



# Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road

Portage, Indiana 46368

(219)763-0696

Fax (219)762-1653

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

WILLIAM TANKE  
Porter County's Commissioners'  
Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS  
Lake County Commissioners'  
Appointment

DAN GARDNER  
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE  
Attorney

## MEETING NOTICE

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE  
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION**

**AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 1, 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 April 3, 1997
  5. Executive Director's Report
- Big Maple Lake/Deep River borrow site -
    - Memorandum of Intent
    - Resolution for site use/closure
  - Notice of bid opening of Recreation Contract 1

ELIS. 6/10/97

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5-7

9

+ Denis Buben

6. Reports of Standing Committees

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

- ☐ Appraisals, offers, acquisitions, recommended actions
- ☐ Land Acquisition Items of Discussion
- ☐ Action needed on filing of condemnations, if required
- ☐ Other issues

9-10

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

- ☐ Recommended actions
- ☐ Engineering Items of Discussion
- ☐ Other issues

11-12

C. Legislative Committee - George Carlson, Chairman

- ☐ State Funding Status Briefing sheet
- ☐ Other issues

13  
14-15

D. Marina Development Committee - Bill Tanke, Chairman

- ☐ Committee meeting to review Phase I status
- ☐ Other issues

16

E. Finance/Policy Committee - Charles Agnew, Treasurer

- ☐ Financial status report
- ☐ Approval of claims for April 1997
- ☐ COE withdrawal letters from escrow accounts
- ☐ Other issues

17-18  
19  
20-21

7. Other Business

8. Statements to the Board from the floor

9. Set date for next meeting; adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1997  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

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Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman  
Robert Trelo  
William Tanke  
Steve Davis  
Roger Chiabai  
Charles Agnew  
George Carlson  
Arlene Colvin

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWArmstrong  
Denis Buksa - Munster  
Mike Bush - WJOB  
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina  
R. L. Frum - Lefty's Coho  
Chris Baas - Lake County Parks

Staff:

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

The minutes of the March 6, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman announced the receipt of a Certificate of Appointment from the Lake County Commissioners office appointing Mr. Marion Williams to fill out the remaining term until December 31, 1997 now held by Nathaniel Leonard. Staff will contact Mr. Williams.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner informed the Board members of the May 7th meeting with the town of Griffith and Richard Kortenhoven, private developer who wishes to develop the area in Griffith and is trying to secure a permit from IDNR to build a portion of the levee in that area. A continuous line of protection is desired and there still remains a gap in the levee that needs to be addressed.



# LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ATTENDANCE ROSTER

NAME OF MEETING: LCRBDC DATE: 5-1-97

LOCATION: 6100 Southport Rd, Portage CHAIRMAN: Robert Huffman

**PLEASE SIGN IN**

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION AND/OR ADDRESS
1	Pete ZAR	50 SHORE MARINA
2	Ken SMITH	IDNR - WATER
3	JOMARY CRARY	11
4	VIM FLORA	R.W. ARMSTRONG
5	MIKE DOYNE	DOYNE'S MARINE PORTAGE PUB. MAR
6	Dennis BUKSA	
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S. J. Hunt  
V. J. Hunt  
32nd St.  
30-10-3  
40-7

Report

Any  
Powers

Mr. Gardner informed the Board of a meeting on March 27th with the COE to discuss the betterment levee. He referred to a COE letter stating that levee construction of the Burr Street levee will be in the summer of 1998. It is critical that lands be made available by that time. Borings will be taken soon. We do not want to run the risk of adversely impacting residents downstream.

The COE letter also asked that an additional \$50,000 be placed in the escrow account for the Burr Street levee COE in-house review process, the appraisal review and additional work to complete the FDM. Mr. Tanke questioned if the COE office gives us a breakdown of how they spend the escrow money. Staff will request such a breakdown from the COE.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to increase the offer price to \$2500 on DC530 in order to avoid condemnation; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion for staff to file condemnation proceedings on DC133, DC137 and DC164; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew informed the Board members that staff met with the COE at the monthly real estate meeting on March 21st.

Mr. Agnew announced that a new party would be taking over the rental of the Chase Street Produce. A new lease will be worked out; it should be available by the next Board meeting.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve and sign the R/E for the pump station location in Stage II Phase 4; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman informed the Board that our share of the pump station cost of \$384,399 has been paid to the city of Gary (transmittal letter in packet). It is the Commission's position that this amount will cover our share of the cost and they have concurred this is correct.

Mr. Huffman stated that a pre-construction meeting regarding the Burr St. pump station was held by Gary Sanitary District in which staff attended. The successful low bidder is Atlas Construction. It is anticipated that this project would be completed by October.

Jim Pokrajac talked about his meeting with the COE and city engineer Roland Elvambuena regarding haul routes and temporary road closings needed for the construction project this 1997

construction period. Haul routes were identified for full and empty trucks. Roland will have those routes approved for the COE at their next Board of Public Works meeting. There will be a 15 days notification given to the city before roads are temporarily closed.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to the construction chart contained in the packet outlining the various phases of construction for the next five years with construction dates identified.

Mr. Carlson stated that, although the House passed \$2 million identified for the construction project, it still needs to be approved by the Senate. (There is still \$4 million appropriated for the Commission but not yet allocated).

Maintenance is still an issue which will eventually have to be addressed. We are attempting to get some fairly accurate figures from the COE identifying maintenance costs. Operation of this project is a non-federal obligation.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to Mr. Gardner for the status of the RFP for future marina development. Mr. Gardner reported that the RFP is not out on the street yet. It is prepared and ready to go but not released yet. He stated further that the City has taken the position that they should not have to pay for the repair work that needs to be done on the pilings. They feel it is up to the contractor or engineering firm to accept that cost.

Mr. Gardner met with John Hannon, Jeff Bartoszek and Ron Schults regarding Phase 2 of the marina development. Once the weather really breaks, they will be able to determine set forward to what needs to be replanted to stay in compliance with the permit. Staff will stay in contact.

Mr. Tanke will contact the sign company that built the marina sign to have them re-secure it.

Discussion took place regarding NIPSCO high tower lines. Mr. Tanke's concern is that the signs we have posted to alert drivers of the NIPSCO lines are adequate and satisfactory to NIPSCO. Attorney Casale stated that there is nothing in the lease which addresses this issue. Staff will check into.

