

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010**

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

Chairman Dan Dernulc called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session and Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. A roll call vote confirmed all five members present. Minutes of the August 11th meeting stand as posted.

Development Commissioners:

Dan Dernulc, Chairman
William Baker, Vice Chair
Anthony Broadnax, Treasurer
Tom Wichlinski, Secretary
Ron McAhrn

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Roberto Peredes – Army Corps
Doug Anderson – Army Corps
James Dedelow – Munster
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Road, Hmd.
Bill Rochford – Army Corps
Imad Samara – Army Corps
John Beckman-Lake Co Fish & Game
Craig/Bea Hanusin – Munster
Col. Quarles – Army Corps
Lynn Whelan – Army Corps
Stephen Jadrnak – Forest Ave, Hmd
K. Hill - Hammond
Dorreen Carey – City of Gary
Mike Zarantonello – Southmoor,Ham'd
John Hluska – Hammond
Stan/Bettie Slazyk – Oakwood
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster
Mark/Stacy Broutman – Southmoor,Hmd
Mike/Sue Wood – Oakwood
Bill Coomes – River Drive Munster

Visitors:

Don/Josie Seagraves - Munster
Jeff Burton – The Times
Fred Baginski - Hammond
Patricia Piekarczyk - Munster
Phil Gralik - RWArmstrong
Elizabeth Johnson-Congressman's Office
Lynn Barnes - Munster
John Harrigan - Hammond
Vanessa Villarreal, USACE
Joan Zacok - Munster
Kenny/Bonnie Vavrek – Stateline, Ham'd
Larry Blue - Hammond
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
R. Montgomery - Munster
Tina Kutkoski - Hammond
Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie - Munster
Roy Deda – Army Corps
Bill Petrites – Highland
Peter Yackanich – Forest Ave, Ham'd
Dan Herr - Hammond
Elaine Fay – River Drive, Munster
Bob Paulson - Munster
H. Cleland - Dyer
John/Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Ham'd
Bridget Bodefeld – Crestwood, Munster
Mike Echterling – Lake Co. Fish & game
David Nellans – Munster Councilman
Karen Lorenz – Southmoor, Hmd.
Kim Poland – Hammond councilwoman

Chairman's Report – Chairman Dernul welcomed Colonel Vincent Quarles and Roy Deda of the Army Corps.

- There were no changes made to the minutes of the August 11th meeting; they stand as posted.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay reported on several items:

- The Corps design is calling for semi- permanent closing of the state line during a flood event.
- Efforts are being pursued in permanently closing off Chase Street, where the culverts are a pinch point.
- The INDOT pump station at Kennedy Avenue in Highland is up and ready to go.
- The punch list for items needing correction/attention on V-2 will be completed by the contractor before the Commission accepts turnover.
- There was a potential emergency situation in Hammond where a BP oil leak went into the combined sewer and eventually discharged into the river. Everyone worked together and was very cooperative and the problem was resolved quickly. He thanked the Corps and CERES for helping with that.
- Mr. Repay met with Board members of the RDA and brought them up to date on project completion.
- He and Commissioner McAhron met with the Mayor of Hammond and other city officials and addressed a number of items.
- Mr. Repay, as well as Senator Mrvan, Hammond Mayor McDermott, Hammond Councilwoman Kim Poland, Congressman's staff, chairman Dernul, Corps officials, and Judy Vamos, also met with residents from Forest Avenue. Chairman Dernul thanked Laurie Czulno for setting up the meeting. Several homeowners signed easements for the right to construct in the area. Before any work can be started at the levee, all homeowners and the city (12 total) have to agree to sign a right to construct easement.
- Also announced was that staff has had some training to be able to make changes/additions to the website.
- The town of Munster has been officially informed by the Army Corps that they are allowed to use "water bladders" as an alternative to sandbagging, in a flooding event.
- The town of Munster has officially approved the O&M Emergency Response manual. The other communities are also being asked to approve it.

