



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

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~~EMERSON DELANEY, Chairman~~
~~Governor's Appointment~~

WILLIAM TANKE, Vice Chairman
Porter County Commissioners'
Appointment ✓

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's
Appointment ✓

CURTIS VOSTI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment ✓

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment ✓

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's
Appointment ✓

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources'
Appointment ✓

ROBERT HUFFMAN
Governor's Appointment ✓

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI
Governor's Appointment ✓

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment ✓

~~MARION WILLIAMS~~
~~Lake County Commissioners'~~
~~Appointment~~

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE
Attorney

*Curt wants
Dale here next
month.*

*Sandy
blk slacks
blk blazer
grey sweater*

MEETING NOTICE

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2001
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, IN**

WORK STUDY SESSION - 5:00 P.M.

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order by Chairman Emerson Delaney
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Visitors and Guests
4. Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2000
5. Chairman's Report

- Report of Nominating Committee (met Tu 1/9)
Charles Agnew, Chairman
Arlene Colvin
Curt Vosti

CA/ev 1-5

*Committee
membership
list!*

*Tues 16th
13⁰⁰ Times
Editorial
Board*

*Th 18th
3⁰⁰ Post Tribune
Editorial
Board*

6. Executive Director's Report
 - Project Wetland Mitigation Permit – Land suitability matrix
 - Update on public review session – 3:00 p.m. January 10, 2001
 - Next steps
7. Standing Committees
 - A. Land Acquisition/Management Committee – Chuck Agnew, Chairman
 - Appraisals, offers, acquisitions, recommended actions
 - COE Real Estate meetings to be held January 18, 2001
 - Other issues
 - B. Project Engineering Committee – Bob Huffman, Chairman
 - Pre bid meeting on North 5th St. Pump Station to be held on January 4, 2001
 - East Reach contracts – Clean-up project
 - Removed Pumps – Responsibility of disposal
 - Other issues
 - C. Legislative Committee – George Carlson, Chairman
 - State Budget request status
 - Public Officials support - contacts update
 - Other Issues
 - D. Recreational Development Committee – Curtis Vosti, Chairman
 - Kennedy Avenue bridge walkway
 - Other Issues
 - E. Marina Development Committee – Bill Tanke, Chairman
 - Issues
 - F. Finance/Policy Committee – Arlene Colvin, Chairperson
 - Financial status report
 - Approval of claims for December 2000
 - Other issues
 - G. Minority Contracting Committee – Marion Williams, Chairman
 - Reports available from the COE for ongoing projects through October, 2000
8. Other Business
9. Statements to the Board from the Floor
10. Set date for next meeting

6-7

8-9
10-11

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2000
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman Emerson Delaney called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Charles Agnew
Emerson DeLaney
William Tanke
Curt Vosti
Bob Huffman
Arlene Colvin
Steve Davis

Visitors:

Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Company
Sandy O'Brien - Sierra Club
Mark Lopez – Congressman Visclosky's Office
Jim Flora - R.W. Armstrong Company
Debi DeLaney

Staff

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

Commissioner Bill Tanke made a motion to approve the minutes of November 8, 2000; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman DeLaney talked about the touring of Commission lands on November 18th. Finished, and ongoing, project construction was viewed. Finished levee segments look very good and all Board members were glad to have the opportunity to view.

Mr. DeLaney referred to attendance records for the years 1999 and 2000 for the Board members. If anyone is interested in seeing them, see staff. Mr. DeLaney also stated that he had received the committee preference sheets. The Nominating Committee will report at the January meeting.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner updated the Board members with the project wetland mitigation report. He indicated that we had received the matrix of the mitigation lands from the Corps. There was no one present from the COE to explain the matrix at the meeting. Jomary from IDNR stated that after Greg Moore did the matrix, he did send it to IDNR environmental staff for their review.

Mr. Vosti made a motion to suspend the order of the meeting to allow the audience to speak. Motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Don Ewoldt questioned some of the information contained in the matrix. He asked whether this is the result of all the entities involved or just Greg Moore. Mr. Vosti stressed the need for a work session specifically for the discussion of this matrix because of all the questions that need addressing. Attorney Casale added that the matrix appears to be the cost of development and not the cost of the property. Sandy O'Brien added that the matrix appears to not cover all the lands that would be available for mitigation. It covers only the LEL lands and the Shirley Heinze lands. She stressed that there was still land available in the Hobart Marsh that is not a part of either of these two comparisons. Steve Davis added that when he went on the tour of the Hobart Marsh lands, they looked at just lands submitted in the RFP. Additional lands were included so we would have a clear viewing of all of the land besides just Shirley Heinze and LEL lands. Mr. Ewoldt added that even if all the lands in the matrix were included, there still would not be enough lands. It would meet DNR requirements but not IDEM's requirements. Mr. Gardner says the team (consisting of IDEM IDNR, Fish & Wildlife, and the COE) did a good job and now we need to keep moving forward. Mr. Vosti made a motion to continue with the order of business; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that a public meeting was held on November 14th at the Highland Town Hall for residents affected by the Stage V-2 and Stage VI project construction. There is a Times article in the agenda packet. Mr. Huffman added that in spite of the project being around for so many years, some of the residents still did not know about the project. Chairman DeLaney added that the meeting was well attended. After the public notice had gone out, the office probably received about 30 inquiry calls. Mr. Huffman stated that a couple of the maps did not reflect the latest project changes and they should be updated.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew announced that there were no increased offers or condemnations this month. Mr. Agnew informed the Board members that staff has updated our income status. We currently receive about \$58,750 and with the anticipated additional installation of 4 LAMAR signs, the income would increase about \$10,000 annually.

Mr. Agnew announced that we had received a check for \$6,250 on November 29th from the Bult brothers for farming the land between Chase & Grant. The amount was based on our agreement to receive \$62.50 per acre of tillable land. Since Mr. Tanke originally questioned how this figure was arrived at and whether it was based on a survey, Mr. Vosti asked him whether he was satisfied and he replied he was.

Mr. Agnew also reported that the COE is anxious for us to take over the O&M responsibilities for completed levee segments. We agreed to initially inspect and accept responsibility on an individual basis in order to relieve the contractor of his obligations. We still need a procedure to mutually sign off with the COE to be able to accept O&M. COE Real Estate meetings were held on November 14th and December 5th.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that meeting was held with INDOT on 11/29/00 to review future design, scheduling and construction along the I-80/94 corridor. It appears that, although a fourth driving lane in both directions will be added from State Line to Cline, INDOT can work within the existing right-of-way and will not need any property from us.

A utility coordination meeting was held on 11/16/00 for Stage V-2 to discuss construction on both sides of the river for the 17 pipelines on the NIPSCO R/W.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for the North 5th Street pump station on 12/20/00.

A pre-construction meeting was held on 11/27/00 for Pump Station 1A contract (Overstreet Construction). Scheduled starts are Baring Avenue in July 2001; Hohman/Munster in August 2001; South Kennedy in September 2001; and Walnut Avenue in September 2001. Completion of contract is anticipated in October 2002.

Review of Stage VII plans and specs was completed on 12/8/00. Review included a letter from Commissioner Reshkin regarding concern of impact to adjacent structures during the sheet pile installation.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson gave the report. He referred to the meeting held with the Congressman back in August. At that meeting, the Congressman made a commitment to talk to the Governor regarding our \$12 million budget request. Through the Congressman's office, we have learned that he indeed did talk to the Governor. The Governor could not commit the State to provide this request but the conversation was well received and it is hopeful that the Governor has a better understanding of our needs to keep up with the COE schedule and complete this construction. Mr. Gardner has talked on several occasions to legislators and the Commission's resolution declaring a funding crisis has been shared with them. Mr. Gardner thanked Mark Lopez, Projects and Grants Manager, for attending several meetings with him and for accompanying him and Curt Vosti to Indianapolis to meet with the Ways & Means staff. Mr. Gardner continued to state that he is trying to set up a meeting with the editorial boards. With the upcoming holidays, he may not be able to schedule anything until the new year. He will let the Board members know.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti stated that the trail alignment has been an ongoing issue. Gas City originally opposed the trail alignment at Grant Street. A meeting will be scheduled with them in mid January 2001 and Commissioners Vosti and Huffman requested to attend the meeting. The company may have changed their minds and will not oppose the current alignment. There is a Times article in the agenda packet talking about recreation trails and funding and how all of the local trails could tie together. A meeting was held on 11/17/00 with the COE, city of Hammond, and the town of Highland to discuss the west reach recreation features. Mr. Vosti requested Jim Pokrajac send minutes of this meeting to he and Huffman. Mr. Vosti also stated that North Township does not have a problem with relocating the trail from between the golf

courses to the existing trail along the east and south boundaries but they are awaiting information from INDOT for impacts to Indianapolis Blvd. R/W which would cause their existing trail to be relocated.

Mr. Vosti commented that he was glad to be able to view the project construction, and especially the finished trail segments, on the van tour of the properties.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke reported that Mayor Olson called Mr. Gardner and brought to his attention some bank sloughing into the waterway was caused by several big storms.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin gave the finance report. She referred to the monthly financial status sheet and claims in the amount of \$118,938.42 and proceeded to make a motion approving the claims; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously. She reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on December 7th. She presented the agreement between the Commission and NIRPC for the year 2001 and explained the changes contained therein. She then proceeded to make a motion approving the agreement; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. She then proceeded to make a motion authorizing an hourly increase for legal services for Lou Casale from \$80 per hour to \$85 per hour; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colvin then made a motion approving an hourly increase in the independent contractors' agreements – James Pokrajac's hourly would increase from \$42 to \$46 per hour; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. She then made a motion approving Judy Vamos' s hourly from \$30 to \$33 per hour; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made by Curt Vosti to increase the hourly on a renewed contract with Lorraine Kray for crediting services from \$15 to \$16.50; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was then held on staff's increases. With the current NIRPC personnel/policy system, it locks an employee in at a certain rate with just a small step increase. The Commission does not have the authority to offer an increase for their staff and the only way they can be able to extend any additional money to them is through a bonus. The bonus extended to staff would remain the same as last year. Ms. Colvin proceeded to make a motion to approve a bonus payment to Executive Director Dan Gardner in the amount of \$5,500 and to Business Coordinator Sandy Mordus in the amount of \$4,000; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. These bonuses are for the year 2000 and are based upon merit and performance and are not an automatic increase. Mr. Vosti added that, as a relatively new member, he appreciated having NIRPC pay system explained to him for his understanding. He did not like the word "bonus" and the committee will meet before next year to discuss this.

Ms. Colvin presented the proposed 2001 Operating Budget. Mr. Gardner explained that, in light of limited funds and not knowing what we will receive from the General Assembly, the budget is based on a 6 month budget (instead of a 1-year budget). After we know what we will receive, the budget will be amended to reflect the entire year. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the 6 month Administrative Budget in the amount of

\$191,000 and the 6 month Land Acquisition/Project Development Budget in the amount of \$1,241,122; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Attorney Casale added that there is no clause in our legislation that prohibits us from doing this.

Minority Contracting Committee – There was no report. Jim Pokrajac said that Tom Deja, construction representative for the COE, will provide an updated summary for minority participation for next meeting.

Other Business – Curt Vosti shared some photographs from that he had taken at the NAFSMA conference. Mr. Gardner proceeded to read a letter from the COE commending staff for the amount of crediting they have been turning into the COE. Jim Pokrajac added that he would obtain a list from Tom Deja of expenditures for completed levee segments, ongoing segments, and upcoming segments, for the next meeting.

Statements to the Board – There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **5:00 p .m. for a Work Study session and 6:00 for the regular Board meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001. Please note that this date is a change from the first Thursday of the month.**

/sjm

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TERRY BURNS

Tight revenues will have effect on Hoosier pork.



Terry Burns
Times
Statehouse
Bureau Chief

INDIANAPOLIS — In just three short weeks, lawmakers converge on the Statehouse to begin crafting Indiana's \$24 billion biennial budget.

While formulating a budget plan was a relatively simple task in recent years given the generally strong economy, growing revenues and a burgeoning surplus, the days of generous tax cuts and unrestrained state spending are nearing an end.

What that means is that when all those lobbyists, state agencies and lawmakers start lining up next month outside the doors of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee in search of some extra cash, most are likely to walk away empty-handed.

In a rare display of bipartisan agreement, both Democrats and Republicans acknowledge that Indiana is facing some budgetary belt-tightening over the next two years. The economic slowdown, fiscal experts contend, is a result of dwindling tax revenues, escalating health-care costs and bills coming due for nearly \$1.5 billion in tax cuts given over the last four years.

In fact, state Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, chairman of the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee, warned that anyone looking to the state for fat check

probably will be turned away.

"I'm not ruling out anything, but I'm also saying there's going to be a very tight budget," he said. "We're down \$123 million (in revenues) in five months," mostly because of lower corporate income and, in part, Gov. Frank O'Bannon's decision to temporarily suspend the sales tax on gasoline, a move that cost the state \$40 million.

The real problem "is that the idea among everybody is that we're still booming, but we're not booming. We have slowed down," Bauer added, pointing out that while revenues are down, costs, especially for federally mandated programs, continue to climb.

Just last week, for instance, the State Budget Committee learned that Indiana may need to spend an additional \$400 million over the next two years to fund Medicaid programs.

Indiana, however, isn't alone when it comes to a budget crunch. A recent study by the National Association of State Budget Officers found that half of the 29 states surveyed are seeing signs of a weakening economy, and that some are considering budget cuts.

Next week, the State Budget Agency is expected to release a long-awaited fiscal forecast showing that economic growth

in Indiana is lagging behind projections and, as a result, tax revenues are coming up short. Although state number crunchers initially thought the economy would grow by a robust 5.5 percent, the latest figures peg it closer to 4 percent or even 3.5 percent.

At the same time, the state's once brimming surplus, which only a few years ago stood at \$2.7 billion, has been slowly and steadily eroded to pay for costly tax cuts and other programs. By the end of the current fiscal year, the surplus is expected to bottom out at \$1.1 billion.

While those growth numbers are solid, it translates into less money in state coffers.

Citing lower than anticipated revenues, the governor is expected to propose a budget that calls for little, if any, new spending in the next two years, except on education, corrections and welfare programs.

Because of the budget pinch, some fiscal experts predict that lawmakers may be forced to dip into the state's \$4 billion tobacco settlement or the gaming and lottery reserve to make ends meet, an urge they've resisted in recent years, but one that is now looking more and more appealing.

It's also unclear how the tight budget numbers will impact ef-

forts to provide property tax relief to Hoosiers facing the sticker shock of reassessment. Any reform measures are likely to cost hundreds of millions of dollars, money the state apparently doesn't have in the bank.

So how does the state come up with some extra money to boost the bottom line without raising taxes, something neither Democrats or Republicans are willing to do? "Dockside gaming," suggested state Rep. Earl Harris, D-East Chicago, vice chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who believes that lawmakers might be more willing to embrace the concept during potentially lean financial times.

"Timing is everything," he quipped. "I think this may be the session for it." In the end, Harris predicted, even opponents of dockside gaming may find the potential financial windfall impossible to ignore given the state's sudden need for fiscal austerity.

Either way, it's going should prove to be an interesting year in Indianapolis with lawmakers scrambling to put the state's financial books in order and while still trying to pass out the pork.

■ Terry Burns can be reached at tburns@howpubs.com or (317) 637-9078.

A14

OPINION

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2000

OPINION

THE
TIMESEstablished
December, 1880William E. Howard
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executive editor
Marilyn L. Kucer
editorial page editor

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THE CAPITOL EYE ■ MIKE SMITH

Sound the warning bells: Indiana's free-spending days are over

INDIANAPOLIS — OK, all you lobbyists and special interest groups standing in line for your checks from the Indiana General Assembly — listen up and take note.

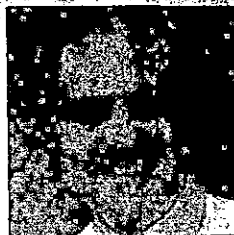
Happy holidays, but in the upcoming legislative session, don't expect generous Christmas bonuses. The Grinch has arrived, at least in rhetoric.

For the first time in six years, Santa in Indiana seems snowed in. Translation: No money, no money.

The loud and clear message from the fiscal powers that be in the Statehouse is that there's not a big pot of tax revenue to tap for ambitious spending plans. Not this year.

Not this holiday season.

Here is how some lawmakers signed their Christmas cards in recent statements predicting money decisions in the upcoming legislative session.



The issue: Indiana's budget
Smith's opinion: State lawmakers
are promising to hold the line on
spending next year.

■ "Our appetite is going to have to be pared down a little bit." — House Speaker John Gregg, D-Sandborn.

■ "In the last couple of bienniums, we had the opportunity to spend more than

we took in. I don't think we will have that opportunity or luxury to do that anymore. I think having a lot of new programs will have to be put on hold, at least for a while." — Senate Majority Floor Leader Joseph Harrison, R-Attica.

■ "Well, it's another great year, but we don't have any money." — Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, chairman of the budget-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

State Budget Director Betty Cockrum tried as best she could to couch and cushion in words the state's financial price tag of running schools, prisons and centers for the developmentally disabled.

During a privately funded legislative conference last week, she did her best to politely tell lobbyists that the money is gone — or already spent.

There are bills coming due now for new prisons, a new state museum, help-

ing developmentally disabled people make new starts outside of state institutions. Cockrum mentioned these facts.

But she didn't talk at any length about Medicaid — the state and federal health care insurance program for the poor.

Bauer, the Ways and Means chairman, has strongly suggested that the O'Bannon administration "reshape" some of the Medicaid services Indiana provides and pays to deliver.

He knows those are tough choices to make.

Do you cut back on sending poor kids to the dentist or the doctor? Do you make it harder to even qualify for Medicaid?

Bauer hears these questions, but he has one primary thought on his mind — balancing a state budget.

There are ways of doing that.

There is \$300 million in gambling proceeds and \$200 million in a Medicaid reserve account. That's half a billion dollars.

Bauer may very well count that cash in his final deliberations, but going into the upcoming legislative session, it's off the table.

So is dockside gaming.

Gregg is against it, O'Bannon is against it, but allowing riverboat casinos to stay put on the water — coupled with a tax increase on the boats — could help balance the state's budget.

Lawmakers will consider all options, but make no mistake about it: Their primary message to lobbyists will be that there's simply not a lot of money to play with this session.

■ Mike Smith covers politics and the Indiana General Assembly for The Associated Press.

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT, DECEMBER 2000

	2000	6 MONTH ALLOCATED						UNALLOCATED BUDGETED	
	BUDGET	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL	BALANCE
5801 PER DIEM EXPENSES	11,000.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,450.00	3,550.00	7,450.00
5811 LEGAL EXPENSES	8,500.00	283.33	283.33	579.33	379.33	475.33	395.33	2,395.98	6,104.02
5812 NIRPC SERVICES	116,000.00	18,062.13	8,874.12	8,782.12	8,347.14	9,851.88	8,411.83	62,329.22	53,670.78
5821 TRAVEL/MILEAGE	23,000.00	39.90	16.24	27.72	8.96	34.86	311.92	439.60	22,560.40
5822 PRINTING/ADVERTISING	5,000.00	0.00	62.58	0.00	55.11	0.00	506.17	623.86	4,376.14
5823 BONDS/INSURANCE	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	5,642.63	0.00	5,802.63	1,697.37
5824 TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	438.76	216.26	1,827.68	611.31	433.27	416.01	3,943.29	3,056.71
5825 MEETING EXPENSES	13,000.00	729.60	132.20	0.00	0.00	542.31	435.04	1,839.15	11,160.85
5838 LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	5,866.80	5,266.54	8,499.50	5,901.48	5,417.60	3,699.54	34,651.46	90,348.54
5840 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	28,441.52	28,955.95	31,571.03	35,876.29	42,961.89	21,626.57	189,433.25	310,566.75
5860 PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	807,630.00	147,954.58	66.74	102,565.17	3,015.96	11,537.00	640.00	265,779.45	541,850.55
5881 PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	464.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,107.00	20,571.00	4,429.00
5882 UTILITY RELOCATION EXP.	200,000.00	557.50	0.00	472.50	775.00	3,446.45	12,018.44	17,269.89	182,730.11
5883 PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	248,000.00	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	247,450.00
5884 STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	27,000.00	0.00	2,995.83	0.00	14,334.00	713.75	969.00	19,012.58	7,987.42
	2,123,630.00	203,488.12	46,869.79	154,325.05	69,464.58	81,056.97	72,986.85	628,191.36	1,495,438.64

	2000	12 MONTH ALLOCATED						UNALLOCATED BUDGETED	
	BUDGET	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	BALANCE
5801 PER DIEM EXPENSES	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.00	3,900.00	9,250.00	1,750.00
5811 LEGAL EXPENSES	8,500.00	715.33	739.33	1,283.33	1,083.33	419.33	683.33	7,319.96	1,180.04
5812 NIRPC SERVICES	116,000.00	8,249.52	8,493.73	8,173.33	13,330.19	8,940.81	18,476.71	127,993.51	-11,993.51
5821 TRAVEL/MILEAGE	23,000.00	0.00	10.36	4,407.36	10,041.53	794.08	499.72	16,192.65	6,807.35
5822 PRINTING/ADVERTISING	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	431.77	2,269.88	0.00	0.00	3,325.51	1,674.49
5823 BONDS/INSURANCE	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,802.63	1,697.37
5824 TELEPHONE EXPENSES	7,000.00	490.28	595.07	487.88	367.00	361.27	351.93	6,596.72	403.28
5825 MEETING EXPENSES	13,000.00	0.00	140.50	5,188.65	1,211.41	167.88	1,189.23	9,736.82	3,263.18
5838 LEGAL SERVICES	125,000.00	3,100.00	7,162.00	4,251.08	9,439.04	5,197.30	2,127.36	65,928.24	59,071.76
5840 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	500,000.00	66,385.15	28,199.16	35,713.62	50,374.27	67,841.75	33,809.66	471,756.86	28,243.14
5860 PROJECT LAND PURCHASE EXP.	807,630.00	68,801.26	7,117.68	917.58	74,133.64	781.00	20,000.00	437,530.61	370,099.39
5881 PROPERTY/STRUCTURE INS.	25,000.00	297.00	0.00	0.00	678.00	0.00	0.00	21,546.00	3,454.00
5882 UTILITY RELOCATION EXP.	200,000.00	3,965.00	1,080.00	4,522.50	29,205.92	32,535.00	1,250.30	89,828.61	110,171.39
5883 PROJECT LAND CAP. IMPROV.	248,000.00	6,590.00	6,100.00	15,252.00	0.00	0.00	10,210.00	38,702.00	209,298.00
5884 STRUCTURES CAP. IMPROV.	27,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,720.00	0.00	1,900.00	0.00	26,632.58	367.42
	2,123,630.00	158,593.54	59,637.83	86,349.10	193,934.21	118,938.42	92,498.24	1,338,142.70	785,487.30

