

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1997
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Chairman Bob Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Huffman
Robert Trelo
William Tanke
Steve Davis
Emerson Delaney
Charles Agnew
George Carlson
Arlene Colvin
Marion Williams

Visitors:

Jim Flora - RWArmstrong
Denis Buksa - Munster
Angela Usher - Casale's office
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina
Jomary Crary - IDNR, Div. Water

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
James Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the May 1, 1997 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Trelo; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Bob Huffman stated he was just glad to be here and not out on strike at NIPSCO.

Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner referred to an article in agenda packet regarding an ecological park feasibility study to identify ecological resources along the Grand Calumet River and the Little Calumet River. He described it not as a physical park in the sense but rather as a natural resource corridor in various areas along the rivers. There is a National Park Service member team that will visit the Lake Calumet area to determine if there is enough environmental, historical and cultural values here to be deemed worthy of being designated a park.

Mr. Gardner talked about the IDNR permit for recreational consideration status. He has been in communication with Ken Smith in regard to fulfilling the permit requirements. We understand that Fish & Wildlife Div. has been holding it up and we, as well as the COE, have been addressing their concerns. A contractor has

been selected and work is scheduled to begin in July. The OxBow park area will be the first recreational construction area. Jomary Crary from IDNR said she talked to George Bowman today and he is ready to approve it as soon as it is released from F&W.

Land Acquisition Committee - Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew made a motion authorizing the increase of offers on DC478 to \$1,300 and DC511 to \$1,000; motion seconded by Bob Trelo; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Agnew then made a motion to approve the filing of condemnations for DC507 and DC508; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew informed the Board that a new lessee, Village Farm Stand, will be taking over the Chase Street Produce farm stand. Mr. Agnew made a motion to approve a month to month license agreement with Village Farm Stand until a permanent acceptable agreement can be put together; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney. Mr. Tanke made a motion to amend the original motion for the month to month not to exceed 90 days; motion seconded by Emerson Delaney; motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued on the improvements to the property that they would like to make or that they would like us to make. It was brought up whether the lease was a bid item or not. It was explained that the new lessee, Village Farm Stand, is just taking over the existing lease we had with Chase Street Produce.

Mr. Agnew then made a motion to approve and sign an agreement, Addendum #5, extending the use of Big Maple Lake to August, 1997; motion seconded by Bill Tanke; motion passed unanimously. The Lake County Park Board already approved it at their meeting last night.

Mr. Agnew announced that we would have a tour of Commission properties on Saturday, June 21. Commissioners and staff will meet at the southeast corner parking lot at Kennedy & Highway in Highland.

Mr. Gardner referred to a letter in the packet from Lawson-Fisher, engineers for the town of Griffith, inquiring whether the Commission would have 3 acres of land available to use as a reforestation area as part of the fulfillment of the IDNR permit. The land is needed because of the new pump station at the north end of the Griffith golf course. Mr. Gardner showed the area on a map and gave a brief synopsis. IDNR will help determine what type of reforestation will be needed. Mr. Gardner says we will inform the town that we could make available to them acreage in the floodway as long as it is mutually beneficial.

Mr. Gardner stated that the M. C. Bennett Park greenhouse is almost complete. Security has become an issue there since there was a breakin this week and a furnace was stolen. Fencing is needed around the greenhouse. Insurance will replace the furnace.

Project Engineering Committee - Committee Chairman Bob Huffman made a motion to award a contract to Environmental Inc. (low bidder) at a cost of \$28,308 to remove a garage and vacated structures at the old greenhouse site and to do an environmental analysis at IV-2B. There will be additional cost involved. Commissioner Marion Williams inquired how much the additional cost would be. Staff informed the Board that we have received unit prices from the firm. Since it is not known what will be found on the site, the cost cannot be determined yet. Those additional costs will be added onto the base bid after analysis of materials is completed and that cost will be based upon submitted unit prices.

