMISSION and operated by The Lake County Park and Recreation Board (hereinafter the PARK BOARD), pursuant to an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement and Lease and Operation Agreement (hereinafter the AGREEMENT) entered into between the COMMISSION and the PARK BOARD; and,

WHEREAS, the COMMISSION and PARK BOARD desire to Amend the AGREEMENT so as to allow for the design and construction of the PROJECT; and,

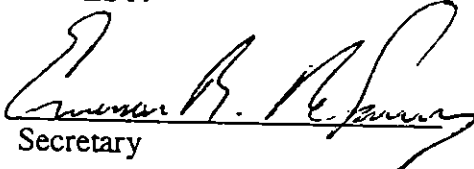
WHEREAS, the PARK BOARD also desires to maintain the PROJECT after its design and construction.

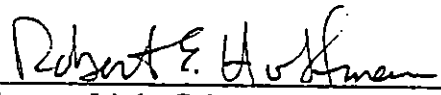
NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

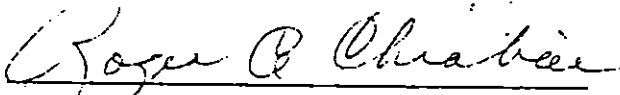
1. The COMMISSION hereby approves Addendum Number Five (5) to the AGREEMENT, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A" between it and the PARK BOARD and authorizes and directs its Chairman to execute the AGREEMENT, as well as any other documents needed to carry out the intent of this Resolution, on the COMMISSION's behalf, after the passage of a similar Resolution by the PARK BOARD.

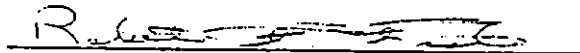
RESOLVED this 6th day of February, 1997.

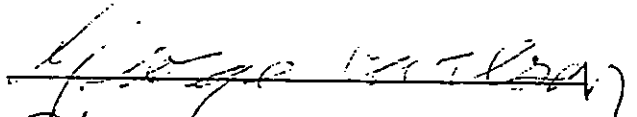
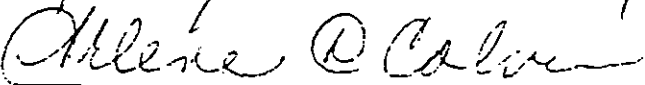
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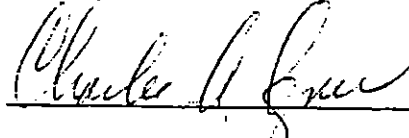

Secretary

By: 
Chairman, Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission







RESOLUTION NUMBER 97-2
OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER
BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (hereinafter the COMMISSION) is the local sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project (hereinafter the PROJECT) located in the County of Lake, State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, a portion of the PROJECT consists of the design, construction and maintenance of certain recreational features on real property described in Exhibit "A" in Gleason Park in Gary, Indiana, and which is presently owned by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Gary, County of Lake, State of Indiana (hereinafter the PARK BOARD); and,

WHEREAS, the PARK BOARD desires to deed the said real property to the COMMISSION for the sole consideration of design and construction of the PROJECT; and,

WHEREAS, the PARK BOARD also desires to maintain the PROJECT after its design and construction;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

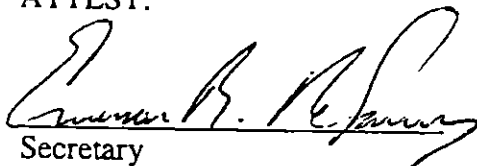
1. The COMMISSION shall accept fee simple title to the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto which is presently owned by the PARK BOARD.

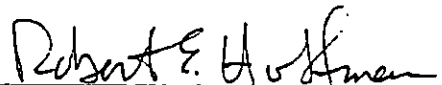
NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

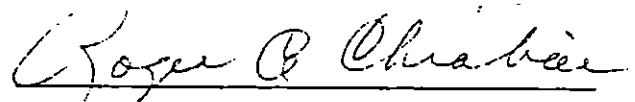
1. The COMMISSION hereby approves Addendum Number Five (5) to the AGREEMENT, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A" between it and the PARK BOARD and authorizes and directs its Chairman to execute the AGREEMENT, as well as any other documents needed to carry out the intent of this Resolution, on the COMMISSION's behalf, after the passage of a similar Resolution by the PARK BOARD.

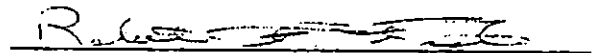
RESOLVED this 6th day of February, 1997.