CLAIMS PAYABLE FOR DECEMBER 2000

ACCT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	EXPLANATION OF CLAIM
5801	CHUCK AGNEW	550.00	PER DIEM FOR 7-1-00 THROUGH 12-31-00
5801	MARION WILLIAMS	50.00	PER DIEM FOR 10-5-00
5801	MARK RESHKIN	100.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 7-1-00 THROUGH 12-31-00
5801	JOHN MROCZKOWSKI	250.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 7-6-00 THROUGH 11-14-00
5801	BOB HUFFMAN	550.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 6-28-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5801	GEORGE CARLSON	350.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 6-28-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5801	CURT VOSTI	650.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 6-28-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5801	ARLENE COLVIN	350.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5801	WILLIAM TANKE	600.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5801	EMERSON DELANEY	450.00	PER DIEM FOR PERIOD 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5811	LOUIS CASALE	283.33	RETAINER FEE BILLED FOR DECEMBER 2000
5811	LOUIS CASALE	400.00	ADDITIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2000
5812	NIRPC	8,964.56	SERVICES PERFORMED NOVEMBER 2000
5812	SANDY MORDUS	4,000.00	ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION
5812	DAN GARDNER	5,500.00	ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION
5812	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE	12.15	OVERNIGHT MAIL SERVICE
5821	ARLENE COLVIN	31.92	MILEAGE 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5821	CHUCK AGNEW	38.64	MILEAGE 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5821	MARK RESHKIN	26.32	MILEAGE 11-8-00 THROUGH 11-18-00
5821	BOB HUFFMAN	83.44	MILEAGE 6-28-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5821	WILLIAM TANKE	121.44	MILEAGE 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5821	EMERSON DELANEY	63.84	MILEAGE 7-6-00 THROUGH 12-13-00
5821	DAN GARDNER	134.12	MILEAGE 12-4-00 THROUGH 12-26-00
5824	VERIZON	113.60	BILLING PERIOD 12/16/00-1/16/01 TOTAL BILL 235.17, KRBC PORTION 121.57
5824	MCI	238.33	BILLING PERIOD 11/15/00-12/14/00 TOTAL BILL 262.75 KRBC 24.42
5825	LORMAN EDUCATION SERVICES	269.00	REGISTRATION FOR SEMINAR
5825	SAND RIDGE BANK	19.75	MEETING EXPENSES INCURRED 12/7/00 FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE
5825	SAND RIDGE BANK	900.48	MEETING EXPENSES INCURRED 12/13/00
5838	LOUIS CASALE	2,127.36	LAND ACQUISITION/LEGAL SERVICES 12/6/00-1/2/01
5841	JANET O'TOOLE & ASSOCIATES	4,400.00	APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR DC-213,213-A,212,211,210,209
5841	JANET O'TOOLE & ASSOCIATES	2,500.00	APPRAISAL SERVICES FOR DC-1104
5842	R. W. ARMSTRONG	8,681.72	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR PERIOD ENDING 12/15/00
5843	MERIDIAN TITLE CORPORATION	275.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1116
5843	MERIDIAN TITLE CORPORATION	275.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1117
5843	MERIDIAN TITLE CORPORATION	275.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1135
5843	MERIDIAN TITLE CORPORATION	275.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1105,1106, & 1107
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-331A
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-331B
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-175
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-427
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-428
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	150.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-576
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-577
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	345.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1002
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1128
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1130
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1164
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1167
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1172
5843	TICOR TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY	270.00	TITLE WORK PREFORMED FOR DC-1391
5844	JAMES POKRAJAC	4,074.00	ENGINEERING/LAND MANAGEMENT 12/1/00-12/15/00
5844	JAMES POKRAJAC	3,402.00	ENGINEERING/LAND MANAGEMENT 12/16/00-12/31/00
5844	JAMES POKRAJAC	160.44	DECEMBER MILEAGE
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	2,430.00	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES 12/1/00-12/15/00
5844	JUDITH VAMOS	1,905.00	LAND ACQUISITION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES 12/16/00-12/31/00
5844	G. LORRAINE KRAY	525.00	CREDITING TECHNICIAN & LAND ACQUISITION ASST 12/1/00-12/15/00
5844	G. LORRAINE KRAY	480.00	CREDITING TECHNICIAN & LAND ACQUISITION ASST 12/16/00-12/31/00

ACCT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	EXPLANATION OF CLAIM
5844	SANDY MORDUS	294.00	CREDITING TECHNICIAN SERVICES 12/1/00-12/15/00
5844	SANDY MORDUS	122.50	CREDITING TECHNICIAN SERVICES 12/27/00-12/31/00
5861	MARIE EWEN	20,000.00	EASEMENT ACQUISITION FOR DC-796
5882	ELGIN JOLIET & EASTERN RWY	1,250.30	UTILITY RELOCATION WORK ON BURR ST BETTERMENT LEVEE
5883	DON WALSH & ASSOCIATES	10,210.00	PAYMENT FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT RE: HANDICAPPED PARK DEVELOPMENT (TO BE REIMBURSED)
TOTAL		92,498.24	



LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
JANUARY 10, 2001

BUDGET TRANSFER

Approval to transfer \$12,000 from Line 5838 (Legal Services) to Line 5812 (NIRPC Services)

RECREATION REPORT

For meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001

(Information in this report is from December 8, 2000 – January 1, 2001)

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Currently, the joint recreation venture with the Army Corps is completed; 85% of the completed east reach levees have stoned trails completed; the remainder of east reach trails should be completed by the fall of 2001.

- A supplemental contract will be released as part of the Stage III remediation project in the late spring of 2001 that will include the paving of all ramps.

RECREATION - PHASE 1.

(This contract includes recreational facilities for Lake Etta, Gleason Park, Stage III (trails), and the OxBow area in Hammond.

A. OXBOW (Hammond)

1. October 28th, 1998 was the date that this facility was turned over to the City of Hammond.

B. GLEASON PARK (Gary Parks & Recreation)

1. October 28th, 1998 was the date this facility was turned over to the Gary Parks and Recreation Department.

C. LAKE ETTA (Lake County Parks)

1. October 27th, 1998 was the date that this facility was turned over to the Lake County parks department.

D. CHASE STREET TRAIL (City of Gary)

1. October 27th, 1998 was the date that this facility was turned over to the City of Gary.

EAST REACH RECREATION

A. We have an existing agreement with Gary for constructing the ramp down from the levee, West of Broadway.

- We received a letter of response from INDOT on October 18 indicating no concerns regarding the crossing as long as we coordinate with the locals, and that a right-of-way permit with them would be required.
- Had a meeting with Roland Elvambuena (Gary City Engineer) on December 6th, 2000, to remind them of our October 18th, 2000 request. We anticipate a response by the end of the year. (We have not received as of January 8, 2001)

B. LCRBDC is going to coordinate a revised recreation trail alignment at Grant Street.

1. The original plan was to run the trail South of the existing levee, along the East side of Gas City. **They originally objected but appear to be re-considering and will meet with us this January.**
2. A meeting is scheduled with Len McEnery (Gas City) General Manager during the week of **January 8-12, 2001**, for re-consideration.

WEST REACH RECREATION

- A. A meeting was held with the COE on November 17th, 2000, to review West Reach recreation.
 1. **The minutes of the meeting not only address west reach recreation features as planned in the FDM5, but requests for changes and/or additions to these features.**
- B. Tri-State recreational trail tie-in for the Highland/Wicker Park/Erie Lackawanna Trail Systems.
 1. **The COE is still in the process of modifying the engineering and real estate drawings. It is still the intent to have this recreation trail on the landside.**
 2. **North Township – Wicker Park recreational trail alignment is being evaluated.**
 - It was mentioned to re-locate the trail from between the golf courses to the existing trail along the West and South boundaries.
 - North Township would not have a problem, but are awaiting information from INDOT for impacts to Indianapolis Blvd. R/W which would cause their existing trail to be re-located.
- C. A letter was sent to the Lake County Highway Dept. on December 28, 2000 requesting permission, and comments, to cantilever a walkway on the east side of the Kennedy Avenue bridge to allow our trail to be contiguous.

1-3

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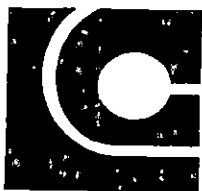
A West Reach recreation discussion meeting was held with the Army Corps of Engineers, town of Highland, city of Hammond, and the LCRBDC on Friday, November 17, 2000 at the Hammond Civic Center. Following are notes of the discussion at this meeting.

In Attendance: Curt Vosti, Hammond Parks & Recreation, member LCRBDC
Bob Huffman, member LCRBDC
George Carlson, member LCRBDC
Alex Brown – Highland Parks & Recreation
Dan Gardner – LCRBDC
James Pokrajac – LCRBDC
Imad Samara – COE Project Manager

1. Curt Vosti questioned the use of the proposed mitigation area from Liable to Cline as part of the overall recreation enhancement to this area.
 - Curt asked if any possibility exists to install a canoe launch, boardwalks, or trail access. This was originally shown in the FDM2 directly south of the river and east of Liable.
 - Imad said this was modified to avoid any construction in the old Highland landfill area.
 - Imad also stated that the money available for those features was used for the Carlson-OxBow Park in Hammond because of its' proximity.
 - Alex Brown stated that Highland may have some future plans for development in the old landfill area for a picnic area, parking, etc.
 - Imad responded that they may be able to provide a ramp off of the proposed levee in the area around Liable near LaPorte Street. This could tie the Highland trail system in with ours. Imad said he would need the request in writing.
2. Dan Gardner mentioned that the use of the "tophat" area had been informally discussed before with the town of Highland and that there was potential to install boardwalks and use the area for observation similar to the Carlson-OxBow Park.
 - Imad mentioned the potential to do this locally where we could tie in this area with the new levee/recreation trail which will be installed in the Stage VI Phase 1 project.
3. Curt Vosti started a discussion on the Carlson-OxBow Park.
 - Curt mentioned about discussion that would tie in the Carlson-OxBow Park to the Highland side by building a bridge across the river and also tying in Hammond north of I-80/94 to the Carlson Park with an overpass.
 - Curt discussed paving the levee crest from Kennedy Avenue eastward to the Carlson Park and Imad said they would consider stoning the crest only because it was not a designated project recreation trail.
 - A request was made by Alex Brown to install a ramp off the levee in the vicinity of the 5th Street Pump Station to allow easy access to the recreation trail from the Homestead Park area. Imad said this also could be included as part of the Stage VI Phase 1 construction, but we should request in writing.
4. The question was raised on how to make the trail contiguous at Kennedy Avenue. The trail is on the south side of the river east of Kennedy, and on the north side west of Kennedy Avenue.
 - Jim Pokrajac stated that the sidewalks on the Kennedy Avenue bridge were too small and that he had discussed the possibility of installing a cantilevered walkway along the east side of the bridge with the Lake County Highway Department.
 - Pokrajac also stated that he had talked with Duane Alverson, Lake County Highway engineer, who said we should submit a detail for their review and comments.

- Imad said this could probably be included as a project cost to allow the contiguity of the trail because of no other options.
5. Curt Vosti requested that a recreation trail be installed northward from our levee west of Kennedy Avenue to the Visitors Center with the potential for parking or picnic facilities.
 - Imad said that we could request a ramp extending from the levee as part of the Stage V Phase 2 project.
 6. Curt Vosti mentioned future plans by the city of Hammond to extend a trail from the north, and east of the NSRR along the NIPSCO R/W and asked what could be done as part of our Stage V Phase 2 construction in this area.
 - Imad once again stated that they could construct a ramp down from our north levee as part of the Stage V Phase 2 construction.
 7. George Carlson asked about the culvert through the levee at the Carlson-OxBow Park and how the water level in the park could be controlled.
 - Jim Pokrajac said he would review the Stage VI Phase 1 plans to confirm whether or not a flap gate would be installed with the control structure.
 - If there is not a flap gate, the level of the water on the landward side could be regulated by opening or closing the control structure.
 8. Curt Vosti questioned the Corps proposal for design and impact to the Riverside Park area as part of the Stage VIII construction segment
 - Imad stated that the designed overflow in that area was approximately 6" below the top elevation of the levee. The levee crest is designed for a 200 year event plus the freeboard and that it would be a rare occurrence for flooding in this area.
 - Imad also explained the reason for the overflow was to allow additional storage in uninhabited areas such as parks, golf courses, etc.
 - Vosti mentioned future plans for Hammond in this designated ponding area and Imad stated that it was OK as long as there were no habitable structures.
 - Imad stated that during construction that the homes north of Riverside Park would be protected by the temporary installation of jersey barriers during the period of degrading the existing levee.
 - Vosti mentioned that the master plan for this area would be completed by the city of Hammond in 2001. Imad said this information should be provided to SEH (Corps A/E for this segment) to minimize impacts.
 9. Curt Vosti had concerns regarding the proposed staging area adjacent to the Jackson Street pump station as indicated on Plate 8 in the FDM5. There is an existing neighborhood park with facilities that could be impacted.
 - Imad said that if our construction impacted this park in the staging area that the contractor would be responsible to replace, or repair, in kind.
 - Imad also said that a staging area is part of a temporary easement that reverts back to the owner 6 months after completion of construction.
 10. Both Vosti and Alex Brown requested copies of the Corps design for signage in their plans and specifications in the West Reach.
 - Pokrajac will send to both.
 11. Curt questioned the money Hammond contributed years ago to the Hohman-State Line protection north of the river and west of Hohman for levee construction and for the pump station which were done to Corps design standards.
 - Dan stated that this was paid locally by the HSD and city of Hammond as per Corps specifications and that the non-federal project accounting had already been credited this amount by the Corps prior to the start of any construction.
 - Dan will produce a letter written by non-federal project accounting the COE to document this.

12. Curt requested that the current proposal to end the trail east of Hohman Avenue be extended westward to allow a connection in the future with a trail system from Illinois.
 - Imad said to get proposal and submit for review. This could then be discussed with the COE and SEH to see if this could be a project cost.
13. Huffman questioned about the possibility of tying our recreation trail system in with the Munster trail system in the area south of the river near Manor Drive.
 - LCRBDC to review possibilities to connect the existing Munster trail that terminates on Manor Drive with ours and how and where we could cross the river to get to our system on the north side of the river.
14. Imad is supposed to send a copy of the FDM4 to Curt Vosti. Curt was interested in reviewing the original costs and what the escalation figures would be incurred over the last 8 years.
 - In addition, Curt and the LCRBDC questioned the scope of work for the Recreation Phase 2 contract.
 - Imad said the scope was already defined and includes several recreation areas, trails, bridges, etc. as outlined in the FDM4.
 - LCRBDC suggested that we re-visit with the COE to see if the community needs for recreation have changed since the FDM4 was done due to now accommodate new recreation trails installed, or to be installed, by Hammond, Munster, and Highland.



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

(219) 763-0696 Fax (219) 762-1653
E-mail: littlecal@nirpc.org

EMERSON DELANEY, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

WILLIAM TANKE, Vice Chairman
Porter County Commissioners' Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's Appointment

CURTIS VOSTI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's Appointment

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources' Appointment

ROBERT HUFFMAN
Governor's Appointment

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI
Governor's Appointment

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS
Lake County Commissioners' Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS GASALE
Attorney

December 28, 2000

4

Mr. Duane Alverson
Lake County Highway Department
1100 E. Monitor
Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Dear Duane:

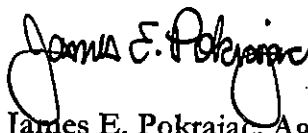
As per our conversation on December 28th, I am writing this letter to request information from Lake County Highway regarding the possibility of installing a cantilever walkway along the east side of the Kennedy Avenue bridge over the Little Calumet River.

The Army Corps of Engineers plan for the recreational trail system is to have the trail east of Kennedy Avenue be south of the river in Highland, and having the trail west of Kennedy Avenue be north of the river in Hammond. We need to cross over the river along the east side of the bridge to gain access to cross at the existing stoplight. The walkable area within the guardrails of the existing bridge is too narrow and it appears the only way to cross would be to cantilever a walkway onto the bridge.

Please advise us as to any requirements, questions, or concerns, that the Lake County Highway Department would have prior to the proceeding of design of this walkway.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please call me at the above number.

Sincerely,



James E. Pokrajac, Agent
Land Management/Engineering

/sjm

cc: Imad Samara, COE
George Carlson, Bob Huffman, Curt Vosti, LCRBDC

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WORK STUDY SESSION
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE
January 10, 2001

Bob Huffman, Committee Chairman

- Dep
checked ✓*
- ✓ 1. A pre-bid meeting was held for the North 5th Street pump station on January 4, 2001. Several local contractors attended. Questions & clarifications are now required which will extend the bid due date from January 10 until February 6, 2001.
 - ✓ 2. The Stage III Remediation contract from Chase to Grant will apparently include miscellaneous "clean-up" work for the East Reach, including recreational trail relocations, paving of ramps, gates, and signage.
 - ✓ 3. We received letters from Highland indicating they do not want ownership of pumps removed as part of the west reach pump station projects.
 - 4. A preliminary compilation of contractual costs have been completed showing original COE cost estimates, estimates at time of bid openings, contract cost, and final contract costs. (Refer to handout).
 - 5. LCRBDC concurs with the Town of Highland that the new electric service for the North 5th Street pump station be a project cost rather than having Highland pay for it as a local cost (in the amount of approximately \$120,000)

PROJECT ENGINEERING
MONTHLY STATUS REPORT
For meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001

(Information in this report is from December 8, 2000 – January 1, 2001))

STATUS (Stage II Phase 1) Harrison to Broadway – North Levee:

1. Project completed on July 10, 1992.
Dyer Construction – Contract price \$365,524

STATUS (Stage II Phase II) Grant to Harrison – South Levee:

1. Project completed on December 1, 1993.
Dyer/Ellas Construction – Contract price \$1,220,386

STATUS (Stage II Phase 3A) Georgia to Martin Luther King – South Levee:

1. Project completed on January 13, 1995.
Ramirez & Marsch Construction – Contract price \$2,275,023

Landscaping Contract (This contract includes all completed levee segments – installing, planting zones, seeding, and landscaping):

1. Dyer Construction – Final contract cost \$1,292,066
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$200,016Project completed June 11, 1999

STATUS (Stage II Phase 3B) Harrison to Georgia – South Levee:

1. Rausch Construction started on 11/20/95. (Construction is approx. 98% complete)
 - Currently \$3,280,112.42 has been spent on this project.
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$183,281.60
 - Balance (to be paid to contractor) \$197,137.00
2. A final inspection with the LCRBDC and the COE will be scheduled for this entire portion of the project, including the pump station, no later than **spring of 2001.**

STATUS (Stage II Phase 3C2) Grant to Harrison: (8A contract)

1. The final inspection, and punch list items have been completed. We received a letter from the COE on November 22nd, 2000, indicating Webb Construction has completed this work in accordance with the provisions of the plans and specs.
 - Currently, \$3,915,178.36 has been spent on this project.
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$463,196
 - Balance (to be paid to contractor) \$189,875

STATUS (Stage II Phase 4) Broadway to MLK Drive – North Levee:

1. Project is approx. 98% completed. (All work is completed except for the pump station.)
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$1,096,378

- Balance (to be paid to contractor) \$11,070
 - Current money spent to date is \$4,175,000
2. A final inspection will be scheduled with the LCRBDC and the COE for this entire project, including the Ironwood stormwater pumping station, no later than **spring of 2001**.

STATUS (STAGE III) Chase to Grant Street:

1. Project completed on May 6th, 1994.
Kiewit Construction – Contract price \$6,564,520.
2. **STAGE III DRAINAGE REMEDIATION PLAN.**
 - A. A coordination meeting was held on November 16th, 2000, with the COE, GSD and LCRBDC to review the Grant St. construction project.
 1. The COE has agreed to engineer and design the stormwater pump station West of Grant and South of the line of protection.
 - **N.W. Engineering sent a letter to INDOT on December 13, 2000 clarifying the scope of work of this project, and completion of drawing review by February 11, 2001.** **1-2**
 - **Minutes of this meeting were received by Greeley and Hansen on November 29, 2000 (Available upon request – 4 pages)**
 - B. Technical review meeting discussed remediation plan on November 1st, 2000.
 - COE estimates approx. \$1 million to do this work. \$800,000 for ditches and pumps, \$50,000 to engineer \$18,500 GPM pump station West of Grant St. & Remainder toward work with the City of Gary.
 - C. **Additional work in the East Reach that would serve as “clean-up” work may be included in this contract.**
 - **A letter was written to the COE on December 28th addressing the paving of ramps, recreation trail tie-ins, gates & bollards, and signage.** **3-5**

STATUS (Stage IV Phase 1 - North) Cline to Burr (North of the Norfolk Southern Railroad:

1. IV-1 (North) The drainage system from Colfax to Burr Street North of the Norfolk Southern RR.
 - A. This project was advertised on November 3rd, 1999, scheduled was awarded to Dillon Contractors on November 30th, 1999, and received the notice to proceed on January 14th, 2000. (Project currently approx. 90% complete.) Projected completion in Spring 2001.
 - B. The low bidder was Dillon Contractors, Inc. with a total base bid of \$2,708,720, which was approximately 80% of the government estimate.
 - Extras on contract - \$292,771.00
 - Balance (to pay) - \$1,608,719.00

STATUS (Stage IV Phase 1 – South) (South of the N.S. RR.)

1. The pre-bid meeting was held on February 23rd, 2000. Bid due date is March 7th, 2000, price range \$5 - \$10 million – small business set aside
 - A. Bid opening was held on March 29th, 2000.
 - Dyer Construction was low bidder at approximately \$3.8 million. The COE estimate for this project was \$4.2 million.

- B. Overall construction is approx. 60% complete, approx. 90% of the clay is placed, sheet piling is approx. 70% completed. Colfax to Calhoun Streets piling is approx. 75% complete.
2. 450 days to complete (hopeful September 2001 completion of landscaping.)
3. We received a cost estimate from the EJ & E RR on July 8th, 2000, in the amount of \$22,758. **(This is anticipated to be done in the spring 2001)**
 - We are awaiting a cost estimate from the N.S.RR to do the work on their adjacent spur, and a letter of authorization allowing the EJ&E to do the work with their labor.
4. We received a letter from the COE on September 11th, 2000, reviewing a cost estimate in the amount of \$37,960 for the radio ground system repair by WIND radio. COE estimate is \$22,270 – WIND said their estimate only represented ballpark figures.
 - A. We have an agreement with WIND to pay for their time to provide field supervision during excavation or sheet piling, installation in areas where there are impacts to underground lines.
 - **We have been billed approximately 50% at this point in time. Remainder anticipated for spring, 2001.**

STATUS (Stage IV Phase 2A) Burr to Clark – Lake Etta:

1. Dyer Construction-95% complete.
 - A. Currently, \$3,477,249.66 has been spent on this project.
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$183,281.00
 - Balance (to be paid to contractor) \$197,137.00
2. The North Burr Street stormwater pumping station has been completed.
 - A. A meeting was held on February 8th, 2000, with the COE and GSD to review design and installation of auxiliary power hook-up with a portable generator.
 - This will be done as an addendum to the contract with Dyer Construction subcontracting the work. Anticipated start **spring of 2001**; anticipated completion **summer of 2001**.
3. A final inspection will be scheduled with the LCRBDC and the COE for this entire project, including the pump station **in spring of 2001**.

STATUS (Stage IV Phase 2B) Clark to Chase

1. 100% of levee construction has been completed, and the projected overall completion is for the **spring of 2001**. A final inspection will be held approximately **mid-June** with the LCRBDC prior to turnover.
2. Project money status:
 - \$1,938,358 has been spent.
 - Overrun (over original bid) \$408,000
 - Balance (to be paid to contractor) \$155,980

STATUS (Betterment Levee – Phase 1) E.J. & E. Railroad to, and including Colfax North of the NIPSCO R/W (Drainage from Arbogast to Colfax, South of NIPSCO R/W):

1. The bid opening was held on May 9th, 2000
 - The low bidder is Dyer Construction.
 - Government estimate is \$2,108,500 and Dyer bid \$2,078,523.

2. Overall construction is approx. 65% complete, and the overall construction is expected to be completed in August 2001.
 - The clay base plate is installed and approx. 90% overall of the clay is placed.
 - Colfax Road raise is scheduled to start in the spring of 2001. Material is currently being stockpiled adjacent to that area.
 - The cutoff wall for the EJ&E embankment started in mid-October and is completed on both sides. Cutoff work has been done on the Griffith side. Earthwork on both sides is scheduled for the Spring of 2001.

STATUS (Betterment Levee – Phase 2) Colfax to Burr Street, then North NSRR, then East (North of RR R/W) ½ between Burr and Clark, back over the RR, then South approx. 1,400 feet:

1. Current schedule is to complete 50% engineering by **January of 2001**; award contract by July 2001; and a construction start of September 2001 – 360 days to complete.

