

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1988  
 AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES  
 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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Chairman John DeMeo called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were nine Commissioners present. Guests were recognized and quorum was declared.

Development Commissioners:

William Critser  
 George Carlson  
 Charles Agnew  
 Jack Swike  
 Clyde Baughard  
 Doyle Niemeyer  
 John DeMeo  
 William Tanke  
 David Springman

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
 Bruce Stouffer  
 Lou Casale  
 Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

Robin Biesen - Post Tribune  
 Paul Hric - State Rep from Hmd  
 Deborah Schubert - Black Oak  
 George Gossard - The Times  
 Larry Illingworth - Munster  
 Town Board  
 Roland Elvambuena - City of  
 Gary  
 Stephen Davis - IN. DNR  
 Pete Zak - South Shore Marina  
 Walter Short - Gary  
 Harold Mauger - Gary  
 Howard Marion - Gary  
 Richard Bundy - Salmon Unltd.

A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to approve the minutes of the July 7th meeting; seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - In Treasurer Arlene Colvin's absence, Dan Gardner presented the financial report for June as well as the claims. Clyde Baughard made a motion to approve the claims as presented; seconded by Charles Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

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Legislative Committee - Dan Gardner talked about the pending trip to Washington on August 10-11 to meet with Asst. Sec. of Army Doyle from Washington Corps Office, Chicago Corps and Congressman Visclosky to give testimony on behalf of the 3A plan. The Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, is recommending the 3A plan (which provides full levee protection in Gary) to Washington Corps. Legislative Committee Chairman George Carlson and Gary representative Arlene Colvin will accompany Mr. Gardner. The invitation to participate in this meeting has been extended to Richard Comer, Deputy Mayor of Gary and Thomas Barnes, Mayor of Gary. A motion was made by Clyde Baughard to offer to pay for expenses incurred for Mr. Barnes and/or Mr. Comer if they accompany Mr. Gardner; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated that the General of the Midwest Div. is in support of full protection for Gary. Discussion ensued on how important it was to the economy of Gary to afford the same protection as in Hammond, Munster and Highland.

Dan Gardner announced that the State capital budget request was due in Indianapolis to the State Budget Agency before Sept. 2. Discussion was held regarding the Commission's projected project needs and the amount needed for request in the upcoming State biennium budget. Legislator Paul Hric was present in the audience and strongly supported the Commission requesting \$3 million instead. A motion to request \$3 million from the State Budget for the upcoming 1989-91 biennium session was made by Clyde Baughard; seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously. Staff will prepare documentation supporting this amount and will distribute to area legislators for their information and support.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported property closing of DC87.

Mr. Agnew stated that an eviction hearing was held for Charles Rose personal property left on DC57. The Court ordered Mr. Rose to remove his belongings or be held in contempt of court. It appears that Mr. Rose is in the process of removing that property.

Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to retain someone, at a reasonable rate, to remove debris and perform general cleanup on Foster property that the Commission now owns; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Agnew stated that a presentation to the Land Acquisition Committee meeting was made by Lake County Park personnel, who presented various building costs to add a pole barn and multi-purpose center to Lake Etta park development. Mr. Agnew made a motion for staff to review the plans and price quotations and determine if costs can be lowered and report back at next meeting; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously.

Interim Flood Control Planning Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard reported that progress to modify the permit is continuing on the snagging & clearing project from Indianapolis to Kennedy.

He also reported that the contractor that removed the dead trees and brush, etc. was suppose to haul it away but instead was attempting to burn it. He was order stopped by the Hammond Air Pollution Control Board.

Mr. Baughard also reported on the oil spill that occurred in Gary along I-80/94 at Cline Avenue. He stated that it was now cleaned up.

It was reported to the Commission by IN Department of Highways that the replacement of culverts at Grant Street that bids would be let and construction started in the spring of 1991. Preliminary field check is scheduled for March, 1989 and right of way work started in the fall of 1989.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to a letter contained in the packet from Col. Franco describing the final cost to the Commission to close out the breakwater contract. Discussion ensued on the contract closing. Mr. Baughard urged immediate closure. Mr. Tanke was adamant about addressing the concerns of Midwest regarding the water intake pipe. Although Mr. Gardner agreed with the legitimate concern of Midwest on the protection of the pipe and fully supports the Commission aiding Midwest to be assured of that protection by the Corps, he strongly felt that the contract closure needed to happen. Once the contract is closed, the Corps will assume responsibility and maintenance of the breakwaters. Mr. Gardner will contact Midwest to see what their reaction is to the closure.

Mr. Tanke made a motion for the attorney to draft a letter in whatever legal wording is necessary to effectuate the contract closure. Staff was to make contact with Midwest, both verbally and in writing, to make sure there is no problem with them and

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staff is to draw whatever administrative funds are necessary to finalize payment to the Corps; motion seconded by Jack Swike; motion passed unanimously.

According to the Corps letter, the Commission's unpaid balance to close out the contract is \$3,885.57.

It was reported that the Request for Proposals on the resolicitation for a marina developer is in the final draft form. Proper advertising will be done shortly.

Discussion was held on the proposed marina plans. It was stressed that it will be a public marina and public fishing piers and public launching will be available. Legislator Paul Hric voiced the concern of the public and the need for a public marina (also the concern of his fellow legislators).

It was reported that staff met with Marquette Yacht Club to discuss several items of interest. Marquette is requesting another year extension on their lease.

Statements from the floor - Richard Bundy, Salmon Unlimited, questioned by what authority construction/sandmining was going on in Burns Waterway next to highway north of Hwy 12.

Mr. Bundy also pointed out that a marker was still visible in the water where the old pilings are underwater but near surface by the breakwaters. Maintenance in the harbor is the Corps responsibility but the Corps previously claimed that debris was out of the jurisdiction. Mr. Gardner will talk to Corps operations people.

Mr. Bundy also stated that the snow fencing which was strung across the marina site property to prevent sand blowing was down and needed to be removed.

Ricky Austin from Black Oak complained about how the jet fuel spill was handled. He said that numerous fish were killed and some people had to evacuate their homes.

Deborah Schubert, resident of Black Oak, expressed her dismay at the inadequate handling of the spill situation. Numerous phone calls by her to various authorities were futile and immediate help to address Black Oak's concerns was not available. A lengthy discussion was held on the spill and its handling. It

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was pointed out to the audience that the Development Commission does care what goes into the river but, at the same time, the Commission is not a permit or regulatory authority and certain agencies are legally responsible for assuring that spills are adequately addressed.

Harold Mauger of Black Oak stated that he has called several times and reported debris in the river at Grant Street and still it has not been removed. His complaint has been forwarded several times to the proper authority. Staff will once again make his concern known to the Drainage Board.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 1988.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 8:10. p.m.

/sjm