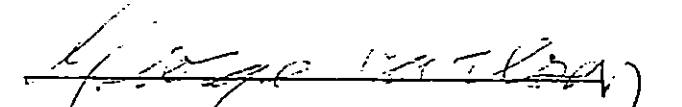

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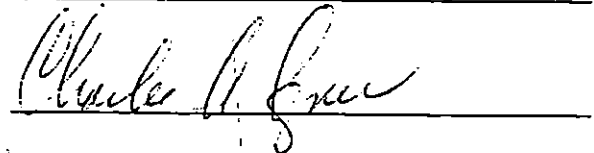

Secretary

By: 
Chairman, Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission







RESOLUTION NUMBER 97-3
OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER
BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (hereinafter the COMMISSION) is the local sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project (hereinafter the PROJECT) located in the County of Lake, State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, a portion of the PROJECT consists of the design, construction and maintenance of certain recreational features on real property described in Exhibit "A" in Gary, Indiana, and which is presently owned by the City of Gary, County of Lake, State of Indiana (hereinafter the CITY); and,

WHEREAS, the CITY desires to deed the said real property to the COMMISSION for the sole consideration of design and construction of the PROJECT; and,

WHEREAS, the CITY also desires to maintain the PROJECT after its design and construction.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

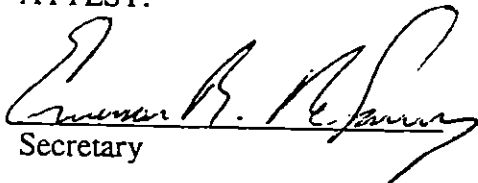
1. The COMMISSION shall accept fee simple title to the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto which is presently owned by the CITY.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:


1. The COMMISSION hereby approves Addendum Number Five (5) to the AGREEMENT, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A" between it and the PARK BOARD and authorizes and directs its Chairman to execute the AGREEMENT, as well as any other documents needed to carry out the intent of this Resolution, on the COMMISSION's behalf, after the passage of a similar Resolution by the PARK BOARD.

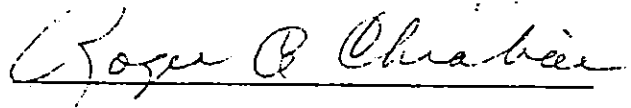
RESOLVED this 6th day of February, 1997.

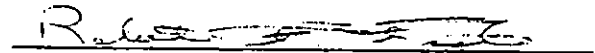
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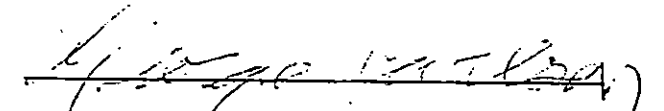
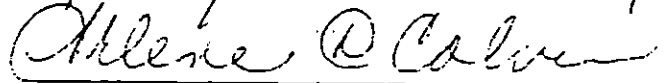

Secretary

By:


Chairman, Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission







RESOLUTION NUMBER 974
OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER
BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (hereinafter the COMMISSION) is the local sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project (hereinafter the PROJECT) located in the County of Lake, State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, a portion of the PROJECT consists of the design, construction and maintenance of certain recreational features on real property described in Exhibit "A" (hereinafter the OXBOW PARK) and which is presently owned by the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Hammond, County of Lake, State of Indiana (hereinafter the PARK BOARD); and,

WHEREAS, the PARK BOARD desires to deed the said real property to the COMMISSION for the sole consideration of design and construction of the PROJECT; and,

WHEREAS, the PARK BOARD also desires to maintain the PROJECT after its design and construction,

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

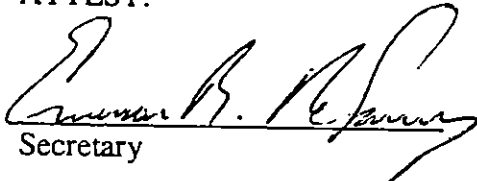
1. The COMMISSION shall accept fee simple title to the real property described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, commonly known as the OXBOW PARK, which is presently owned by the PARK BOARD.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

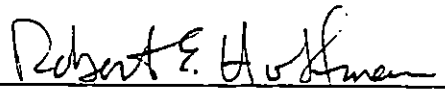
1. The COMMISSION hereby approves Addendum Number Five (5) to the AGREEMENT, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A" between it and the PARK BOARD and authorizes and directs its Chairman to execute the AGREEMENT, as well as any other documents needed to carry out the intent of this Resolution, on the COMMISSION's behalf, after the passage of a similar Resolution by the PARK BOARD.