STATUS (Stage V Phase 1) Wicker Park Manor:

1. Project completed on September 14, 1995.
Dyer Construction – Contract price \$998,630
2. Phillips Pipeline directional bore under the existing levee is currently being engineered by Phillips. **Awaiting their design and cost by April, 2001.**

STATUS (Stage V Phase 2):

1. At the June 7th, 2000 partnering meeting, the current schedule shows a March 2002 advertising date.
2. A letter was sent to the COE on June 21st enclosing the location survey work for the Tri-State bus terminal. Asked for engineering re-considerations for the location of the I-wall.
 - We received a letter of response from the COE on October 13th, 2000, indicating errors in the original design plan. Upcoming changes to plans and real estate are forthcoming. (Discussed at the November 1st, 2000 technical review meeting.)
 - **We are awaiting design and real estate modifications as of January 10, 2001.**
3. A utility coordination meeting was held on November 16th, 2000 with all pipelines, utilities, etc. that will be impacted in the NIPSCO corridor West of Kennedy Ave.
 - LCRBDC submitted comments on meeting minutes and recommendations for coordination on November 28th and 29th, 2000.
 - Sent email to the COE on November 21st, 2000, confirming necessity of locating the pipes in this corridor (should have been done by Stanley Assoc. (COE P/E for this project.) **Awaiting response.**

STATUS (Stage V Phase 3) Woodmar Country Club:

1. Refer to Land Acquisition report for status of appraisal process and revised schedule.
 - As per our June 7th, 2000 partnering meeting, the schedule shows a March 2002 advertising date.
2. Appraisal work ongoing (refer to Land Acquisition report).
3. Our attorney sent a letter to the COE on December 4th, 2000, referring to Woodmar concerns regarding alternative methods of construction or design of flood protection. (Refer to Land Acquisition report.)

STATUS Stage VI – Phase 1 (Cline to Kennedy – North of the river, and Kennedy to Liabe, South of the river.):

1. A utility coordination meeting was held with the Town of Highland and City of Hammond on September 12th, 2000, to update original Stage VI – plans from 1996 and gather information on new or proposed utilities.
2. Legal descriptions North of the river have been completed by GLE, and legals South of the river have been completed by DLZ (refer to Land Acquisition report).

STATUS Stage VI – Phase 2 (Liable to Cline – South of the river.):

1. Rani Engineering was awarded the A/E contract by the COE in January 2000. (They are out of St. Paul, Minnesota.)
2. 50% plans and specs, and real estate drawings were submitted to LCRBDC & town of Highland for comments on December 6th (letter dated November 21, 2000)
 - LCRBDC responded with comments on December 28, 2000 and the town of Highland responded on December 29, 2000.

6
7-8

STATUS (Stage VII) Northcote to Columbia:

1. The final contract with Earth Tech to do the A/E work for this stage/phase of construction was signed and submitted by the COE on December 21st, 1999.
2. A final value engineering review was done by the LCRBDC and sent to the COE on July 25th, 2000. These concerns have been addressed and **have been** implemented into their 50% BCOE plans.
 - This was discussed at our November 1st, 2000 technical review meeting and the COE agreed to review these on an individual basis. LCRBDC to comprise a list.
3. 50% BCOE review was completed by the LCRBDC on December 4th, 2000, and submitted to the COE. This includes requests from Dr. Mark Reshkin regarding impacts adjacent to driving sheet piling. (A more detailed breakdown is available upon request.)
 - A meeting is scheduled with the COE and Earthtech on December 14th, 2000, to review major concerns and complete information exchange for the 50% BCOE
4. A public meeting will be scheduled with both communities around the middle of January. (This will be after the 50% BCOE review process).

STATUS (Stage VIII) Columbia to the Illinois State Line):

1. The A/E award was given to S.E.H. (Short, Elliot & Henderson Inc.)
2. A utility coordination meeting was held with Munster and Hammond on October 11th, 2000, and with the affected utility companies on October 12th, 2000.

East Reach Remediation Area – North of I-80/94, MLK to I-65:

1. Dyer Construction is the contractor. Construction was started on September 13th, 1999, and is anticipated to be completed by September 30, 2000.
2. Contract price - \$1,657,913
Extras - \$145,483
Balance (to be paid to contractor) - \$287,950
3. The entire project is completed with the exception of minor gate and sign installations. Anticipated inspection should be scheduled for spring of 2001.

West Reach Pump Stations – Phase 1A:

1. The four (4) pump stations that are included in this initial West Reach pump station project are Baring, Walnut, S. Kennedy, and Hohman/Munster.
2. Pump station Government estimate was \$2,915,265 – Low bid was \$4,638,400 (63% overrun). Notice to proceed issued November 7th, 2000 – 700 days to complete – October 2002.
 - A. Overstreet Construction was awarded the contract at the higher amount based upon a court decision. (They are from Florida.)
 - B. A pre-construction meeting was held on November 27th, 2000, to discuss scheduling, establish points of contact, and coordination.
 - Anticipated start for Baring is July 2001, Hohman/Munster in August 2001, and S. Kennedy and Walnut in September 2001. Anticipated completion is October 2002.

West Reach Pump Stations – Phase 1B:

1. The Two (2) pump stations included in this contract are S.E. Hessville (Hammond), and 81st Street (Highland).
2. The current COE schedule, as per our January 26th, 2000 coordination meeting, is to start construction by late September – 350 days to complete.
 - Pumps have been ordered and are expected for delivery in the late spring of 2001.
3. Thieneman Construction (from Griffith, IN) was the successful bidder.
 - The government estimate was \$2,092,000
The low bid was \$1,963,400, which was under estimated by \$128,600

West Reach Pump Stations – General

1. We received an e-mail from the COE on January 2, 2001 with a breakdown of pump disposal for each project (who keeps the existing pumps after removal- the contractor or the community).
 - We received a letter from Highland indicating they do not want the pumps from 81st (Contract 1B)

North Fifth Avenue Pump Station:

1. We received a request from the COE on July 5th, 2000 (dated June 28th, 2000) to complete 100% review of P. & S. for this station. We submitted our comments on July 17th, 2000.
2. The town of Highland submitted a letter to the COE dated December 8th, 2000, requesting that the electric transformer cost of \$120,000 be part of the project.
 - LCRBDC wrote a letter of support to the COE on December 28, 2000 concurring with their request.
3. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for this project on January 4, 2001 at the Highland Town Hall.
 - LCRBDC has contacted several local contractors to attend this meeting.

GENERAL:

1. Alternate Concrete Formliners:
 - A. The COE has agreed to using the formliner for their base bid on all future projects (where applicable) and will bid the "fin-type" finish as an alternate.
2. Utility Re-locations:
 - A. On June 7, 2000 a coordination meeting was held with the COE and the LCRBDC to review, discuss, and establish an accelerated schedule to complete the entire west reach.
 - B. Lou Casale submitted a utility relocation memo to Don Valk (COE attorney) on September 5th, 2000, requesting review and comments for reimbursement on public right-of-ways. (No response as of November 3rd, 2000.)
 - **At our December 5th Real Estate meeting, attorney again suggested a meeting to review this. We will try to schedule it no later than mid-February, 2001.**
3. A meeting of review was held on November 29th, 2000, with INDOT to review future plans for highways along, and adjacent to, our project including I-80/94, I-65, Cline Ave., Georgia St., MLK Dr., Grant and Broadway Streets.
 - The schedule tentatively will start construction approximately in the Summer of 2002, and continue through to 2008, at a total projected cost of \$250,000,000.

North-West Engineering Co., Inc.
— Consulting Engineering —

504 Broadway - Suite 1028 - Gary, Indiana 46402

Phone: (219) 882-6856

FAX: (219) 882-6867

December 13, 2000

Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Ave., Room N601
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2228

Attention: Mr. Bruno Canzian,
Chief Local Transportation Section

RE: Proposed South Grant Street Stormwater Sewer
and Pump Station, I-80/94 to Ridge Road - Gary, IN
Submittal of Field Check Drawings

Dear Mr. Canzian:

There is some clarification that needs to be done before the review of the field check plans for the above referenced project. The above project has two components the storm sewer pipes and pump station. The storm sewer and sewer pipes are designed by North-West Engineering whereas the Army Corps of Engineers is designing the pump station. At this time no drawings are submitted by the Army Corps of Engineers. In view of their nonsubmittal the following sheets are incomplete and hence are not submitted along with the field check plans (Sheet 6, 24 and 26). Mr. Bob Rhoades was apprised of this situation and since the Army Corps of Engineers have not sent any drawings or design concepts it was decided by Mr. Rhoades that any preliminary design study report if submitted will be incomplete at this time. Hence it is decided to submit the preliminary design study report after the field check was conducted.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Aravind Muzumdar

ARAVIND MUZUMDAR, P.E.,
President

AM

Enclosure

cc: Robert Rhoades, Area Eng., Local Asst., INDOT
James Meyer, GSD Attorney
Dan Gardner, Executive Director, LCRBDC
Roland Elvambuena, P.E., Gary City Engineer
Charles Peller, Director, Dept. of Public Works, City of Gary
Holly Butcher, Transportation Planner, NIRPC

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North-West Engineering Co., Inc.

— Consulting Engineering —

504 Broadway - Suite 1028 - Gary, Indiana 46402

Phone: (219) 882-6856

FAX: (219) 882-6867

December 13, 2000

Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Ave., Room N601
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2228

Attention: Mr. Bruno Canzian,
Chief Local Transportation Section

RE: Proposed South Grant Street Stormwater Sewer
and Pump Station, I-80/94 to Ridge Road - Gary, IN
Submittal of Field Check Drawings

Dear Mr. Canzian:

This project will be designed in two phases -

Phase I - Stormwater sewers and pump station

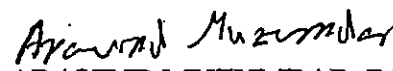
Phase II - Road Improvements with an Auxiliary Lane

At this time we are submitting the Field Check Drawings for the stormwater sewers and pump station. Note that North-West Engineering Company is designing the sewers and the US COE is designing the pump station for the City of Gary.

We respectfully request the review of these drawings be completed and with the physical field check by February 11, 2001. NIRPC has set this date as the deadline by which time the field check to be completed.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

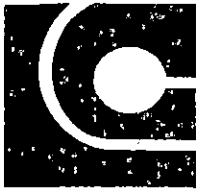

ARAVIND MUZUMDAR, P.E.,
President

AM

Enclosure

cc: Robert Rhoades, Area Eng., Local Asst., INDOT
James Meyer, GSD Attorney
Dan Gardner, Executive Director, LCRBDC
Roland Elvambueña, P.E., Gary City Engineer
Charles Peller, Director, Dept. of Public Works, City of Gary
Holly Butcher, Transportation Planner, NIRPC

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Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

(219) 763-0696 Fax (219) 762-1653
E-mail: littlecal@nirpc.org

EMERSON DELANEY, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

WILLIAM TANKE, Vice Chairman
Porter County Commissioners' Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's Appointment

CURTIS VOSTI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's Appointment

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources' Appointment

ROBERT HUFFMAN
Governor's Appointment

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI
Governor's Appointment

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS
Lake County Commissioners' Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE
Attorney

December 28, 2000

Mr. Imad Samara
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206

Dear Imad:

We received a set of prints on December 5th for our review regarding "Stage III - Drainage Remediation" for access ramps to be paved. These plans appear to be very preliminary and include eleven (11) details of various ramps from Burr Street to MLK Drive in the east reach. As per previous field meetings with the COE, we received your concurrence that these ramps should be paved due to re-occurring erosion problems of the stone on the recreation trails. It was also our understanding that this would be done as part of the Stage III - Drainage remediation contract. It is the intent of this letter to comment on these ramps as well as other items that may be able to be included as part of this contract. Our comments regarding these issues are as follows:

Item #1 - Currently, all recreation trails have been completed from Burr Street to MLK Drive. Paving of all ramps should be done from existing street (pavement edge - where applicable) to a field-determined point past where the trail levels off.

Item #2 - With the exception of Grant Street and Broadway, #1 is applicable.

- Grant Street - We are scheduled to have a meeting with Gas City during the week of January 1-5, 2001 to re-visit the modified trail installation along the east side of their truck stop. After a recent conversation, it appears they may reconsider this request. If this is acceptable, we would proceed with additional easement agreements and permits to install this trail.
- Broadway - We have received written approval from INDOT to relocate our recreation trail off of the existing levee west of Broadway,

then along the sidewalks on both sides of Broadway and crossing at the light on 33rd Avenue. Their only comment was to be in compliance with local codes and requirements. However, the city of Gary has not yet responded to our written request to our proposal and we are still pursuing this with them.

Item #3 – A recreation access ramp will need to be installed east of Gas City to come down off of the existing levee as well as approximately 1200 linear feet of trail southward to 32nd Avenue. In addition, a ramp needs to be installed down from the existing levee west of Grant and south of the Flying J Truck Stop, along with the trail connection along Grant and 32nd Avenue. A third recreation access ramp will need to be installed north of I.U. Northwest, west of Broadway and all related work to reconnect the trail south of the river and east of Broadway.

Item #4 – As per previous requests, we need to assure that any gates or bollards, either installed or to be installed, for any trails or other access, need to be at a distance that will allow a vehicle to pull off the roadway for safety reasons to either open the gate or remove the bollard.

Item #5 – We would also request that all existing, or future, removable bollards have handles installed for safer and easier removal and to have the “raised latch and lock system” similar to the one east of Burr Street be installed to allow easier access and keep the locks off of the ground.

Item #6 – A number of existing gates are out of alignment and cannot be closed and locked. This needs to be corrected.

Item #7 – As we have requested in the past, we would like all settlement gages lowered and/or removed to a minimum depth of 6” below the surface of the top of the levee to allow maintenance to mow levees or to regrade stone on the recreation trails.

Item #8 – We have previously requested that areas where “interlocking blocks” were used on ramps be removed and replaced with an adequately stoned roadway. Some areas have already been damaged by emergency vehicles and need to be replaced.

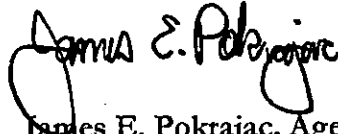
Item #9 – We need to assure that adequate barriers be installed adjacent to access points to assure trespassers cannot go around.

Item #10 – Any signage indicating “end of trail” should be removed with the exception of MLK Drive or at Hohman Avenue.

Mr. Imad Samara
December 28, 2000
Page 3

These items need to be addressed at some point in time prior to our acceptance of any levee segments, either as part of the overall east reach recreation trail system, or to assure safety, maintenance, or security to the already installed segments. We would like to discuss and coordinate these items with you and will be available to help facilitate as necessary.

Sincerely,



James E. Pokrajac, Agent
Land Management/Engineering

/sjm

cc: Tom Deja, COE
Emmett Clancy, COE
Jan Plachta, COE
Tim Kroll, COE
Eric Sampson, COE
James O'Riley, COE
Curt Vosti, LCRBDC

5



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 21, 2000

Programs and Project Management Division
Project Management Branch

Mr. James E. Pokrajac
Agent, Land Acquisition
Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, Indiana 46368

Subject: Little Calumet River Flood Control Project, Stage VI, Phase 2

Dear Mr. Pokrajac;

Enclosed find please a set of the Little Calumet River, Indiana, Local Flood Protection Project, Stage VI, Phase 2, Plans and Specifications with Real Estate drawings for 50% BCOE review. The review comments to be mailed to this office by December 18, 2000. Thanks you for your assistance.

If you have any additional questions please contact me at the telephone number 312-353-6400, extension 1801, or FAX 312-353-4256.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jan S. Plachta", is written over the typed name.

Jan S. Plachta, P.E.
Project Engineer

Encl.



December 28, 2000

Mr. Jan S. Plachta, P.E.
Corps of Engineers
Chicago District
111 North Canal Street, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

Re: Little Calumet River Levee
Stage VI-2
50% BCOE Comments

Dear Mr. Plachta:

With this letter we are transmitting our comments on the 50% plans and specifications. Please excuse the delay in providing these comments.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to call.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Armstrong & Associates, Inc.

James J. Flora, Jr., P.E.
Vice President

JJF:kf
002060.90
Attachment

cc: Dan Gardner, LCRBDC
Jim Pokrajac, LCRBDC

P. 219.738.2258 F. 219.738.2259

8300 BROADWAY MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410-6251

WEB SITE: www.rwarmstrong.com

7



municipal, civil, environmental & transportation engineering

December 29, 2000

Mr. Jan Plachta
US Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal St., Ste 600
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

RE: Highland, Indiana
Little Calumet River Flood Protection Stage VI, Phase II
50% Review Comments

Dear Mr. Plachta:

On behalf of the Town of Highland, we have reviewed the plans and specifications submitted in the November 21, 2000 letter signed by Jan S. Plachta, P.E.. Enclosed is a list of 50% review comments from the Town of Highland for the Little Calumet River Flood Protection Stage VI, Phase II Project. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,
NIES Engineering, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence J. Hodnik", is written over a horizontal line.

Terrence J. Hodnik, P.E.
Principal

Cc: Highland Town Council
Highland Board of Sanitary Commissioners
Mr. Jim Pokrajac, LCRBDC
Mr. John Bach
Mr. Jack Lannon

Jim Pokrajac:

As you requested, I have reviewed the disposal requirements for the pumps and motors on the three Pump Station Rehab projects/contracts assigned to our office. Brief summaries of the requirements are as follows:

- **Pump Stations Rehabilitation, Phase 1B** - Per the contract, the old pumps and motors removed from the 81st pump station were to have been delivered to the Highland Sanitary District. However, representatives of the Town of Highland have recently requested USACE to have the contractor dispose of them. (See enclosed Town of Highland letter dated 12-5-00). As a result of this change, the pumps and motors will now be the property of the contractor.

The pumps and motors at the SE Hesseville pump station will be delivered to the Hammond Sanitary District, as indicated in the contract.

- **Pump Stations Rehabilitation, Phase 1A** - Per the contract, the old pumps and motors being removed (not being rebuilt) from the four pump stations, Baring Avenue, South Kennedy Avenue, Hohman/Munster Avenue, and Walnut Avenue, will be the property of and disposed by the contractor.
- **North 5th Avenue Pump Station** - Per the contract, the old pumps and motors removed from the North 5th Avenue pump station will be the property of and disposed of by the contractor.

Jim, if you would like to know how the disposition of pumps and motors was arrived at prior to contract award, please contact Imad Samara at the COE Chicago District Office. I feel he would know who the players were during the contract review process.

Thanks,

Bob Craib

CO-C-0035

MISC. CORRESP.

December 5, 2000

To: Bob Craib
US Army Corp of Engineers

From: Mike Pipta
Town of Highland

Re: Pump disposal

The Town of Highland does not wish to keep the pumps and motors from the 81st Street. Thieneman Construction may dispose of them as they wish.

Mike Pipta
Mike Pipta
Town of Highland



TOWN OF HIGHLAND

Highland Municipal Building • 3333 Ridge Road

Highland, Indiana 46322

219-838-1080 • Fax 219-972-5097



Population 23,696

Incorporated in 1910

December 8, 2000

Mr. Imad Samara, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal St., Ste 600
Chicago, IL 60606-7206

RE: Highland, Indiana
North 5th Street Stormwater Pump Station
Electric Service Upgrade Cost Reimbursement

Dear Mr. Samara:

As you are aware, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has designed rehabilitation improvements to the Town of Highland's 5th Street Stormwater Pump Station as part of the levee system improvement project along the Little Calumet River. The pump station rehabilitation project will include replacement of all ten of the existing stormwater pumps. We understand that the project will be released for bidding on or about December 1, 2000. During project design, USACE asked the Town of Highland to coordinate with the local utility, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), for any electric service upgrades required for the rehabilitated pump station. The status of the electric service coordination, preliminary costs and a request for inclusion of the upgrade costs in the overall project cost, paid for in part with Federal funds, are summarized in the following paragraphs.

The Town initiated a request to NIPSCO for a review of electric service upgrade needs at the 5th Street Pump Station in correspondence dated July 19, 2000. NIPSCO has completed their preliminary analyses and has offered two alternates for upgrading electric service from the existing 1000kva to a proposed 2500kva. **Alternate 1** comprises a complete replacement of the substation and transformer. An advantage of **Alternate 1** is that it offers completely new electric and wood structure components. NIPSCO estimates the cost of **Alternate 1** at \$168,000. **Alternate 2** would reuse existing substation power poles, primary wires and insulators, expand the transformer pad by 4ft to the west, and provide a new 2500kva transformer. A disadvantage of **Alternate 2** is the reuse of some older components. NIPSCO estimates the cost of **Alternate 2** at \$120,000. NIPSCO also estimates that either alternate will experience only a one day out-of-service period during construction. The Town does not have these cost proposals

TOWN COUNCIL

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President

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Vice-President

ROBERT HELMER

JOHN J. BOENDER

MICHAEL O'DONNELL

JOHN M. BACH
Public Works Director

RHETT TAUBER
Attorney

CLERK - TREASURER

MICHAEL W. GRIFFIN



in writing from NIPSCO, but a telephone call on November 28, 2000 from NIPSCO's Marketing Department provided costs verbally. In our opinion, **Alternate 2** offers the lowest initial cost for an electric service upgrade with the reuse of primary side components not a significant issue. Accordingly, we are pursuing an agreement with NIPSCO to obtain **Alternate 2** improvements at a cost of \$120,000.

At this point, we would like to present our opinion of why an electrical service upgrade is needed at the North 5th Street Pump Station. Although design flow capacities of the ten pumps have essentially remained the same, the total dynamic head against which the pumps must work has increased. Total dynamic head allowances, as designed by USACE, for Storm Water Pumps (SWP's) 3, 4 and 5 have increased from 23.5ft for existing pumps to 28.2ft for new pumps, and for SWP's 8, 9 and 10 from 18ft for existing pumps to 25.3ft for new pumps. This increase in total dynamic head requirements is directly related to higher design water levels in the Little Calumet River which are now allowed by the presence of the levee system itself. Pump motor horsepower increases directly as the value of total dynamic head increases. As shown on the enclosed Exhibit A tabulation, taken from the USACE Project Design Manual, Attachment D, motor horsepowers for SWP's 3, 4 and 5 have increased from 100hp to 125hp and for SWP's 8, 9 and 10 from 200hp to 250hp. The increase in horsepower for these pumps is directly related to increased kva ratings required for the incoming electric service to the pump station.

USACE's Feature Design Memorandum 5, West Levee Reach System, Vol. 5 of 5, page J-7 provides the following information relative to cost sharing requirements: "The pump stations are considered to be a part of the line of protection; hence, all modifications required to bring the station up to current safety codes and project operating standards are considered to be project costs and are cost shared in accordance with the Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA) between the Chicago District and the Sponsor..." We believe that electric service upgrade costs are project costs, required in order to pump to higher design water levels, which, in turn, requires higher head capacity ratings on the pumps, requiring higher horsepower motors, requiring increased electric service capacity. Pumping to higher design water levels is part of bringing the station up to "project operating standards".

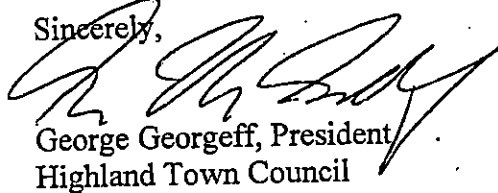
Exhibit B is an electric load summary produced by USACE engineers for the upgraded 5th Street Stormwater Pump Station. From this information, the maximum ½ hour peak electric load has been estimated by NIES Engineering, Inc., as listed in Exhibit C. The maximum ½ hour peak load of 1620.57kva has been utilized by NIPSCO to size the upgraded electric service components. We estimate that about 300kva has been added to the electric load summary by the increased horsepower requirements on SWP's 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10. This means that the maximum ½ hour peak load would have been about 1320.57kva for the existing stormwater pump station prior to upgrading by USACE. The existing 1000kva transformer could have safely been operated at 125% of its rated load, or 1250kva. Based on this analyses, almost all of the requirement for an upgraded electric service is related to increased horsepower for these six pumps, which is required to bring the station to project operating standards.

