

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN COMM.  
MEETING HELD THURSDAY, February 26, 1981 AT 6:30 P.M.  
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA  
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew - Chairman, William Tanke, Doyle Niemeyer, Mike Doyne, Martin Behnke, Phil Jaynes, John DeMeo, and Earline Rogers.

BASIN COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

April Wooden, Ed Fetterer

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Casale, Attorney and Dan Gardner, Staff Executive Director

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:35 P.M. and welcomed the commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Development Commission meeting of January 26, 1981 were presented and it was moved by Commissioner Jaynes for approval as presented. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Behnke and was passed unanimously.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff Exec. Director Dan Gardner presented the mailouts which were sent to the state wide and area legislators concerning the need for support for some funding commitment in the year's State General Assembly. Also contained in the packet were responses received by staff to the mailout. Following discussion by the commissioners, staff was directed to continuing the contacts, and several legislative trips to Indianapolis were suggested before the State Budget was finalized.

Also presented was the resolution of support for project funding passed by the Gary City Council. This resolution was brought before the Council by Commissioner Earline Rogers, who also serves as a member of the Council. This resolution was sent to all area cities and towns as an example of support asked to be sent to the State leadership. Commissioner Rogers was commended for her initiatives on behalf of the legislative committee.

Also discussed were the Town of Munster's comments relative to the Corps of Engineers final plan selection. During the discussion it was pointed out that the Munster comments reflected many of the same concerns the Development Commission had expressed to the Corps regarding the State line Flood wall, the raising of bridges from the State line and Cline Avenue and the recommended abandonment of the Northcote Avenue bridge. Staff director Dan Gardner reported that these views had been made to the Corps and he was confident that a favorable resolution could be achieved.

Mr. Gardner also reported on a Corps of Engineers response letter relative to the mouth improvements at Burns Waterway. He also reported that a meeting had been set up to discuss the situation, options for pursuing the improvements, and a plan of action. Among the participants are Major Williams of Portage, the Corps of Engineers, Jack Clem, the Portage NIRPC representative, and staff representatives of Senators Quayle and Lugar and Congressman Benjamin and Fithian. Mr. Gardner stated he would be at the meeting and urged any interested Development Commissioners to attend also. The meeting would be Wednesday March 4th at 3:00 P.M. in the mayor's office in Portage.

#### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Agnew reported on the Development Commission's presentation to the joint Senate Finance/House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the State budget requests. Copies of the Development Commission's testimony has been distributed to each legislator on the committee, as well as the area delegation. Mr. Agnew commented on the current prospects for inclusion in the budget after the State Budget Committee did not recommend any funding for the project, and discussion followed relative to the needed contacts to pursue inclusion in the budget.

Chairman Agnew also reported on the possible re-zoning and development of land in Lake Station near SR 51 and Burns Ditch for a commercial campground. He reported on attending the hearing and expressed the hope that certain areas will be needed for the Little Calumet Project, so development permits should take these needs into consideration. Staff also reported they had contact Jim Mandon who serves as consultant to the Plan Commission to express similar concerns.

#### 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Director Dan Gardner reported on the trip to Indianapolis to meet with Bill DuBois of Governor Orr's staff and Garland Ferrell of the State Budget Agency. Chairman Agnew and attorney Lou Casale also attended these meetings. The main thrust of the discussions centered on the extreme need for continued state commitment and funding for the project in this year's budget. It was reported that no assurances were given, though the merit of the project was never questioned.

Also Mr. Gardner reported on contacts with area legislators while in Indianapolis, again with discussions centering on efforts by area legislators to include a line item amount for the Little Calumet Project. Among the people contacted were Senators Bushemi, Niemeyer, Potesta and Hall and State Reps. Reppa, Fifield, Dobis and Zaleski.

Also under the Director's report, Mr. Gardner presented a draft of Commission comments on the Corps of Engineers plan selection meetings. These were discussed by the Commissioners and it was moved by Commissioner Tanke that these comments, as presented, be endorsed by the Commission and sent to the Corps of Engineers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMeo and was passed unanimously.

#### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Under committee reports, members of the legislative committee reported on contacts relative to enlisting funding support for the project. Committee chairperson Earline Rogers stressed the need for additional contacts at

this time due to the House Budget mark-up dates. Contact with both area legislators and committee leaders was urged.

Also, the land acquisition/development committee said it would be pursuing a meeting with the D.N.R. land acquisition staff to discuss the current land owned by the department. Staff reported they would attempt to identify an agreeable date for this meeting. It was recommended by Commissioner Tanke that property maps, deeds and leases be obtained for this meeting.

7. Under New Business, Mr. Gardner reported that Mr. Ensweiler had contacted him concerning lease agreements on property he had sold to the D.N.R. Mr. Gardner reported he had told Mr. Ensweiler to still contact D.N.R. as the transfer of land had not yet taken place and the D.N.R. was still legally in possession of the property.

Mr. Gardner also reported that the State Highway Dept. would be holding a public hearing on the improvements to SR 51 near the Burns Ditch on March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in Lake Station.

8. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

