MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1985 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman William Tanke. Nine Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared. Visitors were recognized.

Development Commissioners: 

William Tanke
Michael Doyne
George Carlson
Charles Agnew
Clyde Baughard
Arlene Colvin
John DeMeeo
Doyle Niemeyer
Jerry Pagac

Visitors: 

Glenda Mace - Calumet Day
Debra Gruszacki - The Times
Richard Bundy - Salmon Unlimited
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Mary Jane Zak - South Shore Marina
Bob Kimberly - Civic Committee,
Ind. Harbor B.C.
Paul Behnke - Purdue Cal student

Staff: 

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
George Schiller
Sandy Mordus

Clyde Baughard made a motion to approve the minutes of October 24th, 1985; seconded by John DeMeeo; motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Soyle Niemeyer gave financial report. He made a motion to approve claims for November; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. He announced that staff is in the process of preparing the 1986 budget which will be presented for approval at the December meeting.

Charles Agnew made a motion to approve a change order from Edward A. Kirk Corp., the firm awarded the contract for electrical work at Lake Etta park site. Original quote of $113,500 will now be less $13,960 for a total contract price of $99,540. The change order reflects the re-routing of the water main around the north and east side of the lake and includes additional cost for adding 2 each 4" gate valves. Motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Change order has been reviewed by project engineer and the Lake County Park Dept. sees no problem with it. Staff was asked to obtain letter in writing from project engineer and Lake County Parks stating they approve the change order.
Mr Agnew announced that quotes for demolition of structures on property at 6119 West 31st were received from Vic Kirsch ($4500) and Nimetz ($4200). He then made a motion that Dale Nimetz be awarded the contract for $4200. He has the insurance and permits required. Motion seconded by Doyle Niemeyer; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion for an updated appraisal on DC83 which would exclude a portion of the property (which now totals 124 acres) and have the appraisal based on 116 acres. The motion also included to have the property that the pump is located on appraised; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to amend Resolution 85-1 regarding Frum properties. Lots 18, 19, and 20 in Block 3 should be valued at $6800 (incorrectly reported at $6000); motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew reported that court action has been settled on the Ensweiler property and the new owner is willing to sell at appraised price. Staff will proceed to close on property.

He also reported that a cable has been installed on DC property on Calhoun Street and a gate installed on DC property on Colfax Street. This will help to prevent trespassing and unlawful dumping.

Chuck Agnew and Dan Gardner talked about developing a service contract with someone who would be on a retainer with us to do emergency type jobs as needed.

Dan Gardner stated that the Phase III grant application for Lake Etta park site improvements has been submitted. Jerry Pagac stated that on Monday, DNR will announce which applications have been approved.

He also stated that $15,000 was appropriated by the Lake County Council to conduct a study of the land behind the Kennedy Park Apartments. George Carlson made a motion for staff to send a letter of appreciation to the Lake County Council and the Lake County Commissioners for that appropriation; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative - Dan Gardner announced that the bill has passed the full House. Senate is marking up final version now. Senate will probably not consider bill until after the holidays.

Mike Doyne reported on the issue of the excise tax on boats in lieu of personal property tax. Rep. Mary Kay Budak is presently drafting legislation proposing the excise tax approach. Discussion was held as to how an excise tax would differ from the personal property tax and the effect it would have on all boat owners. It was discussed that support of this bill would have to be solicited from other entities, such as the Lt. Gov. and the tourism bureaus of Lake, Porter and La Porte County. Staff will write letter encouraging support of this excise tax bill.
Dan Gardner referred to the letter written to the Corps stating the Development Commission's financial capability to proceed as non-federal sponsor. Corps is requesting their upcoming year's funding based upon a 3A plan.

Dan Gardner reported that an additional $75,000 is needed for the completion of the breakwater. Money will be drawn down from state. He also expressed Midwest's concern regarding the water intake pipe. Midwest needs assurance from the Corps that no problems will occur with the pipe since it is critical to their operation. Mr. Gardner has talked to the Corps to make sure obligations are met.

Dan Gardner announced that 7 proposals have been received in response to the Development Commision's Request for Proposals for architectural engineering design services. He distributed a list of proposers and their service fees. He further stated that the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission has tentatively chosen a firm for their Phase II study. He recommended working with their firm so as to not duplicate work or funding. The marina committee will meet with that firm (Ten Ech) to word our work scope for the Portage Marina.

Staff stated that the dredging of the river has definitely helped in this rainfall. It was evident that the river flowed better. Don Ewen has signed contract with Lake County Drainage Board to do certain maintenance activities such as clearing & snagging work. Mr. Ewen can perform this work as a volunteer working under existing Corps permit and work under county supervision.

Dan Gardner talked on culvert replacement. State Highway Dept. has taken responsibility for Grant St. and design work will begin in the spring. Taft St. is County Highway responsibility. They have obtained permits and weather permitting they will be able to remove Taft St. culverts. Engineering work has been done on Chase Street. Culvert removal is also anticipated for Virginia Street.

A correction to the minutes was requested by Richard Bundy. Minutes reflected his concern was whether the breakwater had handrails or not. That was incorrect. His concern was whether there would be public access from the beach to the breakwater.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 1985.