

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairman William Biller called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Charlie Ray
Robert Huffman
Steve Davis
Bill Biller
Mark Reshkin
Arlene Colvin
George Carlson
Kent Gurley

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Imad Samara – Project Manager, Corps of
Engineers
Stan Petrites – 8200 Indpls.Blvd, Highland
Frank Petrites – 8200 Indpls Blvd. Highland
Steve Enger – Munster resident
Jim Guelcher – Munster resident

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Jim Pokrajac
Judy Vamos

After a correction to the minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting was made adding the words “motion passed unanimously” to the discussion on the RFP on page 2, second bullet – the motion to approve the minutes was made by Arlene Colvin; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman’s Report – Chairman William Biller announced that the Commission is in the House and the Senate 2007/09 budget for \$2 million. Our budget request was for \$8 million; this was the estimated amount that was needed to leverage the Corps project construction to State line. Chairman Biller and Dan Gardner talked with several legislators a few weeks past and we are hopeful that we can still receive an additional \$6 million in conference committee. Staff was directed to write another letter to the delegation (copying the Congressman and the municipalities) reiterating our need for the full \$8 million to complete the construction by December 2009 and listing out the consequences if we do not receive it. The end of the session is early May, with the new biennium starting July 1st. The first release of new money will be in August. Commissioner Kent Gurley asked whether or not the Congressman has been in contact with the Governor and/or delegation. Mr. Gardner replied that he did not know if there had been any direct contact lately. Staff was directed to make contact with the Congressman’s Office and ask him to contact the State as we write to Representative Bob Kuzman and Senator Frank Mrvan.

Action Required – Treasurer Kent Gurley presented the claims for approval in the amount of \$105,579.68. He made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gurley then presented the revised O&M

claim sheet for approval in the amount of \$506.85. Mr. Gurley made a motion to approve the O&M claims as presented; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

- There were no other action items

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner referred to an IDNR letter that gives approval to the technical aspects of the various modeling submitted by the ACOE for the Little Calumet River. Discussion followed on scheduling a meeting with FEMA to see where we are and what needs to be done to assure that we move ahead according to FEMA regulations and what they expect once the project is completed. Commissioner Mark Reshkin suggested a committee be formed to work with FEMA; the Griffith levee area also needs to be considered. Imad Samara stated that the Corps is drafting a letter that will go to FEMA; the Corps has been working with IDNR on the same model since the beginning of the project.

- Mr. Gardner presented a draft letter to be sent to Deputy District Engineer Roy Deda expressing our concern about the current schedule as it is now and the delay in receiving detailed engineering plans for Stage V-2. We have just received and distributed the 90% plans to the utilities and municipalities on April 3. For all the work that has to be done, that is not much time for the Commission to finalize everything and be able to supply a ROE by the end of June. Dr. Reshkin made a motion to send the letter as presented; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously.
- Regarding the Griffith levee, Imad Samara stated that Bill Rochford is doing a letter to send to us stating what the Corps can do in an engineering review for us.

Finance Committee – Finance action was already taken. The financial statement for this period can be found on page 10 of the agenda packet.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – Judy Vamos distributed an update of the land acquisition for Stages VII and VIII. Mr. Gardner has already talked about Stage V-2. The 90% review has just been received and comments are due to the Corps by April 25.

- In Stage VII, there are 52 acquisitions of easements. We are not sending out offers yet. They will be ready to send out once new money has been received. We are hoping that the town of Munster may be able to help the Commission with funding.
- In Stage VIII there are 90 easements. Judy has met with seven appraisers, who will be giving us their cost estimates and time frame. Other than the initial title work and survey work, there are no new monies to do any work in Stage VIII at this point.
- Jim Pokrajac reported that we do have a signed License Agreement for 3120 Gerry Street.
- In regard to View Outdoor, the areas are staked out for the new billboards and they are starting construction. Discussions with View have been encouraging to possibly providing lease money upfront. Those monies would be a tremendous help in our O&M commitment to Gary.
- Mr. Gardner stated that we have not been able to put an RFP on the street yet for the 32 acres west of Clay Street. Staff will schedule an O&M committee meeting within two weeks so the packet can be reviewed in order to advertise in early to mid May.