Given the 1620.57kva maximum ½ hour peak electric load, and NIPSCO's decision to provide a 2500kva transformer, we asked NIPSCO why a 1500kva transformer could not be used to reduce electric service upgrade costs. We were advised that NIPSCO has standardized on

transformer sizing such that they stock 1000kva and 2500kva transformers, but no in between sizes. In this case, a customer could choose to purchase a smaller transformer, such as a 1500kva, instead of the 2500kva, but if the 1500kva unit failed, there would be no backup transformer in stock to replace it. Staying with the 2500kva transformer sizing means that NIPSCO would normally have a 2500kva unit in stock to replace it. The Town cannot be without stormwater pumping capability at this location for the sixteen weeks it might take to purchase and deliver a 1500kva transformer replacement. Viewed from this perspective, the additional system redundancy of having a NIPSCO transformer replacement available is considered critical to overall station reliability.

In summary, the Town believes that the need for an electric service upgrade is related to higher pumping heads required by the levee system design and we request that the cost for upgrading the electric service be included as a project cost, shared in accordance with the Local Cooperation Agreement. If you have any questions concerning data presented in this correspondence, please contact Mr. Terry Hodnik of NIES Engineering, Inc. at 219-844-8680 or Mr. John Bach, Director of Public Works at 219-972-5069.

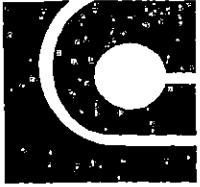
Sincerely,



George Georgeff, President
Highland Town Council

cc: Mr. Dan Gardner, LCRBDC
Mr. Jim Flora, R. W. Armstrong

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Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

(219) 763-0696 Fax (219) 762-1653
E-mail: littlecal@nirpc.org

EMERSON DELANEY, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

WILLIAM TANKE, Vice Chairman
Porter County Commissioners' Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's Appointment

CURTIS VOSTI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's Appointment

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources' Appointment

ROBERT HUFFMAN
Governor's Appointment

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI
Governor's Appointment

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS
Lake County Commissioners' Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE
Attorney

December 28, 2000

Mr. Imad Samara
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206


Dear Imad:

We received a copy of a letter addressed to you dated December 8, 2000 signed by Town President George Georgeff regarding electric service upgrade to the rehabilitated North 5th Street storm water pump station. The letter requested that the cost for the electric service upgrade be considered a project cost and included a detailed analysis why the upgrade cost should be a project cost. The increase in horsepower needed relates to increased KVA ratings that are required by NIPSCO to accommodate the incoming electric service to the pump station. This requirement in our view is not a betterment but an operating and safety requirement of the power utility.

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission fully concurs with Highland's letter and requests you determine the cost of electric service upgrade to be a project cost.

Please provide a written response to this request at your earliest convenience, as you are aware that the contractor's pre-bid meeting is scheduled for January 4th in Highland. A prompt response will ensure the project continues to move forward in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,


Dan Gardner
Executive Director

/sjm
cc:

Jan Plachta, COE
George Georgeff, Highland Town President
John Bach, Public Works, Highland
Terry Hodnik, NIES Engineering, Hammond
James Flora, R.W. Armstrong Company



WORK STUDY SESSION

10 JANUARY 2001

LAND ACQUISITION / MANAGEMENT REPORT

CHUCK AGNEW, CHAIRMAN

- 1.) There are no increased offers.
There are no condemnations.
- 2.) We are in the process of acquiring two parcels of land in the East Reach Remediation Area, each owner possessing a Lamar Adverting billboard sign lease. Owners have used these sign leases as part of their negotiations. LCRBDC has spoken with Lamar about previous sign leases (over a year old) which still have outstanding Lamar charges on them. No new sign agreements will be signed until Lamar finalizes old agreements.
- 3.) We requested the COE eliminate acquisitions on the University Park Medical Center because of topographical changes. The University Park parking lot is now higher, at a raised elevation, than was originally surveyed based on 1984 aerial data. We are waiting for a response.
- 4.) Woodmar Country Club Update:
Appraiser Dale Kleszynski will be contacting a golf course architect and golf course construction expert to meet with him and Wicker Park Appraiser John Snell to discuss aspects of both acquisitions. Both appraisers have previously indicated this would be part of both appraisals.

Permit Number:

Area Impacted:

Replacement Ratio:

Acres of Replacement Mitigation:

Kind of Replacement Mitigation:

Location: Include USGS topographical map. Mitigation area must be located adjacent to existing fish and wildlife habitat where possible.

Plans: Include plan view of site and any necessary diagrams to show ground cover types, hydrology controls, etc.

Hydrology: If wetland mitigation, explain source of wetland hydrology.

Herbaceous Vegetation: List species and amounts (# plants, lbs seed, etc).

Tree Planting: List species and numbers. A minimum of ____ species is required. Trees must be planted in spring only. Hard mast species must be favored.

Site Prep: Explain process of preparing site for planting.

Success Criteria: After three growing seasons there must be 70% survival of planted trees. An acceptable success criteria must be developed for herbaceous species. If wetland, sufficient wetland hydrology conditions must exist at end of monitoring period.

Special Requirements:

Timetable: The mitigation must be implemented no later than the spring/summer following the loss of the existing habitat. Give specific dates.

Conservation Easement: A copy of a legal conservation easement which protects the mitigation site in perpetuity from disturbance must be provided within 90 days of project initiation. The development of the easement must be coordinated with a DNR attorney.

Monitoring Statement: A report will be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife by December 31 of each year to monitor the initiation, progress, and success of the mitigation site. The report will include appropriate photographs of hydrology controls, vegetative plantings, and other required features. A narrative will describe the activity accomplished to date, acres seeded, number of trees planted, and the progress of other requirements of the mitigation plan. Reports will be submitted each year, even if work has not been initiated on the site, and continue to be submitted for a maximum of three years after work initiation, or until the mitigation site is complete and determined to be successful. If after three years after work initiation the site is not determined to be successful, the permit will be considered to be in violation, and another plan will be submitted for approval.



GRIFFITH CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 33
GRIFFITH, INDIANA 46319

*Received
1/9/01
J.S.*



January 8, 2001

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

Dan,

Sandy O'Brien has been watching the development of the Corps of Engineers mitigation project closely and we at the Izaak Walton League are very grateful for her vigilance. We have too many things to do and not enough members to do them.

I am disappointed that this mitigation problem has not yet been settled.

It appears that the Little Calumet River Basin Commission is still considering the Lake Erie Land proposal. Why is this? The Indiana DNR and DEM and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have visited both sites and have stated their support the Hobart Marsh site. This in itself should put an end to the debate.

Congressman Visclosky supports the Hobart Marsh and if it were not for him, there would be no Little Cal project.

The DNR requires that the mitigation be for forested wetland and the land the LEL offers was not a forested wetland nor can it be made to grow a forested wetland.

Then we must consider the price of each project. There again, the Hobart Marsh site would cost only one-third what the Lake Erie Land proposal would.

This debate on this should have been over long ago.

I have to assume that the only reason this has not yet been resolved is because of political pressure being applied by LEL. For this reason, any members of the LCRBDC board of directors that have any kind of tie to LEL or to NIPSCO should excuse themselves from any action that may be required of the board.

This is how I see this situation. The LCRBDC is still considering an offer for mitigation by LEL that no other agencies support, that the local Congressman does not support, that will cost three times as many tax dollars, and finally, will not work or satisfy the state permits.

For the record, the Griffith chapter of the Izaak Walton League still supports the mitigation site as was agreed at the July 15, 1999 meeting between all the agencies involved. We support the

Hobart Marsh site because of the increased benefits of a larger preserve and the fact that the cost and success of the mitigation requires that the LEL site be removed from consideration.

Thank you,

Jim Sweeney, chairman
Conservation Committee
Griffith Izaak Walton League
c/o 1773 Selo Dr.
Schererville, IN 46375

Imad Samara, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District,
CELRC-PP-PM, 111 N. Canal St., Chicago, IL 60606-7206

Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington
St., Rm. W-273, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Representative Peter Visclosky (attention Mark Lopez) 215 W. 35th Ave,
Gary, IN 46408

Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM, 100 N. Senate Ave., PO Box 6015,
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015



The National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection

State Coordinator

Dan Gardner, Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I am writing to express my concerns over the potential mishandling of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. As a member of REP America, the National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection, I am always concerned when I see taxpayer funds being mishandled, and further outraged when it results in environmental damage. An effort to give the Hobart Marsh project to Lake Erie Land seems to do both.

Why has so much effort has been made to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land when their land is unsuitable for the mitigation and they have stated they want \$11.1 million or more to do it. [Hobart Marsh might be done for about \$3.4 million.] It is a violation of the public trust to set up this taxpayer-funded mitigation project to go to private business like LEL. Furthermore, Commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should recuse themselves from the mitigation issue.

Going with Hobart Marsh shows fiscal responsibility. The land is still reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work is going to be cheaper because working with Mother Nature to restore what once was is easier than trying to create something new (as LEL would have to do because their land was a shallow lake). Why should taxpayers pay an extra \$5 to 7 million for LEL's profit?

Hobart Marsh is by far the ecologically best choice for mitigation. The agencies (DNR, IDEM, US FWS) have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because of the great advantage a mega-preserve has for wildlife; plus the adjacent native habitat in nature preserves and fencerows makes restoration of farmland to wet oak savanna easier and more successful. Hobart Marsh clearly provides the best bang for the buck. It is the most ecologically stable site with the least invasive exotic weed problems.

Hobart Marsh is the chance for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate the ecological damage done to wetlands and high quality natural areas such as Tolleston by the levee project.

Environmental and recreational amenities were used to raise the marginal cost benefit ratio for the levee project enough to qualify for funding. Both need to be done well for taxpayers to get their money's worth. LEL's mitigation plan is a sham, with doubtful long-term success, and would not be a bargain at any cost. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Herrington
Dyer, Indiana
REP America Indiana State Coordinator

Mrs. Betty K. Blossey
34 Ogden Road
Portage, IN 46368
January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mrs. Gardner,

I am writing to ask that the Little Calumet River Development Commission get started on the Hobart Marsh mitigation at the January 10, 2001 meeting. The cost of the Hobart Marsh mitigation would be well under half the cost of the Lake Erie Land site that for some reason is still being considered. The Hobart Marsh plan involves relatively easy restoration of forested wetlands - the other site involves creation of forested wetlands while trying to eliminate lots of invasive alien plants. Success of the latter would be doubtful, and maintenance costs would be high. The Hobart Marsh mitigation also has excellent additional ecological benefits.

Please stop the delay and get the Hobart marsh mitigation going.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Betty K. Blossey

Betty K. Blossey

Copies sent to:

Congressman Peter Visclosky,

Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR

Matt Maupin, IDEM

Colonel Mark Roncoli, US Army Corps of Engineers

I wrote in Aug. 2000 on this matter.

Robert Bryerton
7726 S. County Line Road
Hobart, IN 46342

Dan Gardner
Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regards to the Corps of Engineers' mitigation project that could end up restoring about 300 acres of land in an area of Hobart called Hobart Marsh. I would like to let you know that this seems like sound mitigation plan, and that I am very much in favor of this plan. It is my understanding that the project has the backing of the DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Congressmen Visclosky's Office.

I would like to know why it has taken so long to get this project started? I would also like to know why it seems so much effort has been made to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land. Their land seems unsuitable for the mitigation. Also it seems the cost to do their mitigation would be substantially higher. It seems to be a violation of public trust to set up this taxpayer-funded mitigation project to go to a private business like Lake Erie Land.

Not only does the Hobart Marsh project show fiscal responsibility, the restoration work would be much easier to accomplish. The land is still reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work will be easier to accomplish, and therefore cheaper, because it is adjacent to areas with native habitat that once existed there. While with the Lake Erie Land project not only will the land cost more, but instead of restoring what was there they will be trying to create a completely different habitat, which will be much harder, and more expensive, to accomplish.

It is my Understanding that Lake Erie Land wants \$11.1 million or more to do their project. While the Hobart Marsh cost estimate is \$ 3.4 million. Broken down into: 306 acres at \$11,000/acre (\$5,000 for land, \$1000 for design work, \$4,000 for restoration work, \$1000 for perpetual stewardship). Why should taxpayers pay almost an extra \$7 million for Lake Erie Land's profit.

Hobart Marsh is by far the ecologically best choice for mitigation. The DNR, IDEM and US FWS have all agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because of the great advantage a mega-preserve has for wildlife; plus the adjacent native habitat in nature preserves and fencerows makes restoration of farmland to wet oak savanna easier and more successful. Hobart Marsh clearly provides the most bang for the buck. It is the most ecologically stable site with the least invasive exotic weed problems.

Hobart Marsh is the chance for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate the ecological damage done to wetlands and high quality natural areas such as Tolleston by the levee project.

Environmental and recreational amenities were used to raise the marginal cost benefit ratios for the levee project enough to qualify for funding. Both need to be done well for taxpayers to get their money's worth. Lake Erie Land's mitigation plan has doubtful long-term success, and would not be a bargain at any cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Bryerton".

Robert Bryerton

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Marty Maupin IDEM,
Colonel Mark Roncoli US Army Corps of Engineers,
Bill Maudlin IDNR

Development Commission, at NIRPC in Portage. The purpose of this letter is to advise your work on this plan. I am a biologist, and I belong to several conservation societies which are active locally, including Save the Dunes and the Sierra Club's Duneland Group.

First, although the mitigation plan has been developed since 1997, there has been a delay in getting underway. Delay increases land costs and decreases

land choices. The West Reach half of the levee project needs permits, which require mitigation.

Second, the mitigation should not be given to the Lake Erie Land Company (LEL),

because their land is unsuitable for the mitigation, and they want \$11.1 million

for their land, whereas Hobart Marsh may be done for \$3.4 million (details are available). It is a violation of public trust and a waste of taxpayer's money to go to LEL. And commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should excuse themselves from the mitigation, as it is a conflict of interest.

Third, the Hobart Marsh forested wetland is much preferable to LEL's wet prairie. The agencies: DNR, IDEM US FWS have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site for the mitigation, because of the great advantage that a mega-preserve

has for wildlife. It is a fact that habitat fragmentation is a major cause of loss of diversity of animal and plant species.

Hobart Marsh is THE opportunity for the Little Calumet Commission to leave a significant ecological legacy to mitigate the endless damage done by development.

Please support the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

Sincerely Yours,

Peter J. Wilkin

cc. Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers,
Chicago

=====
Peter J. Wilkin, Assoc. Prof., Biology, Purdue U. North Central,
1401 S. US 421, Westville, IN 46391-9542. 219-785-5227, fax -5483
<http://faculty.purdue.edu/pwilkin>

*Rec'd
1/08/01
DW*

January 08th., 2001

Mr. Dan Gardner
C/O Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Re: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project

I, as many, are in full support of the above project that has won the backing of DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Congressman Visclosky's office. This project, while being the most fiscally responsible, remains the best ecological site in the area for both short term and long term costs and benefits.

I'm at a loss in understanding why the Commission has seemed to ignore this site and is considering the Lake Erie Land site in Lake Station for mitigation. This property by contrast is less suitable for mitigation, would be more costly, and with doubtful long-term success.

I ask that you and the Commission quickly move forward on the Hobart project or explain to me why you cannot.

Thank You,

Patti Woronecki
Patti Woronecki
29 N. Wabash St.
Hobart, IN 46342

January 7, 2001

1355 West Springville Road
La Porte, Indiana 46350

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

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Northwest Indiana to support the US Army Corps of Engineers mitigation project that would restore about 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh. This project would acquire and restore the original wet oak savanna -- "forested wetland" habitat.

I do not understand why this plan has been held up for several years and is still not being implemented. Delay increases land costs and decreases the choices of land available. Meanwhile, Lake Erie Land Co. has offered a project that would cost three times as much but would not restore forested wetlands. Little Cal Basin Commission members with ties to Lake Erie Land and to its parent, NIPSCO, should recuse themselves from this issue.

Selecting Hobart Marsh as the mitigation site is fiscally responsible, as the land there is reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work will be cheaper than the plan proposed by Lake Erie Land, since it is easier to restore what was once there than to create something new (as LEL would have to do because their land was a shallow lake).

Hobart Marsh is by far the best choice, as the agencies (DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife) have agreed. Such a mega-preserve would have a great advantage for wildlife; the adjacent native habitats in nature preserves and fence rows would make for easier restoration; the ecological stability of the site would mean fewer problems with invasive weeds.

The levee project has damaged the ecology of wetlands and high quality natural areas. To mitigate adequately for this damage, the Little Cal Basin Commission needs to choose the best alternative. That alternative is the Hobart Marsh.

Sincerely,


Sandra Henderson

cc: Chairperson, Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
Congressman Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers



Dunes Calumet Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1100, Cedar Lake, IN 46303

January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Dunes Calumet Audubon Society. We would like to ask you to support the use of Hobart Marsh as the mitigation area for the Little Cal River Flood Control Project. The restoration of forested wetlands in this area will not only provide additional habitat for migrating and nesting birds, it will also provide a site of high-diversity plant and animal life that could be a quality passive recreation area for the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Dunes Calumet Audubon sees the benefits of the Hobart Marsh area as follows:

Acquiring additional land in this area would tie together the natural areas already owned by Shirley Heinze, the Izaak Walton League, the IDNR, and the Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore. It could create a mega-preserve corridor for wildlife that would tie to Turkey Creek, Deep River, and Lake George.

This area has forested wetlands soils, fencerows, and a seedbank that should allow the lands to be restored and maintained for wet oak savanna. Invasive exotic weeds are at a minimum. Because these components are already there, restoration in this area should be of significantly higher quality than starting from scratch in the proposed Lake Erie Land site. Cressmoor and School Prairie are examples of the high quality restoration work that has already been accomplished in the area.

We believe the cost will be much less if the Hobart Marsh area is chosen. Lake Erie Land has indicated that they believe restoration costs should mirror Illinois costs of about \$40,000 an acre. Shirley Heinze's costs of \$11,000 are much more in line with restoration efforts by local environmental groups. Shirley Heinze has a proven track record of taking care of their lands.

The IDNR, IDEM, U.S. F&WS, Congressman Peter Visclosky, and the local environmental groups have seen the value of Hobart Marsh. I think your officers should consider the cost benefit to the taxpayers of Shirley Heinze's proposal. This is your chance to protect vanishing wetland forested areas and to leave a great ecological legacy to the citizens of Northwest Indiana and to our migratory and nesting birds.

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky

Dunes Calumet Audubon Society
PO Box 1100
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Sincerely,

Barb Dodge, Vice President, DCA



LAKE COUNTY FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1006 HAMMOND, INDIANA 46325

January 6, 2001

Dan Gardner, Executive Director and
Commission Chairperson
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner and Commission Chairperson:

We, of Lake County Fish and Game, are very concerned with the progress of wetland mitigation even as the East Reach of the flood control project nears an end.

We are also concerned that the substantial environmental and recreational benefits originally planned have apparently been scuttled in favor of a contract with Lake Erie Land. We view, with a suspicious eye, deals involving private developers leasing publicly held land.

The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan is environmentally very good. The plan to buffer and link the preserved land in Hobart Marsh with 300 acres of farmland, restored to forested wetland habitat, is a very good idea and deserves the Commission's attention. The land in Hobart Marsh is far more suitable to this type of mitigation and is also far more likely to be successful. At Hobart Marsh the Commission could leave a real environmental legacy similar to the environmental legacy the flood control project was long ago supposed to provide.

We are surprised that Lake Erie Land has been allowed to disrupt the planned mitigation at Hobart Marsh when the land they are putting up is not suitable for forested wetland restoration, and they have said they want \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per acre for mitigation. It doesn't seem right that Lake Erie Land should be charging the Commission for use of its own land. We strongly feel that if there are commission members, or staff, with ties or allegiances to Lake Erie Land, NISOURCE or NIPSCO, they should excuse themselves from dealing with the mitigation issue at all.

As taxpayers and Lake County residents, we much prefer our money be invested in buying more public land in the Hobart Marsh area. Lake County is very short on public land and open space, so this land acquisition money would be money well spent. Furthermore, because they are not looking out for Lake County taxpayers, or our environment, we urge you to eliminate Lake Erie Land from your mitigation decisions and proceed with Hobart Marsh land acquisition.

Yours In Conservation,

Ray Cooper, president
Lake County Fish and Game

Cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky
Mr. Bill Maudlin, IDNR
Mr. Marty Maupin, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, US Army Corps of Engineers

Cedar Lake Fish and Game Club



January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The Cedar Lake Fish and Game Club is writing to you to express our support for the Hobart Marsh site to mitigate the Little Cal Flood Control levee project. We are aware that your group is considering the Lake Erie Land proposal and we do not believe this project is fiscally or environmentally responsible.

The Hobart Marsh area already contains forested wetland areas. The existing trees, the farmland fencerows, and the hydric soils all favor successful restoration. Members of our organization have worked with Shirley Heinze on their restoration projects and believe they are concerned, environmentally responsible group that will restore and maintain these additional lands as quality forested wetlands.

If the Lake Erie Land's project is selected, we believe the taxpayers will be fleeced. Their projected restoration costs of \$40 thousand an acre are not in line with monies being spent by local environmental groups like ourselves. The local lands in the Hobart Marsh area have poor drainage and are still reasonable priced so restoration costs should be more in line with the Shirley Heinze proposal. Shirley Heinze has a proven track record of keeping restoration costs reasonable and doing a good job of restoring land.

We also have concerns with the amount of time that it is taking to come to a decision on this project. The Hobart Marsh area has been the understood mitigation area for several years and it is supported by Congressman Pete Visclosky, IDNR, IDEM, USF&WS, Shirley Heinze, the Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore, the Izaak Walton League, and local environmental groups like us. We also feel that board members with possible indirect fiscal ties to LEL should recuse themselves from participating in this decision.

Your board has the opportunity to tie together some great natural areas that our environmental groups and agencies have had the foresight to preserve. Cedar Lake Fish and Game asks you to choose the Hobart Marsh proposal to create a lasting, high quality environmental area for our local citizens.

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin, IDNR
Col. Mark Roncoli, COE

Cedar Lake Fish & Game Club
PO BOX 308
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Salberg".

Chris Salberg, CLFGC Wetlands Committee

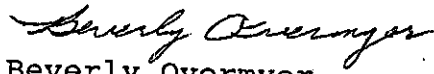
Mr. Dan Gardner, Executive Director
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please implement the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan without further delay. It has the backing of Representative Visclosky, DRN and IDEM and is tax-payer supported. The mitigation land should not be managed by a private company.

Implementing the Hobart Marsh plan shows financial as well as ecological responsibility on the part of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and will be another good environmental project that would bring credit to Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,



Beverly Overmyer
110 N. 641 W.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

cc: Congressman Visclosky, Bill Maudlin, Marty Maupin,
Col. Mark Roncoli

Dear Dan Gardner

The Robert Walsh mitigation
project should be handled in a manner
affirmed by the DNR, IDEM, N.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service and the
Office of Congressman Dick Cheney.

It makes more sense to me
because when the award is applied
to its more nearly original condition
it will provide the better habitat for
wildlife and of course be even
more economical.

The proposal by Lake One
Land Co. should be rejected.
Please do all you can to
reject it.

Sincerely

1/6/01

Gene Burming

Letter will be sent to
Bill Madden, Mark Markinland
Robert Walsh Ranch.

DAN GARDNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
6100 SOUTHPORT RD.
PORTAGE, IN. 46368

DEAR MR. GARDNER,

Received
1/5/01
DVG

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO THE HOBART MARSH MITIGATION PROJECT. FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY I AM ALL FOR IT, AS A RESTORATION HERE WOULD STRENGTHEN A DIVERSE REGION CLOSE TO SECRETIVE DEEP RIVER LAKE GEORGE'S EASTERN BACKWATERS, AND HOBART PRAIRIE GROVE, WHICH ARE ALL GREAT HABITAT FOR MANY PLANTS AND ANIMALS. I HAVE EXPLORED THERE MANY TIMES, INCLUDING THIS WINTER, WHEN THE LAKE, RIVER AND MARSH- LAND ARE FROZEN, AND I CAN SKI OR SNOWSHOE OVER THEM. IN SUCH CONDITIONS YOU CAN FIND (NEW TO ME) SECLUDED POCKETS THAT THE TOWNFOLK OF HOBART AND LAKE COUNTY CAN BE PROUD OF. WE HAVE DEER, BEAVER, FOX, MINK, GREAT HORNEED OWLS, AND COYOTES LIVING IN THIS BIG BACKYARD.

