

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN COMM.
MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1980 AT
6:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTH-
WESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew, Chairman; William Tanke; Doyle Niemeyer
Michael Doyne; Earline Rogers, John DeMeo, Jack Costello;
and Clyde Baughard

BASIN COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ed Fetterer

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Casale, Attorney; Dan Gardner, Staff Exec. Director

VISITORS PRESENT:

Paul Morhardt, Dave Hunter-Army Corps of Engineers;
Richard Bundy, Hoosier Coho & Salmon Unlimited; Ed Langel,
Salmon Unlimited; Tim Sanders representing Sen. Lugar's
office; Ernie Davis; Ernie Hatton, Izzak Walton League;
Terry Paris, Lake Co. Fish and Game Protective Association

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:35 p.m., who welcomed the commissioners present and recognized the visitors.
2. Mr. Agnew presented the minutes of the Development Commission meeting of November 20, 1980. Commissioner Tanke moved for their approval as presented, it was seconded by Commissioner Baughard and was passed unanimously.
3. Chairman Agnew referred to the correspondence in the agenda packet, and commented on the response sent to Mr. Richard Galambos, president of the Lake Co. Park Board. He summarized the Development Commission's response as being willing to discuss land transfer, but until sufficient operating funds could be obtained from the State, little action could be expected.

Also under correspondence, Commission staff director Dan Gardner discussed a mailing to the northwest Indiana delegation regarding support for the \$6 million Commission request for the upcoming General Assembly session. This is a follow-up to the earlier mailing and it explains the rationale of the request, the current status of state investments in the project, and gives a schedule for meeting the federal project requirements. Mr. Gardner stated that he had talked to Sen. Bushemi and that this information would be helpful in future delegation

caucuses on budget priorities. Mr. Gardner commented that all of the legislators he had talked to were supportive of the need for funding, but that no promises as to the amount could be given because of the fiscal situation with the budget at this time.

4. Chairman's Report - Chairman Agnew presented a membership list for the three functional committees of the Development Comm. These were based upon expressed preferences in most cases. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed to membership assignments. Meetings would be scheduled to set the committee work priorities, future meeting dates, and to elect a chairman.

Also under the Chairman's report was a report of the first legislative committee meeting held December 10, 1980. At that meeting Ms. Earline Rogers was elected chairperson for the committee. Also discussed were actions to secure the \$1.7 million state budget appropriation and for support for the Development Commission's \$6 million budget request. Legislators have been contacted to enlist their support.

Chairman Agnew also appointed Commissioner Tanke, Baughard, and DeMeo to serve as the nominating committee for officers for 1981.

5. Attorney's Report - Attorney Lou Casale presented a resolution to the board for consideration regarding committee structure and operation. After some discussion it was moved by Commissioner Tanke and seconded by Commissioner DeMeo for approval of this as committee operating procedures. The motion was passed unanimously. It was discussed and further recommended that in the future, all items needing action by the Commission should be included in the agenda mailing to enable the board time to read and consider the material. This was agreed to and noted by the staff.
6. Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Dan Gardner reported that every effort was being expended to obtain release of the \$1.7 million. He had sent a letter to State Budget Director John Huie asking for the Committee's earliest consideration of this request. Additionally calls to area legislators have been made to enlist their support in contacting Budget Committee members asking they favorably consider the Development Commission's request. Mr. Gardner also showed the board a letter of the N.W. Association of Commerce and Industry legislative priorities, of which the Little Calumet Project was favorably viewed. This group has been also asked to lobby for funding. He suggested continued monitoring and lobbying was needed and would be continued through our area legislators.

The Commission then discussed the situation at the mouth of Burns Waterway. It was agreed that the situation was very dangerous and immediate remedial action was needed, as well as long range structural solutions. What was also needed was

a unified effort to obtain state funding to begin the improvements. It was recommended that local boating groups, the Portage Port Authority, and concerned citizens support the Commission's efforts to obtain the \$6 million in state monies, as some of the funding could go toward immediate, compatible improvements to the mouth of Burns Waterway. Mr. Gardner reported that a meeting with the Port Authority, Mayor Williams of Portage, boating interests, the Corps of Engineers, and the Congressional offices was in the process of being set up.

The Commission then discussed the matter further and heard input from Ed Langel of Salmon Unlimited and other boating and conservation groups. The Commission promised to stay in communication with the interested groups as the situation developed.

7. Under new business, Mr. Gardner presented Mr. Paul Morhardt and Mr. Dave Hunter of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who made a 40 minute presentation of the three flood control alternative plans which will be taken before the public at the January 4th public meetings. Engineering approaches, economic benefits, project costs, and environmental and social impacts were presented for each of the plans. The Corps of Engineers representatives then answered questions from the Commission and the floor concerning the final plan selection process.

Commissioner Tanke expressed concern over the project sponsor cost share, stating that the Corps of Engineers needed to devise a plan that the Commission and the State Legislature could afford realistically. He asked that the Corps consider a "reasonable" level of protection in an effort to produce an affordable plan.

8. After setting the next meeting date as Thursday, January 15, at 6:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

