

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2001  
AT THE COMMISSION OFFICE  
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD  
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

**Development Commissioners:**

George Carlson  
John Mroczkowski  
Mark Reshkin  
William Tanke  
Steve Davis  
Bob Huffman  
Curt Vosti

**Visitors:**

Bill Petrites – Highland resident  
Jomary Crary – IDNR, Div. of Water  
Imad Samara - COE  
Louise Karowoski – Sierra club  
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart  
Jim Flora – R.W. ARMSTRONG CO.

**Staff:**

Dan Gardner  
Sandy Mordus  
Jim Pokrajac  
Judy Vamos  
Lou Casale

Commissioner Curt Vosti made a motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2001; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

**Chairman's Report** – Chairman Tanke requested a moment of silence be observed in light of the tragedy on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Director's Report** - Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the attorney's letter sent to Shirley Heinze Environmental Fund (SHEF) emphasizing the importance of a discussion between them after the SHEF attorney has reviewed the proposed agreement the attorney has drafted. Mr. Gardner also referred to the letter from IDNR to Greg Moore at the COE office regarding mitigation requirements. Imad Samara stated that Greg Moore is currently completing the mitigation plan and it should be submitted to IDNR by the end of the week. Staff has drafted a proposed timetable that had to be included as part of the mitigation plan.

Mr. Gardner also stated that we have sent out an offer on the "in-corridor" mitigation property at 29<sup>th</sup> & Hanley.

Commissioner Mark Reshkin questioned whether the Commission would be eligible for a coastal grant. If we were, the land purchase may not be creditable but then it would still be to our advantage if we could obtain the land by a grant. Staff will research.

Mr. Gardner has been talking to IDNR and FEMA about the commitment by FEMA to re-map Lake County. FEMA wants to do re-mapping county by county. Mr. Gardner would like to see a meeting scheduled shortly with the Lake County Surveyor's Office to have this discussion with them. The city of Gary is anxious for the process to begin that would eliminate them from the floodplain.

**Land Acquisition/Management Committee** – In Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin's absence, Curt Vosti gave the report. He reported that there were no condemnations or increased offers this month. Discussion ensued on the Wicker Park appraisal. The appraiser is waiting for hydrology information from the COE and a decision as to the language of the COE flowage easement. One information is received, he should soon be able to complete the appraisal.

Mr. Vosti reported that final inspections were completed on Stage IV- Phase 1 North drainage system (Colfax to Burr); Burr Street betterment levee Phase 1 ditches and levees (NIPSCO R/W from EJ&E to Colfax); and Stage IV Phase 2B levees (Clark to Chase); and the East Reach Remediation area levee (around Marshalltown).

Mr. Vosti reported that a meeting was held on August 15 with the Gary Civil Defense, Lake County Emergency Management and WREP to discuss a demonstration closure structure procedure that needs to be scheduled. Staff is following up and a demonstration will be scheduled shortly.

An article was in the Times showing the clean-up and planting of wildflowers project that the Boy Scouts did on the Little Calumet River near Riley School in Hammond.

**Project Engineering Committee** – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that staff has been contacted by INDOT who has plans to raise Harrison bridge over I-80/94 about 7'. This will affect our levee in that area so coordination between INDOT, the COE and the Commission needs to happen. Staff will follow up.

Mr. Huffman reported that Gary Sanitary District still has some concerns regarding O&M. We have sent a letter to the COE to have them resolve these concerns.

A utility coordination meeting was held with the COE on September 10.

Staff is currently reviewing plans and specifications for Stage VIII. Our comments are due to the COE by October 9<sup>th</sup>. Staff has already reviewed and submitted comments to the COE for Burr Street Phase II.

**Legislative Committee** – Committee Chairman George Carlson referred to several news articles in the agenda packet describing the critical funding situation with the State. We have received two checks from the Auditor's Office from the recently appropriated \$3 million and we are hoping we can continue to send our state draws and have our bills paid. We have worked with the COE on suitable language acceptable to both of us that will accompany the state draws stating the items listed are capable of receiving credit.

Mr. Gardner added that he has had continued discussions with the Federal Highway Administration regarding the Commission receiving credit from the COE on monies used for bridge construction and it appears that they may be able to work with us to approve suitable language to allow that full credit be given.

**Recreational Development Committee** – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti gave the Recreation Report. Most of the activity has focused on trail realignments. Mr. Vosti stated that the trail crossing at EJ&E RR will be part of Burr Street Phase 2 and that EJ&E officials will work with us for approval for the trail to cross there. Attorney Casale will be drafting an agreement to go to EJ&E to allow the crossing to happen.

**Marina Committee** – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that he and Mr. Gardner and Attorney Casale met with Mayor Olson, the city engineer, the city attorney and Port Authority chairman on August 10. The city engineer is working to develop costs for finishing the marina with an additional 100 slips. It is possible that the Commission would extend the existing revenue bond that we now have for the original construction of the public marina to accommodate the building of the remaining 100 slips.

Staff has drafted a letter to be sent to the Detroit COE giving support of the proposed dredging of the waterway by the city of Portage.

**Finance Committee** – Treasurer Curt Vosti gave the monthly financial status report. He presented the claims for approval and proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial status report and claims sheet totaling \$103,427.01; motion seconded by George Carlson; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vosti then made a motion to approve a transfer of \$175,000 from Budget Line 5860 (Project Land Purchase Expense) to Budget Line 5882 (Utility Relocation Expense); motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

A meeting will be scheduled between Chairman Tanke and Committee Chairmen Curt Vosti and George Carlson to meet with staff to honor our commitment to pursue a coordinated effort to effect a plan of action to complete this project with limited State dollars.

Mr. Vosti made a motion to approve the marina claim of \$28,643.84 to be paid to Bank One (using city of Portage marina funds); motion seconded by Mark Reshkin; motion passed unanimously.

**Minority Contracting Committee** – There was no report.

**Other Business** – There was none.

**Statements to the Board** – Sandy O'Brien asked whether Ken Brock's request letter for mud flats for a bird sanctuary in the 200 acre area at Chase to Grant had been addressed. Mr. Gardner replied that Mr. Brock has been on an extended vacation and he has a message to contact us when he returns. She then inquired about whether just a mitigation plan needed in order to obtain a DNR permit. The answer was action to produce mitigation was needed in addition.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

/sjm