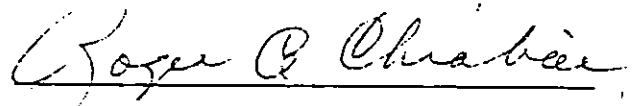
RESOLVED this 6th day of February, 1997.

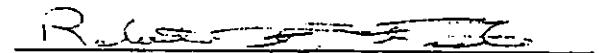
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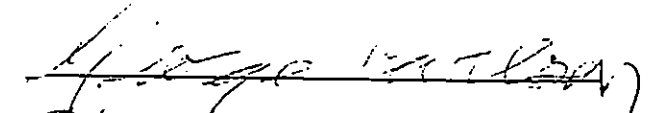


Secretary

By:


Chairman, Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission









NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOOD AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES
1401 Eye Street, NW, Suite 900 • Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 218-4122

February 4, 1997

Mr. Dan Gardner
Executive Director
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Road
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

On behalf of the staff, directors and membership of NAFSMA, I am pleased to officially welcome you and your agency into association membership. Upon review of your application, the Board of Directors voted unanimously that the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission would be a positive addition to the work and mission of the association.

Your name was added to our mailing list upon receipt of your application so that you could take immediate benefit from all associational news and bulletins now that full membership is yours. As a member, you will also receive advance notice of all NAFSMA conferences and activities. Planning has already begun for NAFSMA's 1997 Annual Meeting which will be held November 19-22 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. We hope your agency will be represented!

Again, welcome to NAFSMA. Please call on our staff here in Washington if we can be of assistance in any matter regarding your membership, our services, or the association in general.

Sincerely,

Susan Gilson
Executive Director



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
111 NORTH CANAL STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

February 24, 1997

Real Estate Division

Subject: Right-of-Entry and Attorney's Certificate, IV/2B

Mr. Dan Gardner, Executive Director
Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission
6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By a February 2, 1996 letter, same subject, we forwarded updated real estate drawings, Right-of-Entry, and Attorney's Certification for IV/2B. We now understand that you have delayed the execution of the Right-of-Entry (ROE) and Attorney's Certification due to the issue of street vacations. The Corps of Engineers will accept the ROE and Attorney's Certification without the street vacates, relying on the 12 June, 1996 Street and Ally Agreement in lieu thereof. Street vacation must however be pursued to conclusion.

Further questions may be directed to Emmett Clancy at (312) 353-6400, ext 5005.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM G. WHITE
Chief, Real Estate Division
Chicago District

CF:
Lou Casale





FLOOD WARNING AND PREPAREDNESS PLAN COORDINATION MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 1997

To: -Town of Munster - Tom Degiulio, Town Manager; Jim Knesek, General Maintenance Supt.
City of Gary - Arlene Colvin; Derrick Earls, Civil Defense
Town of Griffith - Ron Cooper, Public Works Director
Town of Highland - John Bach, Public Works Director
City of Hammond - Tony Vicari, Director of Hammond Emergency Management Agency; Stan Dostatni,
City Engineer
Lake County - Jeff Miller, Director, Lake County Emergency Management Agency

From: Jim Pokrajac, Land Acquisition/Management/Engineering Agent, LCRBDC

On May 7, 1996 we submitted to your community a flood warning and preparedness plan for review and comments. As part of this request, we asked you to submit to us your current plan for emergency response. If this was done, please confirm that it is current; and if not, please review this again and submit an updated plan. We would also request that you bring this with you to this meeting.

We have a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. This is located directly north of the Lake County Government Center in Crown Point. As more and more of the levee segments are being completed, it becomes more important to have these plans in place; and it is our intent to monitor flood levels in a more efficient manner to determine early response; and to coordinate this through the Lake County Emergency Management Agency (Jeff Miller). This meeting is of great importance to your community and we greatly encourage you and your local response representative to attend.

One of the main concerns is to continue communication with your community even, and especially, after completion of the overall project. In the few years we have been coordinating this, many of the communities have either not designated an individual responsible to respond to a flood emergency, or if one was designated, they no longer hold this position. Our intent would be to establish that designation again, and in the event that position of responsibility changes, that we be notified to present this plan, or an answer any questions, to that individual.