Mr. Gardner reported that the launch lanes are already busy.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. He referred to a revised claim sheet distributed to the Board members. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for February and approve the claims for payment totaling \$114,182.01; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Agnew stated that \$50,000 has been placed into the design escrow account.

Mr. Tanke questioned why there was a budget line for DNR/Shoreline sand fund when the account is "0". Staff will remove that line from the budget.

Mr. Gardner stated that 2 claims for approval are from Chester Inc. who is billing us as work is performed on the greenhouse at M. C. Bennett Park in Gary.

Other Business - No other Commission business at this time.

Statements from the floor - Denis Buksa from Munster inquired about maintenance of the project and how was it possible to maintain if there are endangered species, such as the Bald Eagle, perhaps nesting there. Discussion took place. IDNR member Steve Davis offered to Mr. Buksa the name and number of a DNR person who would be contacted if we ever found the situation one that we could not handle.

Mr. Buksa inquired about what insurance coverage the marina has. Attorney Casale informed him that they are privately insured.

Bob Frum from Lefty's Coho asked why a study or survey isn't being done to determine whether there is enough demand at present to warrant a Phase 2 of the public marina site. Mr. Gardner informed him of the Commission's obligation to the Corps of Engineers to build a 200 public boat slip marina. The COE is still enforcing that commitment. He further emphasized that there has been no supervision at the site and boaters are launching boats when no one is there; the bathrooms in the boathouse are not opened yet; people are walking all over the grass. Mr. Tanke thanked him for bringing this to our attention. Staff will look into it.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1, 1997 in Portage. Meeting dates were also scheduled for June 3 and July 3.




**MEMORANDUM OF INTENT FOR CLOSURE OF  
DEEP RIVER BORROW SITE**

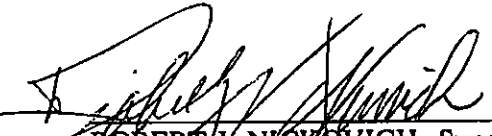
The intent for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (Commission), and the Lake County Park Board (Board) is to work in good faith effort to effect the following conditions as the closure plan elements for the Deep River Park, Big Maple Lake site.

1. The COE will direct their contractor (Rausch Construction) according to the March, 1997 master plan (Exhibit A) and the COE January, 1997 final grading plan map (Exhibit B) to final grade the lake shore line according to those plans acceptable to the Lake County Park Department and to vegetate and provide erosion control for the graded area with a seed mixture acceptable to the Lake County Park Department as part of the COE's current contract with Rausch.
2. COE will add the indicated small lake to the contract for borrow operations and instruct the contractor to stockpile the unsuitable material in a linear area south of the lake.
3. COE will research and indicate the method for the Commission to provide additional funding through the COE contract toward the construction of the new portion of the park access road generally located along the north end of Big Maple Lake. The extent of the Development Commission's funding commitment will be capped at \$150,800.
4. The COE will arrange a meeting to include staffs of the COE, the Development Commission, and the Lake County Park Board to meet with the contractor to discuss issues and price quotes to accomplish the desired north access road construction, and to discuss the desired finish grading and have road removal where necessary as part of the final site grading. If the contractor is found to be responsive and cost effective to accomplish the work, it will be utilized. If not, the Commission and Park Board reserve the right to arrange bidding with a new contractor.

The conditions described herein were formulated as the result of committee meetings and staff discussions between the Board, Commission and COE who will jointly work in good faith to produce a final contract incorporating the general elements and provisions contained in this Memorandum for consideration at their respective regular June 1997 meetings.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 1997.

  
DAN GARDNER, Executive Director of the  
Little Calumet River Basin Development  
Commission

  
ROBERT J. NICKOVICH, Superintendent  
and Secretary of the Lake County Park and  
Recreation Board

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2**  
**OF THE LAKE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board entered into an Interlocal Agreement between it and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1991, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A", (hereinafter referred to as the "Interlocal Agreement"); and,

WHEREAS, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board has, by and through Addendums No. 1 through 4 to the Agreement, extended the termination date thereof to this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, there is a present need for further extension to the Interlocal Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the "Memorandum Of Intent For Closure Of Deep River Borrow Site", (hereinafter referred to as the "MEMORANDUM") which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "B" summarizes the general intent of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission with regard to modifications of the Interlocal Agreement in order to accommodate the changed circumstances and conditions that have developed since the commencement of the project.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the Lake County Park and Recreation Board will jointly and in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission attempt to accomplish the goals as outlined in the MEMORANDUM so as to arrive at a final Interlocal Agreement modification to be presented to the Lake County Park and Recreation Board and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission at their respective June 1997 regular public meetings for consideration and approval.
2. That in order to facilitate the continuation of the project as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement, and in an effort to move forward with the revisions as outlined in the MEMORANDUM, the Lake County Park and Recreation Board hereby extends the Interlocal Agreement to its regular June 1997 Board meeting.

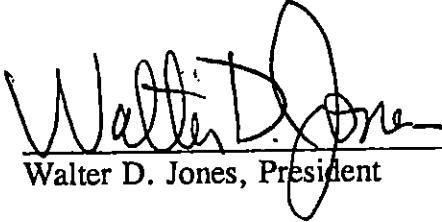
3. All of the terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement and Easement not modified hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

RESOLVED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 1997.

ATTEST:

THE LAKE COUNTY PARK AND  
RECREATION BOARD

  
Robert J. Nickovich, Secretary

  
Walter D. Jones, President



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

111 NORTH CANAL STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

April 15 1997

Program and Project  
Management Branch

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

Subject: Little Calumet River, Recreation Contract 1

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I'm writing this letter to inform you that on April 8, 1997 the COE opened the bids for the subject contract. The low bidder was Dyer Construction Co. As shown in attachment 1 their bid came at \$918,390.37 Base and \$131,186.84 Additives, a total bid of \$1,049,577.21. Attachment 2, the plans for this contract, shows two parking lots at Lake Etta. An east lot and a west lot. The east lot is the project funded lot and the west lot is the betterment funded lot. The east lot's bid price is \$94,478.75 and the west lot's bid price is \$36,708.09

As per the agreement dated November 7th, 1996 between the COE and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, the bid price for the betterment parking lot and the construction management cost is at \$39,600. For the COE to proceed on to construction of the west and east lots we need a written confirmation of your concurrence. In addition, the LCRBDC will deposit the amount of \$39,600 in the escrow account set up for this work in accordance with the above mentioned agreement.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned at (312)353-6400 Ext. 3054.

