

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012**

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

Chairman William Baker 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. Four (4) Board members were present; one (1) vacancy exists. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Ron McAhron

Anthony Broadnax

Ron McAhron

Tom Wickland

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

Judy Vamos

Visitors:

LuAnn Franklin - The Times

Natalie Mills - Army Corps Project Mgr

MaryLou Daniels - Munster

Sylvia Vucich - Munster

Ronald Albin - River Drive

Bea/Craig Hanusin - Munster

Visitors:

John/Laurie Czulno - Forest Ave. Hammond

T. Cholipski - River Drive, Munster

Dave Nellans - Munster Town Council

Ruth Mores - Southmoor, Hammond

Steve Caco - Munster

Vanessa Villarreal - Army Corps

Bill/Bev Coomes - Munster

Bill Fine - Munster

Joe Simonetto - Munster Town Council

Rob Mangus - Munster

L. Montet - Baring Ave.

Sandy O'Brien - Hobart

Peter Yackanich - Hammond

Steve Jadrnak - Hammond

Bob Paulson - Northcote, Munster

Mike Echterling - Lake Co. Fish & Game

Dorothy Pazanin - River Drive, Munster

John/Jean Plusch - Munster

Jayson Reeves - Gary

B - Munster

Bridget Bodefied - Munster

John Mulesa - Munster

Lauren Rigg - city of Gary

Terry Ahearn - Forest Ave, Hammond

Minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved by a motion from Anthony Broadnax; motion seconded by Ron McAhron; motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker referred to the pictures of the 2008 flood and that no one ever wants to see something like that again. By taking care of this man-made flood control asset and making sure it works to the design specifications will benefit the entire region.

Now that a funding mechanism is in place, we are moving forward finalizing a priority list of maintenance items that can be accomplished this construction season.

• Chairman Baker proceeded with updating the audience with how the new legislation will impact this Board. By August 1 of this year, Hammond and Gary will each have one member that must meet certain criteria and background (must have background in construction, project management, or flood control and may not be an employee or elected official of a city, town, or county governmental unit). Lake County Commissioners will have 2 nominees also. All the nominees will then be sent to Indianapolis with the final

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appointments made by the Governor. Once appointed, we will meet with them and provide the history of the project as well as our plan for moving forward.

Army Corps Report – Project Manager Natalie Mills reported that:

- V-2 contract is in the closeout phase. The railroad closure fix is being handled by the AE contractor. They have already bid it out and bids were due on April 5; bid award should have already been made. She will check on it and report back on status. Completion of the entire project is projected to be July 31, 2012.
- VII and VIII contractors are working toward completion of these stages. Punch list items are still being addressed; turf establishment and some tree removal within 15' of levee. Total completion should be end of May.
- Southmoor Avenue portion – It was recently determined that additional property is needed as a temporary access on the east end. Although the RFP has been sent to Walsh, it now has to be amended with a revised date of April 16 to receive a proposal. Walsh is being given first choice for construction. If it would have to be re-bid, an award probably wouldn't be until July. There was a meeting today with the Commission to talk about options.
- Hobart Marsh mitigation – Work is ongoing on the plans and specs for the mitigation area. There is a preliminary plan in place but it is being updated.
- Commissioner McAhrn asked about the as-builts for VII & VIII. Natalie stated she would talk to the contractor and try to have them to us by the end of the month.
- Chairman Baker inquired if the Commission's comments were incorporated into the design plans for access points on the river. Natalie replied that they were and that the Corps will share those plans with the Commission and work with us as we move forward.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay stated that:

- He is continuing to work with NIPSCO/INDOT for better drainage by Martin Luther King. Lake Station is experiencing a problem because of inadequate drainage in the area. INDOT will be revamping the culverts that are currently in place there to allow for better drainage.
- We are currently identifying what needs to be done at Marshalltown and Burr Street to bring those areas up to Corps certification again. That should be ready for approval at the next meeting so we can move forward with a RFP.
- The 2 farm leases have been signed with farmers. There is an additional 45 acres that can be farmed this year due to the dry weather; it has been too wet to plant in prior years.
- We plan to have the entire levee system from Martin Luther King to Northcote, both sides of the levees, mowed in early May. Because of warmer weather we had earlier, the grass has grown quicker than expected. Under \$20,000 is a reasonable price for the entire area.
- We have switched the general liability insurance policy to a new carrier, saving about \$8,000. The amount of \$36,467.45 is on tonight's claim sheet for approval (prior year, the claim was \$44,000 for same coverage).
- Regarding the watershed study, we have a RFQ being published the next 2 weeks with the RFQ's due in on May 7. From there, we will select who we want to interview, have them make a presentation, and select. We are hoping that a selection of a qualified firm would be made by June.
- We are hoping that Forest Avenue can be a "go" by May.

Finance Report – Executive Director Repay presented the claims for April and explained several of them. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$96,195.76; motion was seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 4-0.