In addition, at this meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will answer any questions, the U.S.G.S. will be represented, and the interaction of SEMA (State Emergency Management Agency) will be discussed. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, or the agenda, please contact me 219/763-0696 in Portage.

attach.

cc: Imad Samara
Mike Fisher
Jim Mazanec



**FLOOD WARNING AND PREPAREDNESS PLAN
COORDINATION MEETING
AGENDA
10:00 A.M.
FEBRUARY 25, 1997**

1. Flood Warning and Response Plan
 - Community Plans - Plans from Highland & Griffith still outstanding
 - Emergency Personnel Rosters
 - Practice Road Closures, especially 35th & Chase and north Chase Street
 - Interim Flood Fighting during levee construction
 - Coordination with construction contractors during levee construction at locations where levees currently exist
 - Inter-local responsibilities
2. Flood Warning Gaging Network
 - A. Operability
 - Flood Warning/Forecasting
 - B. Future Upgrades
 - Data on Internet - USGS, Indianapolis
 - Plotting capability
 - Pager Software
 - Computer Backup Systems
 - Uninterruptable Power Supplies
 - C. Potential Future Modifications
 - Adding base stations in Illinois
 - Gaging capability on the Kankakee River
 - Land Lines & Satellite capability
3. Open Discussion regarding this plan
 - A. Long term inter-action and coordination

By the numbers

Funding for Northwest Indiana agencies and projects that were included in the two-year state budget approved on Thursday by the House Ways and Means Committee:

Region projects

• Emissions testing centers for Gary and Portage	1.7 mil. min.
• Kankakee River Basin Commission	\$1,000,000
• Little Calumet River Basin Commission	\$2,000,000

Porter and LaPorte county projects

• Michigan City Riverfront Park development	\$200,000
• LaPorte County parks	\$25,000
• Hebron Fire Department equipment	\$85,000
• Twin Creeks Conservancy District (South Haven)	\$218,000
• South Haven Volunteer Fire Department parking lot	\$8,000
• South Haven Hollow Park resurfacing	\$16,000
• Bonner Senior Citizen Center Bus (South Haven)	\$44,000
• Marina development in Portage	\$2,000,000

Lake County projects

• New Chicago Infrastructure projects	\$100,000
• Merrillville drainage projects	\$200,000
• East Chicago police and fire department equipment	\$200,000
• Gary infrastructure projects	\$100,000
• Old Lake County Courthouse exterior renovation	\$215,000
• Renovation of Brothers Keeper shelter (Gary)	\$100,000
• New Chicago Fire Department projects	\$50,000
• Downtown Highland redevelopment	\$100,000
• Schererville Town Hall	\$100,000
• Boys and Girls Club of Hammond projects	\$50,000
• Hammond Police Dept. gang prevention program	\$100,000
• Hammond Schools technology grant	\$75,000
• Schererville sidewalks	\$60,000
• Schererville Wilhelm Street development	\$40,000
• Griffith Public Works facility	\$100,000
• Purdue Univ. Calumet Building project	\$8,000,000
• Cedar Lake enhancement	\$300,000

MARK E. THURMAN/Post-Tribune

NWI not forgotten

Flood control, Dunes park expansion, anti-drug programs and brownfield restoration are some projects funded in the Clinton plan.

By Derrick DePledge

Post-Tribune Washington Writer

WASHINGTON - President Clinton's budget is like a family picnic basket at Indiana dunes on the first day of spring: There's something inside for everyone, but no one is really satisfied with his share.

The proposed \$1.69 trillion spending plan for fiscal year 1998 reflects Clinton's desire to move toward a balanced budget while making investments in priorities such as education, the environment, public safety and middle-class tax relief.

All of Clinton's larger ideas would affect people in Indiana, but there are also smaller projects that are important to individual communities.

Republicans will counter with their own budget goals, and Congress and the White House will need to compromise before reaching final spending totals later this year.

"The best break we can give people right now is to balance the budget. A balanced budget means lowering the deficit, which will keep interest rates low," said Rep. Peter Visclosky, D-Merrillville, who, unlike President Clinton, supports a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution.

"Lower interest rates are a key to invigorating our economy. Lower interest rates allow people to afford college, buy cars, computers, and new homes. Lower interest rates allow businesses to make capital investments."

In Northwest Indiana, Clinton has called for \$5.3 million to construct a flood-control project along the Little Calumet River. Another \$3 million is proposed for breakwater construction work at Burns Harbor, along with \$902,000 for dredging and maintenance. Indiana Harbor, a major import-export link, would receive \$732,000 for study of a confined-disposal facility, while Michigan City Harbor would get \$56,000.

Indiana Dunes would receive \$2.2 million for land purchases.