THROUGH THE WILD GRAPEVINE OF CALUMET REGION ECOLOGISTS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, I HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL/BUSINESS URNANGLING INVOLVED IN THE LENGTHY DELAY OF THIS MITIGATION. I UNDERSTAND HOW LAKE ERIE LAND, A COMPANY OF NIPSCO, HAS A PAID CONSULTANT ON THE LITTLE CAL COMMISSION. L.E.L. WISHES TO MOVE THE MITIGATION AWAY FROM HOBART MARSH TO THEIR OWN MITIGATION BANK, AND AT A COST OF 3 TIMES THE HOBART MARSH PROPOSAL. I AM AWARE THAT OUR LOCAL GOVERNING- SCIENCE AGENCIES—(D.N.R., U.S.F.W.S., I.D.E.M.)—ALL BACK HOBART MARSH, ALONG WITH US—G-RSSROOTS FOLK WHO ARE NOT LOOKING TO MAKE A PHONY BUCK OFF THIS. RATHER, WE HAVE TRVE CARE AND CONCERNS FOR THE FIRST BRISGS OF LIFE (CLEAN AIR, GOOD SOIL, PURE WATER). WE INTEND TO BE VOCAL, AND WE INTEND TO PERSEVERE. WHAT DO YOU SAY? I SRY GET ON WITH THE HOBART MITIGATION!

Erin'lynn Autumn
6530 DELAWARE AVE
HAMMOND, IN. 46323

To: Dan Gardner
From: Peter Wilkin <pwilkin@centaur.cc.purdue.edu>
Subject: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan
Cc:
Bcc:
Attached:

*Received
11/5/01
JW.*

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

Dear Director Gardner

RE: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

I am writing in support of the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan. I will attend the 6 PM meeting on 2/10/2001 of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, at NIRPC in Portage. The purpose of this letter is to advise your work on this plan. I am a biologist, and I belong to several conservation societies which are active locally, including Save the Dunes and the Sierra Club's Duneland Group.

First, although the mitigation plan has been developed since 1997, there has been a delay in getting underway. Delay increases land costs and decreases land choices. The West Reach half of the levee project needs permits, which require mitigation.

Second, the mitigation should not be given to the Lake Erie Land Company (LEL), because their land is unsuitable for the mitigation, and they want \$11.1 million for their land, whereas Hobart Marsh may be done for \$3.4 million (details are available). It is a violation of public trust and a waste of taxpayer's money to go to LEL. And commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should excuse themselves from the mitigation, as it is a conflict of interest.

Third, the Hobart Marsh forested wetland is much preferable to LEL's wet prairie. The agencies: DNR, IDEM US FWS have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site for the mitigation, because of the great advantage that a mega-preserve has for wildlife. It is a fact that habitat fragmentation is a major cause of loss of diversity of animal and plant species.

Hobart Marsh is THE opportunity for the Little Calumet Commission to leave a significant ecological legacy to mitigate the endless damage done by development.

Please support the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

Sincerely Yours,

Peter J. Wilkin
Peter J. Wilkin

*4202 Victoria Dr. Valparaiso IN
46383*

cc. Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago

219 464 0558

January 5th 2001

Mr. Dan Hardner, Executive Director, and
Commissioner Chairman, Little Colorado River Basin
Development Commission

Dear Mr. Hardner,

I would like to voice some concerns regarding the
Robert Moul Migration Plan as I understand it, the
original migration was for land in the Robert Moul
area to expand, restore, and buffer existing Preserve lands,
and create a true viable megal Preserve.
I feel the attempts by Lake Erie Land to take land
away from Robert Moul is wrong. It takes away from
what were originally targeted lands that a number of agencies
had agreed to in principle on July 15th 1999. The lands
that I & words & mitigate now, at least in part, are
properties they have control over because of a lease option
agreement they have with the Little Col Commission.
All in Reluctantly agrees questionable, especially when one looks
at the financial aspects.

Regarding investment, I & I's \$11.1 million is more than
three times the cost estimate of Robert Moul's 3.4 million.
And potentially when taxpayers are footing the bill, I would
like to know if I & I's apply to how they can justify their
expenditure figures.
I would suggest the Little Col Commission to use
some good fiscal and environmental judgment and reconsider
supporting/giving the Migration to Lake Erie Land.

Thank you
- Larry of MS Denver

Received
1/5/01
JW.

2006 N. Valparaiso St.
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219 462 1657
January 4, 2001

Dan Gardner
Executive Director, and Commission Chairman
Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368


Dear Chairman Gardner:

This letter is concerning the mitigation project to restore about 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh.

This marsh should be restored as proposed by the Corps of Engineers' plan to restore the original wet oak savanna habitat. This plan is supported by the US Army Corps of Engineers, DNR, IDEM, and Congressman Visclosky.

Opposing this improvement is Lake Erie Land, a subsidiary of NIPSCO, whose interest would be economic development. This then becomes a choice between corporate profit and use of sensitive land that it is in the public interest to protect.

Valuable natural resources such as the Hobart Marsh have been systematically destroyed in the past. Northwest Indiana needs to have some useful and unspoiled areas to point to show we are not bought out by those habituated to the profit motive.


Richard R. Fryer
Sierra Club

Copies: Congressman Visclosky, Bill Maudlin, Marty Maupin, Colonel Mark Roncoli.

January 4, 2001

Dan Gardner
Exec Dir & Comm Chair
Little Calumet River Basin
6100 Southport Rd
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Chairman Gardner,

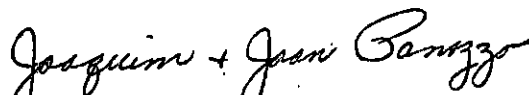
We are writing to give our full support to the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan to acquire and restore 300 acres of original wet oak savanna habitat surrounding Hobart Prairie Grove, McCloskey Savanna and Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund's properties.

We understand that a subsidiary of NIPSCO, Lake Erie Land, is working to take the mitigation away from Hobart Marsh for the purpose of mitigation on public land that they control.

Hobart Marsh is the better choice for mitigation. The DNR, IDEM, and US FWS have all agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because it is the most ecologically stable site and will leave a real legacy to mitigate the damage done to wetlands and other high quality natural areas. Also, once this land is overlooked and sold to private interests, it will be gone forever. Whereas, the LEL's land is presently protected and will be available for mitigation in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joaquim & Joan Panozzo
2838 W. 47th Avenue
Gary, IN 46408

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST



Received 1/8/01
gr.

Dan Gardner
Executive Director & Commission Chair
Little Calumet River Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

4 January 2001

DEPARTMENT OF
BIOLOGY

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I am learning about the various wetland mitigation plans in northwest Indiana. I do not know all details of the plans and sites, and I do not know much about any controversies about them. However, I do know some aspects and I have some insight into the problem that I believe is useful. This I outline below.

I gather that there are two main sites being considered: Hobart Marsh and LEL property. The reality is that wetland destruction and degradation has been so extensive that we need both projects (and more) go to completion in order to pay back even a part of what has been done in the past. But if, for now, some priority needs to be assigned, here are some thoughts I would like to share.

The clearest view I have of the natural heritage of northwest Indiana prior to our settlement is one of incredible ecological heterogeneity. For an area of our size, this was one of the most heterogeneous, and hence ecologically exciting, sites on Earth. This is especially intriguing considering that we have virtually no significant hills or mountains to create heterogeneity!

If we are ever to recapture the ecological grandeur of northwest Indiana, which I believe is a great treasure to recapture at any cost, then we should give priority to restoring and enhancing sites that offer opportunities to enhance ecological heterogeneity.

My knowledge of the two properties under consideration suggests that both Hobart Marsh and LEL property can enhance the ecological heterogeneity of northwest Indiana. Yet, I believe that Hobart Marsh should be given strong support for mitigation work. Its wetlands can be readily enhanced into a variety of different types, which is just how Mother Nature first created the ecological heritage of northwest Indiana and is the basis on which all forms of wildlife evolved and rely for their persistence. In addition, and just as important, is that Hobart Marsh offers excellent opportunity to restore diverse upland sites into a great wetland-upland complex. It is obvious that "no man is an island," and it important to keep at the forefront that no wetland is an island.

The LEL property has a lot to offer; however, it does not offer as much ecological heterogeneity, both wetland and upland, as Hobart Marsh. That does not

3400 Broadway
Gary, Indiana
46408-1197

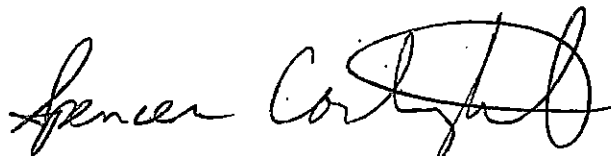
219-980-6724

mean that the LEL property should not get attention. I fully believe it, too, should get attention. However, it makes by far the best ecological sense to make sure that both Hobart Marsh and LEL property are developed. To put all our eggs at this stage into the LEL property would be turn away from the ecological knowledge that we should get back as much ecological heterogeneity as possible.

In sum, I believe that Hobart Marsh offers a great chance to enhance a diverse array of wetlands and adjacent uplands. Mother Nature will be pleased if Hobart Marsh is given strong support. She will be further pleased if we do both sites. Perhaps there are other funding opportunities, both present and future, that might allow us to do both. But for now, we cannot let the Hobart Marsh opportunity be lost.

Thanks much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Cortwright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Spencer Cortwright, Chair

cc: Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin
Marty Maupin
Col. Mark Roncoli

January 3, 2001

received 1/5/01
gm;
Dan Gardner, Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Once again I feel compelled to write regarding the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. I regret that due to my work schedule I will be unable to attend the meeting on Jan. 10. I do not understand why there has been such a delay (going on 4 years now) in getting started on this plan. Delay only increases costs and decreases options, which doesn't make sense.

It seems that a lot of effort has been exerted to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land. This seems very inappropriate, given that there is an obvious conflict of interest benefitting private business at unwarranted taxpayer expense. Commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should NOT be involved in making this decision!

Hobart Marsh is the most fiscally and practically responsible option in this matter. Clearly it is easier and more environmentally sound to restore an area than to attempt to create something new that would have doubtful long-term success. The figures that I have seen show the LEL plan at 3 times the cost of Hobart Marsh!

As a nature-lover who hikes and observes wildlife in these areas frequently, the outcome of this decision is personally relevant. Our area is being so rapidly gobbled up with hideous and unnecessary development, and in the process more and more of our natural areas are being despoiled, often just by the proximity of the development. Adopting Hobart Marsh is an opportunity for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate damage already done. I look forward to hearing that the Commission will soon get started on the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan.

Sincerely

Jane C. Fuller

1-3-2001
Dear Mr. Gardner, ^{1/2} Little Cal Commissioner

In writing concerning the Little Calumet River Basin
Development Commission's delay in getting started on the
Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. Your immediate decision to
Hobart Marsh makes sense while the property is still rea-
sonably priced, ^{1/2} it shows more fiscal responsibility than
considering NIPSCO subsidiary, Lake Erie Land which
would not accomplish the desire for a forested wetland.
In addition, LEL's price is 7.7 million dollars more than
Hobart Marsh. I strongly prefer that my tax dollars
support the best ecological choice for mitigation (Hobart
Marsh) at a lower cost.

Please act immediately in favor of the Hobart
Marsh Mitigation plan.

Copies to:

CONGRESSMAN PETER VISCLOSKEY
IN DNR DFW - BILL MAUDLIN
IDEM PROTECT MGR - MARTY MAUDLIN
DIST ENGR US ARMY Corps of Enges (and)
MARK RONCOLI

Sincerely

Elaine Gehring
1716 Davis Ave
Whiting, IN 46394

Received
1/5/01
JW

Dan Gardner
Little Calumet River
Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, In. 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner,

As the Executive Director and Commission Chairman of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, I am asking you to consider our pleas to stop delaying the implementation of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan.

I am writing to support the advancement of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan by the Corps of Engineers. The Hobart Marsh has been recognized by agencies such as the DNR, IDEM, and US FWS as a logical location and it is time to start the project.

Often, locations that have been compromised for years have almost insurmountable problems as a result of development and ensuing invasive aliens. This location is ideal, because success can be achieved at a nominal cost. The proposed Hobart Marsh is the most cost effective and should be started before more marginal areas are considered. I personally like the Hobart Marsh location because 306 acres would be added to the overall protected area and would reduce the effects of fragmentation.

Think of the work being done now in the Florida "Everglades". Wouldn't it be better to initiate the above plan rather than have to "undo" what may happen to this property in the future or consider the cost of the LEL plan? This is a time where money should be appropriated carefully - please consider this when deciding.

If the LEL mitigation plan is so wonderful it should be self-funded and not a taxpayer funded project.

Thank You,

Karen L. Sena

Karen L. Sena
332 S. Lake Park Ave.
Hobart, In 46342-4330

414 Wayne St.
Hobart, Indiana 46342
January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Re: Corps of Engineers' Mitigation
Project

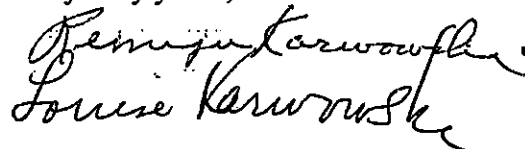
Why hasn't the Commission taken care of the project by restoring 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh? This project has been dragging on since 1997! Land costs are going up; the commission is wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the acquisition of this property which has been approved by DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Congressman Visclosky's office.

Why in the world would the Commission even consider Lake Erie Land company's efforts to sell land for \$11,000,000 to the Commission for this project? That's almost seven million dollars more for land that artificially will have to be restored. Hobart Marsh is already ecologically more sound and abuts land that is similar. Taxpayers can only surmise that the Commission members would stand to personally benefit from LEL if land is purchased from LEL!

Ethically, any members with ties to Lake Erie Land Company and NIPSCo should not be allowed to vote or have input on this purchase. Isn't Mark Reshkin on the payroll of those companies?

Please resolve this matter as soon as possible. We plan to be at the January 10 meeting.

Very truly yours,



Louise Karwowski & Remigius Karwowski
219-942-4098

cc:P Visclosky.
B. Maudlin
M. Maupin
M. Roncoli

BUDGET STATUS

- On Monday, January 8, 2001 Governor Frank O'Bannon submitted his administration's recommended budget to the General Assembly members. It contained \$4.5 million of funding for the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. It identified \$3 million to be from general fund revenues and \$1.5 million to be from "re-directed" Build Indiana funding.

The line item recommendation was listed under the State Budget Agency category, which indicates the Governor's priority of support. This is all viewed a positive.

STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Work to protect the \$4.5 million recommendation in the House Ways & Means Committee markup of the legislature's budget and the Senate Finance Committee budget markup.
2. Quickly identify and document what will not be done or what construction (Federal) monies will go unspent if no additional funding is budgeted.
3. Make case for additional funding need with key area legislators and get commitment that if the opportunity to amend additional "Build Indiana" funds into the Commission line item is afforded, they will commit to adding as much as they can to come as close to the \$12 million requested figure as possible.

SUPPORT CONTACTS

- Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at Times headquarters, 601 – 45th St., Munster
> 1 hour interview with Times Editorial Board to seek their support and continued "following" of our budget request
- Thursday, January 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at Post Tribune headquarters, 1433 East 83rd Avenue, Merrillville
> 1 hour interview with Post Tribune Editorial Board to seek their support and continued "following" of our budget request
- Write letter to west reach City and Town Councils, local Chambers of Commerce, area civic groups, and the Lake County Council to request letters of support to be sent to the delegation as to the need to add additional Build Indiana funds to our line item.
- Press the Corps for Col. Roncoli to write to the Commission stressing the need for additional funding to meet his "full capability" of construction.
- Encourage Congressman Visclosky and Senators Lugar and Bayh to write support letters once the Federal appropriation process is underway stressing the need for the State to make added commitments to avail itself of the 3-1 Federal dollars to State dollars at risk.
- Work with Rep. Chet Dobis to schedule a meeting here or in Indianapolis (if he deems needed) to emphasize our need for added money with the entire area delegation.

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JANUARY 1, 2000 - NOVEMBER 30, 2000

CASH POSITION - JANUARY 1, 2000

CHECKING ACCOUNT	
LAND ACQUISITION	244,197.40
GENERAL FUND	143,144.40
TAX FUND	0.00
INVESTMENTS	1,188,076.15
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	11,729.84
	<hr/>
	1,587,147.79

RECEIPTS - JANUARY 1, 2000 - NOVEMBER 30, 2000

LEASE RENTS		46,804.66
INTEREST INCOME		79,883.22
LAND ACQUISITION		2,635,493.08
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	*****	9,584.15
MISC. INCOME		5,554.65
WILLIAM TANKE	55.68	
TICOR	50.08	
GTE	10.61	
TICOR	568.00	
CITY OF PORTAGE	106.66	
DUNELLEN(PHOTO)	325.00	
L. C. TREASURER	783.60 (REBATE OF TAXES	
COMMUNITY TITLE	670.02 (CLOSING CHARGES)	
R. W. ARMSTRONG	449.00 (NAFSMA)	
DLZ	2500.00 (RETURNED CHECK)	
CHARLES AGNEW	36.00 (WIFE'S TICKET TO AIRPORT)	
KRBC REIMBURSEMENT RE: TELEPHONE CHARGE		1,608.49
PROCEEDS FROM VOIDED CHECKS		200,150.38
CHECK #6034	124,825.00 WHITECO	
CHECK #6505	33.60 JOHN MROCKOWSKI	
CHECK #6569	35,000.00 ROBERT STOFFREGEN	
CHECK #6572	35000.00 LAWYERS TITLE	
CHECK #6615	627.08 GTE	
CHECK #6616	3,292.95 DLZ	
CHECK# 6771	1371.75 R. W. ARMSTRONG	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		2,979,078.63

DISBURSEMENTS - JANUARY 1, 2000 - NOVEMBER 30, 2000

ADMINISTRATIVE	
1999 EXPENSES PAID IN 2000	88,437.89
PER DIEM	10,650.00
LEGAL SERVICES	7,244.63
NIRPC	109,023.33
TRAVEL & MILEAGE	15,828.00
PRINTING & ADVERTISING	1,013.09
BONDS & INSURANCE	5,802.63
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	9,196.61
MEETING EXPENSE	9,694.95
LAND ACQUISITION	
LEGAL SERVICES	65,188.30
APPRAISAL SERVICES	54,950.00
ENGINEERING SERVICES	84,765.02
LAND PURCHASE CONTRACTUAL	12,557.49
FACILITIES/PROJECT MAINTENANCE SERVICES	34,531.44
OPERATIONS SERVICES	0.00
LAND MANAGEMENT SERVICES	160,954.89
SURVEYING SERVICES	117,719.34
ECONOMIC/MARKETING SOURCES	1,400.00
PROPERTY & STRUCTURE COSTS	231,882.35
MOVING ALLOCATION	65,158.64
TAXES	5,984.21
LAND PURCHASE CONTRACTUAL	0.00
PROPERTY & STRUCTURES INSURANCE	21,546.00
UTILITY RELOCATION SERVICES	60,958.61
LAND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	30,049.80
STRUCTURAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	24,232.58
BANK ONE (PURCHASED CERTIFICATE)	1,500,000.00
BANK CALUMET(PURCHASE CERTIFICATE W/LEL FUNDS)	90,056.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<hr/>
	2,730,388.51

CASH POSITION - NOVEMBER 30, 2000

CHECKING ACCOUNT	
LAND ACQUISITION	537,900.21
GENERAL FUND	53,408.70
TAX FUND	
INVESTMENTS	
BANK CALUMET	316,000.00
BANK CALUMET	700,000.00
BANK ONE	105,116.15
BANK CALUMET	92,831.76
BANK ONE	12,258.90
BANK ONE	122,190.00
BANK ONE	1,500,055.00
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	2,848,451.81
ESCROW ACCOUNT INTEREST	21,313.99
	<hr/>
	3,461,074.71

**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CONSTRUCTION FUND, DESIGN FUND & MISC. FUND
MONTHLY INTEREST 1990-2000**

MONTH	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
JANUARY		1,007.66	906.61	1,689.92	2,750.42	2,063.28	356.23	818.06	519.86	620.90	827.69
FEBRUARY		877.51	836.62	1,368.74	2,305.97	1,758.08	308.05	711.46	550.80	586.24	1,250.80
MARCH		956.74	887.80	1,360.62	2,455.22	2,060.63	313.08	806.67	593.21	702.26	1,262.88
APRIL		919.13	825.77	1,304.38	2,605.37	1,896.34	883.62	379.15	496.17	737.00	1,141.91
MAY		1,643.38	504.20	678.65	2,968.86	2,244.04	713.38	235.51	462.02	688.60	1,347.16
JUNE		494.95	471.53	654.48	2,708.06	1,653.33	666.74	243.78	739.18	812.54	918.66
JULY		26.45	448.76	572.74	2,604.27	1,650.03	787.15	244.23	432.78	739.32	939.32
AUGUST		26.53	431.38	314.74	2,908.71	1,653.87	488.66	228.89	333.33	789.43	729.75
SEPTEMBER		632.12	288.96	287.79	2,421.74	1,540.09	336.71	253.00	405.82	507.69	469.05
OCTOBER		1,454.60	1,041.18	274.38	2,462.30	1,627.22	880.73	325.51	1,013.50	409.30	518.11
NOVEMBER	391.43	1,401.78	1,448.90	281.32	2,327.19	1,039.14	696.20	887.47	802.65	452.11	178.82
DECEMBER	1,014.83	1,367.43	1,449.90	2,834.14	2,106.39	540.25	809.44	1,067.46	726.63	438.47	
TOTAL:	1,406.26	10,808.28	9,541.61	11,621.90	30,624.50	19,726.30	7,239.99	6,201.19	7,075.95	7,483.86	9,584.15

TOTAL INTEREST EARNED TO DATE:

121,313.99

CERTIFICATE PURCHASED WITH INTEREST:

(105,116.15) 1 YEAR CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT NOTE AT 6.5% (10-4-01)

AVAILABLE INTEREST

\$21,313.99

LAND ACQUISITION REPORT

For meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001

(Information in this report is from December 9, 2000 – January 1, 2001)

STATUS (Stage II Phase I) – Harrison to Broadway – North Levee:

1. Project completed July 10, 1992.
Dyer Construction – Contract price \$365,524

STATUS (Stage II Phase II) – Grant to Harrison – North Levee:

1. Project completed December 1, 1993
Dyer/Ellas Construction – Contract price \$1,220,386

STATUS (Stage II, Phase 3A (8A) – Georgia to Martin Luther King – South Levee:

1. Project completed January 13, 1995.
Ramirez & Marsch Construction – Contract price \$2,275,023

STATUS (Stage II, Phase 3B) – Harrison to Georgia – South Levee:

1. Project currently 98% complete.
2. Additional land will be required to extend a recreation trail off of the existing levee north of IUN to allow recreation trail users. (Refer to Recreation Report.)
3. **University Park Medical Center (DC-538)**
 - Wrote a letter to the COE on December 29, 2000 enclosing the new location & topographical survey. The Med Center added approximately 2' of fill to expand their parking facilities that would also raise it above the 100-year event. We requested eliminating this acquisition.

1-2

STATUS (Stage II, Phase 3C2) – Grant to Harrison:

1. The final inspection was made on May 18th, 2000 – **completion and turnover of O&M manuals was done on November 21, 2000.**
2. The re-location of the recreation trail due to the crossing at Grant St. would require agreements with the Gas City Truck Stop and the city of Gary to be able to cross Grant St. at the light at 32nd Ave.
 - A meeting is scheduled in early January, 2001 with Gas City to review their re-consideration to installing a trail east of their truck stop (Refer to Recreation Report).
 - If this is agreed upon, we will need to pursue additional acquisition for the trail.
 - This work may be done as part of the Stage III Remediation project scheduled for Spring 2001.

STATUS (Stage II, Phase 4) – Broadway to MLK Drive – North Levee:

1. Investigation into DC 517 will begin. This parcel is on project boundary line and may not be needed. Is an extensive relocation.