Sincerely,

Imad N. Samara



## **"ITEMS OF DISCUSSION"**

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

1. Deep River Borrow:

- A. Had a meeting with Lake County Parks on April 8 to review the scope of work for final closure at the site.
- B. Had a meeting with Lake County Parks, LCRBDC Commissioners, and COE on April 15 to resolve what should be included as the intent for closure of the site.
- C. Had a meeting with the COE and Rausch Construction on April 18 to review what can be re-structured to include as part of the existing contract, and to discuss cost breakdowns for additional work to add to their contract as a betterment.
  - A memorandum of intent for the closure of the Deep River borrow site was mutually signed by LCRBDC and Lake County on April 18th.
  - At April 22 special Board meeting, Lake County Parks passed a resolution extending the site availability until their June board meeting (\*action to ratify)

2. Chase Street Borrow -

- A. This site is the suggested borrow site for IV-2B
- B. Add'l costs will be incurred for site prep including access roadways, stripping of unsuitable material, and laying out clay to dry.

3. Recreation - Phase 1

- A. General
  - Letter to IDNR out on April 14 requesting DNR permits for supplemental recreational facilities to the existing flood control permit for construction.
  - Bid opening on April 8; project award date for early May; and Notice to Proceed anticipated for late May.

4. East Reach Remediation Area

- A. Appraisals for all 3 properties necessary for construction have been completed and are currently under review for approval by the COE (April 22)
- B. Real estate availability scheduled for Sept. 1, 1997; advertise for construction October 1, 1997; and contract award for Jan. 1, 1998.
  - Projected cost for this project is approx. \$2 million and we are awaiting Federal inclusion for COE cost sharing.

5. New Greenhouse (Gary Parks & Rec)
  - A. Pictures taken on 4/18/97 (available for viewing)
  - B. Currently 80% complete; projected completion is approximately May 9.
6. Chase Street Produce
  - A. Review proposal by current tenants.
7. COE Real Estate Meeting held April 23, 1997

## **"ITEMS OF DISCUSSION" ENGINEERING**

1. East Reach Pump Stations
  - A. Gary Sanitary District has provided the monetary deposits to NIPSCO for utility power installations to all 4 stations.
  - B. Hook-up will be provided in a timely manner as requested by the contractors.
  
2. Burr Street (betterment) Pump Station
  - A. Set-up starting April 24; projected construction start on April 29; and overall project completion is scheduled for June 6, 1998. Road closure open to public approx. Nov. 4, 1997 (thru traffic)
  
3. Recreation - Phase 1
  - A. OX-BOW
    - City of Hammond requested that we coordinate with the successful bidder in the pre-construction meeting to try to complete this segment as soon as possible in order that Hammond can start their portion of the recreation work for the park.
  - B. LAKE ETTA
    - Lake County Parks requested consideration to do their portion of work later in the summer to avoid congestion problems with construction during their busiest time of the year. This would also be coordinated at the pre-construction meeting.
  
4. Burr Street Levee
  - A. Currently working with the COE to get soil borings between Arbogast and the EJ&E RR for suitability for levee construction
  - B. Griffith has publicly expressed that they can not participate as local sponsor for the Cady Marsh Ditch project, and that it should be cancelled
    - If the Cady Marsh project is cancelled, it will effect our alignment along the west side of Arbogast and consideration by the COE to extend westward to the EJ&E.
  
5. East Reach 1997 construction
  - A. A meeting was held with Roland Elvambuena on March 27th to review road closures and proposed haul routes in Gary during the 1997 construction season.
    - We received as letter on April 9 from the Gary Board of Public Works approving these requests with no exceptions.

- B. Our desire is to extend the levee westward to the EJ&E RR; and alignment design will vary until final determination is made on the Cady Marsh project.

6. Existing Greenhouse

- A. Had a pre-bid meeting with 5 environmental contractors on April 24 to review scope of work for clean-up of hazardous materials from the site. Also reviewed IV-2B structures for clean-up of hazardous materials prior to construction of levee contract.
  - Bids due on May 9th.



April 15, 1997

Alert to:

Senate and House Leadership  
Northwest Indiana Delegation  
Affected Elected Officials

KEY POINTS

- The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is writing you concerning a matter of utmost urgency - the continued funding by the Indiana General Assembly in its 1997/98 Capital Biennium Budget of the Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation project construction at this most critical stage. The Federal construction for this \$151 million flood control/recreation infrastructure project is ongoing and it is imperative that State support continue to leverage the 75% Federal construction.
- The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$11 million in Federal FY97 and President Clinton's FY98 budget contains \$5.3 million for Little Calumet project construction. This Federal construction can only continue with additional state funding. Currently, the project is some 35% complete, with the ability to continue Federal construction directly dependent upon the Development Commission's non-federal obligations of necessary land, easements and rights-of-way acquisition, utility relocations, coordination of bridge replacements, and 5% cash share of construction cost.
- The current State budget has "0" funding included in the Senate version, with \$2 million included in the House version. The budget request was for \$4 million for the 1997/99 budget, and a minimum of \$2 million is needed to be supported in conference committee to avoid serious Federal construction delays or potential budget rescission.
- This flood control construction project is needed to protect some 10,000 residences, businesses and institutions along the river in Gary, Griffith, Highland, Hammond and Munster. With the Federal construction finally underway, and Federal support and significant Federal appropriations in place after literally 20+ years of study and legislative lobbying, this session of the Indiana General Assembly is the most critical to maintain the Federal commitment and construction.
- A schedule showing ongoing construction commitments as well as timing and funding requirements is included to illustrate the critical stage of the Federal construction. This project has been literally 25 years in the planning, engineering and construction authorizing - now that it is in full construction contracting - accessing over \$100 million in Federal dollars, it is imperative to continue State and local support.

Times 4-4-97

# GOP state budget hits Northwest Indiana

■ Measure makes major changes to House Democrats' version.

BY KEVIN CORCORAN  
Times Staff Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Strike \$7.4 million of flood control and capital project funding for Northwest Indiana.

Eliminate another \$1.7 million for additional auto emissions testing sites in Gary and Portage.

Then, remove a guarantee of 3 percent annual funding increases for public schools — a minimum crafted primarily to benefit such urban districts as East Chicago in Lake County and Portage Township in Porter County.

The Senate Finance Committee did all these things to the House-passed budget and more Thursday as Republicans unveiled their own version of the \$16.6 billion state budget for 1997-99.

Both chambers have finally staked out positions, allowing budget negotiations to begin in earnest.