Money is set aside for surveys of the Kankakee and Wabash river basins in Indiana and Illinois. Funds for flood control at the Cady Marsh ditch and construction work at Lake George were left out, but Visclosky said he plans to ask Congress for enough money to finish the work.

Clinton proposed a \$75 million spending increase to restore aging or polluted industrial property, known as brownfields. Most of the money - \$50 million - would be spent on grants for site evaluation and planning. The rest would go to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to pool with state, local and private funds to redevelop land and create jobs.

The administration also called for a \$2.2 billion tax incentive for businesses to write off clean-up costs.

Northwest Indiana is expected to receive another \$3 million in 1998 to continue a coordinated anti-drug strategy, and Gary may be eligible for money to help hire more police officers as part of Clinton's goal of adding 100,000 new officers.

"It's absolutely critical that the program go forward," said Dave Gatton, Gary's lobbyist.

The president also endorsed a child tax credit that is similar to a proposal by Indiana Sen. Dan Claitor.

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 1, 1997-JANUARY 31, 1997

CASH POSITION - JANUARY 1, 1997

CHECKING ACCOUNT

LAND ACQUISITION	751,438.05
GENERAL FUND	89,384.61
TAX FUND	(292.56)
INVESTMENTS	1,016,000.00
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	<u>90,968.84</u>

1,947,498.94

RECEIPTS - JANUARY 1, 1997 - JANUARY 31, 1997

LEASE RENTS	3,000.00
INTEREST INCOME	1,658.84
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	818.06
REIMBURSEMENT FOR TAXES	243.46
KRBC REIMBURSEMENT RE: TELEPHONE CHARGE	<u>311.62</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS

6,031.98

DISBURSEMENTS - JANUARY 1, 1997 - JANUARY 31, 1997

ADMINISTRATIVE

1996 EXPENSES PAID IN 1997	63,773.69
PER DIEM	5,550.00
LEGAL SERVICES	709.33
NIRPC	14,507.87
TRAVEL & MILEAGE	900.00
PRINTING & ADVERTISING	400.00
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	626.58
MEETING EXPENSE	983.94

LAND ACQUISITION

LEGAL SERVICES	8,788.77
APPRAISAL SERVICES	3,900.00
ENGINEERING SERVICES	8,331.16
LAND PURCHASE CONTRACTUAL	502.00
FACILITIES/PROJECT MAINTENANCE SERVICES	970.00
LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES	6,799.90
SURVEYING SERVICES	4,850.00
PROPERTY & STRUCTURE COSTS	7,126.88
PROPERTY & STRUCTURES INSURANCE	534.00
UTILITY RELOCATION SERVICES	52.50
LAND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	<u>950.00</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:

66,482.93

CASH POSITION - JANUARY 31, 1997

CHECKING ACCOUNT

LAND ACQUISITION	709,273.51
GENERAL FUND	71,368.08
TAX FUND	(49.10)
INVESTMENTS	1,016,000.00
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	<u>91,786.90</u>

1,888,379.39

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 1, 1997-JANUARY 31, 1997

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LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT, FEBRUARY 1997

		1997							6 MONTH	UNALLOCATED
		BUDGET	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	ALLOCATED	BUDGETED
									TOTAL	BALANCE
5801	PER DIEM EXPENSES	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,000.00
5811	LEGAL EXPENSES	7,500.00	283.33	283.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	566.66	6,933.34
5812	NIRPC SERVICES	125,000.00	8,478.08	9,090.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,568.23	107,431.77
5821	TRAVEL/MILEAGE	15,000.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	14,985.00
5822	PRINTING/ADVERTISING	3,000.00	59.68	23.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.81	2,917.19
5823	BONDS/INSURANCE	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
5824	TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	457.80	510.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	967.98	6,032.02
5825	MEETING EXPENSES	10,000.00	293.86	84.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	378.15	9,621.85
5838	LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	8,888.02	9,989.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,857.91	106,142.09
5840	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	17,727.38	38,005.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55,732.93	444,267.07
5860	PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	2,689,238.00	1,650.00	7,903.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,553.37	2,679,684.63
5881	PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	534.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	534.00	24,466.00
5882	UTILITY RELOCATION EXP.	1,000,000.00	171,859.00	682.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	172,541.50	827,458.50
5883	PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	150,000.00		1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	148,500.00
5884	STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
5891	DNR/SHORELINE SAND FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5892	ESCROW ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		4,720,238.00	210,231.15	68,067.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$278,298.54	\$4,441,939.46