STATUS (Stage III) – Chase to Grant:

1. Project completed on May 6, 1994.
Kiewit Construction – Contract price \$6,564,520

STATUS (Stage IV – Phase 1-North) – Cline to Burr (North of the Norfolk Southern RR):

1. All easements obtained, utility re-locations completed, and construction started. Anticipated substantial completion of project is **June 2001**.

STATUS (Stage IV – Phase 1-South) – Cline to Burr (South of the Norfolk Southern RR):

1. Bids were reviewed and Dyer Construction is the contractor. Work started on May 23rd, 2000 – 450 days to complete project (see Engineering Report).

STATUS (Stage IV – Phase 2A) – Lake Etta – Burr to Clark:

1. All construction is currently completed. Pump test has been completed. (Refer to Engineering Report)

STATUS (Stage IV – Phase 2B) – Clark to Chase:

1. Construction is **complete**. (Refer to Engineering Report)

STATUS (Stage V – Phase 1) – Wicker Park Manor:

1. Project completed September 14, 1995
Dyer Construction – Contract price \$998,630

STATUS (Stage V – Phase 2) – Indianapolis to Kennedy – North Levee:

1. Questions regarding real estate easements at the Tri State Bus Terminal have been addressed. (Refer to Engineering Report)
 - **We received modified real estate drawings from the COE on November 17th, 2000. Modified legal descriptions anticipated for completion by January 5, 2001. Then, the appraisal process will begin.**
2. A letter was sent to the COE on September 20th, 2000, enclosing information from DLZ indicating inaccuracies on background mapping West of Kennedy and North of the River. This includes Wendys, the Visitor Center, and WHITECO.
 - Wendy's will have (9) parking spaces taken at the South end of their property (DC-1104) and the Visitors Center parking lot will lose approximately 12 spaces. COE to consider changes to real estate requirements (Decision is ongoing).
3. **Wicker Park appraisal is ongoing.**
4. **The survey for K-Mart was completed by LDZ and was presented to the COE at the December 5th Real Estate meeting.**
 - **COE Engineering will consider moving the trail as far west as possible to minimize taking of parking spaces and reducing impact to tire center at southwest corner of property.**

STATUS (Stage V – Phase 3) – Northcote to Indianapolis – (Woodmar Country Club):

1. **LCRBDC Board members had requested that Woodmar appraiser Dale Kleszynski report on the appraisal at January 10th meeting. Attorney Casale will speak with Dale and attorney will make report instead.**
2. Attorney sent letter to COE on 12/4/00 requesting COE send the promised information about alternative floodproofing for Woodmar. COE had reported that alternative methods were considered in initial modeling and rejected.
 - **The COE has forwarded this information to Attorney Casale.**

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the underlying mechanisms of the observed phenomena. This is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies.

2. The second part of the paper focuses on the methodological aspects of the study, including the data collection process and the statistical models used for analysis.

3. The third part of the paper presents the results of the study, highlighting the key findings and their implications for practice and theory.

4. The fourth part of the paper discusses the limitations of the study and suggests directions for future research to address these limitations.

5. The fifth part of the paper provides a conclusion, summarizing the main points of the study and its contribution to the field.

6. The sixth part of the paper includes a discussion on the ethical considerations and the potential impact of the study on society.

7. The seventh part of the paper provides a detailed description of the data sources and the methods used for data analysis.

8. The eighth part of the paper presents the results of the data analysis, including the statistical tests and the interpretation of the findings.

9. The ninth part of the paper discusses the implications of the findings for practice and policy, and suggests ways to implement these findings.

10. The tenth part of the paper provides a conclusion, summarizing the main points of the study and its contribution to the field.

11. The eleventh part of the paper includes a discussion on the ethical considerations and the potential impact of the study on society.

12. The twelfth part of the paper provides a detailed description of the data sources and the methods used for data analysis.

STATUS (Stage VI-Phase 1) – Cline to Kennedy – North of the river, and Kennedy to Liabe – South of the River:

1. All surveys completed north of the river by GLE on December 15th. The appraisal process will begin in mid-January.
 - Highland properties south of the river should be completed by DLZ by mid-January which will be approximately 65% of acquisitions.
2. Requested modification on November 21st, 2000, on COE real estate drawings to avoid buying, or re-locating a billboard on the access roadway. (**Awaiting modified Real Estate drawings**)
3. Sent a letter to the COE on November 20th, 2000, requesting exceptions for real estate on temporary easements to eliminate the need to take pools, steps, etc.
 - The COE agreed at the December 5th Real Estate meeting that these could be excluded. DLZ modified the legals accordingly & the appraisals are continuing.

STATUS (Stage VI – Phase 2) Liabe to Cline – South of the River:

1. The Cline Avenue construction project has resulted in increased water on the 69 acre Liabe to Cline mitigation tract. COE Environmental is reviewing feasibility of the site for mitigation.
 - The appraiser has visited the site to review the wet conditions and will take this into account in the appraisal.
2. We received a letter from Komark Business Co. on November 17th, 2000, regarding concerns of preliminary real estate design from the COE West of Cline and South of NIPSCO R/W.
 - We submitted this to the COE for consideration and review on November 28th, 2000.
 - We received the VI-2 engineering plans & specs & submitted comments that they should minimize real estate impacts in this area and the landscaping adjacent to this area might require local coordination.

STATUS (Stage VII) – Northcote to Columbia:

1. Review of real estate drawings was completed on December 8th, 2000, and drawings were found to be totally inadequate – they were based upon FDM5.
 - The COE will submit revised real estate drawings prior to 100% B COE review.

STATUS (Stage VIII – Columbia to State Line (Both Sides of River)

1. We received a letter from Muta Advertising on August 22nd expressing concern for future development impacts on his property that would effect his comprehensive plan.
 - This was discussed at the Nov. 1 Technical Review Meeting and it was agreed to have a meeting with him after the COE completes hydrology review in this area.

STATUS (Betterment Levee – Phase 1) E.J. & E. Railroad to, and including, Colfax North of the NIPSCO R/W – Ditch is South of NIPSCO R/W from Arbogast to Colfax.

1. Construction started on July 28 (Refer to Engineering Report for details)

STATUS (Betterment Levee – Phase 2) Colfax to Burr Street, then North N.S. RR, then East (North of RR R/2) ½ between Burr and Clark, back over the RR, then South approx. 1,400 feet:

1. Current schedule is to advertise by July 2001; award contract by September 2001; and a construction start of October 2001 – 360 days to complete. (14 acquisitions remaining.)

EAST REACH REMEDIATION AREA – (NORTH OF I-80/94, MLK TO I-65):

1. COE has reviewed and approved all remaining appraisals. Offers to landowners will go out in next few months (37 parcels remaining).

WEST REACH PUMP STATIONS – PHASE 1A

1. These stations include Baring, Hohman-Munster, Walnut and South Kennedy.
2. Refer to Engineering Report.



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

(219) 763-0696 Fax (219) 762-1653
E-mail: littlecal@nirpc.org

EMERSON DELANEY, Chairman
Governor's Appointment

WILLIAM TANKE, Vice Chairman
Porter County Commissioners' Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN, Treasurer
Mayor of Gary's Appointment

CURTIS VOSTI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's Appointment

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources' Appointment

ROBERT HUFFMAN
Governor's Appointment

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI
Governor's Appointment

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS
Lake County Commissioners' Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOUIS CASALE
Attorney

December 29, 2000

Mr. Imad Samara
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206

Dear Imad:

The Development Commission has noticed a problem with acquisition of DC538, the University Park Medical Center. Enclosed is a copy of a location and topographical survey completed on November 15, 2000 by DLZ for the Medical Center. Please notice that in Block 22, Lots 6 through 18 the eastern-most elevation of topography indicates an elevation of 593.0 on, or adjacent to, the east edge of their existing parking lot. The original background topography used by the Corps in determining this flowage area indicates that the elevation along the center of Lot 6-15 is 591.0, probably based upon outdated aerial information. It appears that since the time your information was current the University Park Medical Center has expanded eastward with their parking area as well as doing some fill eastward through the vacated Massachusetts Street right-of-way.

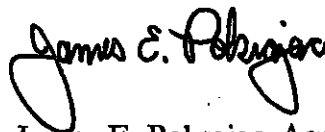
We have also enclosed a copy of a letter from Bill White to Dan Gardner dated March 20, 1997, indicating that we should continue to pursue this acquisition based upon 100 year interior flood elevations and hydrology requirements. We have also enclosed a copy of a letter from Bill White to Dan Gardner dated March 31, 1997 indicating that 3 residential dwellings in Georgia Gardens (directly east of the University Park Medical Center) be "blocked out" from acquisition based upon the reduction of the magnitude and duration of flooding. Using Mr. White's letter to Dan Gardner as criteria to "block out" three residents, the same criteria should be applied to the Medical Center, also taking into consideration that approximately two (2) feet of fill was done in this ponding area prior to our request for this property.

Mr. Imad Samara
December 29, 2000
Page 2

This, again, raises the question of your design and real estate ponding requirements in areas where similar changes may have been made since your original topographical research. We hope that ongoing and future criteria is current and accurate in order to avoid a similar scenario.

Please respond at your earliest convenience so we may proceed with our appraisal or eliminate this acquisition accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James E. Pokrajac, Agent
Land Management/Engineering

/sjm
encl.

cc: Bill White
Emmett Clancy, w/encl.
Chris Borton
Sue Davis, w/encl.
Jan Plachta
Gregg Heinzman, DLZ
Judy Vamos, LCRBDC

LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

For meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2001

(Information in this report is from December 8, 2000 – January 1, 2001))

NON-PROJECT LAND MANAGEMENT

A. Handicapped-Accessible Park

1. A letter was received from attorney Casale on September 5th, 2000, enclosing a letter from the State Board of Accounts with clarifications on why this project need not be bid.

B. Chase Street to Grant Street land management issues

1. **LCRBDC confirmed that we own the land (Don Ewen parcel DC83), and have an easement agreement with INDOT for the property necessary to construct a new pump station west of Grant and south of the Little Calumet River.**

PROJECT RELATED LAND MANAGEMENT

A. O&M (Project manual review/accepting completed segments)

1. It is anticipated to start accepting levee segments (after inspections are completed and found acceptable) as early as **April 2001.**
2. The LCRBDC agreed that we would initially inspect and accept the projects on an individual basis to relieve the contractor of his obligations. However, we will require a procedure to mutually sign off with the COE to accept O & M responsibility.
3. At the Nov. 1 Technical Review meeting, the COE agreed to send the LCRBDC a letter regarding controlled burns for completed levee segments. **(Still awaiting as of January 8th, 2001.)**

B. Mitigation (entire project area)

1. **The matrix has been signed by mitigation "team" members (IDEM, IDNR, Fish & Wildlife and COE) and distributed to LCRBDC at the December 13th meeting. A meeting to explain the matrix will be held at 3 pm on January 10th, 2001 (before the LCRBDC January Board meeting). COE representative Greg Moore will be speaker.**

C. Emergency Management

1. A coordination meeting was held with the COE, Lake County Emergency Management, the USGS, and representatives from Hammond and Gary on June 27th, 2000 to review new monitoring software and provide technical training.
2. It is our intent to update the current computer equipment for the city of Hammond and to install the new equipment for monitoring for Gary at the Gary Sanitary District no later than the end of November.

- It is our understanding that the GSD will expect compensation for monitoring river levels as part of the emergency response participation plan.
 - We will be approaching the city of Gary to discuss not only this situation, but overall participation by the city of Gary and GSD to help with O&M responsibilities **early in 2001.**
3. LCRBDC is still reviewing COE mapping which shows locations of emergency management equipment. A plan to coordinate each community flood event response needs to be formulated.

D. Lake Erie Land Company

1. Northwest Indiana River Corridor Partnership is still working on a map of mitigation areas. No date for **January** meeting set.

E. A meeting was held with Ed Marcin of the Lamar Advertising Company (formerly WHITECO) **on January 28, 2000 to review turnover of WHITECO signs to LAMAR Advertising.**

1. A new balance will be calculated (formerly \$124,825) for removal of WHITECO signs for our project and we will pay this off as per a previous motion by the Commissioners. **LAMAR agreed to complete this by May, 2000.**
- **Contacted LAMAR on August 16th, they agreed to finalize the calculations for payoff and updating current leases by the end of December 2000.**
 - **Met with Ed Marcin on November 15th, 2000 to discuss the three (3) proposed billboard installations near I-80/94 & I-65. We will own (3) new parcels of land in the ERR & will be new partners with LAMAR – Leases being negotiated.**
 - **We told LAMAR that they have had all year to finalize old lease revisions & complete calculations for the balance payoff & we would not agree to the new leases until this was completed.**

F. Gary Sanitary District (White River Environmental Partners (WREP)) O&M

1. A field meeting was held with Dean Button (WREP) on August 24th to review security for all (4) east reach pump stations. The LCRBDC has agreed to install fencing and locks as necessary to secure the stations and their equipment.
- Agreements were signed with the Hammond Fence Company for \$5,000 to provide security for the Broadway, Burr and Grant Streets pump stations.
 - **Work scheduled to start on January 3, 2001 and be completed by January 17, 2001.**

General:

1. We currently have \$58,750 in annual leases and anticipate four (4) additional signs in 2001 for an additional total that could be \$10,000, for a new total of \$68,750 annually.

BUDGET STATUS

- On Monday, January 8, 2001 Governor Frank O'Bannon submitted his administration's recommended budget to the General Assembly members. It contained \$4.5 million of funding for the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. It identified \$3 million to be from general fund revenues and \$1.5 million to be from "re-directed" Build Indiana funding.

The line item recommendation was listed under the State Budget Agency category, which indicates the Governor's priority of support. This is all viewed a positive.

STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Work to protect the \$4.5 million recommendation in the House Ways & Means Committee markup of the legislature's budget and the Senate Finance Committee budget markup.
2. Quickly identify and document what will not be done or what construction (Federal) monies will go unspent if no additional funding is budgeted.
3. Make case for additional funding need with key area legislators and get commitment that if the opportunity to amend additional "Build Indiana" funds to the Commission line item is afforded, they will commit to adding as much as is possible to come as close to the \$12 million requested figure as possible.

SUPPORT CONTACTS

- Tuesday, January 16, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. at Times headquarters, 601 – 45th St., Munster
> 1 hour interview with Times Editorial Board to seek their support and continued "following" of our budget request
- Thursday, January 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at Post Tribune headquarters, 1433 East 83rd Avenue, Merrillville
> 1 hour interview with Post Tribune Editorial Board to seek their support and continued "following" of our budget request
- Write letter to west reach City and Town Councils, local Chambers of Commerce, the area civic groups, and the Lake County Council to request letters of support to our delegation as to the need to add additional Build Indiana funds to our line item.
- Press the Corps for Col. Roncoli to write to the Commission stressing the need for additional funding to meet his "full capability" of construction.

RESULTS OF REAL ESTATE MEETING HELD 5 DECEMBER 2000
ARMY CORPS & LITTLE CALUMET RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

IN ATTENDANCE:

LCRBDC

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Angie Ogrentz
Judy Vamos

COE

Imad Samara
Emmett Clancy
Chris Borton

1. LETTER FROM COLONEL RONCOLI TO GOVERNOR O'BANNON EXPRESSING FUNDING CONCERNS?

Emmett reported that COE for protocol reasons can not send a letter to Indiana Governor O'Bannon urging the state to support funding for LCRBDC. Deputy Colonel John Searles said, however, that COE could send a letter to the LCRBDC who can then in turn use it at a state level. Dan will speak with Imad about the text of the letter.
(ACTION: COE and LCRBDC)

2. ADMINISTRATIVE SETTLEMENTS

a. DC 595 - Judy has sent a request for an Administrative Settlement to the COE for the Moshinsky Family in Burr Street Betterment Levee Phase 2. This is a complete fee take because the drainage ditch is going through the house. Mr. & Mrs. Moshinsky are senior citizens living in Tennessee with their son. They own the house on Lot 2 Burr Oak Acres in Gary but have a \$10,000 mortgage. A friend is living rent-free in the house rent-free to prevent vandalism.

Because the Moshinskys do not live in the house and their tenant does not pay rent neither is eligible for relocation benefits. The Uniform Land Offer of \$35,000 was made to the Moshinskys in February of 2000. They have not signed but neither have they rejected the offer.

In September 2000 Mr. Moshinsky passed away. Son Jeff is now requesting a \$10,000 increase to pay-off the mortgage and allow his mother to keep the full asking price. COE has rejected the Administrative Settlement on the grounds that "Requests for Administrative Settlements must be based on reasonable and factual justification, not emotional considerations." Discussion was held. COE refuses to grant the Administrative Settlement. Emmett will write a letter to Judy so she can forward it to the landowner.

(ACTION: Emmett/COE)

3. MITIGATION

a. Where do we stand - the next step? Dan reported that he has heard that IDEM and the INDNR have differing opinions as to mitigation requirements. INDNR values high quality soils which leads them to reject project lands and include Hobart Marsh in the LCRBDC mitigation plan. IDEM values more the water quality which leads them to include lands near the river (project lands). The state must speak with one voice according to Dan. Greg Moore, COE Environmental Representative, said he had spoken with an IDEM official who favored wetting the hydric soil acres of the 200 ± acres from Chase to Grant area, however, the 200 ± would not count toward the 304 mitigation acres needed which now are considered in the Hobart Marsh.

Greg also added that he asked IDEM if LCRBDC was "double dipping" to use project land for mitigation at the same time that LEL would use it for mitigation credits. IDEM responded verbally that it is not "double dipping."

Discussion concerning matrix. Agreed to have Matrix completed in time for the LCRBDC Commissioner's meeting on 12/14/00. Greg reported that the matrix was finished, he needed only to have members of the team sign-off. He will fax it to LCRBDC.

(ACTION: Greg/COE)

b. Additional acquisition for mitigation - Concerning the George and Elizabeth Mickow property at Liabe and Cline - LCRBDC has a problem. According to records the LCRBDC owns the George and Elizabeth Mickow property west of Liabe and Cline. In fact the property is still in private ownership. Judy will start the acquisition process. (ACTION: Judy/LCRBDC)

Also, the appraisal for the 69 acre Amy Davis parcel (DC 617) at Liabe and Cline is currently under review by Chris Borton. Disagreement continues between him and the appraiser over highest and best use of the land. (ACTION: Chris/COE)

4. APPRAISAL STATUS

a. Stage V-2 - Judy reported that appraiser consultant Dale Klescynski will be sending the first three (3) appraisals in tonight's overnight mail. These are the first of the West Reach appraisals.

b. Woodmar Country Club - Judy has sent a letter to Woodmar appraiser Dale Klescynski to complete a feasibility report within the next 30 days to present to the LCRBDC Commissioners as they had requested. The report will give a range of value for the easement acquisitions so a more accurate budget can be presented to the state.

c. Wicker Park – An old Wicker Park tree survey was found in LCRBDC records. The appraiser can use it to locate and value tagged trees. Agreed that the appraiser can utilize the tree survey and a tree specialist for the appraisal.

d. Stage VI-1 – Jim reported that surveys are completed and Judy will give them to Dale at the first of the year for the next round of appraisals to begin.
(ACTION: LCRBDC)

5. BLOCKING OUT TEMPORARY EASEMENTS FOR GARAGES, SWIMMING POOLS, SHEDS, FENCES, ETC.

a. Jim had requested that the COE "block out" temporary easements in Stage VI that cut across swimming pools, fences, garages, sheds, etc. COE has responded affirmatively. Only one landowner at 3253 North Drive will be impacted as this lot has a playground area that extends into the temporary work area which can't be eliminated.

b. New mapping for this "blocking out" of easements is ready.
(ACTION: COE)

6. STAGE III REMEDIATION

a. Any additional real estate requirements? Emmett is concerned that LCRBDC does not have all the necessary real estate to construct the pump station that will relieve flooding in the Chase to Grant 200± acres area. Jim reported that he has researched the mapping and no new real estate is necessary.

7. OTHER ISSUES

a. Stage VIII – Jim has requested new revised drawings.
(ACTION: COE)

b. Lake County Convention and Visitor's Center – Jim reported that current COE mapping shows the acquisition easements taking a sizeable number of parking spaces. Visitors Center would be impacted when tours, school field trips, etc. are host to large groups of people. He requested Imad review and make changes for this area as was done for the Wendy's parking lot.

c. Fencing - This issue is about "substantive" temporary fencing and timing for fence replacement in West Reach areas. Several areas have fences that must come down and will be replaced by the construction contractor, however, the construction orange plastic fence is not adequate for safety. Discussion then tentative agreement for the following stipulations to be put in the contract:

- 1.) a temporary "substantial" (probably chain-link) fence will be provided by the contractor and;
- 2.) the contractor will give landowners a 30 day notice that the temporary fence is coming down and the landowner can then erect a permanent fence.

d. Sheet Piling instead of full levee construction (Stage VII) - COE is currently conducting a VE (value engineering) on sheet piling being used in additional areas where construction is perilously close to landowners' homes. Imad requested LCRBDC put together a list of areas that could be considered.
(ACTION: LCRBDC)

e. Gary wants to petition FEMA for removal from the floodplain - Dan has been in contact with Mayor King who has requested that Gary be taken out of the FEMA flood zone. Gary will need a response from the COE.
(ACTION: COE)

f. Compensability for Utility Relocation Meeting requested - Lou has requested a meeting with Emmett, Bill White, and COE attorney Don Valk to discuss Utility Relocation Compensability. After the holidays a date will be set.
(ACTION: COE and LCRBDC)

g. North Drive Pump Station - NIPSCo owns the lot on which the present inoperative pump station is located. Jim will call NIPSCo to see if they will sell the entire lot. LCRBDC can then use the lot as roadway instead of gaining just an easement.
(ACTION: Jim/LCRBDC)

9. NEXT MEETING

The next real estate meeting will be held 18 January 2001, 9:30 am. LCRBDC office

**LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CONSTRUCTION FUND, DESIGN FUND & MISC. FUND
MONTHLY INTEREST 1990-2000**

MONTH	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
JANUARY		1,007.66	906.61	1,689.92	2,750.42	2,063.28	356.23	818.06	519.86	620.90	827.69
FEBRUARY		877.51	836.62	1,368.74	2,305.97	1,758.08	308.05	711.46	550.80	586.24	1,250.80
MARCH		956.74	887.80	1,360.62	2,455.22	2,060.63	313.08	806.67	593.21	702.26	1,262.88
APRIL		919.13	825.77	1,304.38	2,605.37	1,896.34	883.62	379.15	496.17	737.00	1,141.91
MAY		1,643.38	504.20	678.65	2,968.86	2,244.04	713.38	235.51	462.02	688.60	1,347.16
JUNE		494.95	471.53	654.48	2,708.06	1,653.33	666.74	243.78	739.18	812.54	918.66
JULY		26.45	448.76	572.74	2,604.27	1,650.03	787.15	244.23	432.78	739.32	939.32
AUGUST		26.53	431.38	314.74	2,908.71	1,653.87	488.66	228.89	333.33	789.43	729.75
SEPTEMBER		632.12	288.96	287.79	2,421.74	1,540.09	336.71	253.00	405.82	507.69	469.05
OCTOBER		1,454.60	1,041.18	274.38	2,462.30	1,627.22	880.73	325.51	1,013.50	409.30	518.11
NOVEMBER	391.43	1,401.78	1,448.90	281.32	2,327.19	1,039.14	696.20	887.47	802.65	452.11	178.82
DECEMBER	1,014.83	1,367.43	1,449.90	2,834.14	2,106.39	540.25	809.44	1,067.46	726.63	438.47	162.78
TOTAL:	1,406.26	10,808.28	9,541.61	11,621.90	30,624.50	19,726.30	7,239.99	6,201.19	7,075.95	7,483.86	9,746.93

TOTAL INTEREST EARNED TO DATE:

121,476.77

CERTIFICATE PURCHASED WITH INTEREST:

(105,116.15) 1 YEAR CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT NOTE AT 6.5%(10-4-01)

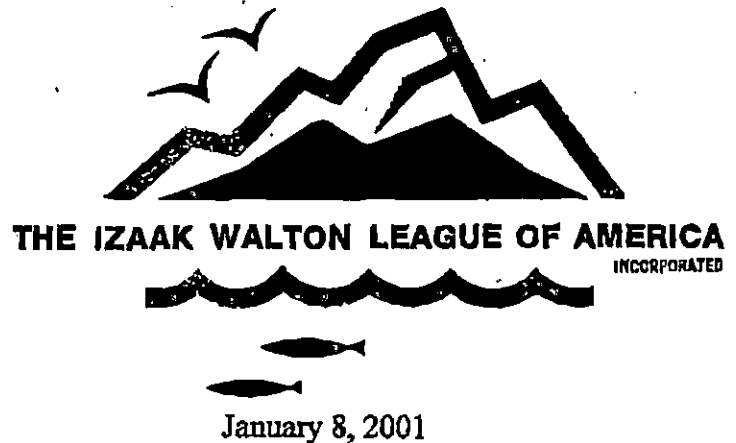
AVAILABLE INTEREST

\$21,476.77



GRIFFITH CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 33
GRIFFITH, INDIANA 46319

*Received
1/9/01
JS*



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

January 8, 2001

Dan,

Sandy O'Brien has been watching the development of the Corps of Engineers mitigation project closely and we at the Izaak Walton League are very grateful for her vigilance. We have too many things to do and not enough members to do them.

