

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1998
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Chairman Robert Trelo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Robert Trelo
Arlene Colvin
William Tanke
Charles Agnew
Robert Huffman
John DeMeo
Steve Davis
Marion Williams
George Carlson

Visitors:

Ken Smith – Div. of Water, IDNR
Jomary Crary – Div. of Water, IDNR
Jim Flora – R.W.Armstrong Co.
Karen Flora
Angie Ogrentz
Steve Ogrentz
Barbara Trelo
Chris Huffman
Kathy Pokrajac
Mike Mordus
Emery Vamos
Imad Samara, COE

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Sandy Mordus

The minutes of the November 5th and the November 24th, 1998 meeting were approved by a motion from Bob Huffman after several corrections were made. On the minutes for the November 5th the list showing which Commissioners were present, delete Emerson Delaney and add George Carlson and Arlene Colvin. Also change location of meeting to Portage (not Highland). On the November 24th minutes, delete the work "Development" from Lake Erie Land Company; motion was seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Bob Trelo referred to the appointment status sheet each Commissioner received showing the status of their respective appointment. Several appointments are up or soon to be up.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner referred to the letter in the agenda packet received from David Sanford, Chief of the Policy Div. for Civil Works at the COE Washington office. Mr. Gardner expressed his displeasure in the Commission not being able to present their case to the COE before a decision was rendered (as we had asked them). The letter basically says that the Commission would not be allowed credit for the flowage easements (approx. \$550,000 credit value). Mr. Gardner has called Washington and confirmed that we did receive the letter, we would respond to the letter, and we were disappointed we were not given the opportunity to go before them before a decision was rendered. It was discussed that we will have to call upon Congressman Visclosky to help us out. With the Congressman's appointment to the Water Resource Committee in Washington, his support to our project/request would be beneficial. Attorney Casale added that arbitration may be used. With the Local Cooperation Agreement in place, he sees it as a contract violation. Staff will pursue and keep Commission informed.

Land Acquisition Committee – Committee Chairman Chuck Agnew stated that the 45 farmable acres at 35th & Chase would be advertised out for a leasee to farm. Staff will report back.

Mr. Agnew stated that the dedication of Gleason Park on October 27th was very nice. The Mayor attended and seemed very pleased with the outcome of the recreational features that were put in at Gleason Park, as a result of our project.

Mr. Gardner added that the COE is pressing us for comments on the Operation & Maintenance Manual. We hope to have all comments together by middle of January to officially submit to the COE by early February. If Commissioners have any further comments they want included, please get them to staff as soon as possible.

Mr. Gardner also stated that the mitigation agreement with Lake Erie Land Company is approved and signed. All mitigation agreements will need permits before completion. All designs and approvals must come back to the Board for concurrence.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that a letter was received from the COE describing the levee failure, what they engineered and why it failed. There were 2 levee failures last construction season which caused great concern to us. The construction this season is about completed. Testing of pump stations is ongoing now. Three new segments of levee construction is anticipated for 1999.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin stated that Dan Gardner attended the State Budget Committee meeting in Indianapolis on November 18th to request approval of the remaining appropriated funds of \$2 million. All monies that have been

appropriated to us have now been allocated. There are no reserve monies. With the upcoming construction contracts anticipated for 1999, it is critical the Commission receive a higher appropriation this legislative biennium. Mr. Gardner had contact Senator Alexa, who is the newest member of the State Budget Committee, and enlisted his support. In the agenda packet, staff wrote a thank you letter to him for his support.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke informed the Board that the corner marina sign is up and looks good. There was a slight overrun on the sign cost. Mr. Tanke made a motion to approve the claim of \$10,172.15 (original amount was \$10,130); motion seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously. Staff will look into closing out the marina construction account that was previously set up to allow payment for particular marina costs. This sign construction cost is expected to be the last cost that would be incurred at the marina site. After paying this claim, it is anticipated that about \$11,640 would be left in the account. Staff will see if this can be applied toward the bond payment.

Finance Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson made a motion to approve a budget transfer of \$500 from Line 5812 (NIRPC services) to Line 5811 (Legal Expenses); motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson then referred to the financial status report and claim approval list. He made a motion to accept the financial report and approve claims totaling \$74,302.86; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carlson then referred to the NIRPC contract for administrative services. Page 17 in the packet lists out the exact changes/increases in the contract. The contract will be acted upon at the January meeting. Mr. Gardner stated that the NIRPC as well as services contracts will be presented and acted on in January.

Recreational Development Committee – In Committee Chairman Emerson Delaney's absence, Jim Pokrajac thanked Chuck Agnew for his attendance at the Gleason Park dedication on October 27th. He also thanked Bob Huffman for his attendance at the COE walk thru for trail crossings. On November 20th, there was a final inspection at Deep River. Only some minor regrading and seeding need to be done there. There will also be a dedication in the spring for Lake Etta Park in Gary.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams thanked Imad Samara, project manager for the COE, for the minority figures of past contracts. It will be shared with the Committee members.

Other Business – Mr. Anew stated that at the next meeting, some financial matters will be addressed. The Finance Committee will be meeting prior to the January meeting.

There being no further business, the next regular Commission meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 1999.**