"This is the bottom half of the sixth inning," said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lawrence Borst, an Indianapolis Republican in

Continued from Page A-1

search of a timely baseball metaphor to describe Thursday's budget action.

In a party-line 10-4 vote, the Senate panel advanced House Bill 1001 to the floor for a possible amendments and a vote next week.

The final version of the budget will be crafted later this month by a House-Senate conference committee. Legislative leaders have tentatively set April 25 as the final day of the 1997 budget-writing session. The session must adjourn by April 29.

Senate Republicans touted their budget plan for its permanent increase in the state's 8 percent homestead tax credit, funding for road improvements, an education funding increase, and a five-year phase-out of the inheritance tax.

"We are keeping our promises," said Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton, R-Columbus. "These are accomplished within the state's income and without raiding the budget surplus."

Senate leaders informed Democratic Gov. Frank O'Bannon of their budget priorities during breakfast Wednesday.

O'Bannon praised the Senate for keeping a budget surplus of about \$1 billion.

But he said he is disappointed Senate leaders rejected his proposals for a tax credit for low-in-

come Hoosiers with children, a graduated property tax cut indexed to family incomes, an increase in the renters' deduction, and state financing to waive textbook rental fees.

"My tax cuts are focused at middle-income people," O'Bannon said. "Theirs focus on the homeowners, which is good, and the inheritance tax, which doesn't benefit as many people."

The Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents asked the Senate to consider funding free textbooks for students eligible for reduced-price lunches as well.

"These are the people we have trouble collecting from," testified Tracy Dust, a lobbyist for the superintendents. "We have to haul these people into court, and they're just trying to afford groceries."

O'Bannon also said he does not favor the GOP plan to increase public school funding less than the Democratic version of the budget would in order to phase out the inheritance tax and reduce unfunded pension liabilities.

The House-passed budget would increase school operating budgets by statewide averages of 4.9 percent in 1997-98 and 5.4 percent in 1998-99.

The Senate-passed version would provide increases of 4.6 percent and 4.3 percent in each of these fiscal years. The Senate version also includes \$200 million to buy down unfunded teacher pension obligations, \$40 million for school technology and \$10 million for performance-based awards to schools.

Both plans have little overall effect on statewide average property tax rates, relying instead on increases in the assessed value of property to finance increases in the portion of school operating money that comes from property taxes.

Public schools in Lake and Porter counties fare significantly better under the House Democrats' plan, primarily because of the guaranteed annual funding increases it provides.

Under the Senate plan, nine school districts fall below 3 percent increases in both years.

They are: Hobart Township Community School Corp., School City of East Chicago, Lake Station Community Schools, Gary Community School Corp., School Town of Highland, School City of Hobart, Pleasant Township Schools, Union Township School Corp. and Portage Township School Corp.

The Merrillville Community School Corp. continues to do the best locally in the school formula. The School City of East Chicago comes out worst in the Senate formula.

Senate Republicans rejected a proposal by Sen. Bill Alexa, D-Valparaiso, to freeze school property tax levies, add \$80 million of state money to the funding formula to make up the difference and guarantee school districts minimum annual funding increases of 3 percent.

"That would be great, but I think that would be very hard to find," said Sen. Morris Mills, R-Indianapolis and chairman of the subcommittee that prepared the Senate's budget.

He noted that he expects considerable discussion about the school formula and any capital projects ultimately included in the budget.

The panel rejected an appeal from Sens. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago and Rose Ann Antich, D-Merrillville, to include \$5 million so the eroding beachfront in Ogden Dunes can be restored.

"It's no surprise the projects we put down are not the ones the House did," Mills said. "We'll deal with them when we get to conference."

# Senate version of 1997-99 state budget

The Senate Finance Committee recommended passage Thursday of a two-year spending plan for the state. The measure, House Bill 1001, will be debated next week on the Senate floor. The House- and Senate-passed versions of the budget will be reconciled later this month by a House-Senate conference committee.

## General provisions:

- Funds pay raises for statewide office-holders and legislators.
- Includes \$50 million to reduce the unfunded liabilities of local police and fire pension funds.
- Cuts \$13 million from Democrats' proposed increase in state funding for home health care.
- Includes \$10 million for community health centers across the state serving low-income and indigent patients.
- Increases operating funding for higher education by .6 percent more than House-passed budget in each year of biennium.
- Increases the operating budget for Purdue University Calumet in Hammond by a total of \$526,000, to \$21.1 million in 1997-98 and \$23.6 million in 1998-99.
- Increases the operating budget for Indiana University Northwest in Gary by a total of \$320,000, to \$16.1 million in 1997-98 and \$16.8 million in 1998-99.
- Fully reimburses school districts for the first time for providing free textbooks to students who qualify for free lunches, but eliminates a \$40 tax credit per child for families with students in public and private schools.
- Includes an additional \$200 million to buy down the unfunded liability of the Teachers Retirement Fund, saving taxpayers money in the future.
- Includes \$200 million of local road funding, with half of the money appropriated for state highways and the other half appropriated for local roads and streets. Also sets aside \$30 million a year for bonding or cash payments toward highway construction.
- Phases out inheritance tax over five years.

## Both versions include:

- \$55 million for state employee raises.
- Increases in Medicaid, the federally subsidized health care program for the poor and elderly. But the Senate version cuts \$60 million from the House's to reflect a revised spending projection.
- Money for two of three new prisons Democratic Gov. Frank O'Bannon has requested.
- Extension of the 8 percent homestead property tax credit, which was scheduled to decline by half over the next two years. The House extension is temporary. The Senate would make it permanent.

## Provisions of House-passed budget Senate did not adopt:

- An increase in the renters' income tax deduction of \$1,000, to \$2,500.
- A new earned income tax credit for families with children that would eliminate their state tax liability if they earn less than \$7,500 a year. The credit would phase out when a family's adjusted gross income reaches \$12,000.

## Northwest Indiana capital projects the Senate included:

- \$8 million for asbestos abatement at Purdue University Calumet's Anderson Building.
- \$5 million for dock completion at Indiana's International Port at Portage.
- \$1.8 million to complete construction of a classroom building at Purdue University Calumet.
- \$250,000 for Cedar Lake enhancement project, or \$50,000 less than House Democrats included.
- \$100,000 for Hammond downtown renewal project.