I am disappointed that this mitigation problem has not yet been settled.

It appears that the Little Calumet River Basin Commission is still considering the Lake Erie Land proposal. Why is this? The Indiana DNR and DEM and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have visited both sites and have stated their support the Hobart Marsh site. This in itself should put an end to the debate.

Congressman Visclosky supports the Hobart Marsh and if it were not for him, there would be no Little Cal project.

The DNR requires that the mitigation be for forested wetland and the land the LEL offers was not a forested wetland nor can it be made to grow a forested wetland.

Then we must consider the price of each project. There again, the Hobart Marsh site would cost only one-third what the Lake Erie Land proposal would.

This debate on this should have been over long ago.

I have to assume that the only reason this has not yet been resolved is because of political pressure being applied by LEL. For this reason, any members of the LCRBDC board of directors that have any kind of tie to LEL or to NIPSCO should excuse themselves from any action that may be required of the board.

This is how I see this situation. The LCRBDC is still considering an offer for mitigation by LEL that no other agencies support, that the local Congressman does not support, that will cost three times as many tax dollars, and finally, will not work or satisfy the state permits.

For the record, the Griffith chapter of the Izaak Walton League still supports the mitigation site as was agreed at the July 15, 1999 meeting between all the agencies involved. We support the

Hobart Marsh site because of the increased benefits of a larger preserve and the fact that the cost and success of the mitigation requires that the LEL site be removed from consideration.

Thank you,

Jim Sweeney, chairman
Conservation Committee
Griffith Izaak Walton League
c/o 1773 Selo Dr.
Schererville, IN 46375

Imad Samara, Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District,
CELRC-PP-PM, 111 N. Canal St., Chicago, IL 60606-7206

Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington
St., Rm. W-273, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Representative Peter Visclosky (attention Mark Lopez) 215 W. 35th Ave,
Gary, IN 46408

Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM, 100 N. Senate Ave., PO Box 6015,
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015



The National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection

State Coordinator

Dan Gardner, Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I am writing to express my concerns over the potential mishandling of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. As a member of REP America, the National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection, I am always concerned when I see taxpayer funds being mishandled, and further outraged when it results in environmental damage. An effort to give the Hobart Marsh project to Lake Erie Land seems to do both.

Why has so much effort has been made to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land when their land is unsuitable for the mitigation and they have stated they want \$11.1 million or more to do it. [Hobart Marsh might be done for about \$3.4 million.] It is a violation of the public trust to set up this taxpayer-funded mitigation project to go to private business like LEL. Furthermore, Commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should recuse themselves from the mitigation issue.

Going with Hobart Marsh shows fiscal responsibility. The land is still reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work is going to be cheaper because working with Mother Nature to restore what once was is easier than trying to create something new (as LEL would have to do because their land was a shallow lake). Why should taxpayers pay an extra \$5 to 7 million for LEL's profit?

Hobart Marsh is by far the ecologically best choice for mitigation. The agencies (DNR, IDEM, US FWS) have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because of the great advantage a mega-preserve has for wildlife; plus the adjacent native habitat in nature preserves and fencerows makes restoration of farmland to wet oak savanna easier and more successful. Hobart Marsh clearly provides the best bang for the buck. It is the most ecologically stable site with the least invasive exotic weed problems.

Hobart Marsh is the chance for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate the ecological damage done to wetlands and high quality natural areas such as Tolleston by the levee project.

Environmental and recreational amenities were used to raise the marginal cost benefit ratio for the levee project enough to qualify for funding. Both need to be done well for taxpayers to get their money's worth. LEL's mitigation plan is a sham, with doubtful long-term success, and would not be a bargain at any cost. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

David R. Herrington
Dyer, Indiana
REP America Indiana State Coordinator

Mrs. Betty K. Blossey
34 Ogden Road
Portage, IN 46368
January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mrs. Gardner,

I am writing to ask that the Little Calumet River Development Commission get started on the Hobart Marsh mitigation at the January 10, 2001 meeting. The cost of the Hobart Marsh mitigation would be well under half the cost of the Lake Erie Land site that for some reason is still being considered. The Hobart Marsh plan involves relatively easy restoration of forested wetlands - the other site involves creation of forested wetlands while trying to eliminate lots of invasive alien plants. Success of the latter would be doubtful, and maintenance costs would be high. The Hobart Marsh mitigation also has excellent additional ecological benefits.

Please stop the delay and get the Hobart marsh mitigation going.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Betty K. Blossey

Betty K. Blossey

*Copies sent to:
Congressman Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR
Matty Maupin, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, US Army Corps of Engineers
I wrote in Aug. 2000 on this matter.*

Robert Bryerton
7726 S. County Line Road
Hobart, IN 46342

Dan Gardner
Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regards to the Corps of Engineers' mitigation project that could end up restoring about 300 acres of land in an area of Hobart called Hobart Marsh. I would like to let you know that this seems like sound mitigation plan, and that I am very much in favor of this plan. It is my understanding that the project has the backing of the DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Congressmen Visclosky's Office.

I would like to know why it has taken so long to get this project started? I would also like to know why it seems so much effort has been made to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land. Their land seems unsuitable for the mitigation. Also it seems the cost to do their mitigation would be substantially higher. It seems to be a violation of public trust to set up this taxpayer-funded mitigation project to go to a private business like Lake Erie Land.

Not only does the Hobart Marsh project show fiscal responsibility, the restoration work would be much easier to accomplish. The land is still reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work will be easier to accomplish, and therefore cheaper, because it is adjacent to areas with native habitat that once existed there. While with the Lake Erie Land project not only will the land cost more, but instead of restoring what was there they will be trying to create a completely different habitat, which will be much harder, and more expensive, to accomplish.

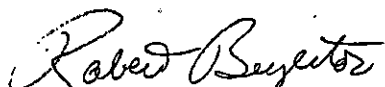
It is my Understanding that Lake Erie Land wants \$11.1 million or more to do their project. While the Hobart Marsh cost estimate is \$ 3.4 million. Broken down into: 306 acres at \$11,000/acre (\$5,000 for land, \$1000 for design work, \$4,000 for restoration work, \$1000 for perpetual stewardship). Why should taxpayers pay almost an extra \$7 million for Lake Erie Land's profit.

Hobart Marsh is by far the ecologically best choice for mitigation. The DNR, IDEM and US FWS have all agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because of the great advantage a mega-preserve has for wildlife; plus the adjacent native habitat in nature preserves and fencerows makes restoration of farmland to wet oak savanna easier and more successful. Hobart Marsh clearly provides the most bang for the buck. It is the most ecologically stable site with the least invasive exotic weed problems.

Hobart Mash is the chance for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate the ecological damage done to wetlands and high quality natural areas such as Tolleston by the levee project.

Environmental and recreational amenities were used to raise the marginal cost benefit ratios for the levee project enough to qualify for funding. Both need to be done well for taxpayers to get their money's worth. Lake Erie Land's mitigation plan has doubtful long-term success, and would not be a bargain at any cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Bryerton".

Robert Bryerton

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Marty Maupin IDEM,
Colonel Mark Roncoli US Army Corps of Engineers,
Bill Maudlin IDNR

Development Commission, at NIRPC in Portage. The purpose of this letter is to advise your work on this plan. I am a biologist, and I belong to several conservation societies which are active locally, including Save the Dunes and the Sierra Club's Duneland Group.

First, although the mitigation plan has been developed since 1997, there has been a delay in getting underway. Delay increases land costs and decreases land choices. The West Reach half of the levee project needs permits, which require mitigation.

Second, the mitigation should not be given to the Lake Erie Land Company (LEL), because their land is unsuitable for the mitigation, and they want \$11.1 million for their land, whereas Hobart Marsh may be done for \$3.4 million (details are available). It is a violation of public trust and a waste of taxpayer's money to go to LEL. And commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should excuse themselves from the mitigation, as it is a conflict of interest.

Third, the Hobart Marsh forested wetland is much preferable to LEL's wet prairie. The agencies: DNR, IDEM US FWS have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site for the mitigation, because of the great advantage that a mega-preserve has for wildlife. It is a fact that habitat fragmentation is a major cause of loss of diversity of animal and plant species.

Hobart Marsh is THE opportunity for the Little Calumet Commission to leave a significant ecological legacy to mitigate the endless damage done by development.

Please support the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

Sincerely Yours,

Peter J. Wilkin

cc. Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers,
Chicago

=====
Peter J. Wilkin, Assoc. Prof., Biology, Purdue U. North Central,
1401 S. US 421, Westville, IN 46391-9542. 219-785-5227, fax -5483
<http://faculty.purdue.edu/pwilkin>

*Received
1/08/01
D.W.*

01/08/2001

January 08th., 2001

Mr. Dan Gardner
C/O Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Re: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project

I, as many, are in full support of the above project that has won the backing of DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Congressman Visclosky's office. This project, while being the most fiscally responsible, remains the best ecological site in the area for both short term and long term costs and benefits.

I'm at a loss in understanding why the Commission has seemed to ignore this site and is considering the Lake Erie Land site in Lake Station for mitigation. This property by contrast is less suitable for mitigation, would be more costly, and with doubtful long-term success.

I ask that you and the Commission quickly move forward on the Hobart project or explain to me why you cannot.

Thank You,

Patti Woronecki
Patti Woronecki
29 N. Wabash St.
Hobart, IN 46342

January 7, 2001

1355 West Springville Road
La Porte, Indiana 46350

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

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Northwest Indiana to support the US Army Corps of Engineers mitigation project that would restore about 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh. This project would acquire and restore the original wet oak savanna -- "forested wetland" habitat.

I do not understand why this plan has been held up for several years and is still not being implemented. Delay increases land costs and decreases the choices of land available. Meanwhile, Lake Erie Land Co. has offered a project that would cost three times as much but would not restore forested wetlands. Little Cal Basin Commission members with ties to Lake Erie Land and to its parent, NIPSCO, should recuse themselves from this issue.

Selecting Hobart Marsh as the mitigation site is fiscally responsible, as the land there is reasonably priced due to poor drainage and lack of city sewer and water. The restoration work will be cheaper than the plan proposed by Lake Erie Land, since it is easier to restore what was once there than to create something new (as LEL would have to do because their land was a shallow lake).

Hobart Marsh is by far the best choice, as the agencies (DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife) have agreed. Such a mega-preserve would have a great advantage for wildlife; the adjacent native habitats in nature preserves and fence rows would make for easier restoration; the ecological stability of the site would mean fewer problems with invasive weeds.

The levee project has damaged the ecology of wetlands and high quality natural areas. To mitigate adequately for this damage, the Little Cal Basin Commission needs to choose the best alternative. That alternative is the Hobart Marsh.

Sincerely,


Sandra Henderson

cc: Chairperson, Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
Congressman Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers



Dunes Calumet Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1100, Cedar Lake, IN 46303

January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Dunes Calumet Audubon Society. We would like to ask you to support the use of Hobart Marsh as the mitigation area for the Little Cal River Flood Control Project. The restoration of forested wetlands in this area will not only provide additional habitat for migrating and nesting birds, it will also provide a site of high-diversity plant and animal life that could be a quality passive recreation area for the citizens of Northwest Indiana.

Dunes Calumet Audubon sees the benefits of the Hobart Marsh area as follows:

Acquiring additional land in this area would tie together the natural areas already owned by Shirley Heinze, the Izaak Walton League, the IDNR, and the Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore. It could create a mega-preserve corridor for wildlife that would tie to Turkey Creek, Deep River, and Lake George.

This area has forested wetlands soils, fencerows, and a seedbank that should allow the lands to be restored and maintained for wet oak savanna. Invasive exotic weeds are at a minimum. Because these components are already there, restoration in this area should be of significantly higher quality than starting from scratch in the proposed Lake Erie Land site. Cressmoor and School Prairie are examples of the high quality restoration work that has already been accomplished in the area.

We believe the cost will be much less if the Hobart Marsh area is chosen. Lake Erie Land has indicated that they believe restoration costs should mirror Illinois costs of about \$40,000 an acre. Shirley Heinze's costs of \$11,000 are much more in line with restoration efforts by local environmental groups. Shirley Heinze has a proven track record of taking care of their lands.

The IDNR, IDEM, U.S. F&WS, Congressman Peter Visclosky, and the local environmental groups have seen the value of Hobart Marsh. I think your officers should consider the cost benefit to the taxpayers of Shirley Heinze's proposal. This is your chance to protect vanishing wetland forested areas and to leave a great ecological legacy to the citizens of Northwest Indiana and to our migratory and nesting birds.

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky

Dunes Calumet Audubon Society
PO Box 1100
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Sincerely,

Barb Dodge, Vice President, DCA



LAKE COUNTY FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1006 HAMMOND, INDIANA 46325

January 6, 2001

Dan Gardner, Executive Director and
Commission Chairperson
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner and Commission Chairperson:

We, of Lake County Fish and Game, are very concerned with the progress of wetland mitigation even as the East Reach of the flood control project nears an end.

We are also concerned that the substantial environmental and recreational benefits originally planned have apparently been scuttled in favor of a contract with Lake Erie Land. We view, with a suspicious eye, deals involving private developers leasing publicly held land.

The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan is environmentally very good. The plan to buffer and link the preserved land in Hobart Marsh with 300 acres of farmland, restored to forested wetland habitat, is a very good idea and deserves the Commission's attention. The land in Hobart Marsh is far more suitable to this type of mitigation and is also far more likely to be successful. At Hobart Marsh the Commission could leave a real environmental legacy similar to the environmental legacy the flood control project was long ago supposed to provide.

We are surprised that Lake Erie Land has been allowed to disrupt the planned mitigation at Hobart Marsh when the land they are putting up is not suitable for forested wetland restoration, and they have said they want \$40,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per acre for mitigation. It doesn't seem right that Lake Erie Land should be charging the Commission for use of its own land. We strongly feel that if there are commission members, or staff, with ties or allegiances to Lake Erie Land, NISOURCE or NIPSCO, they should excuse themselves from dealing with the mitigation issue at all.

As taxpayers and Lake County residents, we much prefer our money be invested in buying more public land in the Hobart Marsh area. Lake County is very short on public land and open space, so this land acquisition money would be money well spent. Furthermore, because they are not looking out for Lake County taxpayers, or our environment, we urge you to eliminate Lake Erie Land from your mitigation decisions and proceed with Hobart Marsh land acquisition.

Yours In Conservation,

Ray Cooper, president
Lake County Fish and Game

Cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky
Mr. Bill Maudlin, IDNR
Mr. Marty Maupin, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, US Army Corps of Engineers

Cedar Lake Fish and Game Club



January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The Cedar Lake Fish and Game Club is writing to you to express our support for the Hobart Marsh site to mitigate the Little Cal Flood Control levee project. We are aware that your group is considering the Lake Erie Land proposal and we do not believe this project is fiscally or environmentally responsible.

The Hobart Marsh area already contains forested wetland areas. The existing trees, the farmland fencerows, and the hydric soils all favor successful restoration. Members of our organization have worked with Shirley Heinze on their restoration projects and believe they are concerned, environmentally responsible group that will restore and maintain these additional lands as quality forested wetlands.

If the Lake Erie Land's project is selected, we believe the taxpayers will be fleeced. Their projected restoration costs of \$40 thousand an acre are not in line with monies being spent by local environmental groups like ourselves. The local lands in the Hobart Marsh area have poor drainage and are still reasonable priced so restoration costs should be more in line with the Shirley Heinze proposal. Shirley Heinze has a proven track record of keeping restoration costs reasonable and doing a good job of restoring land.

We also have concerns with the amount of time that it is taking to come to a decision on this project. The Hobart Marsh area has been the understood mitigation area for several years and it is supported by Congressman Pete Visclosky, IDNR, IDEM, USF&WS, Shirley Heinze, the Indiana Dunes National Lake Shore, the Izaak Walton League, and local environmental groups like us. We also feel that board members with possible indirect fiscal ties to LEL should recuse themselves from participating in this decision.

Your board has the opportunity to tie together some great natural areas that our environmental groups and agencies have had the foresight to preserve. Cedar Lake Fish and Game asks you to choose the Hobart Marsh proposal to create a lasting, high quality environmental area for our local citizens.

cc: Congressman Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin, IDNR
Col. Mark Roncoli, COE

Cedar Lake Fish & Game Club
PO BOX 308
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Sincerely,

Chris Salberg, CLFGC Wetlands Committee

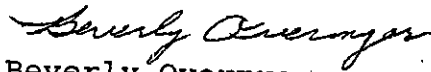
Mr. Dan Gardner, Executive Director
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Please implement the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan without further delay. It has the backing of Representative Visclosky, DRN and IDEM and is tax-payer supported. The mitigation land should not be managed by a private company.

Implementing the Hobart Marsh plan shows financial as well as ecological responsibility on the part of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and will be another good environmental project that would bring credit to Northwest Indiana.

Sincerely,



Beverly Overmyer
110 N. 641 W.
Valparaiso, IN 46385

cc: Congressman Visclosky, Bill Maudlin, Marty Maupin,
Col. Mark Roncoli

Dear Dan Gardner

The Robert Walsh investigation
project should be handled in a manner
approved by the DNR, IDEM, N.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service and the
Office of Congressman Dick Cheney.

It makes more sense to me
because when the march is needed
to its more nearly original condition
it will provide the better habitat for
wildlife and of course be even
more economical.

The proposal by Lake Erie
Land Co. should be rejected.
Please do all you can to
reject it.

Sincerely

Steve Manning

1/6/01

Copies will be sent to
Bill Madden, Mark Mackinland
Robert Mark Roush.

DAN GARDNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
6100 SOUTHPORT RD.
PORTAGE, IN. 46368

Received
1/5/01
JW.

DEAR MR. GARDNER,

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO THE HOBART MARSH MITIGATION PROJECT. FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY I AM ALL FOR IT, AS A RESTORATION HERE WOULD STRENGTHEN A DIVERSE REGION CLOSE TO SECREITIVE DEEP RIVER LAKE GEORGE'S EASTERN BACKWATERS, AND HOBART PRAIRIE GROVE, WHICH ARE ALL GREAT HABITAT FOR MANY PLANTS AND ANIMALS. I HAVE EXPLORED THERE MANY TIMES, INCLUDING THIS WINTER, WHEN THE LAKE, RIVER AND MARSH-LAND ARE FROZEN, AND I CAN SKI OR SNOWSHOE OVER THEM; IN SUCH CONDITIONS YOU CAN FIND (NEW TUNE) SECLUDED POCKETS THAT THE TOWNSFOLK OF HOBART AND LAKE COUNTY CAN BE PROUD OF. WE HAVE DEER BEAVER, FOX, MINK, GREAT HORNED OWLS, AND COYOTES LIVING IN THIS BIG BACKYARD.

THROUGH THE WILD GRAPEVINE OF CALUMET REGION ECOLOGISTS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, I HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL/BUSINESS WRANGLING INVOLVED IN THE LENGTHY DELAY OF THIS MITIGATION. I UNDERSTAND HOW LAKE ERIE LAND, A COMPANY OF NIPSCO, HAS A PAID CONSULTANT ON THE LITTLE CAL COMMISSION. L.E.L. WISHES TO MOVE THE MITIGATION AWAY FROM HOBART MARSH TO THEIR OWN MITIGATION BANK, AND AT A COST OF 3 TIMES THE HOBART MARSH PROPOSAL.

I AM AWARE THAT OUR LOCAL GOVERNING SCIENCE AGENCIES — (D.N.R., U.S.F.W.S., I.D.E.M.) — ALL BACK HOBART MARSH, ALONG WITH US — GRASSROOTS FOLK WHO ARE NOT LOOKING TO MAKE A PHONY BUCK OFF THIS. RATHER, WE HAVE TRUE CARE AND CONCERNS FOR THE FIRST BASICS OF LIFE (CLEAN AIR, GOOD SOIL, PURE WATER).

WE INTEND TO BE VOCAL, AND WE INTEND TO PERSEVERE.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I SAY GET ON WITH THE HOBART MITIGATION!

Em'tynn Antunian
6530 DELAWARE AVE
HAMMOND, IN. 46323

To: Dan Gardner
From: Peter Wilkin <pwilkin@centaur.cc.purdue.edu>
Subject: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan
Cc:
Bcc:
Attached:

*received
11/5/01
JW.*

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

Dear Director Gardner

RE: Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

I am writing in support of the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan. I will attend the 6 PM meeting on 2/10/2001 of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, at NIRPC in Portage. The purpose of this letter is to advise your work on this plan. I am a biologist, and I belong to several conservation societies which are active locally, including Save the Dunes and the Sierra Club's Duneland Group.

First, although the mitigation plan has been developed since 1997, there has been a delay in getting underway. Delay increases land costs and decreases land choices. The West Reach half of the levee project needs permits, which require mitigation.

Second, the mitigation should not be given to the Lake Erie Land Company (LEL), because their land is unsuitable for the mitigation, and they want \$11.1 million for their land, whereas Hobart Marsh may be done for \$3.4 million (details are available). It is a violation of public trust and a waste of taxpayer's money to go to LEL. And commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should excuse themselves from the mitigation, as it is a conflict of interest.

Third, the Hobart Marsh forested wetland is much preferable to LEL's wet prairie. The agencies: DNR, IDEM US FWS have agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site for the mitigation, because of the great advantage that a mega-preserve has for wildlife. It is a fact that habitat fragmentation is a major cause of loss of diversity of animal and plant species.

Hobart Marsh is THE opportunity for the Little Calumet Commission to leave a significant ecological legacy to mitigate the endless damage done by development.

Please support the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Plan

Sincerely Yours,

Peter J. Wilkin,
Peter J. Wilkin

*4202 Victoria Dr. Valparaiso IN
46383*

cc. Congressman Peter Visclosky,
Bill Maudlin, Indiana DNR, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marty Maupin, Project Manager, IDEM
Colonel Mark Roncoli, District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago

219 464 0558

January 5th 2001

Mr. Dan Hardner, Executive Director, and
Commissioner Chairman, Little Colorado River Basin
Development Commission

Dear Mr. Hardner,

I would like to voice some concerns regarding the
Robert Moul Negotiation Plan as I understand it, the

original negotiation was for land in the Robert Moul

area to expand, restore, and buffer existing Preserve lands,
and create a truly viable megal Preserve.

I feel the attempts by Lake Erie Land to take land

away from Robert Moul is wrong. It takes away from

what were originally targeted lands that a number of agencies

had agreed to in principle on July 15th 1999. The lands

that of E.L. want to acquire now, at least in part, are

properties they have control over because of a lease option

agreement they have with the Little Colorado Commission

at the time of the original agreement, especially when one looks

at the financial aspects. Regarding income, E.L.'s \$11.1 million is more than

three times the cost estimate of Robert Moul's 3.4 million.

And particularly when taxpayers are footing the bill, I would

like to know if E.L. is applying to have they can justify their

expensive figures.