• Colonel Quarles addressed the floor. He thanked the Commission for inviting him and his team members to the meeting. He acknowledged the receipt of the letter from Southmoor resident Ruth Mores. He presented a map of the alternative design that is planned for the Southmoor area. He explained that with this option comes a lot of coordination with city officials, homeowners and the Corps designers but he feels that this is the best option for the area.

Army Corps Status Report:

- SV-2 – Roberto Peredes from the Army Corps informed the Board members that the V-2 segment is substantially complete; a few punch list items remaining will be taken care of very soon. They are scheduling another inspection next week. He continued to say that the railroad closure design will probably need a modification. The Corps designers are reviewing some options now. The as-built drawings and O&M manuals for V-2 are also being reviewed.

- SVII – Floodwall is about 85% complete; projected total completion of floodwall is early to mid-October. Contractor continues to work on outlets.
 - SVIII is a little over 60% complete. Contractor is continuing to place sheetpile on south side of the river; they are completing outlets on south side of river. They have reached a negotiated settlement to re-establishing contract date – now mid November.
 - Commissioner Baker asked how long the design review process will take on the V-2 railroad closure. Roberto Peredes answered that it should be within a couple of weeks and then Corps will have to review it with the contractor.
- There was discussion on an unknown pipeline that was found in V-2 but the Corps stated it was an abandoned pipeline; it has been emptied, cut, and capped.
- Commissioner McAhrn confirmed that Stage VIII construction is to Hohman Avenue, not the state line; Forest Avenue is not part of this contract.

Action Required – Chairman Dan Dernulc presented items for action.

- He referred for the claims for September to be approved in the amount of \$49,718.17. Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the claims; motion seconded by Ron McAhrn; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.
- Commissioner Broadnax then made a motion to approve the O&M claims in the total amount of \$10,213.76; motion seconded by Bill Baker; motion passed with a roll call vote of 5-0.

Finance – Chairman Dernulc referred to the July Financial Statement and the July NIRPC invoice.

Land Acquisition/Land Management – No report at this time.

Project Engineering and

Operation & Maintenance – Chairman Dernulc asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda regarding pump station repair costs. Anthony Broadnax made a motion adding the item; Bill Baker seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote. Mr. Repay referred to a pump station repair cost estimate sheet he had received from Austgen Electric. After discussion of items, Bill Baker made a motion to authorize Austgen to do the emergency repair items; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call. It was decided to go ahead with the repairs on the North Burr Street and East Grant Street pump stations but Mr. Repay will first contact the city of Gary to see if they can do the repairs. Cost of said repairs would be \$9,062. Since Commission members did not have the history of past pump station repairs that were performed, Mr. Repay said he would have Austgen Electric put together a spread sheet of all repair costs that have been done up to this point. Chairman Dernulc added that, in the future, items like this should be discussed in Executive Session first.

- Commissioner Baker asked for an update on O&M with the communities. Dan Repay replied that plans for each individual community have been completed. Certain elevations are identified as to when to act in the case of a pending flood event; it spells out exactly what is to be expected to be done and by whom. Communities all have a copy and have been asked for formally adopt it at their Board meetings. The town of Munster has already formally adopted it. the town of Highland will soon be adopting it. Others should follow. He said that many hours went into developing this manual and the participating community

administration has approved it. At some point before the year end, they will be having a mock “flood drill” with each community to make sure everyone is comfortable with it.

Legislative Committee – No report.

Other Issues/New Business – Commissioner Tom Wichlinski stated that about a year ago, this Commission was reorganized. A lot has been accomplished and he stressed the importance of finishing the flood control system, making sure it is monitored and finding a source of funding for the maintenance of it. Forming a Conservancy District seems to be a good idea; everyone understands the importance of maintaining the levee system.

Commissioner Bill Baker referred to the poster of pictures from the September 2008 flood event and stressed the importance of never letting that happen again. Maintaining this system always has to be on the forefront. With the rainy season ahead of us, the entire region needs to work together. It has to be the primary focus.

Commissioner Broadnax added that the Commission is on the same team as the residents, trying to get this done. Sometimes it is not an easy job; we always need to work together as a team.