## Northwest Indiana projects the Senate removed:

- \$2 million for Little Calumet River Basin Commission.
- \$1.7 million in additional spending in 1998-99 to open vehicle-emission testing sites in Gary and Portage.
- \$1 million for Kankakee River Basin Commission.
- \$350,000 for the National Civil Rights Museum and Hall of Fame in Gary.
- \$218,000 for Twin Creeks Conservancy District in Portage Township.
- \$215,000 for renovation of old Lake County Courthouse exterior in Crown Point.
- \$200,000 for Merrillville drainage work.
- \$100,000 for New Chicago infrastructure work.
- \$100,000 for East Chicago Police Department equipment.
- \$100,000 for East Chicago Fire Department equipment.
- \$100,000 for Gary infrastructure work.
- \$100,000 for downtown Highland redevelopment.
- \$100,000 for Schererville Town Hall.
- \$100,000 for Ophelia Steen Community Center in Hammond.
- \$100,000 for Hammond Police Department Gang Prevention/Drug Awareness project.
- \$100,000 for Griffith public works facility.
- \$100,000 for Brothers Keeper building in Gary.
- \$100,000 for Gary YWCA building fund.
- \$85,000 for Hebron fire equipment.
- \$75,000 for Hammond Public Library technology and automation expenses.
- \$75,000 for School City of Hammond technology modernization.
- \$70,000 for Gary's African American Achievers Youth Corp. building and equipment.
- \$60,000 for Schererville north side-walks.
- \$50,000 for New Chicago Fire Dept.
- \$50,000 for Boys' & Girls' Club of Hammond building expenses.
- \$44,000 for Portage's Bonner Senior Citizens Center bus.
- \$40,000 for Schererville's Wilhelm Street development.
- \$16,000 for Haven Hollow Park parking lot and road resurfacing.
- \$14,000 for Portage's Bonner Senior Citizens Center parking lot lighting and resurfacing.
- \$8,000 for resurfacing South Haven Volunteer Fire Department parking lot.

SOURCES: House Bill 1001 and Senate Finance Committee analysis.

# Marina awaits money for expansion

4-15-97

The funding for the project needs to be appropriated by the General Assembly.

By Lucio Guerrero

Staff Writer

PORTAGE — In a couple of weeks, spring will officially have sprung — for Porter County boaters.

May 1, the county's only public marina opens for business.

"Technically, we're not open yet, but there are some boats in the water," said Mike Doyne, manager of the Portage Public Marina.

The city-owned facility is starting its second year, and officials expect continued growth.

The biggest event for the new year, however, could be the beginning of Phase II of marina

## BOAT SLIPS

To get on the Portage Public Marina waiting list, call the marina office at 763-6833, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday.

development and an additional 150 boat slips — which couldn't come soon enough.

When the marina opened in 1996, it only took a few months to sell all 93 slips. Everybody renewed for the 1997 season and already 30 people are on the waiting list.

No timetable is set for the addition, but the facility has secured about \$150,000 to add 10 to 15 spaces.

The reason most boaters are motoring to Portage is because the site is relatively cheaper than others, and more convenient.

Consider that in nearby Michigan City, marina space — which is sparse, with a five-year waiting list — for a 20-foot boat rents from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

In Portage, that same size slip goes for about \$1,000.

"It's close; it's new, and it's the best one around here," said Denis Ribordy of Ogden Dunes, who owns a 30-foot boat.

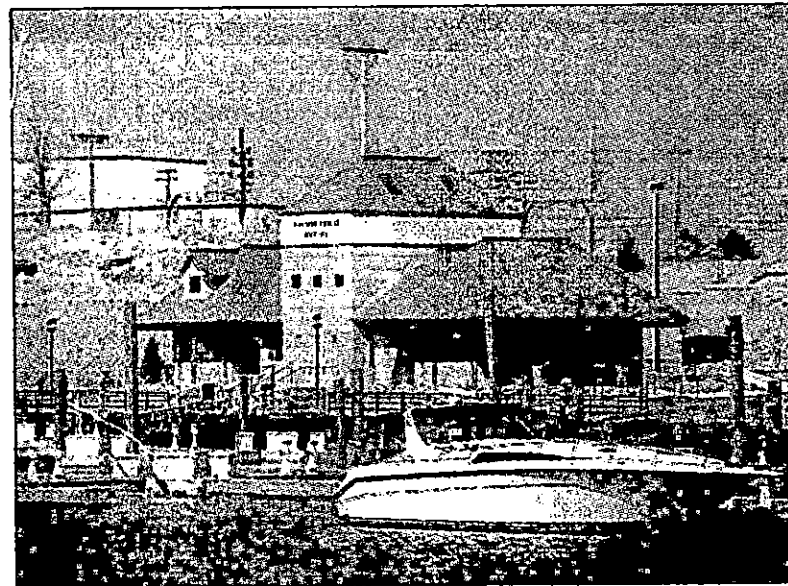
Ribordy was one of the first boaters to dock at Portage. After a year, Ribordy is "delighted and very pleased" with the facility.

The \$4.5 million marina along the Burns Waterway is being built in two phases.

Phase I, which includes the current wet slips, an administration building and future deli, cost \$2.5 million. Phase II will include the 150 additional slips and is expected to cost \$2 million. State money is paying the entire bill.

It is a joint project between the city and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

The remaining \$2 million needed for the completion is under negotiation by the state General Assembly. The money was included in the House budget, but the Senate budget axed the plan.



MARK DAVIS/Post-Tribune

The Portage Public Marina hopes to begin construction this year of its Phase II development which would create an additional 150 boat slips. There are already 30 people on the waiting list.



**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**JANUARY 1, 1997-MARCH 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	90,968.84

**1,947,498.94**

**RECEIPTS - JANUARY 1, 1997 - MARCH 31, 1997**

LEASE RENTS	10,650.00
INTEREST INCOME	18,180.13
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	2,336.19
REIMBURSEMENT FOR TAXES	243.46
KRBC REIMBURSEMENT RE: TELEPHONE CHARGE	682.51

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

**32,092.29**

**DISBURSEMENTS - JANUARY 1, 1997 - MARCH 31, 1997**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

1996 EXPENSES PAID IN 1997	73,889.65
PER DIEM	5,550.00
LEGAL SERVICES	1,275.99
NIRPC	32,076.10
TRAVEL & MILEAGE	915.00
PRINTING & ADVERTISING	482.81
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	2,010.03
MEETING EXPENSE	1,359.54

