

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007
6100 SOUTHPORT ROAD
PORTAGE, INDIANA

Chairman William Biller called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Eight (8) Commissioners were present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

Arlene Colvin
Robert Huffman
Steve Davis
Bill Biller
Mark Reshkin
Charlie Ray
John Mroczkowski
R. Kent Gurley

Visitors:

Bill Petrites – Highland resident
Imad Samara – Project Manager, Corps of
Engineers
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman
Visclosky's Office
Paul Baran - WWPC
Rene Casale
Todd Dust – Highland resident
Joe Koselke – Highland resident

Staff:

Dan Gardner
Sandy Mordus
Lou Casale
Judy Vamos
Lorraine Kray

The minutes of the meeting held on June 6 were approved by a motion from Bob Huffman; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report – Chairman William Biller read a letter of resignation from George Carlson, appointment of the Mayor of Hammond. George has served on the Commission for over 24 years. Staff will order a plaque for him and invite him back to a meeting; staff will also follow up with some kind of tribute for him in the newspaper following a staff briefing and recommendation.

• Commissioner Bob Huffman made a motion authorizing the signature on the right-of-entry on Stage V-2 (Northcote to Kennedy, both sides of the river; segment includes the Cabela's development). Motion was seconded by Kent Gurley; motion passed unanimously. This is a very important construction segment; the Corps has to award this segment this fiscal year to not jeopardize their federal funding. Attorney Casale commented that he has reviewed it and is satisfied that the Commission has acquired the needed easements. There will be some options to the contract but staff is working hard to eliminate those options as quickly as possible.

Action Required – Treasurer Kent Gurley presented several items for approval. He proceeded to make a motion to approve the June claims in the amount of \$227,682.79; motion seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously. Although there is money in the budget to pay the invoices, there was a negative line item on the budget report. That item will be corrected on the next budget report. Mr. Gurley proceeded to make a motion to approve the O&M claims in the amount of \$1,656.01; motion seconded by Bob Huffman; motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Huffman inquired about the NIPSCO bill for

3120 Gerry Street. It was our understanding that the NIPSCO account had been transferred to the lessee. Lessee agreed to contact NIPSCO to change the name and also indicated it was his responsibility.

Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Dan Gardner emphasized that, although we only received \$2 million in this last biennium, we are committed to finding the additional funds totaling an estimated \$6 million to keep to the schedule.

- Mr. Gardner referred to the letter to the Colonel regarding Stage VIII (Columbia to the state line, both sides of the river). The letter states that due to insufficient project funds at this point in time, appraisals in this stage cannot be contracted for. The remaining funds from the IEDC that we are using are committed to completing Stage V-2 only. The title work and survey work in SVIII are complete; but appraisals have not begun. Some of the surveys will need to be modified to reflect changes due to upcoming engineering changes from the Corps. Mr. Gardner went on to say that he has just spoke to Tony Armstrong at the SBA who has informed him that the Commission is on the agenda for the next budget meeting July 27 for the entire \$2 million allocation. The meeting is in Fort Wayne and Mr. Biller and Mr. Gardner will attend. Judy Vamos was instructed to call the appraisers tomorrow and assign them to begin the Stage VIII appraisals. Mr. Gardner commended the State Budget Agency for recognizing the crisis and stepping up to help us. The second part of the letter to the Colonel outlines a “game plan” to obtain the remaining \$6 million. Mr. Gardner will document the economic development benefits of the project and also the benefits to individuals for not having to pay flood insurance (over \$7 million of estimated benefit in total saved in the next three years).

- In Stage VII, we are asking the town of Munster to help us out with funding for easement payments to property owners. (There are 54 easements) We expect that the city of Hammond will also participate in donating the easements. Mr. Gardner will write a letter to all communities asking for any additional funding to help out; all support/contributions are being documented. At the same time, we will ask for their support in our approach with Congressman Visclosky to aid in the RDA support for a gap financing mechanism. We expect a letter back from the Corps emphasizing that without local sponsor funding, they cannot spend the federal dollars. Chairman Biller thanked Mr. Gardner for the outstanding job he has done in putting together a plan for financing.

