

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Gardner, Executive Director; Louis Casale, Attorney

OTHERS:

Ernie Davis; Edward A. Lukowski; Celia Nealon;  
Jim Patton; Jeff Straight, WJOB; George Carlson, Council-  
man from Hammond; Dale Nimetz; Don Ewen; Trudy Van Prooyen.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Communications:

Under communications, staff presented a notice of Corps of Engineers permit responsibilities being transferred to the Detroit District for this area. Currently, they have been handled by the Chicago District.

Also, a resolution was received from the Portage Port Authority regarding public access from the proposed new breakwall at the mouth of Burns Waterway.

4. Committee Reports

A. Finance/Policy Committee

Under the Finance/Policy Committee, staff presented a report on the investment of the \$700,000 for an initial 30 day period. Over \$9,848 had been earned for this period it was reported. The investments were split evenly between the Mercantile Bank of Hammond and the Northern Indiana Bank and Trust Co. of Valparaiso. A Commission checking account has been set up at the Mercantile Bank to handle Commission expenditures.

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Also, a services contract was presented for consideration to the Commission. The proposal, reviewed by the Finance Committee, was for contracting for staff services with the Regional Planning Commission. In addition to staff, office space, support facilities, administrative services and accounting services would be provided. A 117% overhead rate would be charged to direct salary expenses. After some discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Jaynes for adoption of the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner De Meo and the motion was approved unanimously, 8-0.

B. Land Acquisition/Management Committee

Under land acquisition, Resolution 81-6 was presented for consideration by the board. The resolution was for the acceptance of the lands owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the Little Calumet Project. It was reported that the Natural Resources Commission had passed a resolution August 27 declaring these properties surplus, with the intent of transferring ownership to the Development Commission. Land acquisition committee members stated that at the August 12, 1981 committee meeting, all seemed to be in order for accepting the properties and no outstanding liabilities appeared to exist. After some discussion, Commissioner Tanke moved for adoption of Resolution 81-6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doyme and was passed unanimously, 8-0.

Staff was directed to forward the resolution to the appropriate State officials. Staff was also directed to pursue discussions with Lake County Park officials once the transfer was effected.

C. Legislative Committee

Legislative chairperson Earline Rogers reported on the Business Advisory Committee meeting held August 25. She reported that all but one of the invited companies was represented and the message of project immediacy was put to them. Congressman Adam Benjamin gave a project overview and all the speakers emphasized the need for direct involvement of the business community if this project is to be a success. A strategy for project funding was discussed with state appropriations, local sources of funds, and private investments mentioned. A future meeting will be scheduled to propose long term funding options and to focus on the need to raise \$2 million by 1983 to permit construction on the first part of the project - the Burns Waterway breakwall.

Also discussed was a meeting of the Legislative Coalition, a confederation of legislators from Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. Projects of regional significance were discussed and financial needs were presented.

7. Chairman's report

Under the Chairman's report, Mr. Agnew reported on a meeting with Midwest Steel officials relative to the Corps of Engineers plans for the breakwater construction, channel dredging, and piling cutting. Preliminary sketches were presented and concerns of land ownership, plant security and liability, and future maintenance access were discussed. Future contact was promised when the plan options were ready for public review.

8. Executive Director's Report

Staff Director Dan Gardner briefly reported on the proposed Corps of Engineers schedule to cut the pilings at the mouth of Burns Waterway. The pilings would be cut  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet above their base. This would provide additional safety margin and still not allow the channel entrance to clog with silt.

Additionally, Mr. Gardner reported that the majority of the replacement appointments to the Little Calumet River Basin Commission had been received, and an organizational meeting would be scheduled.

He also reported on an August 3 meeting with Bruce Anderson of Senator Percy's staff in Chicago to seek support for coordinating the Little Calumet River projects in Illinois and Indiana. Also present at the meeting were Barbara Waxman of Congressman Benjamin's office and Tim Sanders of Senators Lugar and Quayle's office. Preliminary discussions appeared favorable for state line compatibility of the two projects. A future meeting to resolve the State line floodwall controversy was suggested.

9. There was no further business to bring before the Commission and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.