

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2002
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA**

Chairman William Tanke called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. All eleven (11) 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
John Mroczkowski
Arlene Colvin
Marion Williams
Robert Marszalek

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Don Ewoldt – Lake Erie Land Company
Jomary Crary – IDNR, Div. of Water
Matt Boller – IDNR, Div. of Water
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Jim Flora – R.W. ARMSTRONG CO.
Mark Lopez – Congressman's office
Deb Lawrence - IDNR
D. Taborski – Black Oak resident
Glenn & Pat Stotz – Black Oak residents

Staff:

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

Commissioner Bob Huffman made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2001 after a correction was made showing that Deb Lawrence attended that meeting; motion seconded by Curt Vosti; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Tanke asked for a report from the Nominating Committee (Emerson Delaney, Chair; Arlene Colvin, and Steve Davis). Nominating Committee Chairman Delaney reported that they had met and decided that, in light of the fact the officers' terms used to be for 2 years, and some consistency should be given in dealing with the financial situation of the Commission down state, and with a year going by so quickly that as soon as you are comfortable with the officer position, the year is up, it was decided that the current officers should serve a second year term. The committee felt that this would serve the best interest of the Commission as a whole. Two Commissioners adamantly opposed – George Carlson and Curt Vosti. Mr. Vosti, who currently serves as Treasurer, withdrew his name for a second term. Mr. Carlson opposed because he felt that the officer positions and the committee chairman positions should be spread as evenly as possible among the Board members. He stated that Mr. Tanke has served as chairman six times prior to this time and no other Commission member has served over two terms. After much discussion, the nominations proceeded. Mr. Delaney nominated Bill Tanke as Chairman; nomination seconded by Bob Huffman. Mr. Carlson nominated Bob Huffman as Chairman; nomination seconded by Curt Vosti. Marion Williams nominated George Carlson as Chairman but Mr.

Carlson declined the nomination based on his hearing problem. There being no further nominations for Chairman, nominations closed. Discussion followed. Arlene Colvin supported the position that the Nominating Committee has taken, citing that there is no set policy, a two year term would give a member added knowledge and confidence to his position, and experience from serving a two year term would be valuable. Mr. Vosti added that this is an issue that the Finance/Policy Committee needs to review. Mark Reshkin added that both candidates are qualified and he would be happy with either one of them thereby making it difficult to vote. Mr. Vosti made a motion to proceed with a roll call vote; motion seconded by John Mroczkowski; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gardner called the roll and took the vote; the results being 6 votes for Bill Tanke and 5 votes for Bob Huffman. Mr. Vosti made a motion that Mr. Tanke be elected chairman by acclamation; motion seconded by Marion Williams; motion passed unanimously. There being no other nominations for Vice Chairman, Mr. Vosti made a motion to elect Bob Huffman as Vice Chairman; motion seconded by John Mroczkowski; motion passed unanimously. Since Mr. Vosti withdrew as Treasurer and there were no other nominations for this position, he will continue to serve in this capacity until a replacement is elected at the next meeting. There being no other nominations for Secretary, Mr. Vosti made a motion to elect John Mroczkowski as Secretary by acclamation; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. After some further discussion, Arlene Colvin made a motion to formally adopt some rules relating to serving on the Board and add this to the list of policy items that need to be addressed by the Finance/Policy Committee; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vosti stated that before the next meeting, the Finance/Policy Committee will meet to address some of these issues. Chairman Tanke added that if there was anything else that needed to be added, let staff know. Mr. Carlson noted that he was happy with how the election went and that it was probably the most democratic election we've had.

Chairman Tanke referred to the appointment letter for Robert Marszalek and welcomed him to the Commission and also referred to the reappointment letter for George Carlson for an additional 4 year term.

Executive Director's Report - Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to the handout flyer on the new deputy district director Ray Coughenour. He has offered to come to our next meeting in February so he can meet the Commissioners.

Mr. Gardner informed the Board members that two meetings had been held on December 12th and 18th with the COE, IDNR, National Lakeshore, SHEF and the LCRBDC regarding the mitigation issue. SHEF is meeting tonight in executive session to discuss this issue. At this time, we do not know whether they want compensation. It was discussed with the National Lakeshore that they may have some properties that could be used for mitigation. Mr. Gardner distributed a memo from IDNR that offers their help in the acquisition process. They have expressed a clear desire to help us move this process forward. Once we know where SHEF stands, we will know how to proceed.

Mr. Gardner announced another public meeting will be held for Stage VII (Columbia to Northcote). Plans for that segment will be available at the meeting and a question and answer period will follow. All Commissioners are invited.

Land Acquisition/Management Committee - Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin gave the committee report. She reported that there were no increased offers and she proceeded to make a motion authorizing condemnation on DC59, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 213A; motion seconded by Bob Huffman;

Judy Vamos responded to Mr. Vosti's question on where the properties were located and why they were being condemned. Motion passed with 10-1 with Steve Davis abstaining.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman gave the engineering report. He reported that we received a letter from INDOT consultant, Hanson Professional Services, regarding their upcoming construction on I-80/94 and asked for our input regarding their project. One concern we have is the runoff from construction into wetlands areas along the corridor, especially Carlson-OxBow Park. Staff will transmit that concern to Hanson.