Finance Committee – Finance action was already taken. The financial statement for end of May can be found on page 13 of the agenda packet. Mr. Gurley added that the budget will be revised once we have received the allocation of the \$2 million from the State.

Land Acquisition/Land Management Committee – In Committee Chairman Bob Marszalek 's absence, Mr. Gardner stated that staff will work hard to eliminate the options to the V-2 contract. The Corps added four additional parcels within the last week and all will be options.

- Commissioner Kent Gurley thanked staff for an outstanding job, especially Judy Vamos in her diligence in the easement acquisition. Mr. Gardner added that Jim Pokrajac is not only coordinating all the survey work for all the properties, but is coordinating the huge job of the 18 pipeline relocations on the NSRR and NIPSCO rights of way; and working with

Austgen Electric to complete all remaining items for O&M in the East Reach so we can turn it over to the city of Gary. Inspections will be held shortly.

- Mr. Gardner stated that the Corps is meeting with FEMA next week and staff will attend that meeting.
- Regarding land management, Mr. Gardner indicated that with all of our efforts being focused on meeting the deadline date for Stage V-2, we have not developed the RFP for the 32 acres east of Clay Street in Lake Station. The 32 acres is not large enough to be included in the NRCS program. He has not heard back from the organization since their inspection of the lands, but we are still hopeful that they will accept us into the program. They would pay us for the use of the property if it is suitable for wetland enhancement; it would remain in our ownership.

Project Engineering Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman reported that we have received the 90% back check review set of V-2 and they have been distributed to appropriate parties. We have also received 3 of 11 cost estimates that are needed from the pipelines. Staff will continue to seek the other 8 estimates.

- The MOA with the Corps of Engineers to do the design needed for certification of the Griffith levee has not been developed yet. This will be a priority.
- Dyer Construction is working on the Burr Street East contract. Mr. Gardner has a meeting tomorrow at Gary City Hall with Superior Construction and the city to talk about Burr Street Gary completion and monies due Superior.
- Mr. Huffman referred to a letter that Mr. Gardner wrote in support of the proposed development at Cline & I-80/94 (Griffith golf course). Their plan will provide compensatory storage due to future development that meets the Army Corps hydrology requirements.

Operation & Maintenance Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman stated that staff is working with Austgen Electric for the repair work on sluice gates/flap gates, and pump stations. We are trying to complete everything to “as-built” condition by end of August so we can turn the O&M over to the city of Gary. We will be having inspections with the Corps and the city very soon. Jim Pokrajac is coordinating. This is critical to assure FEMA to proceed with floodplain re-mapping.

- Levees have been mowed.

Legislative Committee – Legislative issues have already been discussed.

Environmental Committee – Committee Chairman Mark Reshkin referred to the letter in the packet from Fish and Wildlife Service transmitting comments regarding property on the east side of Kennedy Avenue at the river.

- Also received was a letter from the Colonel transmitting the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Hobart Marsh mitigation project. Imad Samara added that the actual contract for restoration of the area by the Army Corps will be next year.

Recreation Committee – Committee Chairman Bob Huffman confirmed with Imad Samara that the trail tie-in for Stage VI-2 at Liable Road and the NIPSCO R/W has been officially removed from the segment. Imad stated that it was going to connect to Highland’s trail.

Highland and NIPSCO are still working on details of trail. The Corps cannot go beyond their work limits; it will be completed after Highland extends their trail.

Policy Committee - There was no report.

New Business – There was none.

Statements from the Floor – Highland resident Todd Dust, who lives in the VI-1South construction segment, expressed his concern about the area of construction. He shared some photos he has taken. The area is incomplete; a mess; a safety concern; a trespass situation. Chairman Biller also expressed his concern after seeing the photos. Imad stated that he would look into it. Commissioner Reshkin asked Imad for an update at the next meeting.

• Resident Paul Baran, near Hawthorne Drive in the V-2 area, thanked Mr. Gardner for some updated information he gave him on the project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled Board meeting is set for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Please note we are back on schedule and this is the first Wednesday of the month.