Mr. Gardner referred to a public notice issued by INDOT for the Grant Street bridge replacement over the Little Calumet River. Mr. Gardner stated he was very pleased that the process is proceeding and it is starting to be scheduled. INDOT probably will be contacting us as we do own some of the property they will be needing for reconstruction.

Mr. Huffman stated that staff has met with the successful bidder of the recreation project, Dyer Construction; the COE; and representatives from the communities. Construction is hoped to begin this July.

Discussion took place regarding the Cady March Ditch project. We understand that Congress is still funding the study, even though we have unofficially been informed that the town of Griffith does not have the money to be the sponsor for it. Staff was questioned why we couldn't just cancel it. Mr. Gardner stated that it is not our project to cancel or answer to. The town of Griffith is the responsible party that would have to cancel it. The COE still has the project in their plans and that is the problem.

Discussion took place regarding the letter sent to the COE by Jim Flora on technical issues needing to be addressed. Such items as turning radius on levees, I-walls vs. T-walls, overflow sections, state line issues, interior drainage & ponding issues, etc. were discussed in the letter. Mr. Carlson stated that he thinks the COE has never really addressed the issue of state line impact.

Staff Jim Pokrajac stated that we have asked the COE to remove the drainage ditch portion of the contract for Stage IV Phase 1 out of the contract and make it a separate contract. Since there are existing drainage problems there now and since we do have the land, we have requested that it be bid as a separate contract.

Legislative Committee - Committee Chairman George Carlson reported that the State Budget has included \$2 million for the Commission, as well as \$2 million for the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission, principally for the Portage marina. The State Budget Committee is scheduled to meet on June 20. We have requested to be on that agenda for allocation of the \$2 million from the 91/93 budget. Mr. Gardner will attend that meeting. We have written a letter Representative Chet Dobis to help assure our being placed on the agenda for approval.

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the letters in the packet that we wrote to Abonmarche listing some concerns we had with the marina and his response back addressing those concerns. He also stated that we have not been successful in scheduling a meeting with the city yet to discuss the completion of Phase 2 of the marina. He added that the placques are up at the marina.

Mr. Tanke asked Dan if we are still in compliance with the COE permit in regards to the plant and tree plantings. He will check with Abonmarche to make sure. Now that the weather is nice, it can be determined what plants have to be replaced.

Attorney Lou Casale stated he has been in contact with the NIPSCO attorney to determine if the signage that we presently have to alert boaters to the high wire power lines overhead is adequate.

Mr. Tanke stated it should be our priority now to get construction issues with Phase 1 completely resolved; get reimbursement from the City for monies we've expended for the marina; and then divest ourselves from the marina business.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer Chuck Agnew gave the financial report. He referred to a revised claim sheet for May that replaces the one in the packet. Mr. Agnew then made a motion to approve the financial status statement for April and approve the claims for payment totaling \$71,417.31; motion seconded by Bob Trelo; motion approved unanimously. Mr. Carlson questioned whether Valparaiso Insurance was the same insurance carrier we had when the insurance claim was paid for Wicker Park Manor. It is not the same insurance company.

Mr. Agnew informed the Board that we received the audit report for the year 1995 and 1996.

Other Business - Mr. Tanke inquired as to what the latest status was on receiving the O&M Manual. Mr. Gardner says the COE says we should have something by the end of July.

At last month's meeting, the Commission voted to engage a company to fly the river via helicopter and take a video. Before that happened, the rains came and the foliage and trees filled out to a point that the river would be too obstructed. He suggested we wait until fall.

Arlene stated that she has contacted by a minority contractor last week who indicated he had a contract with Rausch for hauling materials for them and felt the contract was not being honored. Arlene questioned whether the 40% minority participation that was in place years ago was still in place today. She did obtain a copy of the contract and it appeared to be in order. She said that the contractor has hired an attorney in his behalf. Dan did inform her that he understands that the contract Rausch has with the contractor is in force for the entire project and he has been used several times. We will get a copy of the contract to Lou. We will investigate further and report back at the next meeting.

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, July 3, 1997.

5