

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010

Held at
Munster Town Hall,
1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN

Chairman Dan Dernulc called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. A roll call vote confirmed four members present. It was announced that the minutes of the March 3 meeting had some changes that were acknowledged by the consent of the members. Changes will be made to minutes. Minutes stand as posted.

Development Commissioners:

Dan Dernulc
William Baker
Ron McAhron
Tom Wichlinski
Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Jim Pokrajac
Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Vanessa Villarreal – Army Corps
Pete/Helen Rich – Munster
M/M Plusch - Crestwood
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
N. Anzelmo – Southmoor, Hammond
Paul/Mary Lou Daniels – Castle Drive
M/M Frank Paulson – Northcote
Bill Kraslica – Jackson
James/Kalliope Dedelow – White Oak
Mark Janosek – Hammond
Tom DeGiulio – Town of Munster
Mike Wood – Oakwood
Sheryl Wilson – River Drive
Roberto Peredes - USACE

Visitors:

Dave Nellans – Munster Councilman
LuAnn Franklin – The Times
Bill Howard - Munster
Sheldon Edd - USACE
Don/Josie Seagraves - Munster
Elizabeth Johnson-Congressman's Office
Imad Samara - USACE
Lynn & Sandra Barnes - Munster
Bea Hanusin - Munster
Ruth Eggers – River Drive
Mike Echterling – Lake Cty Fish & Game
Doug/Karen Lorenz - Hammond
Stacy Broutman - Hammond
Mike Zarantonello - Southmoor
Tina Kutkoski - Hammond
Mark Gordish, City of Hammond, Eng.
Linda Cook - Griffith
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster
Mann – Tapper Street
Taylor – Tapper Street
John Mulesa – Munster
D. Piniak – Monroe Street
Jim Grunewald – Howard St., Munster
Joe Newcaskas – Kraay, Munster
Jayson Reeves – Gary
Cheryl Mattingly – Greenwood Ave.
David Mattingly – Howard Avenue
Trudy Wasik – Southmoor
Bill McCullough
Ken Jakubczak – Stanton Avenue
Bill Rochford – USACE

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernulc announced a new Governor's appointment to the Commission, Anthony Broadnax, a Munster resident.

- Chairman Dernulc asked Dan Repay to give a report on the Southmoor area.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay announced that he had a meeting earlier today where he received a report from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Because of the Thornton Reservoir now being in place, the report stated they were not going to pursue rehabilitation of the levee system in Calumet City and Lansing, Illinois. In conjunction with the Corps, it was decided to not continue with the current design revision and construction of the floodwall in the Southmoor area, as well as all flood protection west of the NICTD RR and north of the Little Calumet River. As more information is known on this issue, it will be shared with the residents. Chairman Dernulc thanked the Corps and the Congressman's Office for working with the Commission in arriving at this conclusion. If other areas are affected, we will let the residents know as soon as we know.

- Mr. Repay reported that the LCRBDC has been attending meetings with the agencies and municipalities on a regular basis to talk about O&M and emergency response. He had hoped to have a final report for ongoing O&M and Emergency Management in hand by now but that did not happen. There is another meeting with the communities scheduled for tomorrow, April 8. He distributed a draft copy to the Commission members. Mr. Repay is trying to engage other parties that should be involved, i.e. the Surveyor's Office. He is hoping to have a meeting with them next week. As soon as a final report is developed, it can be shared with the public.

- Mr. Repay reported that he met with the town of Munster regarding the "water bladder" for use as a closure device. The Corps has submitted a response back to Munster that will define whether or not using the water bladder can act as a closure structure, as opposed to the current method of closure. Coordination with Munster is ongoing.

- Commissioner Baker asked what we were doing to let all the residents know what is going on regarding overall O&M. Mr. Repay replied that he is hoping to establish a web site that will monitor water levels; a web site that will be similar to Munster's. It would site 8 different locations and elevations. The final manual will have a schedule as to what to expect at certain levels. The web site is part of the overall plan which will also include a written plan. Currently, the Army Corps has a web site. Mr. Baker asked that it be spelled out in an easy readable form that residents can understand and not just a series of charts and graphs.

- Mr. Repay informed the Board members that all communities and agencies participated in a sandbag demonstration. Alternatives need to be found that will best fit the situation.

- Mr. McAhron stated that INDOT sent out bids this month to install a closure structure at the north end of Chase Street. Work will be video taped.

- Tom Wichlinski asked for verification that an interim flood fighting plan is in place while the final O&M plan is being finalized. Mr. Repay replied that there is an interim plan in place by all communities; it is just not one single written plan shared among them and there is currently nothing in place for residents to actually see, and we anticipate this will be available soon.

- Chairman Dernulc proceeded to ask the Corps to give a report on the status of ongoing construction contracts.

- SV-2 – Contractor is nearing completion; there are some fine grading and landscaping issues remaining. It is physically 98% complete. Movable flood gates on the NSRR R/W will be installed soon. Minor fencing, bollards, and gates will be installed when weather permits.

