

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1992
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICES
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE, HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

In Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Vice Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Charles Agnew
Dave Springman
Nathaniel Leonard
Steve Davis
Bill Critser
Clyde Baughard

Visitors:

Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Jodi Dickey - Lake County
Parks Dept.
Donald Shapiro - Highland
Leon Wells - Lake County
Highway Dept.
Edward Lukowski - Hammond
Dean Ogan - SEMA
Mike Kerr - TPA
Siavash Beik- DNR, Div. Water
Jim Flora - R.W. Armstrong

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Liz Bushemi

The minutes of the January 8th meeting were approved by a motion from Clyde Baughard; seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Dan Gardner proposed a procedure for generating the committees for 1992 as follows: Four of the committees will remain essentially in place; Finance/Policy, Land Acquisition, Legislative and Marina Development. Existing members would be given the option to remain on their respective committee and existing chairmen would continue to function unless otherwise agreed to by the committee members. Interim Flood Committee would be replaced by a Project Engineering/Construction Committee. After some discussion, Nathaniel Leonard made a motion to approve the committee structure; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously. Committee forms will be distributed to Commissioners.

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Mr. Gardner reported that he will attend a Gary city council meeting on February 10th at 5:30 p.m. to give a construction project update to Council members. Belden McPheron and Col. Inouye will both be present to give the Corps construction timetable.

Mr. Gardner, along with the Corps, will also be present at a Contractor's Seminar at 10:00 a.m. February 13th at the Urban League Office in Gary. Invitations have been sent out to about 104 people. Commissioners are invited to attend if interested.

Mr. Gardner announced that permit approval has been received from DNR for the project area between Harrison St. and Grant St.

Jim Flora, Commission project engineer from R.W. Armstrong, reported on his review of the construction plans and progress to date. After initial talks with the Corps and some additional research, he feels much more comfortable with the Corps approach to quality assurance of the construction. A quality control plan is required of the contractor by the Corps of Engineers and then the Corps will perform assurance checks to monitor the compliance of the contractor with this plan. The key element of the quality assurance plan is that the contractor is required to take tests to assure specifications compliance and these tests are monitored by the Corps. Mr. Flora reported that the one area he felt could be strengthened was the Corps requiring more tests than presently identified. To inform the board of this program, Tom Deja, the Corps quality assurance representative, will be at the next month's meeting to present the Corps program relative to this issue.

An update was given by Dan on the Section 215 letter sent to the Corps with the most recent information - including the most recent DNR letters committing to strong coordination with the Commission toward implementing this project. George Carlson questioned page 20 of the packet regarding the technical specifications of the levee alignment. George also commented on the existing spoil bank height and future incorporation of its use into the project. In response to both, Dean Ogan from the State Emergency Management Agency and Sivash Beik of DNR, Div. of Water, they responded to questions raised by Mr. Carlson and other Commission members assuring the members that the implementation of the interim project would not adversely affect surrounding areas and would be coordinated to obtain the maximum Corps of Engineers credit reimbursement.

Finance/Policy Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard presented the financial status report for January as well as the claims. Mr. Baughard made a motion to approve the pending claims; motion seconded by Dave Springman; motion passed unanimously.

A question was raised by Clyde Baughard as to the claim submitted by Con Rail. Mr. Gardner replied that this was for their project inspection work when the railroad track was removed, and that these bills were reviewed and found to be acceptable by our project engineer Mike Kerr. A question was also raised on the bill submitted by Cole. Payment to Cole will be made after concurrence by Bruce that work has been met.

Legislative Committee - Dan briefly reported that very little legislative activity of impact to the Development Commission was discussed at this short session. The budget was not opened this session. The only bill which could conceivably have had impact was a bill by Senator Neary to allow cities to tax for river/marina dredging purposes. The current status was only applicable to Michigan City and not the whole shoreline.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported there are some 60 utility crossings in the east reach of the project which will require some relocation activity. The Commission is responsible for negotiating and having these relocations effected. In order to assist the staff and our attorney, Lou has suggested that some preliminary title work and permitting analysis be done to allow us to begin negotiations with the utilities. A proposal has been received and discussed from Land Acquisition Inc. to produce a map and the above mentioned work within a 3 week period for a sum not to exceed \$5,125. Mr. Agnew stressed that in his view this was an important activity and needs attention. He then made a motion to approve a contract with the conditions of a cap of \$5,125 and a time frame not to exceed 30 days of completion to be negotiated by the Executive Director and attorney;; seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the INDOT permit to allow Phase II construction subject to attorney's and Executive Director's approval of contract; motion seconded by Clyde Baughard; motion passed unanimously.

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Interim Flood Committee - Committee Chairman Clyde Baughard stated the Conrail R.R. culverts reconstruction project is complete except for walkway to the gaging house. The tracks have not been completely re-layed yet but will be done very shortly. It is anticipated that slides will be shown at the next meeting.

Mike Kerr also stated that Indianapolis Blvd. bridge clearing and dredging is also complete. Mr. Carlson questioned whether the dike on the west side was too low. He was assured that it was raised higher since the last meeting and it will meet elevation height.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - In Committee Chairman Bill Tanke's absence, Mr. Gardner reported that a kick-off meeting was held on January 23 at Portage City Hall involving Portage and Abonmarche. Abonmarche assured staff that they are in communication with the Detroit Corps, IDNR, NIPSCO and INDOT. Mr. Gardner referred to the chart in the packet outlining Abonmarche marina activity. Their next meeting is scheduled for February 19th. Abonmarche will be available at the next meeting for an update.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter from Superior Construction forwarding payment for sand material removed through December 31, 1992. Superior anticipates more sand removal in March of 1992.

Statements from the floor - Donald Shapiro of Highland addressed the Board regarding his concerns of flooding to the Wicker Park Manor subdivision area from the Marshall's Shopping Complex parking lot. He explained that he has done some considerable research and taken pictures regarding the pumps that drain the parking lot and the potential outlets of this water. It is a feeling that this source of water needs to be studied and protected against in the future. He mentioned that he has contacted the town of Highland and to this point has received little help. He requested the Board be aware of this situation. Siavash Biek of IDNR who was present in the audience committed to looking at the situation personally.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m.

/sjm