14

		1997							12 MONTH	UNALLOCATED
		BUDGET	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	ALLOCATED	BUDGETED
									TOTAL	BALANCE
5801	PER DIEM EXPENSES	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,000.00
5811	LEGAL EXPENSES	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	566.66	6,933.34
5812	NIRPC SERVICES	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,568.23	107,431.77
5821	TRAVEL/MILEAGE	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	14,985.00
5822	PRINTING/ADVERTISING	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.81	2,917.19
5823	BONDS/INSURANCE	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
5824	TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	967.98	6,032.02
5825	MEETING EXPENSES	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	378.15	9,621.85
5838	LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,857.91	106,142.09
5840	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55,732.93	444,267.07
5860	PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	2,689,238.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,553.37	2,679,684.63
5881	PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	534.00	24,466.00
5882	UTILITY RELOCATION EXP.	1,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	172,541.50	827,458.50
5883	PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	148,500.00
5884	STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
5891	DNR/SHORELINE SAND FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5892	ESCROW ACCOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		4,720,238.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$278,298.54	\$4,441,939.46

CLAIMS PAYABLE FOR FEBRUARY 1997

ACCT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	EXPLANATION OF CLAIM
5811	LOUIS CASALE	283.33	LEGAL SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 1997
5812	NIRPC	8,741.40	SERVICES RENDERED FOR JANUARY 1997
5812	KRAMER & LEONARD	348.75	PURCHASE OF FILE CABINET FOR LCRBDC
5821	SANDY MORDUS	15.00	MILEAGE FOR PERIOD ENDING 2/4/97
5822	STEEL CITY TROPHIES	23.13	ENGRAVING OF PLAQUE FOR 1996 OUTGOING CHAIRMAN
5824	GTE NORTH	63.75	MODEM TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR 1/28/97-2/28/97
5824	GTE NORTH	123.49	BILLING PERIOD 2/16/97 TO 3/16/97(KRBC PORTION 157.74.00 TOTAL BILL 281.23
5824	MCI	322.94	SERVICE RENDERED 1/15/97-2/14/97(KRBC PORTION 15.79, TOTAL BILL 388.73)
5825	SAND RIDGE BANK	84.29	MEETING EXPENSES INCURRED AT STAFF REAL ESTATE/ENGINEERING MEETING ON 2/14/97
5838	JAMES M. SPIVAK	210.00	LAND ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES 12-25-96 TO 1/29/97
5838	LOUIS CASALE	9,759.89	LAND ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES 12-27-96 TO 1/29/97
5842	R. W. ARMSTRONG	6,001.80	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR PERIOD ENDING 2/14/97
5843	CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	75.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-373
5843	CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	75.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-376
5843	LAWYERS TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	65.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-158
5843	LAWYERS TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	65.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-332
5843	LAKE COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE	10.00	RECORDING OF DEEDS FOR DC-329
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	30.25	JANUARY MILEAGE
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	1,722.15	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 1/16/97-1/31/97
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	1,760.85	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 2/1/97-2/15/97
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	97.00	JANUARY MILEAGE
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	3,120.00	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 1/16/97-1/31/97
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	2,827.50	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 2/1/97-2/15/97
5845	IN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES	17,200.00	LCRBDC SHARE OF COST OF MAINTENANCE OF GAGING STATIONS
5847	COLE ASSOCIATES	481.00	SURVEY COSTS INCURRED FOR STAGE III TRAILS
5847	COLE ASSOCIATES	2,000.00	SURVEY COSTS INCURRED AT GEORGIA STREET STAGE II-3A
5847	TONY ZALESKI	150.00	FEE FOR COURT ORDERED APPRAISAL DC-561
5847	TONY ZALESKI	150.00	FEE FOR COURT ORDERED APPRAISAL DC-256
5847	WARREN W. METZ	150.00	FEE FOR COURT ORDERED APPRAISAL DC-256
5847	WARREN W. METZ	150.00	FEE FOR COURT ORDERED APPRAISAL DC-561
5847	COLE ASSOCIATES	1,875.00	SURVEY COSTS INCURRED FOR STAGE III TRAILS ALONG CHASE ST
5861	LAKE COUNTY CLERK	1,405.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-256
5861	LAKE COUNTY CLERK	500.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-561
5861	LAKE COUNTY CLERK	100.00	FILING FEE FOR CONDEMNATION OF DC-560
5861	LAKE COUNTY CLERK	100.00	FILING FEE FOR CONDEMNATION OF DC-185
5861	STAR REGISTER PUBLICATIONS	55.92	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE & SUMMONS FOR DC-190
5861	STAR REGISTER PUBLICATIONS	192.45	PUBLICATION OF NOTICE & SUMMONS FOR DC-272,DC-560, & DC-284
5861	WILLIAM PATTON	1,500.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-142
5861	FLEUNELL SMITH	2,550.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-161
5861	BOBBIE WILLIAMS	1,500.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-387A
5882	R. W. ARMSTRONG	682.50	UTILITY RELOCATION FOR PERIOD ENDING 2/14/97
5883	SOUTH SHORE MARINA	1,500.00	COST INCURRED IN ACCESS ROADWAY TO GREENHOUSE STAGE II-3B