Staff has submitted a letter to the COE regarding value engineering items regarding project construction that we feel would save on project costs. It would entail re-engineering and for that reason, the COE may reject these ideas. No response has been received yet. If we would receive a favorable go-ahead from the COE, we would have R. W. Armstrong Co. do an economic justification analysis of those items.

Mr. Huffman also reported that a pre construction meeting conducted by Lake County Highway Dept. was held today regarding Hohman Avenue bridge project.

Mr. Huffman reported that a lengthy discussion was held in the Work Study Session on the issue of WIND reimbursement costs they have submitted to us. Staff and attorney are reviewing.

Chairman Tanke directed staff to compile a list of outstanding issues that have not been addressed or resolved by the COE and have a report for our next meeting.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson gave the legislative report. He reported that the special legislative session starts Monday and according to the media, it appears that the raising of taxes will be the solution to the state's funding problems. The concern is that if the State has funding problems, then the Commission has funding problems. We still have \$2.5 million down state that has been allocated to the Commission.

Mr. Carlson reported that Mr. Gardner and attorney Casale are meeting with the Governor's staff on January 16th. They will report back.

Recreational Development Committee – Committee Chairman Curt Vosti gave the Recreation Report. There is no activity in recreation at this time. He reported that staff will be setting up a meeting with NICTD to talk about proposed trail alignment along the old Monon railroad crossing in Hammond. Commissioners Vosti, Delaney and Huffman requested they would like to be notified of the meeting.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Bill Tanke stated that a meeting has not been scheduled yet with the city. We have received no costs estimates for marina build-out at this point and those numbers are needed to proceed to any other level. Mr. Vosti questioned the length of time we have been waiting for a meeting with the city and suggested that another approach may be necessary. Attorney Casale said he would contact the city attorney to see how to proceed.

Finance/Policy Committee – Treasurer Curt Vosti gave the Finance report. Mr. Vosti referred to the revised claim sheet and proceeded to read off the additions/changes from the claim sheet that was in the agenda packet. He asked that, in the future, staff separate out the revised figures from the original claim sheet so the changes can be readily reviewed. Mr. Vosti made a motion to approve the monthly financial report and the revised claim sheet in the amount of \$61,513.98; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Vosti reported that a committee meeting will be held within the next 2 weeks to continue discussion on policy issues that need to be addressed. Staff will inform all Board members when that meeting is scheduled.

Minority Contracting Committee – Committee Chairman Marion Williams reported that we continue to receive minority reports from the COE. He added that he felt the committee needs to set some clear goals and objectives in the near future and share this with all Commissioners.

Other Business – Chairman Bill Tanke asked Commission members to submit a committee preference sheet to Sandy.

Chairman Tanke proceeded to share a few thoughts with fellow Board members. He stated that he thinks the Commission has done a good job during this past year in their cooperative efforts with the State and with the COE. Meetings down state have been informative and successful and we will continue working with them. He stressed the need to continue to make our best efforts to approach legislators for continued support in this year. He felt that O&M funding is still a big issue and it needs to be an ongoing item of discussion. An accounting of present state cash on hand needs to be done and identified on the best way to spend those monies. With the state funding situation such as it is, he feels a plan is needed on how to keep this Commission going to see the project through to its completion. He also feels that closer cooperation with the mayors of Hammond and Gary needs to happen. One item he would like to change on the Commission agenda is that he feels it would be a good idea to list out unfinished items each month that are ongoing and require staff follow-up.

Bob Huffman commented that this was the first time in a long time that the Commission has had 100% attendance and hopes that it continues. He then thanked his fellow Board members for their support and vote but was completely comfortable with Mr. Tanke being chairman for another year.

Mr. Huffman also welcomed newest member, Bob Marszalek to the Commission.

Arlene Colvin reminded the Commissioners that Bob Huffman will carry the Olympic torch on January 4th. He will accept the torch at 23rd & Broadway in Gary. If interested, be there at 11:30 a.m.

Statements to the Board – Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated she was glad that we were concerned about road runoff into the river during interstate construction and also brought to our attention her concern about runoff from the Flying J Truck Stop in Gary. She also commented that she has been following the Commission's progress regarding mitigation for about 3 years now and is concerned about Hobart Marsh land being bought up and not being available when we are ready to proceed and still thinks we need to pursue in getting financial help from one of the agencies that buy land and hold it for you.

Chairman Tanke thanked Mark Lopez for his attendance tonight.

Mr. and Mrs. Stotz, who live in Black Oak between Calhoun and Colfax, expressed concern about their remaining property that we have an easement on and their non-ability to access it for mowing. The ditch on that easement prevents them from accessing that area. Staff will look into it and report back at the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m.

/sjm