**LAND ACQUISITION**

LEGAL SERVICES	27,646.68
APPRAISAL SERVICES	3,900.00
ENGINEERING SERVICES	20,885.11
LAND PURCHASE CONTRACTUAL	1,612.00
FACILITIES/PROJECT MAINTENANCE SERVICES	970.00
LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES	26,470.98
SURVEYING SERVICES	9,410.00
PROPERTY & STRUCTURE COSTS	13,146.54
PROPERTY & STRUCTURES INSURANCE	534.00
UTILITY RELOCATION SERVICES	2,595.00
LAND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	386,849.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:**

**66,482.93**

**CASH POSITION - MARCH 31, 1997**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT**

LAND ACQUISITION	291,477.90
GENERAL FUND	146,569.55
TAX FUND	
INVESTMENTS	1,016,000.00
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	93,305.03

**1,547,352.48**

**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT, APRIL 1997**

1997								6 MONTH	UNALLOCATED
BUDGET								ALLOCATED	BUDGETED
								TOTAL	BALANCE
5801	PER DIEM EXPENSES	16,000.00	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	409.33	939.33	0.00	1,915.32	5,584.68
5812	NIRPC SERVICES	125,000.00	8,478.08	9,090.15	8,279.43	8,356.90	0.00	34,204.56	90,795.44
5821	TRAVEL/MILEAGE	15,000.00	0.00	15.00	11.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	14,974.00
5822	PRINTING/ADVERTISING	3,000.00	59.68	23.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.81	2,917.19
5823	BONDS/INSURANCE	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	276.00	0.00	276.00	7,224.00
5824	TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	457.80	510.18	336.44	181.84	0.00	1,486.26	5,513.74
5825	MEETING EXPENSES	10,000.00	293.86	84.29	236.33	0.00	0.00	614.48	9,385.52
5838	LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	8,888.02	9,969.89	9,699.00	7,867.93	0.00	36,424.84	88,575.16
5840	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	17,727.38	38,005.55	18,286.30	16,636.88	0.00	90,656.11	409,343.89
5860	PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	2,689,238.00	1,650.00	7,903.37	2,829.68	2,400.00	0.00	14,783.05	2,674,454.95
5881	PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	534.00	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	2,047.50	262.50	0.00	174,851.50	825,148.50
5883	PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	150,000.00		1,500.00	72,047.00	109,723.00	0.00	183,270.00	(33,270.00)
5884	STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
		4,720,238.00	210,231.15	68,067.39	114,182.01	146,644.38	0.00	\$539,124.93	\$4,181,113.07

1997								12 MONTH	UNALLOCATED
BUDGET								ALLOCATED	BUDGETED
								TOTAL	BALANCE
5801	PER DIEM EXPENSES	16,000.00	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	1,915.32	5,584.68
5812	NIRPC SERVICES	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,204.56	90,795.44
5821	TRAVEL/MILEAGE	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.00	14,974.00
5822	PRINTING/ADVERTISING	3,000.00	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	276.00	7,224.00
5824	TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,486.26	5,513.74
5825	MEETING EXPENSES	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	614.48	9,385.52
5838	LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,424.84	88,575.16
5840	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90,656.11	409,343.89
5860	PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	2,689,238.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,783.05	2,674,454.95
5881	PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	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	174,851.50	825,148.50
5883	PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	183,270.00	(33,270.00)
5884	STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
		4,720,238.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$539,124.93	\$4,181,113.07

# CLAIMS PAYABLE FOR APRIL 1997

ACCT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	EXPLANATION OF CLAIM
5811	LOUIS CASALE	283.33	LEGAL SERVICES FOR APRIL 1997
5811	LOUIS CASALE	658.00	OTHER LEGAL SERVICES 3/25/97 - 4/18/97
5812	NIRPC	8,356.90	SERVICES RENDERED FOR MARCH 1997
5823	DALY INSURANCE COMPANY	276.00	PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND
5824	GTE NORTH	58.29	MODEM TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR 3/28/97-4/28/97
5824	GTE NORTH	123.55	TELEPHONE SERVICE 3/16/97-5/15/97 (TOTAL BILL 277.48, KRBC PORTION 153.93)
5838	LOUIS CASALE	7,167.93	LAND ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES 3/25/97-4/18/97
5838	JAMES M. SPIVAK	350.00	LAND ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES 2/27/97 - 3/26/97
5838	JAMES M. SPIVAK	350.00	LAND ACQUISITION LEGAL SERVICES 3/26/97 - 4/22/97
5842	R. W. ARMSTRONG	3,763.80	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR PERIOD ENDING 4/18/97
5843	CHICAGO TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	75.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-152
5843	LAWYERS TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	75.00	TITLE WORK PERFORMED ON DC-132
5843	LAKE COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE	15.00	RECORDING FEE FOR QUIT CLAIM DEED PROPERTIES ACQUIRED FROM LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
5843	LAKE COUNTY RECORDERS OFFICE	84.00	RECORDING OF DEEDS FOR DC-588, DC-797 & 4 EASEMENT AGREEMENTS - PERPETUAL PUMP STATION
5844	SMITH REAL ESTATE CORPORATION	2,000.00	LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CLAY STORAGE FOR LEVEE MATERIAL
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	24.25	MARCH MILEAGE
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	1,606.05	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 3/16/97-3/31/97
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	1,799.55	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 4/1/97-4/15/97
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	94.00	MARCH MILEAGE
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	2,730.00	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 3/17/97-3/31/97
5844	JAMES E. POKRAJAC	3,087.50	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR 4/1/97-4/15/97
5845	SOUTH SHORE MARINA INC	850.00	INSTALL HANDRAILS AT BURNS WATERWAY BREAKWATER
5846	NIPSCO	422.73	UTILITY SERVICE ON COMMISSION OWNED 12/16/96 TO 4/15/97
5861	JUANITA NALL	2,400.00	PURCHASE PRICE OF DC-190
5882	R. W. ARMSTRONG	262.50	UTILITY RELOCATION SERVICES 3/19/97 - 4/18/97
5883	NIMETZ TRUCKING	500.00	CLEANING DEBRIS FROM RIVER CHANNEL
5883	CHESTER INC	107,948.00	PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION INVOICE #39325
5883	DAVE'S TREE & LANDSCAPING SERVICE	1,275.00	REMOVAL OF TREE & STUMP AS PART OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**\$146,644.38**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

111 NORTH CANAL STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

April 4, 1997

Programs and Project Management  
Division

Ms. Patricia M. Rench  
Operations Officer  
NBD Bank,  
1801 Kennedy Avenue  
Schereville, Indiana 46375


Subject: Little Calumet River Project Construction  
Fund Escrow Account Number 7500-0244-4747

Dear Ms. Rench:

The Department of the Army hereby issues a written request for withdrawal of \$300,000 from the referenced escrow account in accordance with the escrow agreement entered into on August 19, 1990.