- Attorney Lou Casale informed the Board members that he received a letter from LAMAR's attorney saying that we should have advertised for locations of the signs. Attorney Casale has wrote of letter of response stating that we were not obligated to do so.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman asked Jim Pokrajac how Cabela's was moving along. Jim reported that we have been working with Lawson-Fisher, consultant to INDOT for access to Cabela's, and we still need some final engineering from the Corps to finalize our easement requirements with INDOT. We have modified legal descriptions and will be sending them to Cabela's corporate headquarters to get signed easement agreements.

- In regard to Burr Street II – Little Cal portion, a pre-construction meeting was held today, April 4. Dyer Construction (contractor) will be doing stake outs of the work limits next week and setting up a staging area. NIPSCO is replacing a culvert near Clark Street. We may have to work with NSRR to clean out the culvert again.
- SEH is doing the utility coordination on Stage VIII.
- Mr. Gardner suggested the LCRBDC rent a van for a Saturday tour to see some of the key points of construction on the project.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Jim Pokrajac distributed a colored chart of O&M items that have been completed and those items that remain to be completed. We put together a target date sheet with a proposed schedule that was given to Gary as a goal for completion. We will continue to meet with Gary and progress forward. Mr. Gardner publicly thanked Arlene Colvin for her help in setting up meetings with the pertinent people and keeping the issue moving forward.

- Mr. Huffman asked about the North 5th Avenue pump station in Highland. A few minor items are being addressed and then we will turn it over to the town for O&M, after final inspection. Chairman Biller asked Imad Samara what happened with Overstreet. He replied that the Corps terminated their contract. The Corps is soliciting another contractor to finish up the work in coordination with the bonding company. Imad added that five contractors are interested so it is hoped that a contractor can be selected to finish up this work.
- Mr. Pokrajac indicated that five flap gates will be completed on April 9 and will be inspected.
- As the construction segments in the West Reach are completed, it is the intention of the Commission to turn over the operation and maintenance as soon as possible.

Legislative Committee – Legislative items have already been discussed.

Environmental Committee – Committee Chairman Mark Reshkin referred to Mr. Gardner regarding the meetings he has been attending for the Gary sub-watershed plan. He talked to Phil Gralik, consultant from R. W. Armstrong, who is putting a report together on the pertinent issues regarding the stormwater management. Biggest issues raised was e-coli, combined sewers, and recreation improvements. They received a Section 319 grant to do this work.

APRIL

Recreation Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman asked if a fishing pier was being added at Carlson Oxbow Park. Jim Pokrajac replied that it was, as well as a canoe launch. Mr. Huffman also inquired about some trail paving. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bob Huffman authorizing the Executive Director to send a letter to the Corps asking them that an option be included in the bid package on V-2 for trail paving of the section between Cabela's and Wicker Park. Mr. Huffman will see if funding would be available from other sources after knowing what the incremental difference would be. Motion seconded by Steve Davis. Mark Reshin abstained. Motion passed.

Policy Committee - There was no report.

Other Issues – After discussion, the normal meeting date of the first Wednesday, which would be May 2, was changed to the second Wednesday, May 9. A reminder will be sent to the Commission members prior to the date.

Statements from the Floor – Bill Petrites mentioned that the trail has been cut off along the west side of Indianapolis Blvd because of construction at Cabela's and could something be done to keep it open. Staff indicated that it would remain closed because of the safety issue. Mr. Petrites also questioned why there were not paths on either side of the new Kennedy Avenue bridge construction. Mr. Gardner replied that the Army Corps and the Commission were currently working with Hammond and Highland to resolve this issue.

• Steve Enger thanked the Commission for the plans submitted to him on April 3. He inquired about the April 25 deadline because his group had questions and needed clarifications on the plans. Imad Samara said the project was on a tight time schedule, but could still correct deficiencies. Commissioner Kent Gurley stated the 3-week deadline applied to all parties.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Board meeting is set for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2007.