- SVII – Contractor is starting the concrete portion of the floodwall on both sides of the river. He continues to drive sheetpile, proceeding west on both sides of the river. Sheet piling anticipated to be completed by mid-May. A lot of visual progress will be seen very shortly; almost 30% complete at this point.
- SVIII – Contractor is almost complete with sheet piling on the Munster side between Columbia and Calumet. The new outlet for the Calumet Ave. pump station is complete. Clearing has been started between Calumet and Manor. It is 52% complete.
- Pump Station contract - Mr. Edd reported that the new pumps are in place except for the South Side pump station.
- Ron McAhron asked about the status of the unknown pipeline in V-2 which was recently discovered. Mr. Edd replied that it was empty and they were able to just cap it and close it off.
- Mr. Baker inquired about the resolution of the AT&T cable in Munster that was cut by the contractor. Mr. Edd replied that repair has been done to the cable. It is now just a fiscal question as to who will incur the cost, either the contractor or the company that did the locate, but it does not involve the Commission or the Corps.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims from April to be approved in the amount of \$398,250.56. Of that amount, \$275,844.22 is a utility relocation cost payable to NIPSCO that was reduced from an original amount of \$347,438. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the claims; seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0. Mr. Baker inquired if there are any other NIPSCO utilities they would be seeing. Mr. Edd replied that there may be more NIPSCO utilities in Stage VIII. Mr. McAhron asked how close we are to seeing the end of the title work invoices. Judy Vamos replied that there are about six remaining title invoices from Meridian that we have not been invoiced for.
- Tom Wichlinski then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the total amount of \$4,955.03; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0. Mr. McAhron stated that we should review the frequency of the inspection work that Austgen is doing. Originally it seemed like a good idea to have them inspect the pump stations twice a month; maybe they need to be inspecting only once a month. Mr. Baker asked if the inspections applied to all the pump stations. Jim Pokrajac replied that it is only for the six stations in Gary.

Finance – Chairman Dernulc referred to the February Financial Statement and the February NIRPC invoice. He also acknowledged that the Commission's two insurance policies, the Directors and Officers general liability policy and the land general liability policy, have both been renewed at a lower rate.

Land Acquisition/Land Management – Bill Baker credited Dan Repay and Jim Pokrajac for the renewing the farming leases with the tenants for this year's farming season. He stated that he and Mr. Repay have worked with the Lake County assessor's office in identifying the properties that the Commission owns. There are over 900 parcels. He is working on how to consolidate them, how to manage them, how to utilize the lands to maximize funding and Mr. Baker will report back to Commission when completed.

Engineering - Jim Pokrajac reported that there are just some minor utility coordination items ongoing right now. In Stage VII, BP Pipelines has requested vibration monitoring on their lines. It will cost about \$800 per location. BP wants to make sure there would be no damage to their lines due to vibration. In Stage V-2, we are in final coordination with NSRR. They will be doing installation for signal devices. We are trying to reduce the cost of those installations. In Stage VIII, all utility work is basically complete unless we identify some additional utility areas that were not originally identified.

Operation & Maintenance – Jim Pokrajac reported that the weekly LCRBDC pump station/levee inspections are continuing, with reports being submitted to the Executive Director. We have contracted out with a vendor to do pump station inspections in Gary twice a month, making sure they are operating correctly and there has been no vandalism. Austgen did find several items needing attention.

- Mr. Pokrajac stated that the Corps will be doing the 2010 annual inspection starting the end of April. There is a conference call scheduled tomorrow to finalize all the scheduling with the communities. A lengthy discussion ensued on the importance of the Corps inspections. Bill Rochford indicated that these are yearly inspections. Inspections for “inactive” segments will be at five year intervals. This inspection will include inspecting current “inactive” and “active” segments in Gary. The inspections will include levees, pump stations and sluice gates. Inspections will be done in all Gary segments except Marshalltown, all Highland stages between Hart Ditch and Cline, and the Griffith segment between the CNRR and Colfax. Upon completion, the Corps will give us a written report of findings. The Corps does inspections yearly except for “inactive” segments; they will not do those inspections until corrections are made.
- Mr. McAhron stated that he is working on reformatting the utility report. He distributed a test version to the Board members to look at.

Other Business – Chairman Dernulc introduced the new Governor’s appointment to the Commission, Mr. Anthony Broadnax.

- Mr. Dernulc also announced that Sheldon Edd will be transferring back to the St. Paul Army Corps District. He thanked him for working with the Commission. Mr. Edd introduced his replacement, Roberto Peredes.
- Mr. Baker stated he was happy to see all the construction activity going on and reminded everyone to be aware of the construction areas and be careful.

Statements from the Floor -

- John Mulesa from Munster thanked Imad Samara for answering questions that he had. He asked the Corps how many failures of earthen levees using this design concept has there been. Imad answered none. Mr. Mulesa is still uneasy about the earthen levee west of Calumet Avenue. He would rather the contractor use an alternative plan to put sheet piling in this area. Sheldon Edd answered that they are currently proposing a 12’ deep trench and will place and compact clay to provide an impervious section. The contractor will be digging sample holes to determine soil conditions to see if the alternative is a viable alternative. The Corps will review and evaluate it also. Mr. Edd said that either alternative would require a trench. It would not be a lengthy process to change design but there would be a fiscal impact but Mr. Edd stated that there is time to do that.

- Paul Daniels from Munster suggested a schedule be developed for certification at the same time the construction activities are going on to save time. This would help residents get out of the floodplain sooner and not have to pay flood insurance. He also suggested that if we have received additional money from the State, it could be used to do O&M until a funding source is in place. Chairman Dernulc stated that there would be no additional money coming from the State.
- Jason Reeves from Gary asked members to be aware of environmental issues and the accumulation of standing water, especially in Gary. Focus needs to be kept on O&M and storm water management needs to be addressed. Chairman Dernulc stated we are currently working with the city and with I.U. in coordination meetings.
- Trudy Wasik from Southmoor in Hammond questioned the issue of Southmoor being taken out of the project. Mr. Repay answered that is correct and as the Commission receives further information on this issue, it will be shared with residents. Meetings can be scheduled with residents as a group or individually if needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.