

1981  
MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION MEETING HELD JULY 16, AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE  
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Agnew at 6:35 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Agnew, Chairman; Earline Rogers; Doyle Niemeyer;  
Mike Doyne; Bill Tanke, John De Meo, Phil Jaynes, Martin  
Behnke, Jerry Pajac for Jack Costello.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Gardner, Executive Director; Louis Casale, Attorney

OTHERS:

Ed Fetterer, Deatia Hull (WJOB), Barb Waxman, Romero and  
Emma Redins, and Robert Collings

2. Approval of Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the minutes as presented in the agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Tanke and seconded by Commissioner Niemeyer for approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Communications:

Staff reviewed communications received and sent during the month of July. Included were letters from the Attorney General's office relative to the Development Commission's authority to sponsor the Little Calumet Project; a request for identification of a sponsor for the improvements to Burns Waterway; and a status report of responses to the Business Advisory Committee.

4. Chairman's Report:

Chairman Agnew briefly recapped the issue of a Section 107 project for pursuing improvements to the mouth of Burns Waterway, again referring to previous distributed material, two committee meetings considering the issue and Col. Dovas' letter requesting a sponsor. After discussion of time tables for the project and commitments for funding, Commissioner Tanke moved that the Development Commission pass Resolution 81-5, which was included in the agenda packet. Commissioner De Meo seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously, 8-0.

Mr. Agnew directed staff to prepare a letter to Col. Dovas indicating the passage of this resolution.

In related matters, staff was directed to pursue responsibility for culvert reconstruction to be assigned as a federal cost item. Dan Gardner replied that the Corps of Engineers were finalizing bridge design requirements for the preferred plan. When these were available contacts could again be made with the State and Federal Highway officials to compare existing designs and to pursue Federal replacement responsibility.

5. Executive Director's Report:

Dan Gardner reported on the status of setting up the land acquisition program on plat maps. He also presented a series of maps with existing public easements shown on areas between the Illinois State line and Cline Avenue. He indicated that the information was obtained from city and town engineers and from legal records. This preliminary work could serve as a base for analyzing the amount of acreage still to be acquired in the heavily urbanized sections of Hammond, Munster and Highland. He suggested that an option was to work with the municipalities in legal agreements to permit levee reconstruction without the high cost of outright property acquisition. He also suggested that the Development Commission would need to set a priority plan for acquisition, based upon Corps of Engineers needs for flood control improvements.

Mr. Gardner also reported on the Washington Federal Briefing held July 13 and 14 by Congressman Benjamin's office. He summarized the major thrust of the Federal policies to be a return of more decision making as well as funding responsibility to the individual states. Private sector involvement in the provision of services was also touted. Major projects would be reviewed, especially on a benefit-cost economic basis.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance/Policy Committee - Chairman Agnew reported on the current discussions with NIRPC Director Norman Tufford relative to signing a contract for services. One meeting had been held prior to tonight's meeting, and another would be scheduled to hopefully finalize the contract elements. This would be scheduled as early in August, as convenient. Staff was directed to check with Mr. Tufford to suggest suitable dates for the committee meeting. August 10 or 17 were suggested as potential dates.
- b. Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Jerry Pajac reported that it was his finding that the Development Commission could be extended insurance coverage under the current State's policy, at least through the end of the year. He also suggested that a new policy should probably be pursued after the first of January, perhaps through a bid process.

Mr. Pajac also reported that the Department of Natural Resources was ready to transfer the current owned State properties to the Development Commission. He reported that the Department could do this as early as the August 27 Natural Resources Commission meeting. After discussion by the board, staff was directed by Commissioner Tanke to pursue a date for a Land Acquisition Committee meeting prior to any state or Development Commission action on the land transfer. This meeting would explore any problems concerning the transfer and be an informational exchange. He said the Committee would propose a resolution to the full Development Commission if all seemed in order.

Under other business, Dan Gardner reported that appointments to the Basin Commission were being made and that he anticipated their being able to meet, elect officers, and conduct business by late August or early September.

The next meeting date was set tentatively for August 22 at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

/tvp

