

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:30 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
Roger Chiabai
Steve Davis
John DeMeo
Charles Agnew
Arlene Colvin
Emerson Delaney

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWarmstrong
Mike Palm - Environmental Inc.
Tom Stevenson - " "
Ken Smith - IDNR, Div. Water
Jomary Crary - " " "
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
James Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

The minutes of the November 6, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Roger Chiabai; motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman read the letter from Mayor Dedelow from Hammond re-appointing George Carlson for another 4 year term to expire December 31, 2001.

He then appointed a Nominating Committee to select new officers for 1998. Committee appointed consisted of John DeMeo, Chuck Agnew, and George Carlson. Mr. DeMeo will serve as Chairman.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to the copy of the IDNR permit approval in the packet regarding the reconstruction of Grant Street. He stated that the city of Gary has forwarded their payment to INDOT for their participation in the total cost (\$975,000). The Corps of Egnineers' participation is about \$340,000. It is scheduled for a December 16th letting.

Mr. Gardner met with George Van Til, Lake County Surveyor on November 25. The Surveyor's Office is trying to identify ways for additional storage to improve flood protection. They are looking at alternate ways to retain water. They are going to put a pump in

the Regeski site in Schererville. This will help the area leading up to Hart Ditch. Whatever water can be retained will be that much less going into the ditches.

Mr. Gardner reported that a date has been set for December 16th for the Colonel and Mayor King to discuss minority contracting participation in project construction. It has been determined that the previously set goal of 40% is not being met. This is not acceptable to the Mayor or the Commission so we need to discuss what constitutes "good faith efforts" by the contractors. A report will be given at the next meeting. Members of the ad-hoc minority participation committee are Arlene Colvin, Bob Huffman and Marion Williams. They will be invited to the meeting.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew reported that there were no real estate motions to be made this month. Attorney Lou Casale presented the license agreement he drafted for 5.3 acres of mitigated land (as a result of the Burr Street bridge replacement). Mr. Agnew made a motion to enter into the agreement with the city of Gary; motion seconded by Roger Chiabai; motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Casale then presented the MOA between the Commission, INDOT and the COE to allow for 2 acres of wetland mitigation for INDOT's Grant Street improvement project. The cost estimate for the betterment portion is about \$10,000 - \$15,000 which is our cost. Mr. Agnew made a motion to enter into the MOA capping our cost participation at \$15,000 (any amount over that, they will have to come back to the Commission for further approval); motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman introduced Mike Palm and Tom Stevenson from Environmental Inc. who proceeded to make a presentation to the Board. The costs incurred at the greenhouse cleanup are much higher than we expected. Env. Inc. justified those costs to the Board. Their original bid could not detail out the costs because it was not known what they would find until they actually got in there. A lengthy question and answer period followed. Mr. DeMeo made a motion authorizing an expenditure of a \$3,000 cap to do soil boring testing of the remaining area so it will be known right up front what additional work and cost would be incurred; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tanke then made a motion directing Attorney Casale to check with IDEM and notify the city of the costs involved in just the soils and that ground water has not been

addressed and would not be addressed by this Commission. We are not owners of the property; we only have an easement. The City retains ownership. Motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously. Env. Inc. will report back to us at the next meeting.

Mr. Huffman reported that a levee failure has occurred on the levee segment east of Harrison because of poor base material below the 6' depth of the inspection trench (the COE did not take soil borings in this area). The COE Engineering Design branch is reviewing it to see what action needs to be done. Staff was directed to write a letter of concern to the Corps seeking a response.

Legislative Committee - The issue of being able to dispose of Commission property came up. Once the project is in place, there probably will be surplus property that we could dispose of. At this time, there is no mechanism in place to allow us to do that. It appears that it may take a change in our legislation to allow that.

Marina Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the handout from Abonmarche listing the five separate contracts that the city will award regarding Phase II of the marina. Also distributed was a draft design of the Portage Public Marina sign they designed. Mr. Tanke expressed his concern that he feels there are a lot of loose ends with the city and wants a marina committee meeting scheduled. The local cooperation agreement we have with the city is over at the end of December.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve the financial status statement for October and approve the claims for payment totaling \$157,167.04; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion approved unanimously. Mr. Agnew reported that a finance meeting was held on December 4. The 1998 budget will be presented at the January meeting for approval.

Other Business - Mr. Huffman inquired about the flyover of the river. Bill Tanke answered that the weather has not been conducive for flying. They are waiting for a nice day. Mr. Huffman stated that they should be digitized.

Statements from the floor - There were none.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 15, 1998.

/sjm