\$68,067.39



**NORTHWESTERN INDIANA
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

6100 Southport Road • Portage, Indiana 46368
Phone: 219/763-6060 Fax: 219/762-1653

To: Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Contract Code: P-LCRBDC
For: Services Performed January 1997 Internal Code: P217
Date: February 12, 1997 Invoice No: 1/1

I N V O I C E

Salaries and Fringe benefits: Dan Gardner & Sandy Mordus	6,400.00
Room Rental for Additional LCRBDC Staff	540.00
Accounting Services	465.00
Facsimile Machine @ \$5.00/Mo. Plus Attachments	9.85
Postage: January, 1997	194.97
Copying Charges @ \$5.00/Mo. Plus \$.06/copy (3,465)	212.90
Graphics/Printing & Clerical Time @ \$20/Hr (Attachments) (45.25 hrs)	905.00
Staff Mileage/Expenses:	0.00
Other Charges (Attachments) Long Distance (13.68)	13.68
TOTAL: January 1997	8,741.40
OUTSTANDING PAYMENT DUE:	0.00
TOTAL DUE:	\$ 8,741.40



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PATRICK R. RALSTON, DIRECTOR

Division of Water
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2748
317-232-4160
FAX: 317-233-4579

February 5, 1997

Mr. Dan Gardner
Executive Director
Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368-6409

Dear Mr. Gardner:


This letter serves as an invoice to the Little Calumet River Basin Dev. Commission for its share of the cost of operation and maintenance of the following stream gaging stations during the period of October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997.

Little Calumet River at Gary	\$12,000
Hart Ditch at Munster	5,200

The total amount due to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is seventeen thousand two hundred dollars (\$17,200).

If you have any questions in this regard, please contact Thomas R. Huck, Administrative Assistant, Division of Water at 317-232-4160.

Sincerely yours,


John N. Simpson, P.E.
Director
Division of Water

JNS/TRH/de
FILE: k:\tom\inv lett.wpd

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"



97-46

The Times
2/16/97

A lakeful of cooperation

The issue: The digging of Big Maple Lake

Our opinion: The public will benefit from the cooperation between the Lake County Parks Department and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission on the development of a new lake. Other government agencies should emulate their efforts.

It would not be a surprise if someone considered a government-built hole in the boondocks to be a boondoggle.

But one particular hole being built in Deep River County Park in eastern Lake County sounds like anything but a boondoggle.

A crater now being dug by construction workers is the most visible sign of what someday will be a 30-acre lake.

The Lake County Parks Department had looked at building a lake for the park several years ago, but learned that building a dam to create an 8-acre fishing lake would cost about \$100,000.

The Park Board rejected the plan and continued renting the 300-plus acres of farmland north of Ainsworth Road to local farmers.

Things later changed for the lake project, however, when the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission wanted to build flood-control levees in Hammond, Munster, Highland, Griffith and Gary. Deep River County Park then became a convenient source of clay.

Now the commission is picking up the tab to dig up one million cubic feet of clay and leave behind a hole nearly four times as large as the one the Park Board could not afford.

This project is an excellent example of two government agencies cooperating for the public good.

The commission save money with its \$160 million levee project because it won't have to buy the clay and ship it in from further away. And the Parks Department will essentially get a free lake.

In a region where government officials often seem to go out of their way to look for turf battles, it is encouraging to see such cooperation.

It could take up to 10 years for Big Maple Lake to fill with water and for it to be opened for public use. By the time that decade has passed, such cooperative efforts should be emulated many times over in Northwest Indiana.

That would be a good step toward changing both the image and reality about public works projects.

THE REGION

A compilation of state and regional stories from Times staff and wire reports

Times
2-9-97

Lake takes shape from clay

■ Big Maple Lake will anchor new recreation area along Ainsworth Road inside Deep River County Park.

