

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson
Emerson Delaney
Mark Reshkin
William Tanke
Steve Davis
Bob Huffman
Curt Vosti

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Company
Imad Samara - COE
Dan McDowell – Hobart Marsh supporter
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Jim & Karen Flora – R.W. ARMSTRONG CO.
Deb DeLaney
Jim Piakarczyk – Sierra Club
Jane Fuller – Sierra Club, Hobart Marsh supporter

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray
Lou Casale

Commissioner Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2001; motion seconded by Emerson DeLaney; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Tanke reported on the NAFSMA conference in Charlotte, NC that he and Dan Gardner attended. He stated that a main speaker was Brig. Gen. Griffin, Director of Civil Works for the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington. Other speakers included Michael Parker, Asst. Secretary of Army for Civil Works; Michael Cook, Director of Wastewater Management at the USEPA; John Studt, Chief of Regulatory Branch, Civil Works, Corps of Engineers; John Anderson, House Water Resources & Environmental Subcommittee, Washington; Charles Hess, Headquarters, Corps of Engineers; and others. He felt it was a very good conference. Mr. Gardner agreed and distributed a handout addressing Stormwater planning and training. Commissioner Reshkin inquired whether this Commission has any stormwater and wastewater responsibility. Discussion ensued.

Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Dan Gardner informed the Board members that he will meet with Ron Trigg of Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund and their attorney and COE officials on December 12th to discuss the 3rd party agreement. He views this meeting as kind of negotiating session to first establish their interest in being the 3rd party and then working out the language in the agreement that would be acceptable to all parties. Discussion was held. Mr. Gardner then distributed the letter that the COE wrote to Mayor Scott King in response to his letter of November 10th addressing the mitigation lands within the city and Hobart Marsh.

The hearing's purpose was to hear an explanation on the part of government officials from Indianapolis to identify financial problems of the State and how they can be dealt with.

Mr. Carlson added that attended the public hearing on Stage VIII and complimented Mr. Gardner and the staff on an excellent presentation.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti gave the Recreation Report. There is no activity in recreation at this time. Additional recreational trail work will resume with the next contract.

A proposal for a recreational pedestrian walkway onto the Kennedy Avenue bridge was discussed. R. W. Armstrong submitted a quote to Engineering for \$26,000. We will forward our feasibility study to the COE.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that a meeting has not been scheduled yet with the city. There is no further information.

Finance/Policy Committee – Treasurer Curt Vosti gave the Finance report. He reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held on November 15th to review year end financial status and approve compensation changes to present to the Board for their approval. Mr. Vosti referred to the letter from him with supporting documentation that was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Vosti presented the committee's proposed changes. They were: (1) Adoption of the Operating Budget for 2002. The budget holds the Administration Budget to the same level as 2001; the Land Acquisition Budget assumes the release of the \$2.5 million from the Budget; (2) Recommendation to dedicate the interest on the COE escrow accounts in the amount of \$118,677.82 to the Administrative Budget; (3) adoption of changes made to existing services contracts that include NIRPC contract for administrative services for the year 2002, a compensation adjustment to Dan Gardner in the amount of \$5,500 and an amount of \$4,000 to Sandy Mordus (the same amounts as last year), an hourly increase of \$4.75 to contract employee Jim Pokrajac (total compensation would be \$50.75/hour), an hourly increase of \$3.50 to contract employee Judith Vamos (total compensation would be \$36.50/hour), an hourly increase of \$1.75 to contract employee Lorraine Kray (total compensation would be \$18.25/hour); and legal services contract would be increased for \$85 to \$90 per hour. Mr. Vosti proceeded to make a motion approving the above-mentioned changes; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously. In regards to the proposed increase in hourly for R. W. Armstrong, it would have to be considered as a separate item because it was not before the Finance Committee at their meeting. Mr. Vosti proceeded to make a motion approving an increase from \$135 to \$150/hour for consulting engineer Jim Flora of R. W. Armstrong Company with the new contract beginning December 15, 2001; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner assured the Board members that there are sufficient funds available in the budgets to meet these increases. There was also discussion that a proposal may be forthcoming addressing paralegal fees that is billed to us as part of the legal services contract from the attorney. It will be addressed at the next meeting. Staff was asked to develop a work scope for duties performed by Lorraine Kray. At present, there is no work scope.

Mr. Vosti presented the claims for November in the amount of \$63,051.82; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti then mentioned that travel policy information was also distributed to Board members in their packet. The committee will be meeting after the holidays to further discuss this issue and action will be taken at a later date.

ADOPTED PRIORITIES FOR USE OF REMAINING STATE BUDGET
APPROPRIATION - 2001-03

1. Purchase of maximum number of properties in the west reach of the project area to put ourselves in the best position to let new Federal flood control construction contracts at the earliest date possible. Concentration will be on Stage VI Phase 1 and Stage VI Phase 2 working westward from Cline Avenue. All properties will be fully creditable.

2. Pursue west reach permit for construction in a floodway issued by the Indiana Department Natural Resources. This permit necessitates the approval and beginning implementation of a required wetland mitigation plan. Concentration of efforts on letting in-project mitigation contract and utilizing State appropriations to purchase necessary off-corridor mitigation lands identified in the Hobart Marsh area. Work with the IN Department Natural Resources and Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund toward the dedication of their properties for mitigation commitment with minimized cost. Property acquisition will be targeted to fully creditable items.

3. Continue discussion with the Gary city administration and other local leaders to identify local financial resources for the non-Federal portion of the Burr Street betterment levee construction. This acquisition and cost sharing is currently not creditable. Closely monitor progress because if funding source cannot be identified prior to potential west reach construction – the gap in the line of protection at the Burr Street area will prohibit west reach construction initiation. Continue working with the city administration to explore timely fund commitment.

4. Complete east reach remaining parcel acquisition. This activity is fully creditable.