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

AGENDA

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

6. Notice of bid opening of Recreation Contract 1
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
   - 13-15

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

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.
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<th>NAME (PLEASE PRINT)</th>
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<td>Pete Zak</td>
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<td>Ken Smith</td>
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<td>Jim Flora</td>
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<td>Mike Doyle</td>
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<td>Dennis Buksa</td>
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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 in 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 Prum 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 18th 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 8th 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 22nd 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 22nd day of April, 1997.

ATTEST:

Robert J. Nickovich, Secretary

THE LAKE COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Walter D. Jones, President
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
111 NORTH CANAL STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-7206

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 recision.

- 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.
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 Fortage.

Then, remove a guarantee of 3 percent annual funding increases for public schools — a minimum crafted primarily to benefit 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 1997-98.

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 Born, an Indianapolis Republican in 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 6 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 accomplishments within the state’s income and without raising 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-income 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. “Their 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 Alexza, D-Valparaiso, to freeze school property tax levies, add $60 million of state money to the funding formula to make up the difference and guarantee school districts a minimum annual funding increase of 5 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 Sen. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago and Rose Ann Anastich, 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.”

Continued from Page 4A
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 officeholders and legislators.
- Includes $50 million to reduce the unfunded liabilities of local police and fire pension funds.
- Cuts $3.3 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.
- $228,000 for Twin Creeks Conservancy District in Portage Township.
- $215,000 for renovation of old Lake County Courthouse exterior in Crown Point.
- $200,000 for Mattieville 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.
- $65,000 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.
- $50,000 for Schererville north sidewalks.
- $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

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 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.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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### RECEIPTS - JANUARY 1, 1997 - MARCH 31, 1997

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### CASH POSITION - MARCH 31, 1997

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

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<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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18

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<tr>
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<th>AUGUST</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>UNALLOCATED BUDGETED BALANCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>5801</td>
<td>PER DIEM EXPENSES</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>183,270.00</td>
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<tr>
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18
### CLAIMS PAYABLE FOR APRIL 1997

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<td>CLEANING DEBRIS FROM RIVER CHANNEL</td>
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<td>5803</td>
<td>CHESTER INC</td>
<td>107,949.00</td>
<td>PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION INVOICE #35025</td>
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<td>5803</td>
<td>DAVES TREE &amp; LANDSCAPING SERVICE</td>
<td>1,276.00</td>
<td>REMOVAL OF TREE &amp; STUMP AS PART OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT</td>
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$146,644.38
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,

[Signature]

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
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 Illinois 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 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 1990s 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 Hainesville 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 in the flood plain area.

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.
- 1985: 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.
- 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 peaks 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 a block from Goins' home at 8362 Wicker Park Drive in Highland.

The river looks deceivingly 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...
Little Cal

...up against the river.

Gary Griffith spent much money, opting instead to erect a bulkhead in the floodplain. The result was a visible change in the river's course, as the bulkhead reduced the water levels and made the river more navigable for boats.

From the state line to the mainline, the river meanders through a mix of residential and commercial areas. On the south side, a levee was built to protect the towns from flooding. The levee was completed in 1987, and since then, the river has remained relatively calm.

A levee around the project site was built in 1987. The levee was designed to protect the area from future floods. The project was completed in 1990, and since then, the area has remained dry.

Although development along the levee has not been halted, the river levels have remained stable. The levee has been effective in preventing flooding, and the area has continued to grow.

Floods

Continued from Page B-4.

In 1990, the levee was completed, and since then, the area has remained dry. However, there have been concerns about the levee's ability to withstand future floods.

Goins is a newcomer, but Cleovis "Roy" LaBelle has lived in his home for over 40 years. He has witnessed many floods, but this one was the worst.

"We've been through a lot, and this one was the worst," he says. "But we've survived, and we will survive again."