Please provide the amount requested above in the form of a bank draft, payable to "FAO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District." Please mail or otherwise deliver to this address to the attention of Ms. Sherrie Barham, CENCC-PP-PO, within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Roger A. Gerber, P.E.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Dan Gardner  
Executive Director  
Little Calumet River Basin  
Development Commission

20



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

111 NORTH CANAL STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

April 4, 1997

Programs and Project Management  
Division

Ms. Patricia M. Rench  
Operations Officer  
NBD Bank,  
1801 Kennedy Avenue  
Schereville, Indiana 46375


Subject: Little Calumet River Basin Design Fund  
Escrow Account Number 7500-0441-5892

Dear Ms. Rench:

The Department of the Army hereby issues a written request for withdrawal of \$50,000 from the referenced escrow account in accordance with the escrow agreement entered into on May 20, 1996.

Please provide the amount requested above in the form of a bank draft, payable to "FAO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District." Please mail or otherwise deliver to this address to the attention of Ms. Sherrie Barham, CENCC-PP-PO, within 10 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Roger A. Gerber, P.E.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Dan Gardner  
Executive Director  
Little Calumet River Basin  
Development Commission

# A decade to tame the Little Cal

■ After six years, federal project only one-third done; five years remain in \$151 million effort.

BY MARK KIESLING  
Times Staff Writer

Watching Dan Gardner study his map of the Little Calumet River levee project is like watching George Patton assess the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy across the Rhine.

Gardner's fight with the river is like a war, and the enemy is the water that gets into living rooms and basements and causes \$15.5 million worth of damage annually in Lake County.

It's taken longer to get the river project off the drawing board than it took the United States to fight two world wars, and Gardner has been at the helm of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission all the way.

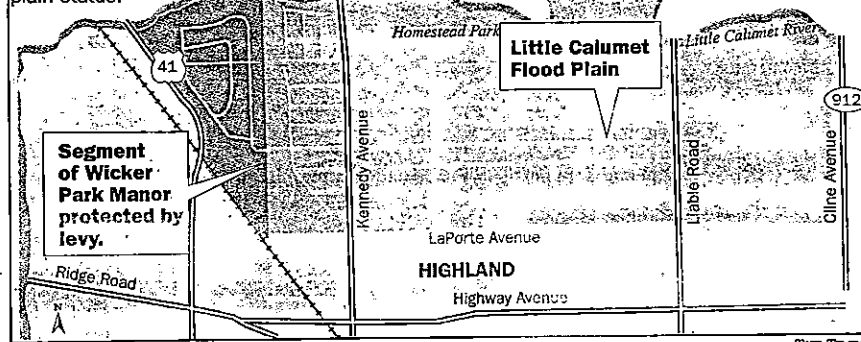
The objective is how to contain the river and keep it flowing to its destination in Lake Michigan and out of local homes and businesses.

With that mandate, the Indiana General Assembly formed the commission in 1980, although its genesis was in the floods that swept the area in 1954 and 1957. By the 1960s, embryonic water control designs were already on the drawing boards.

Just making the channel

## Little Calumet flood plain

Red area shows portion of Wicker Park Manor hoping for a change in its flood plain status.



THE TIMES

deeper presented too many environmental problems, and was further complicated by a very low water table in an area that was once part of Lake Michigan.

## A tale of two floodplains

A series of ditches crisscrosses Lake County, dredged in the 1800s to drain land and allowing it to be farmed. Eventually, they empty into the Little Calumet and increase its flow beyond what nature intended.

Munster, Highland and Hammond spent their own money to create a dike and levee system immediately after those 1950s floods, a system that remains in place and has allowed development of homes and businesses right

See LITTLE CAL, Page B-2

## Significant dates in Little Calumet river project

- 1956: River floods for second time in three years; Army Corps of Engineers begins to study flooding problem.
- 1960s: Preliminary designs for flood control begin taking shape.
- 1975: State study funded on feasibility of construction of levee system. From 1975 on, Indiana Department of Natural Resources begins acquiring property along the river.
- 1980: Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission created as non-taxing body by state general assembly.
- 1986: Federal Water Resources Development Act passed. Among other things, authorizes construction of Little Calumet dike and levee system with federal commitment to 75 percent of funding.
- 1990: Catastrophic flood inundates Wicker Park Manor subdivision in Highland.
- 1991: Construction begins. Levee and pumping station built out of sequence to protect Wicker Park Manor.
- 1996: Congress continues funding, approving \$11 million for fiscal year 1997.
- 1997: Project to be completed from east boundary (Martin Luther King Drive) to Clark Road.
- 2002: Project to be completed.

Despite past floods, he has peace of mind

■ Pumping station gives Highland man confidence that his home is protected.

BY MARK KIESLING  
Times Staff Writer

If Steve Goins looks up from changing a Pontiac water pump and peeks around the corner of his garage, he can see the squat, yellow concrete block building that allows him to sleep better at night.

It is Pumping Station 031, and it sits smack against the Little Calumet River, which flows along about a block from Goins' home at 8032 Wicker Park Drive in Highland.

The river looks deceptively calm now, carrying only some sticks and a few water birds as it runs east to Lake Michigan.

But it wasn't that long ago, in November 1990, that the Little Calumet got too big for its banks, inundating the entire low-lying Wicker Park Manor area of Highland.