BY CLISTON BROWN
Times Staff Writer

ROSS TWP. - Big Maple Lake under development on the property of Deep River County Park hardly lives up to its name.

The large, man-made crater yawning wide on the north side of Ainsworth Road doesn't qualify as a lake just yet.

But when it is done, that crater will be a 30-acre lake, the focal point of a new recreation area inside the park that sprawls across unincorporated Ross Township along Deep River. The lake area will provide fishing, hiking and skiing opportunities for park visitors.

Robert Nickovich, superintendent of the Lake County Parks and Recreation Department, sees the future lake as adding a new dimension to the county park system.

"It will be a picnic area for the most part," Nickovich said. "The lake will be an added amenity you won't find at all county parks. Once fisheries are established, it would probably be a very popular area for fishermen."

"There are trail possibilities," he said.

The planned size of the lake could make it a fishing paradise of sorts, Nickovich said, partly because the lake's size probably would allow for natural spawning.

And, he said, the Big Maple Lake would answer the park system's need for larger bodies of water. "Smaller lakes or ponds can not support any natural fishing. A 30-acre lake should be able to support more of the natural fishery as opposed to us having to stock it."

That was welcome news to Roger Plowman, who lives right across Ainsworth



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Big Maple Lake is under development by the Lake County Parks Department, the Little Calumet River Basin Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Road from the development.

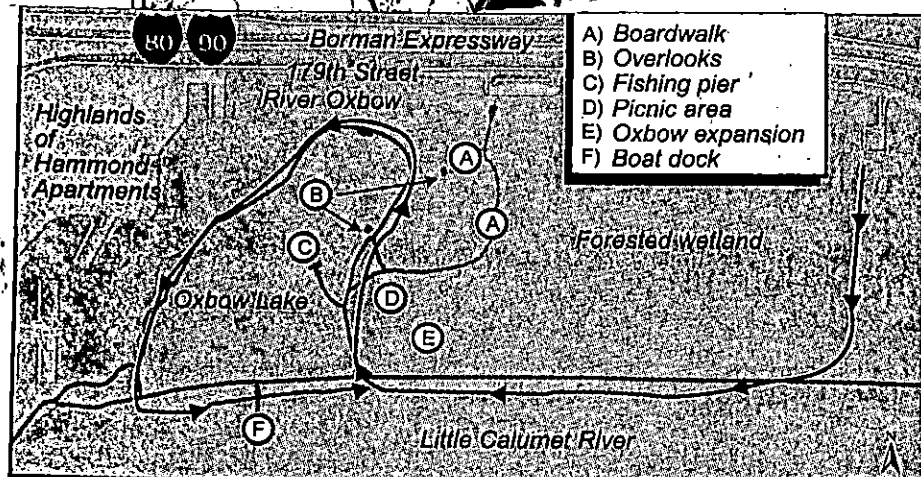
"It'll be good fishing," Plowman said. "There aren't any good spots to fish around here. You've got to go at least an hour away to do any good."

Fortunately for Plowman and other outdoorsmen, Big Maple Lake is well under way even though the development of fishing holes in the county park initially looked to be more expensive than the Park Department could afford.

The \$100,000 it would cost to build a 22-

foot-high dam to create a relatively small eight-acre lake was more than the Park Board wanted to spend. That price made the board pause and realize development of a fishing lake in the park would be costly.

The board rejected the bid for the dam, and it looked as if the 300-plus acres the Park Department owned north of Ainsworth Road might never become anything more than farmland, which the department had rented to tenant farmers since acquiring the parcel in the 1970s.



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trails on the levees to be completed early in the next century.

Not wanting to wait, Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow urged that plans be accelerated to implement recreational improvements. After three years of planning, the project will begin soon. The total cost will be about \$400,000.

I recently walked the site with Curtis Vosti of the Hammond Parks Department and Jim Pokrajac of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. Both agencies are involved in the project, which will entail walking trails and assorted improvements, including a

a new parking area over the boardwalk through the wooded wetlands," he said.

Turning back to the trail, we passed two ice fishermen. As the finger trail narrowed, we crossed the ice. Back on land, we edged carefully along the shoreline. Before reaching the levee, we saw signs of a beaver. A few ducks passed overhead. The sounds of the Borman were with us, of course.

Along America's busiest highway, the oxbow is a success story in the making.

■ John Davies' walking column appears monthly in *The Times*.