

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
 HELD AT 6:30 p.m. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1989  
 AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES  
 8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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Chairman John DeMeo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

John DeMeo  
 George Carlson  
 Jack Swike  
 Doyle Niemeyer  
 Clyde Baughard  
 William Tanke  
 David Springman  
 Jerry Pagac  
 Arlene Colvin  
 Bill Critser  
 Charles Agnew

Visitors:

Herb Read - Izaak Walton  
 M/M Pete Zak - South Shore  
 Marina  
 Larry Illingworth - Munster  
 Steve Davis - IDNR  
 Dorothy Swike - Merrillville  
 Jackie Swike - Merrillville  
 Don Bengel - Porter County  
 Surveyor  
 Paul Hernandez - Carpenter's  
 Union

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
 Lou Casale, Attorney  
 Sandy Mordus  
 Bruce Stouffer

A correction was made to the minutes of October 5th to add Jack Swike in attendance at the meeting (his name was omitted). A motion was then made by Arlene Colvin to approve the minutes of the October 5th meeting; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Arlene Colvin presented the financial report for September as well as the claims. Ms. Colvin made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.



LCRBDC Minutes  
November 2, 1989  
Page 2

Legislative Committee - Dan Gardner gave legislative report. He informed the Commission that he and the attorney have met several times with the Corps and have revised the Local Cooperation Agreement several times. He felt this latest revision was probably the best they were going to obtain. He recommended that the Legislative Committee members (and any other Commissioners) meet and review the finalized agreement. They set a meeting date for November 7th.

Mr. Gardner announced he would be attending a Corps of Engineers/NAFSMA Workshop December 6-8. The workshop sessions are intended for local project sponsors (like ourselves) and should provide important information beneficial to the Commission.

Mr. Gardner stated he has talked to Capt. Dick Thompson about accompanying him to Indianapolis to meet with the In Dept. of Transportation. The Corps is requesting a letter of commitment from the State Highway Dept. for bridge work over the Little Calumet River. Coordination and timing of bridge work with the Dept. is essential to the a successful project.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter from IDEM regarding a Corps request for Water Quality Certification for the Little Calumet River. The letter stated that it would be impossible to approve the Little Calumet River Flood Control Project without mitigation for wetland losses. IDEM is requesting that the LCRBDC make a written commitment to create at least 69.2 acres of wetland within the project area. There was a lengthy discussion on whether the Development Commission could meet this requirement. Staff felt that since the wetland acreage could be created over a period of several years and could be tied into recreation plans, there should be no problem. He requested the Commission to authorize him to write a commitment letter to IDEM. George Carlson made a motion for staff to prepare a letter committing the LCRBDC to replace the wetlands lost due to the project construction; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to accept the appraisal on Howard Marion's property; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. It is not known, at this time, whether the Commission will purchase this property. It will depend on the Corps' recommendation to us as to which would be more cost effective - either to floodproof the house or purchase the house.

LCRBDC Minutes  
November 2, 1989  
Page 3

Mr. Agnew made a motion to accept the appraisal which establishes a rental value of \$200 per month for a small section of land that will be leased to G. W. Berkheimer for parking purposes; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Attorney will prepare a lease for signature.

Mr. Agnew referred to several meetings that staff has had with Corps and Gary Redevelopment Commission regarding relocation in the Tolleston Club Properties. There are nineteen occupied structures in the area whose inhabitants must be relocated. It is the intent of the LCRBDC to contract with the Gary Redevelopment Commission to provide the services to relocate these families. The attorney briefly described the duties they would perform. They will bill us monthly for their expenses and time only. Close coordination must be met at all times with them. Chuck Agnew made a motion to approve the contract; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Agnew to approve leasing an additional four slips to Marquette Yacht Club (raising slip rental from 15 to 19 slips); motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. (Four additional slips is on land the Commission obtained from Porter County Commissioners)

A motion was made by Mr. Agnew to re-lease Bob's Fishing Lake to Keith Eller for one additional year only with lease expiring 10/31/90; motion seconded by Jerry Pagac; motion passed unanimously. Attorney will draw up lease with careful wording so there will be no confusion as to its expiration date. Re-leasing the property for one additional year will keep it consistent with the farm leases.

Mr. Agnew reported that two quotes were received on the Lake Etta maintenance building. Both quotes were too high. On the multi-purpose building, the bids were opened on October 25th. Two bids were received and both were over estimate. Mr. Agnew made a motion to recommend to the Lake County Parks Dept. the Commission's rejection to both bids; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner stated he is scheduling a meeting with the Scherer-ville town engineer and Corps regarding the proposed borrow site for levee material in Schererville. The property owner wants to develop the land (but cannot obtain Corps permit) and the town would like the land for park purposes.

LCRBDC Minutes  
November 2, 1989  
Page 4

Mr. Gardner explained a clause in the proposed Local Cooperation Agreement that states if any hazardous materials are found on project lands, it would be the responsibility of the Development Commission to clean it up. It is not a project cost. The Corps will, however, cost share an environmental audit. Mr. Gardner will follow through and obtain more information.

Interim Flood Control Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard stated that the dredging work at Kennedy Avenue is complete. It consisted of \$24,000 worth of work by a contract let by the Lake County Drainage Board.

Breakwaters/Marina Committee - Committee Chairman William Tanke referred to letter staff wrote to NIPSCO transmitting the concept plan for the Development Commission's Portage marina development.

The sand removal issue is not progressing very fast. Staff will contact the Marine Corps Reserve in Gary. Commissioner Jack Swike stated he thought they would be able to do the work. Since sand removal is the largest obstacle facing the marina development, it is imperative that we find a way to move it. Staff has been in contact with the Governor's Office but they have not been able to identify an agency that can help. The Corps has not made a position statement on sand mitigation at Ogden Dunes.

Steve Davis, IDNR Lake Michigan Specialist, stated that sampling of sand material has not been done yet on the site.

Dan Gardner stated he has recently met with Portage city officials. The city has received numerous proposals for marina sites. Corps study was based on economics and not capacity. The first line of control must be by the city. The Development Commission will continue working with the city.

Mr. Gardner spoke on the Sunset Committee proposed draft legislation that would extend the life of the Basin Commission through December, 1990. He will keep Commission informed.

Statements to the Board - Pete Zak discussed with the Board the definition of wetlands.

Paul Hernandez from the Carpenter's Union discussed using union labor for projects at Lake Etta. He felt that if local dollars were to be used then local people should be able to do the work.

LCRBDC Minutes  
November 2, 1989  
Page 5

Herb Read asked to be kept informed on shoreline mitigation. The concept of using the marina site sand for levee construction was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting date was scheduled for December 13, 1989.

/sjm