I would suggest the Little Colorado Commission to use

some good legal and environmental judgment and reconsider

supporting/giving the Moul's to Lake Erie Land.

Thank you
- Larry H. Moul

received
1/5/01
JW

2006 N. Valparaiso St.
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219 462 1657
January 4, 2001

Dan Gardner
Executive Director, and Commission Chairman
Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368


Dear Chairman Gardner:

This letter is concerning the mitigation project to restore about 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh.

This marsh should be restored as proposed by the Corps of Engineers' plan to restore the original wet oak savanna habitat. This plan is supported by the US Army Corps of Engineers, DNR, IDEM, and Congressman Visclosky.

Opposing this improvement is Lake Erie Land, a subsidiary of NIPSCO, whose interest would be economic development. This then becomes a choice between corporate profit and use of sensitive land that it is in the public interest to protect.

Valuable natural resources such as the Hobart Marsh have been systematically destroyed in the past. Northwest Indiana needs to have some useful and unspoiled areas to point to show we are not bought out by those habituated to the profit motive.


Richard R. Fryer
Sierra Club

Copies: Congressman Visclosky, Bill Maudlin, Marty Maupin, Colonel Mark Roncoli.

January 4, 2001

Dan Gardner
Exec Dir & Comm Chair
Little Calumet River Basin
6100 Southport Rd
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Chairman Gardner,

We are writing to give our full support to the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan to acquire and restore 300 acres of original wet oak savanna habitat surrounding Hobart Prairie Grove, McCloskey Savanna and Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund's properties.

We understand that a subsidiary of NIPSCO, Lake Erie Land, is working to take the mitigation away from Hobart Marsh for the purpose of mitigation on public land that they control.

Hobart Marsh is the better choice for mitigation. The DNR, IDEM, and US FWS have all agreed that Hobart Marsh is the best site because it is the most ecologically stable site and will leave a real legacy to mitigate the damage done to wetlands and other high quality natural areas. Also, once this land is overlooked and sold to private interests, it will be gone forever. Whereas, the LEL's land is presently protected and will be available for mitigation in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joaquim & Joan Panozzo
Joaquim & Joan Panozzo
2838 W. 47th Avenue
Gary, IN 46408

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST



*Received
1/8/01
JW.*

Dan Gardner
Executive Director & Commission Chair
Little Calumet River Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

4 January 2001

DEPARTMENT OF
BIOLOGY

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I am learning about the various wetland mitigation plans in northwest Indiana. I do not know all details of the plans and sites, and I do not know much about any controversies about them. However, I do know some aspects and I have some insight into the problem that I believe is useful. This I outline below.

I gather that there are two main sites being considered: Hobart Marsh and LEL property. The reality is that wetland destruction and degradation has been so extensive that we need both projects (and more) go to completion in order to pay back even a part of what has been done in the past. But if, for now, some priority needs to be assigned, here are some thoughts I would like to share.

The clearest view I have of the natural heritage of northwest Indiana prior to our settlement is one of incredible ecological heterogeneity. For an area of our size, this was one of the most heterogeneous, and hence ecologically exciting, sites on Earth. This is especially intriguing considering that we have virtually no significant hills or mountains to create heterogeneity!

If we are ever to recapture the ecological grandeur of northwest Indiana, which I believe is a great treasure to recapture at any cost, then we should give priority to restoring and enhancing sites that offer opportunities to enhance ecological heterogeneity.

My knowledge of the two properties under consideration suggests that both Hobart Marsh and LEL property can enhance the ecological heterogeneity of northwest Indiana. Yet, I believe that Hobart Marsh should be given strong support for mitigation work. Its wetlands can be readily enhanced into a variety of different types, which is just how Mother Nature first created the ecological heritage of northwest Indiana and is the basis on which all forms of wildlife evolved and rely for their persistence. In addition, and just as important, is that Hobart Marsh offers excellent opportunity to restore diverse upland sites into a great wetland-upland complex. It is obvious that "no man is an island," and it important to keep at the forefront that no wetland is an island.

The LEL property has a lot to offer; however, it does not offer as much ecological heterogeneity, both wetland and upland, as Hobart Marsh. That does not

3400 Broadway
Gary, Indiana
46408-1197

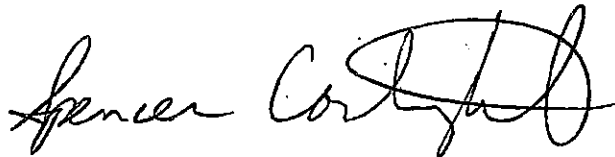
219-980-6724

mean that the LEL property should not get attention. I fully believe it, too, should get attention. However, it makes by far the best ecological sense to make sure that both Hobart Marsh and LEL property are developed. To put all our eggs at this stage into the LEL property would be turn away from the ecological knowledge that we should get back as much ecological heterogeneity as possible.

In sum, I believe that Hobart Marsh offers a great chance to enhance a diverse array of wetlands and adjacent uplands. Mother Nature will be pleased if Hobart Marsh is given strong support. She will be further pleased if we do both sites. Perhaps there are other funding opportunities, both present and future, that might allow us to do both. But for now, we cannot let the Hobart Marsh opportunity be lost.

Thanks much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Spencer Cortwright". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Spencer Cortwright, Chair

cc: Peter Visclosky
Bill Maudlin
Marty Maupin
Col. Mark Roncoli

Received
1/5/01
JW

January 3, 2001

Dan Gardner, Executive Director and Commission Chairman
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, IN 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Once again I feel compelled to write regarding the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. I regret that due to my work schedule I will be unable to attend the meeting on Jan. 10. I do not understand why there has been such a delay (going on 4! years now) in getting started on this plan. Delay only increases costs and decreases options, which doesn't make sense.

It seems that a lot of effort has been exerted to give the mitigation to Lake Erie Land. This seems very inappropriate, given that there is an obvious conflict of interest benefitting private business at unwarranted taxpayer expense. Commission members with ties to LEL and NIPSCO should NOT be involved in making this decision!

Hobart Marsh is the most fiscally and practically responsible option in this matter. Clearly it is easier and more environmentally sound to restore an area than to attempt to create something new that would have doubtful long-term success. The figures that I have seen show the LEL plan at 3 times the cost of Hobart Marsh!

As a nature lover who hikes and observes wildlife in these areas frequently, the outcome of this decision is personally relevant. Our area is being so rapidly gobbled up with hideous and unnecessary development, and in the process more and more of our natural areas are being despoiled, often just by the proximity of the development. Adopting Hobart Marsh is an opportunity for the Little Cal Commission to leave a real ecological legacy to mitigate damage already done. I look forward to hearing that the Commission will soon get started on the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan.

Sincerely

Jane C. Fuller

Dear Mr. Gardner, ¹⁻³⁻²⁰⁰¹ Little Cal Commission

I'm writing concerning the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission's delay in getting started on the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. Your immediate decision to Hobart Marsh makes sense while the property is still reasonably priced, & it shows more fiscal responsibility than considering NIPSCO subsidiary, Lake Erie Land which would not accomplish the desire for a forested wetland. In addition, LEL's price is 7.7 million dollars more than Hobart Marsh. I strongly prefer that my tax dollars support the best ecological choice for mitigation (Hobart Marsh) at a lower cost.

Please act immediately in favor of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan.

Copies to:

CONGRESSMAN PETER VISCLOSKEY
IN DNR DFW - BILL MAUDLIN

IDEM PROTECT MGR - MARTY MAUDLIN

DIST ENGR US ARMY Corps of Engs (and) Z Whiting, IN 46394
MARK RONCOLI

Sincerely

Elaine Belknap
1716 Davis Ave

Received
1/5/01
JW

Dan Gardner
Little Calumet River
Basin Development Commission
6100 Southport Rd.
Portage, In. 46368

Dear Mr. Gardner,

As the Executive Director and Commission Chairman of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, I am asking you to consider our pleas to stop delaying the implementation of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan.

I am writing to support the advancement of the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan by the Corps of Engineers. The Hobart Marsh has been recognized by agencies such as the DNR, IDEM, and US FWS as a logical location and it is time to start the project.

Often, locations that have been compromised for years have almost insurmountable problems as a result of development and ensuing invasive aliens. This location is ideal, because success can be achieved at a nominal cost. The proposed Hobart Marsh is the most cost effective and should be started before more marginal areas are considered. I personally like the Hobart Marsh location because 306 acres would be added to the overall protected area and would reduce the effects of fragmentation.

Think of the work being done now in the Florida "Everglades". Wouldn't it be better to initiate the above plan rather than have to "undo" what may happen to this property in the future or consider the cost of the LEL plan? This is a time where money should be appropriated carefully - please consider this when deciding.

If the LEL mitigation plan is so wonderful it should be self-funded and not a taxpayer funded project.

Thank You,

Karen L Sena

Karen L. Sena
332 S. Lake Park Ave.
Hobart, In 46342-4330

414 Wayne St.
Hobart, Indiana 46342
January 6, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Gardner,

Re: Corps of Engineers' Mitigation
Project

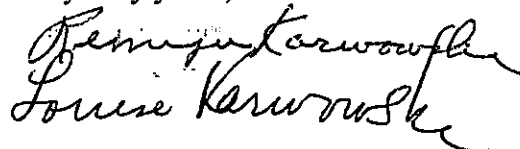
Why hasn't the Commission taken care of the project by restoring 300 acres of land in Hobart Marsh? This project has been dragging on since 1997! Land costs are going up; the commission is wasting taxpayers' money by delaying the acquisition of this property which has been approved by DNR, IDEM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Congressman Visclosky's office.

Why in the world would the Commission even consider Lake Erie Land company's efforts to sell land for \$11,000,000 to the Commission for this project? That's almost seven million dollars more for land that artificially will have to be restored. Hobart Marsh is already ecologically more sound and abuts land that is similar. Taxpayers can only surmise that the Commission members would stand to personally benefit from LEL if land is purchased from LEL!

Ethically, any members with ties to Lake Erie Land Company and NIPSCo should not be allowed to vote or have input on this purchase. Isn't Mark Reshkin on the payroll of those companies?

Please resolve this matter as soon as possible. We plan to be at the January 10 meeting.

Very truly yours,



Louise Karwowski & Remigius Karwowski
219-942-4098

cc:P Visclosky.
B. Maudlin
M. Maupin
M. Roncoli

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ATTENDANCE ROSTER

Cario

NAME OF MEETING: *LCRBDC*

DATE: *1-10-91*

LOCATION:

CHAIRMAN:

PLEASE SIGN IN

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER
1	<i>Gerrit Cario</i>	<i>220 W. 7th Pl. Hobart (Hobart)</i>
2	<i>Jay Scuba</i>	<i>Self - 322 Michigan Ave. Hobart</i>
3	<i>Michael L. Gee</i>	<i>NONE - 324 Crestwood Dr Hobart, IN</i>
4	<i>Mona Scuba</i>	<i>322 Michigan Ave - Hobart - IN</i>
5	<i>HOWARD ANDERSON</i>	<i>121 E. AVE C GRIFFITH</i>
6	<i>Donna Gonzalez</i>	<i>529 S BROAD ST. GRIFFITH</i>
7	<i>JIM FLORA</i>	<i>R.W. ARMSTRONG</i>
8	<i>Don Ewoldt</i>	<i>LEL</i>
9	<i>Jonary Crary</i>	<i>DNR-DIV. OF WATER</i>
10	<i>Dale Gick</i>	<i>DNR-Div. of Water</i>
11	<i>PETER WILKIN</i>	<i>SIERRA CLUB 2202 VICTORIA DR VALPO</i>
12	<i>Sandy O'Brien</i>	<i>Duneland Sierra</i>
13	<i>Jim SUGENEY</i>	<i>12AAK WATON LEAGUE</i>
14	<i>Jim PIEKARCZYK</i>	<i>SIERRA CLUB / DUNELAND CHAPTER</i>
15	<i>Betty Blossy</i>	<i>Sierra Club</i>
16	<i>Louise Karwowski</i>	<i>Sierra Club 414 Wayne Hobart 46342</i>
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25		



Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368

(219) 763-0696 Fax (219) 762-1653
E-mail: littlecal@nirpc.org

WILLIAM TANKE, Chairman
Porter County Commissioners' Appointment

ROBERT HUFFMAN, Vice Chairman
Governor's Appointment

CURTIS VOSTI, Treasurer
Governor's Appointment

JOHN MROCZKOWSKI, Secretary
Governor's Appointment

CHARLES AGNEW
Governor's Appointment

GEORGE CARLSON
Mayor of Hammond's Appointment

ARLENE COLVIN
Mayor of Gary's Appointment

STEVE DAVIS
Dept. of Natural Resources' Appointment

EMERSON DELANEY
Governor's Appointment

DR. MARK RESHKIN
Governor's Appointment

MARION WILLIAMS
Lake County Commissioners' Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOU CASALE
Attorney

9

NOTICE

COMMISSION DISCUSSION AGENDA

4:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2001

INNSBROOK COUNTRY CLUB
6701 TAFT STREET
MERRILLVILLE, IN

AGENDA

1. Commission Meeting Procedures
2. 2001 Committee Appointments
3. Mitigation Status/Strategy
4. Legislative Strategy/Financial Strategy

792-1
2513

[illegible]

(The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to low contrast and scan quality. It appears to be a series of short, fragmented sentences or notes.)

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Gardner, Executive Director
Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project
6100 Southport Road Portage, IN 46368
219-763-0696

FUNDING CRISIS THREATENS FLOOD PROJECT

Portage, IN - 5 February 2001

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) held its regular monthly meeting on 1 February 2001 in Portage, Indiana. The Commissioners discussed the subject of a funding crisis that seriously threatens the continuation of the flood control project.

According to Executive Director Dan Gardner, "The Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project is in serious trouble. We have \$1,025,000 in the bank and \$1,018,271 in existing obligations."

The Army Corps of Engineers with \$16 million dollars in Federal funding has an accelerated construction schedule of building flood protection levees along the Little Calumet River. The LCRBDC had petitioned the Indiana State Legislature for \$12 million dollars to acquire land and relocate utilities in order to keep up with the Corps schedule.

Gardner said at the meeting, however, that LCRBDC was ~~promised~~ ^{allocated 3} only \$3 million ^{from General Fund} from the ~~Governor's Budget~~ and \$1.5 million from Build Indiana Funds. "We won't have enough funds to acquire lands, start our mitigation plan, or relocate utilities. That leaves us short of our obligations."

Commissioners discussed the situation and voted to ^{of Engineers} write a letter to Colonel Mark Roncoli, Commander of the ^{Chicago} ~~Chicago~~ Army Corps District, indicating that an Army Corps request for \$671,000 to be placed in escrow for construction was not possible at this time. Commissioners are also planning to meet with Congressman Peter Visclosky at the earliest date to plan a funding strategy.

For additional information contact Mr. Dan Gardner, 219-763-0696

NON-FEDERAL FINANCIAL NEEDS

7/00 - 7/02

- **Ongoing East Reach Obligations**

1. Real Estate - 76 parcels Est. cost \$ 450,000
2. Utility Relocations - 6 relocations
(2 EJ&E RR, 2 NIPSCO, WIND, Marathon Oil) Est. cost \$ 543,000

- **Non-Federal Cash/Escrow Contributions**

1. FFY 00 - Non-Federal 10/99 - 9/00 None Needed
2. FFY 01 - Non-Federal 10/00 - 9/01 \$1,498,800
3. FFY 02 - Non-Federal 10/01 - 9/02 \$1,971,849

- **Burr Street Budget**

1. Phase I & II - Non-Fed Required Contribution (53%) \$2,987,000

- **West Reach Non-Federal Project Responsibilities**

1. Real Estate - 313 parcels (1/2 Est. cost) \$5,000,000
(Est. cost - \$10,000,000)
2. Utility Relocations - 232 relocations (1/2 Est. cost) \$1,739,785
(Est. cost - \$3,479,570)

- **Mitigation Required for Construction Permit**

1. Hobart Marsh acquisition of 100 acres (Est. cost) +\$ 500,000

7/00 - 7/02 Total Need

\$14,690,434



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Lake County Commissioners'
Appointment

DAN GARDNER
Executive Director

LOU CASALE
Attorney

Col. Mark A. Roncoli
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206

Dear Col. Roncoli:

I am writing to you in response to the COE's letter dated January 24, 2001 requesting \$671,410 be deposited into the project's escrow account. Due to the severely limited State funds available until the General Assembly can pass a new budget, the Commission does not presently have sufficient unobligated funds available to meet the Army Corps of Engineers request.

The Commission requests a meeting at the earliest date with you, John Sirles, Project Manager Imad Samara and a representative from Congressman Visclosky's Office to develop a strategy to utilize the existing \$1,025,000 currently available to the Commission in the best way to keep the project moving forward.

As you are aware, the Commission has continuing obligations in process of identifying, appraising, and ongoing needed properties for the upcoming construction contracts, ongoing utility relocation commitments, a letter directing beginning of securing lands suitable for mitigation needed to acquire the west reach construction permit, as well as the escrow account requirement. Attached is a work sheet listing existing obligations. These concurrent requirements exceed the funds available until July. We look forward to hearing from you of your availability and wish to work with the COE to best address this current crisis.

This is an urgent priority item and we wish to meet as soon as your schedule will allow.

Sincerely,


Dan Gardner
Executive Director

/sjm
attach.

cc: John Sirles, COE
Imad Samara, COE
Congressman Pete Visclosky
Senators Lugar and Bayh's office
Dan Novreske, State Budget Agency staff
Mike Landwer, House Ways & Means staff
Pete Manous, representing Governor's Office
Representative Chet Dobis
Representative Earl Harris
Senator William Alexa

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EXISTING OBLIGATIONS

From February 1 to August 30, 2001 (Prepared 2/1/01)

Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation Project Funding Available: \$ 1,025,000

Acquisition dollars currently committed: \$ 249,875

Burr Street Betterment Levee		East Reach DC 59	
DC 574	\$ 5,500 condemn.	DC 213	\$ 3,500 condemn.
DC 575-A	\$ 2,500	DC 209-212	\$ 2,500
DC 576	\$ 72,300 relo	DC 59	\$ 8,000
DC 577	\$ 3,000	DC 497	\$ 1,000
DC 70-A	\$ 500	DC 525	\$ 3,000 condemn.
DC 578	\$ 6,300 relo		
DC 582/583	\$ 8,000		
DC 69/584	\$ 88,500 condemn.		
DC 594/603	\$ 275		
DC 595	\$ 35,000		
DC 597	\$ 3,000		
DC 600	\$ 2,000		
DC 605	\$ 5,000 (safety fencing)		

Appraisal invoices submitted/obligated: \$ 65,000

Woodmar Country Club	\$20,000
Wicker Park Golf Course	\$ 7,500
West Reach: 25 in V-2 & V-3	\$ 37,500

Utility relos, survey contracts/invoices submitted/obligated: \$ 548,396

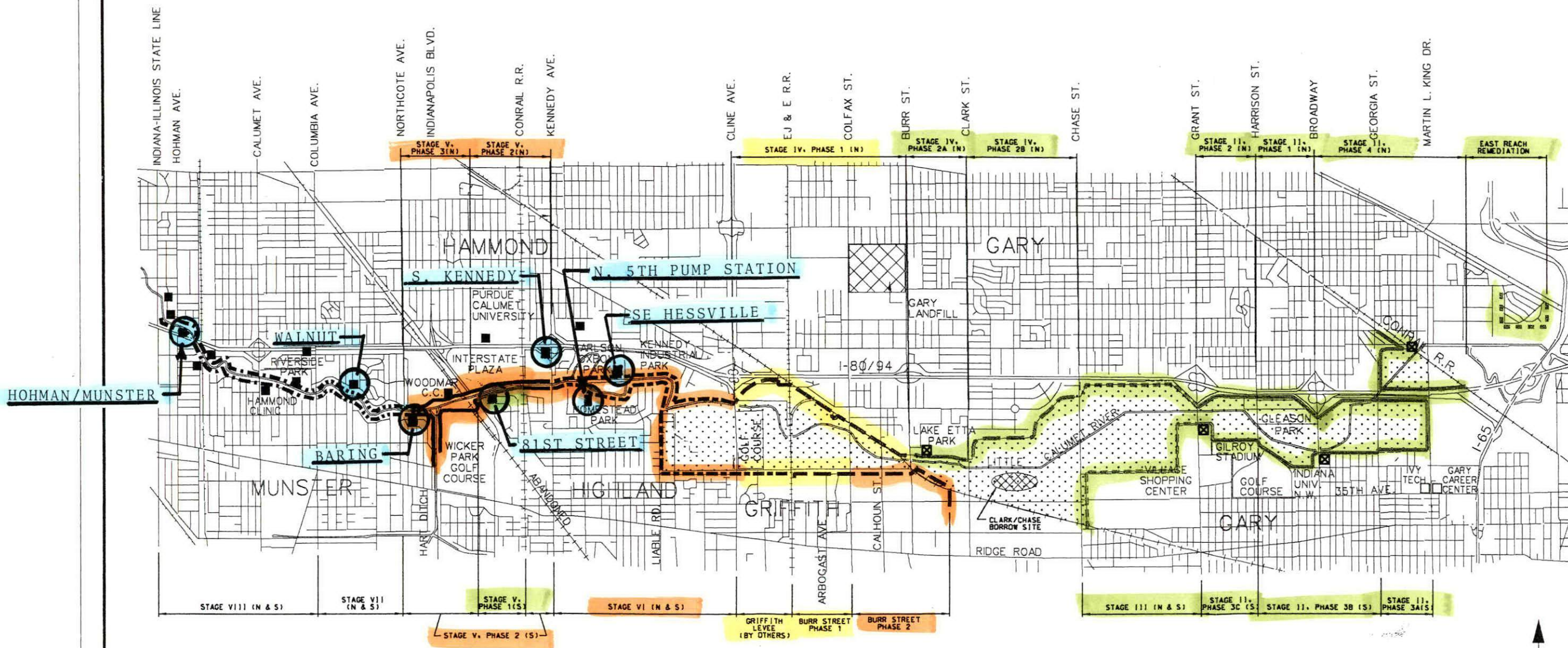
GLE/DZL existing survey contracts	\$ 20,000
WIND Grounding relocation	\$ 37,500
NIPSCo relocates Burr Street	\$120,107
Marathon relocates	\$255,000
E.J. & E. + NS RR advance relo payment	\$ 42,000
Utility Pipeline locations in V-2 plus	
Stage III Remediation	\$ 25,000
DC 743 and 748 demolitions	\$ 35,000
Wolverine IV-1 South	\$ 13,789

Administrative Services: \$ 155,000

Legal:	\$35,000
Contractors:	\$90,000
Engineering:	\$30,000

GRAND TOTAL EXISTING OBLIGATIONS = \$1,018,271

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER, INDIANA FLOOD CONTROL AND RECREATION PROJECT

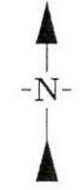
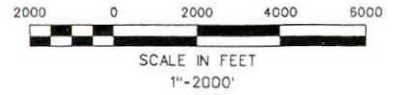


TYPE OF WORK LEGEND

- LEVEE/FLOODWALLS
- CONTROL STRUCTURE
- EAST REACH PUMPING STATIONS (NEW)
- WEST REACH PUMPING STATIONS (Rehabilitate)
- OVERBANK FLOODWATER STORAGE

CONSTRUCTION STAGE LEGEND

- EAST REACH
 - STAGE II
 - STAGE III
 - STAGE IV
 - STAGE V
 - STAGE VI
 - STAGE VII
 - STAGE VIII
- WEST REACH
 - STAGE II
 - STAGE III
 - STAGE IV
 - STAGE V
 - STAGE VI
 - STAGE VII
 - STAGE VIII
- FY00 COMPLETIONS
- FY00 STARTS
- FY01 STARTS
- COMPLETE LEVEE SEGMENTS
- CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION UNTIL NEXT BLENNIUM - JULY 2003
- ONGOING PUMP STATIONS



U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PROJECT MAP
FEBRUARY 6, 2001

Date: SEPTEMBER 1999 PRMAP2