Statements from the Floor -

- John Czulno from Forest Avenue thanked the Commission for meeting with them and their neighbors. He wanted to know where their levee fits in relative to the construction stages. Roy Deda replied that Forest Avenue is not part of the Stage VIII contract. It was previously built by the city of Hammond but never maintained. Any work done on the levee now will be built to Corps standards so it can be certified. It is a separate action that the Commission is paying for. He added that there is no separate Federal funding for Forest Avenue. Mr. Repay added that money that the Commission has budgeted does contain some funding for Forest Avenue. Once all easements are obtained, we can move forward with the repairs, as noted in the Corps inspection report.

- Harry Cleland from Dyer stated that he owns about 35 lots in Munster and wants to develop them and wanted to know when he could do that. Commissioner McAhron replied that they are in the flood plain. The project needs to be completed first. Under State law, you cannot do anything until FEMA changes the status of the land. The Army Corps will first have to certify the levees; FEMA has to remap the areas; it probably will be at least a process that will take a couple of years. There is a possibility of building sooner to a higher elevation level but he would have to check with the local ordinances.

- Mike Wood from Munster asked why there is over a 2' drop by the Northcote bridge pumping station next to the sheetpile wall. Imad Samara answered that it is controlled by the control structure. Before and after the control structure, water level drops going west. He will send additional information to Mr. Wood so he has a better understanding of how it will work.

- Ruth Mores from Southmoor thanked Col. Quarles for answering her letter. She has not been happy with the back-and-forth changes concerning her area. The Colonel helped in answering some of their questions. The residents there want the Colonel to visit their area and meet with each property owner so they can show him their individual situation. They also have an issue with surface water drainage and how it will get to the river once a wall is built at the back of their properties. She said that the bank has been ignored for years, accumulating a lot of debris. She was assured by Bill Rochford that cleanup was part of the

contract and the contractor will restore the bank for hydrology. The Colonel agreed that he will meet with the property owners.

- Robert Montgomery from Munster asked if there was less flood protection than before in looking at the work at Columbia bridge on the Munster side. When the town built the levee after the flooding it was to the top of the bridge; now it seems like the new levee will be shorter. Roberto Peredes answered that it will be the same elevation. The contractor is instructed to re-build at the end of the day. Generally, the contractor has to remove some sections of levee to work but it will be replaced at the end of the day. Imad Samara added that there will be no gaps in the system as they are building the project.

- John Harrigan from Hammond expressed concern that we were currently concentrating on the completion of the project more than the upkeep of the project. He said we will have another major rain event and we need to be prepared for it. He feels that the river needs to be dredged; there are too many pinch points. Col. Quarles added that there have been many different engineering solutions looked at over the years. Chairman Dernule asked Mr. Harrigan to talk to the Corps after the meeting.

- Paul Daniels from Munster asked who was watching the river now for debris build-up. Mr. Repay that the individual communities have accepted that responsibility. Mr. Repay himself also checks pinch points in Gary on a regular basis.

- Stacy Broutman from Southmoor asked about the proposed Option 4 map. Bill Rochford explained the mapping and what would be done in that area. The design will address flood drainage issues.

- John Beckman stated he was making progress with the Army Corps coming to a meeting to talk about watershed management. Meeting date will be posted on their website. His concern is that no one has any authority at present to plan for upland flood storage capacity.

- Laurie Czulno from Forest Avenue thanked the Commission for meeting with them.

- Steve Jadrnak from Forest inquired about available funds. Mr. Repay explained that there are some funds identified for Forest Ave levee repairs. At the time the budget was prepared, it was assumed that Illinois would be doing some levee work; now that is not the case. State line has become a project cost and we will stretch the money to the best of its use to accomplish protection for the residents. A lot has to be fixed before certification happens. If we come under budget in some areas, that money can be deferred to other areas. In coordination with Stan Dostatni, bidding would happen this winter; city will flood fight during the interim, if needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, which will be Wednesday, October 13 at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.