

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2004
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairperson Arlene Colvin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Seven (7) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Arlene Colvin
Bob Marszalek
Robert Huffman
Charlie Ray
George Carlson
Bill Biller
Steve Davis

Visitors:

John Wanner – Munster resident
Imad Samara - COE

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray

\ motion to approve the minutes of July 7 was made by Bob Marszalek; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report – Chairperson Arlene Colvin reported that a Gary Council Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for July 27 in which support of an ordinance for approval of the \$1.4 million for the Burr Street Betterment levee Phase 2 was on the agenda. Besides Chairperson Arlene Colvin, Dan Gardner and Jim Pokrajac attended the meeting to answer questions. After discussion, the ordinance was deferred until the next meeting (presently scheduled for August 17).

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Gardner reported that all Highland easements were approved by the town. The court appraisal value of the easements was \$116,700 total that would be creditable to the Commission. The Commission expressed its gratitude for their cooperation.

- We have communicated with Mayor McDermott and Marty Wielgos, Chief of Staff, and have asked them to schedule a meeting of the city entities that we need easements from. Easements are needed from the city, Hammond Parks Department and Hammond Sanitary District. We want to meet with them and explain the process of a “friendly condemnation” that we just completed with Highland. It is hoped that Hammond would go through the same process to establish a fair market value by the Court process.

- A Munster town work study session meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on August 9 in which the Little Calumet River Flood Control/Recreation project is the main discussion item. A number of residents that have attended our Commission meetings have requested the town of Munster to have us attend a meeting to describe the project, the schedule, the impacts and benefits, especially the area along Hart Ditch. Mr. Gardner referred to pages 7-10 in the agenda packet that summarizes the pre-hearing conference before the Natural Resources Commission. The Munster residents have a concern about losing the trees on the parkway area along Hart Ditch. Mr. Gardner referred to Jomary Crary's email on an Indianapolis web site that is a project like the Little Cal. The Army Corps was able to work with the residents and the contractor to minimize the tree removal. Their project is very similar to ours. We have made a commitment to Munster residents that we will work with them as much as we can to minimize the impact of tree removal along Hart Ditch.

Outstanding Issues – Mr. Gardner referred to the proposed Resolution 04-01 in the Land Management Report regarding the donation of lands to the city of Gary in exchange for a commitment on O&M. After discussion, a motion was made by Bill Biller to approve the resolution; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Bob Huffman presented the financial report and the claim sheet. He proceeded to make a motion to approve the financial claim sheet and the claims for July totaling \$44,106.89; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Huffman then made a motion to approve the O&M claims of \$150 and \$7,199.64; motion seconded by Bob Marszalek; motion passed unanimously.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Committee Chairperson Arlene Colvin gave the Land Acquisition report. She made a motion to use eminent domain on four (4) properties. They were DC210 and DC211 (both lots owned by the same party. They think our offer is too low compared to the reassessed value they have just received. They have agreed to a friendly condemnation.) The motion also covers condemning DC617 and DC1000 (both are flowage easements in which owners are reluctant to accept the offers. Approval to condemn is sought in case we cannot come to a settlement). Motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

- After Attorney Casale informed the Board that Krosan has withdrawn their exception to the court-awarded value placed on their property and would accept the appraised award, Mr. Casale asked for Board approval to also withdraw the Commission's objection to Krosan's exception. The money has already been placed in court. Arlene Colvin made a motion for the attorney to withdraw the action and dismiss the case as long as Krosan's attorney has done the same; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman stated that plans are being made for the COE inspections for the four pump stations in Gary. Jim Pokrajac has been coordinating these efforts with Reric Witowski from the COE. We are waiting for a response from Gary to confirm their attendance and to set dates for these inspections.

Environmental Committee – In Committee Chairman Mark Reshkin's absence, Bob Huffman reported that a meeting has been scheduled by IDEM for August 12 regarding the Draft Little Calumet River and Burns Waterway Total Maximum Daily Load for E. coli. Mr. Gardner added that the meeting is not directly project-related. He said that there is a task force that meets on a regular basis. The COE will be in attendance at the meeting.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chairman George Carlson stated that we have two budget needs. There is still \$2 million appropriated to the Commission from the 2003/05 biennium that needs to be requested soon. There is also a budget request that will be made to the State Budget Committee for the 2005/07 biennium. The budget request deadline is August 16. Mr. Gardner added that we are waiting for some figures from the COE giving us their projected Federal dollars to determine how much state monies will be needed to keep on the COE schedule. Staff will coordinate and make sure that a budget request is submitted before the deadline date. Once that request is determined, it will be shared with the Board members. Mr. Gardner estimates that about \$5 million will be needed. After a request is made, we will need to inform the area delegation and meet with key legislators, especially Representative Earl Harris, who has been most helpful in the past.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that an inspection was held for the Grant Street lift station on July 20 as part of the Stage III remediation project. Several items need to be completed on the punch list but the pumps are currently operational. A final instructional will be held with the contractor at a later date.

- Mr. Huffman reported that a meeting is scheduled with the Corps at 1:00 p.m. at their Griffith office on August 12 to review and discuss the Pump Station 1A contract. Board members were encouraged to attend.

- Mr. Huffman stated that a formliner has been selected for the upcoming Stage VI-1 South contract. A sample drawing of the formliner is included in the Engineering Committee report.
- Mr. Huffman referred to a letter to the Congressman from Don Ewen regarding the pumps west of Grant Street and the Commission's response to his letter.
- Mr. Huffman then announced that staff would attend a meeting with the Munster town officials for a work study session regarding the Little Calumet River project on August 9. (Property owners have requested a meeting, particularly in the area of Hart Ditch on Hawthorne Drive.)

Recreation Committee – Bob Huffman talked about the limestone covering used on some of the recreational trails that it really isn't conducive to bike riding. Mr. Gardner added that we need to investigate if there would be any funding available in the CZM plan to use for paving of the trails. He had previously talked to Doreen Carey about this.

Marina Committee – Committee Chairman Charlie Ray met with Dan regarding marina issues and Mr. Gardner stated that he will schedule a meeting with the city in the near future.

Policy Committee – There was no report.

Public Relations Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek referred to the thank you letter sent to Boy Scout Troop #280 in recognition of trail cleaning and repair work done on some of the levees.

- Mr. Marszalek also stated that the sign for Charles Agnew Handicapped Park is being constructed. It is hoped that a dedication will take place by October 2004.

Other Issues – Bob Huffman informed the Board members that after last month's meeting, he put a lot of work into updating the web site that he created for the Development Commission. He asked staff to get a revised project map and some other current information to him and he will enter it as well.

- Attorney Lou Casale asked if invitations would go out for the dedication at the handicapped park. Judy Vamos stated that invitations would go and she will make sure he and all Commission members receive one.

Statements from the Floor - John Wanner, resident from Munster, expressed his concern about the green belt area along Hart Ditch on Hawthorne Drive. The residents are concerned about tree removal but Mr. Gardner assured him that the Commission will work with the Corps office and the residents to assure that the minimum of trees will be removed. The project in that area is about three years away so there will be plenty of time to work out details, hopefully, to everyone's satisfaction.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, 2004.**