

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1996  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
PORTAGE, INDIANA

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Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman  
William Tanke  
Robert Trelo  
Steve Davis  
Arlene Colvin  
Emerson Delaney  
George Carlson  
Chuck Agnew

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong  
Denis Buksa - Munster  
G.W. Hodges - Portage Port  
Authority  
Jamie Frum - Lefty's Coho  
Mike VanderHeyden - Dyer  
Construction  
Bob Brosey - Dyer Const.  
Mara Candelaria - Congressman  
Visclosky's Office

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
Lou Casale  
Melissa Stefanovich  
James Pokrajac  
Judy Vamos  
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the May 2, 1996 meeting were approved by a motion from Chuck Agnew; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman William Tanke informed the Board that he and Dan Gardner would be meeting with the incoming Chicago District Commander Col. Gerber in Chicago with the outgoing Col. Slockbower.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to a Corps letter addressing the issue of safety at the Deep River borrow site. An issue of safety was raised by the Lake County Parks Dept. and after investigation by the Corps, they did recommend that a temporary project fence be provided during construction activities.

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Mr. Gardner referred to the COE public notice reconnaissance report completing the feasibility of flood damage reduction measures for Cady Marsh Ditch in Griffith. The study concluded that it does not yield positive benefits and it is concluded that the study be terminated and that no further Federal action be taken at this time.

Discussion ensued on all the rainfall the area has been receiving. Although the rain has been constant, there has been no reports of commercial or major residential flooding. Indianapolis Blvd. in Highland was closed for a short time one day anticipating the river may go over the road; however, it did not and the road was reopened. We have been receiving monitoring flood level reports from the COE office. Jeff Miller from Lake County Emergency Management will be sending us some printouts of the registered rain activity they received.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion to extend the Chase St. Produce contract to Mike Bush for an additional 8 months, with terms and conditions that have been put into effect for the past 4 months, due to his delinquency of payments; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that several meetings have taken place this month. On May 2 a meeting was held with 6594 Foundation for review of the east reach remediation area. There is no definite plan for development at this time and a plan would have to be in place before any permits are issued. On May 10th a meeting was held with I.U.N. and Mayor King to review the sign request at I80/94. On 5/14 staff met with INDOT to discuss the Grant Street interchange project, including egress and ingress to Gas City. On 5/16 staff met with Gary Parks Dept. to discuss Gleason Park layout. The Corps has modified the plans to accommodate their requests. The City of Gary is having an architect develop plans for the new greenhouse. As part of our agreement with Gary, we are paying for this. The attorney has forwarded an agreement to the architect. Mr. Huffman made a motion to enter into an agreement with Greg Jenkins upon final review of the attorney and Chairman for a cost of \$125,000; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. On 5/21 a meeting was held with Griffith town officials regarding levee alignment, pump station access and the Cady Marsh project. Another meeting was held on 5/31 with N.W. Engineering to coordinate final design review of the Burr St. pump station.

Mr. Huffman referred to a letter from the town of Highland regarding a proposed staging area. It has not been definitely established where that staging area will be.

Jim Pokrajac added that the landscaping contract for the Wicker Park Manor area has been delayed because of all the rain. There has also been a several week delay at Lake Etta, and all ongoing construction projects.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke gave the Marina report. He reported that the marina is open for business. The marina committee members met earlier today on the marina site. At this time, it is reported that all but one slip is filled. Mr. Gardner stated he had talked to Rich Carlson from the COE and asked for a written letter stating when the Development Commission's marina obligation would be met. Staff will follow through.

Mr. Tanke referred to a letter in the packet from Mayor Maletta confirming that the City will establish and maintain the accounts required by the terms of the Loan Agreement between this Commission and NBD Bank. In addition, all grant funds received by the City will be deposited into the marina revenue fund. Now that the marina is opened, we must meet our obligation in paying back the bond in semi-annual payments.

Mr. Tanke stated that we have granted an easement to NIPSCO to bring electricity to the site. There have been some minor problems but they are all being worked out. Landscaping is ongoing. He gave credit to this Commission and to the City.

Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve one marina claim as submitted to the City of Portage for \$78,198.02. This is a third payment to Ellas Construction Contract #6 for the floating dockage - total bid was for \$658,721 (only 10% retainage left); motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tanke announced that Mike Doyne, who was a former member of this Commission, has been retained by the City to operate the marina.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer George Carlson gave the financial report. Mr. Carlson made a motion to approve the financial status statement for April and approve the claims for payment totaling \$93,976.19; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson referred to a letter from the COE requesting \$139,200 be placed into the design escrow account and then referred to a letter withdrawing \$60,000 from the design escrow account.

Other Business - Bob Huffman asked about the K&S Testing bill that was identified on the claim sheet. Mr. Pokrajac replied that we had received some stone from the IN National Lakeshore and had it analyzed for its suitability to use on the trails. We are not satisfied with the choice of stone the COE is using. The tests concluded that the stone was satisfactory for our needs, and the COE has stated they will use this type from now on. It is more suitable for walking or riding bikes.

Statements from the floor - Contractor Mike Vander Heyden from Dyer Construction informed the Commission that he has given the COE a value engineering item for the job at Burr Street that he felt would save nearly \$600,000. The COE has turned it down. He is questioning why it was turned down. Staff Jim Pokrajac and project engineer Jim Flora will look into the matter closer to see if it indeed would be a beneficial cost savings. It was pointed out that although there is sometimes an immediate cost savings because of a value engineering item, it does not save money in the long run when other adjustments/modifications need to be done. Staff will talk again with Tom Deja and Mike. Mr. Gardner pointed out to Mike that he needs to keep in mind that the contract is with the COE and not with this Commission.

Mara Candelaria from the Congressman's Office informed the Commission that they have received a letter from the city of Gary committing the city to fund their portion of the Grant St. reconstruction.

Denis Buksa, homeowner along the river in Munster, inquired about how we worked with Illinois in regard to westward flow of water into IL and water in IN being affected by the O'Brien locks in IL. Mr. Gardner replied that in the past the COE has been asked this question and their response has been that the O'Brien locks do not affect directly the water levels in the IN portion of the Little Calumet River. The COE's research does indicate that the locks, when closed, do prohibit exchange of water from the river and Lake Michigan.

Mr. Gardner also stated that any project designed and constructed in IN or in IL must be designed so as to not send flood waters into the adjoining state. He concluded that he would check to see if the COE has more recent information on these questions.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 1996 - NOT THURSDAY - in Portage.