Goins bought his home since

See FLOODS, Page B-2

Little Cal

Continued from Page B-1

up against the river. Gary and Griffith spent no such money, opting instead to restrict or forbid construction in the floodplain. The result can be seen by traveling along the Borman Expressway, which more or less parallels the Little Calumet. From the state line east to Cline Avenue, the border between Hammond and Gary, there is development galore, both residential and commercial. East of Cline, development drops off to scattered housing and a truck stop complex north on Burr Street in Gary. A little more than three miles of the river project is completed or will be completed by the end of the year. That's about 35 percent of the total, said Dwayne Lawler, communications director for U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind. Visclosky has "shepherded" the project through Congress since 1986. \$11 million was approved last year for spending this year. In all, the federal government will spend \$109 million of the \$151 million total project cost, while the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission will kick in the remaining \$42 million in cash and land acquisition. Contractors began work at the far eastern end of the project, basically where the river flows past Martin Luther King Drive in Gary, and are working their way back toward the Illinois border. Construction began in November 1991 and has a completion target of September 2002. A small section scheduled to be done in the fifth stage of the

eight-stage project was done out of sequence after the devastating flood in 1990 that put most of the Wicker Park Manor subdivision in Highland under water. The portion from Chase Street to King Drive is completed or will be done by the end of 1997, at which time the levee project that will begin this year and end in 1998 will start where the river crosses Burr Street. As part of this, Lake County will rebuild a bridge on Burr Street south of the Borman Expressway and the city of Gary will improve the street itself. This may give businesses needed incentive to develop south along a Burr Street corridor, Gardner said. Gardner warned this will not be all the officials of Gary have wanted, and will not allow extensive commercial or residential development alongside the river, as is found west of Cline Avenue. "Is it everything Gary wants? No," he said. "But what they did west of Cline, they could not do today." He said the dikes built by Hammond, Highland and Munster in the 1950s were not done to Corps of Engineers specifications and may have to be modified or replaced as part of the current project. Lawler said of 13 dikes already in place, the Corps estimates 10 can be salvaged to some extent. A portion of the Hammond dike, from the state line to Hohman Avenue, was built in the 1980s after a major flood and was done to Corps specs, Gardner said. That portion, which cost some \$949,000, may only need inspection to ensure it is still intact, he said.

Although development along the dikes would not be allowed under today's stricter guidelines, Gardner said, the Corps of Engineers realizes it is cheaper to protect what is already there west of Cline rather than try to move all the homes and businesses back away from the river. He said the initial plans developed in the 1980s in preparation for federal funding did not even include Gary because there was little if any development in the floodplain, but U.S. Sens. Richard Lugar and Dan Quayle said "Gary deserved equal levels of structured flood protection or we will not have a project."

**Who benefits, why and how**

When the project reaches completion, "it will result in an increase in property values, there will be federally assured flood protection and homeowners will no longer have to pay flood insurance," Gardner said. "A lot of times people say there are no individual benefits to these projects, that the projects won't help them. This one will." Most of those who will benefit from the project live or own property in a swath several hundred yards wide on either side of the Little Calumet, or about 9,500 homes and businesses. A homeowner in Hammond whose house sits in the so-called 200-year flood plain pays about \$300 annually in flood insurance on a home in the \$115,000 range. The project, according to Corps of Engineers estimates, will prevent some \$15.5 million in annual flood damage. Nine miles of existing levees will be repaired or replaced, and 13 miles of new levees will be built.

Also, 13 pumping stations will be built or repaired. Gardner said a control structure will be built in the river immediately west of where Hart Ditch flows in from the south. That's the west border of the Wicker Park golf course, and just across from the course at Woodmar Country Club. The Little Calumet peaks at its juncture with Hart Ditch, Gardner said, and flows west into Illinois from there as well as east toward Lake Michigan. By law, the river flow out of Indiana due to this project cannot negatively affect Illinois waterways. In times of heavy water usage, the control structure will act like a lock and dam to keep excess water from flowing into Illinois and backing the Little Calumet over its banks in Calumet City, Lansing and South Holland, all of which have experienced flooding problems in the past decades. Gardner said since the river actually sits on Woodmar property, some of the holes near the river may have to be reconfigured. "We're working with Woodmar now to retain an 18-hole course and still stay within the Corps specs," he said. "There may have to be some minor redesign, elevation of some tees." He is hopeful the project will keep the river from backing up onto the Wicker Park course, as it has in recent years, through the use of an improved floodwall. The final stage of the project, once the protection is in place, is to landscape the earthen dikes and create about 17 miles of hiking trails, Lawler said. Money for that is included in the \$151 million tab.

Floods

Continued from Page B-1

that time, moving from Gary, and he knew the kind of havoc the river was capable of wreaking. He helped clean the home he now lives in, and bought it from the person who had bought it as a flood wreck. It is that pumping station and the levee, built since the flood by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, that gives him peace of mind when it rains.

It is the only piece of the \$151 million project completed west of Cline Avenue, and was done to prevent a recurrence of the 1990 flood. "The first heavy rain we had after we moved in, my wife was a little paranoid," Goins says. "But it didn't really bother me. We haven't had any problems since we moved in. We've had a lot of rain, but we don't even get any that settles in the yard."

Goins is a newcomer, but Clevious "Ann" LaBelle has lived in her home at 8035 Sycamore Ave. for more than 40 years and counts herself as one of the last of the original "settlers" in Wicker Park Manor, built after the World War II and filled with the families of returning servicemen. LaBelle, 71, was carried out by boat even as town officials kept assuring her there was no problem, she says. She points to the still-visible water line about three-quarters of the way up her home. "When they took me out, I was standing here with the water up to my hips," she said. "I kept calling town hall, and they kept saying not to worry, to go back to sleep." "It was devastating," says her daughter, Sharon Parkhurst. "I still had all my furniture here, and I lost that, all of my appliances." LaBelle said that since the installation of the levee and pumping station, here has

been no problem. But she also said she had not seen a problem in the years before 1990 until an improvement of a parking lot for the Tri-State bus terminal on Indianapolis Boulevard disturbed river flow. Ella Cebra is taking advantage of the warm weather to clean the outside of the windows of her home at 2439 River Drive. Her cloth is about three-fourths of the way up her storm door, right where the water level was in 1990. "Actually, they were going to tear down this home. The whole interior had to go. All that was left was the four walls," she said. But having lived in the house more than 30 years, it was home - and it was rebuilt. "I've got new cabinets. A new furnace. New refrigerator," she says. "In fact, just about everything's new." She points to the levee that dominates her back yard. "They actually did good job

back there," she says, although it has yet to be landscaped. "I get a little bit of water in the back yard, but only if it rains really hard. I don't think (1990) will ever happen again. They made the dike higher, they made the river wider and deeper." "We've been working a good year, year and a half and we're still not done. There's still a lot to do." Like Steve Goins, Lonnie Vaughn did not let the reputation of Wicker Park Manor scare him off when he was about to buy his home at 8001 Sycamore. When he moved from Calumet Township last year, he was aware of the problems in 1990, "but they said in the paper that it was all fixed." He points to the rear yard, which ends at a railroad embankment that tends to trap falling rain. "Our back yard still gets flooded a little, but that's not from the Little Calu. et."