

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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. Five (5) Commission members were present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Anthony Broadnax
Ron McAhrn
Tom Gozdecki

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Visitors:

William Emerson – Hammond Council
Sylvia Vucich – River Drive, Munster
LuAnn Franklin – The Times
John Mulesa - Munster
Natalie Mills – Army Corps

Visitors:

John & Laurie Czulno – Forest, Hammond
Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
T. Cholipski - Munster
Barb Runberg - Munster
A. Cleland
Holly Cummings - Munster
Sam Cummings - Munster
Kenny/Bonnie Vavrek - Hammond
Arnold Schmidt - Hammond
Jeff Yatsko – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Fred Baginski - Hammond
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Bob Paulson - Munster
James Dedelow - Munster
Tom DeGiulio - Munster
Mike Echterling – Lake Co. Fish & Game
Dorothy Pazanin – River Drive, Munster
Dave Wellman - RDA
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman's Office
M/M Plusch - Munster
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council

A motion was made by Tom Wichlinski to approve the minutes as presented from the October 10th meeting; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote. (No official meeting held in November)

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker pointed out the flooding pictures of 2008, citing this is the reason we are here every month. That's what will happen when a \$250 million man-made asset isn't maintained. He also referred to the satellite pictures of the levee system; shows a different perspective. This Commission will continue to move forward to achieve the most effective and efficient manner in moving forward on behalf of everybody that lives in the community.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay presented the claims for both November and December and explained several of the large claims.

• Commissioner Broadnax asked about the large claim of \$17,616.00 for Garcia Consulting Engineers. Executive Director Repay replied that it is for the GIS development of the levee system. Jeff Yatsko from Garcia Engineers is here tonight to give a presentation on the GIS work they are in the process of developing. It will give a good understanding to the

Commissioners, as well as the public. We can choose to just develop a plan for the current amount of money or expand it with more information at an additional cost.

- Commissioner Wichlinski asked if the payment to EarthWerks for the Forest Ave. rehabilitation project is a final payment. Mr. Repay replied that the original contracted amount was \$314,126 so there is some retainage involved. We should be seeing the final payment very soon.

- Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims for November in the amount of \$324,748.10; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote. Commissioner Broadnax proceeded to make a motion to approve the claims for December in the amount of \$263,320.78; motion seconded by Commissioner McAhrn; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

- Mr. Repay reported on the pumps at Burr Street. Pump 1 is currently not working. He has been talking to the contractor to see how the situation can be remedied. It should be under warranty from the previous repair. The second pump is working and is handling the area until the other pump is repaired. All the pump stations along the system have been cleaned out and debris removed. Some had as much as 4' of debris built up. All other pumps are up and running.

- Regarding Burr Street, Marshalltown, and Forest Avenue projects, construction on all 3 projects is nearing completion. The Corps will then inspect the levees, approve the work done, and certify that they comply with standards.

- Mr. Repay stated that he has gotten concurrence from other governmental agencies to clear out the leaning and dead trees inside the levee system. The original RFP that was sent out a while back asked for quotes for removing all trees and it was segmented out by communities. The current proposed work will not be to just clear cut the trees; only those trees identified as leaning and dead trees will be removed. This work needs to be done before the spring storms come preventing these trees from blocking water flow where they enter the system. Some areas have easier access than others and therefore impact the scheduling as well as the cost. The work will start in the west reach and continue eastward due to the population and traffic density. Root balls would be left; trees will have to be cut, roped and tied, and dragged out. Expense will vary from segment to segment. Chairman Baker added that we need to be sensitive to the fact that the area needs to look like a recreational area; and need to maintain a natural aspect as much as possible. This tree clearing contract is not part of the overall maintenance of the segments; it will be a stand-alone contract. Commissioner Wichlinski added that there were a lot of trees that were removed for the Forest Avenue rehabilitation project. Mr. Repay stated that the area was dense and there was sufficient access; however, some of the other segments of the system will be entirely different.

- The Commission has received payments for the two farm leases. Weather was good and one of the farmers was able to get two crops, increasing the amount we received from \$9,860 to \$13,949. The second farm lease yielded \$3,900 (same as previous years). This continues the ongoing effort to identify and secure alternative funding methods to supplement the operation of the system.

- An alternative solution to State Line closure was submitted to the Corps for their review. It is an interlocking river rock front cement block that would be attractive to the residents and functional at the same time. Lowell Concrete Company has dropped off a sample outside of Town Hall by the mailbox for the Commission and public to view.

- Mr. Repay announced that the Commission will be participating in the raising of the Columbia Avenue Bridge, which is the lowest point in the entire levee system in the west

that these were the type of examples that have created the reasoning for the Commission to seek alternative constructions methods and are focused on completed the flood control system in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

- Jeff Yatsko from Garcia Consulting Engineers gave a power point presentation of the GIS data of the levee system they are currently doing for the Commission. Once completed, it is the intent to add this onto the web site.

Other Business –

Motions:

- Tom Wichlinski made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a design contract for Gary North and Gary South levee segments and prepare proper bid documents for those 2 segments that would allow the repair of them with the actual bid for repair going out in the summer; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.
- After discussion of how identifying leaning/dead trees would happen, a motion was made by Tom Wichlinski to authorize the Executive Director to hire a contractor to make an assessment of identification of leaning and dead trees that would be removed from State Line to Kennedy Ave. for a cost not to exceed \$10,000; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote. Ron McAhron added that the DNR Forestry Dept. will help with the identification.
- Mr. Repay asked for authority for the Commission to commit 25% of the funding for the raising of the Columbia Avenue bridge. The Lake County Highway Dept. would be committing 50% of the cost, 25% from the Commission, and the remaining 25% would be shared between Hammond and Munster. Total estimated cost is \$1.4 million. Making a formal motion would show good faith commitment on our part to participate. Contingent upon the funding of the County Highway, Hammond and Munster, Mr. Wichlinski made a motion to allow the Executive Director, under advisement of counsel, to offer an amount of funds of 25%, not to exceed \$350,000, to help fund the raising of the Columbia Avenue bridge, with the Lake County Highway Dept. having the responsibility of awarding the contract and if the amount exceeds 25%, it will have to come back to the Board for additional consideration; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Statements from the floor:

- Fred Baginski from Hammond informed the Commission that we should be aware of wires sticking up by the utility pole that the construction trailer was using at the corner of River Drive and Northcote. It appears that the breakers are turned off but situation should be addressed. Mr. Repay will contact NIPSCO.
- Laurie Czulno from Forest Avenue in Hammond stated she was happy with the timely progress made on Forest Ave rehabilitation project. She indicated that concrete blocks are piled in an area next to the levee wall that needs to be removed. Mr. Repay will check it out. Ms. Czulno added that she supports the Corps correcting all deficiencies before turn-over to the Commission.
- John Mulesna expressed his concern about the inequity in the bill required all residents to pay a \$45 fee for maintenance, when it will be a hardship to pay this amount for some residents.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Chairman Baker wished Happy Holidays to all. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, which will be Wednesday, January 9th at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.