

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

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

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session and Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. Four (4) Commission members were present; one (1) vacancy exists. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Ron McAhron  
Anthony Broadnax  
Tom Wichlinski

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus  
Judy Vamos

**Visitors:**

Craig/Bea Hanusin - Munster  
Steve Caco - River Drive  
Sylvia Vucich - Munster  
LuAnn Franklin - The Times  
Roy Deda - Army Corps  
Natalie Mills - Army Corps  
Joe Simonetto - Munster Town Council

**Visitors:**

John/Laurie Czulno - Forest Ave. Hammond  
Colin Highlands - IDNR  
Dave Nellans - Munster Town Council  
Ruth Mores - Southmoor, Hammond  
Janet Venecz - Hammond Council  
T. Cholipski - Munster  
Bill/Bev Coomes - Munster  
John Beckman - CTWT  
Rob Mangus - Munster  
Charles Svitko - Hammond  
Fred Baginski - Hammond  
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart  
Siavash Biek - CBBEL, Indianapolis  
Steve Jadrnak - Hammond  
Peter Yackanich - Hammond  
Mike Echterling - Lake Co. Fish & Game  
Dorothy Pazanin - River Drive, Munster  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski - Munster  
Dan Spitale - Hammond Council  
Dan Dernulc - Lake County Councilman  
Bridget Bodefled - Munster  
Elizabeth Johnson - Congressman's Office  
John Mulesa - Munster

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Baker pointed out the flooding pictures of 2008. This man-made flood control system requires all entities working together and paying attention to all aspects. The system will not work if maintenance is not done. The Corps has been the designer, engineer, and general contractor of this project with the Commission responsible for the O&M. This project is the benchmark on how our community handles a regional issue; there has been a lot accomplished but with more to do. The remains to ensure not only a sound flood control system but with recreational components that make this an asset that will benefit all communities.

• Chairman Baker proceeded to announce that new members to the Commission should be nominated and then appointed by the Governor in August, per the state statute. There are 2 additional Governor appointments pending; The Commission will increase to 9 members.

**Army Corps Report** – Project Manager Natalie Mills announced that the Corps has received a revised design from the Architecture/Engineer (A/E) and they are in the process of reviewing it for the Phase V-2 railroad closure. The Corps is awaiting an updated schedule from the A/E and will share it with the Commission once received. The A/E's design work is 50% complete. Plans & specs have been provided and they are looking for feedback. They will continue with design work once they have heard any concerns from the Commission. Commissioners Broadnax and Wichlinski questioned the progress of the A/E firm. A lengthy discussion was held on the issue of the railroad closure structure vs. the sandbag closure. The LOMR was approved using the sandbag closure and it is supported by the city of Hammond and town of Highland and the Commission. Ron McAhron asked the Corps how much money has been spent on this failed structure. Mr. Deda answered he would find out, although he stated that the A/E firm would be assuming these costs. The Commission has consistently said they did not want this closure; it will not work – they are satisfied with the sandbag closure and cannot understand why the Corps is continuing with their plan. Mr. Deda stated this was the engineering in the beginning when plans & specs were first prepared, as wanted by the railroad. He didn't think the railroad wanted a sandbag closure. This issue is what is holding up the V-2 closeout. Mr. McAhron said that since the closure is a betterment, maybe the railroad should be putting some money into this.

- Ms. Mills reported that the contractors in both Phase VII & VIII are awaiting turf establishment in the reseeded areas. The contractors will return to the sites in the fall of 2012 to re-seed all bare areas. Chairman Baker added that even with the local Corps office overseeing the re-seeding, it will be the residents who will be watching. Frustration was vented by Commissioners as completion dates of punch list items and there continued to be reasons on why the work is not completed and keeps getting pushed out.
- Southmoor area construction work will be pursued by the Corps as a new contract solicitation. The Corps stated that it will need additional Local Sponsor/Commission funds before proceeding on this project.
- Efforts are ongoing with the Commission to finalize INDOT crediting; however, the effort is hampered by lack of detailed records now requested by the Corps given the years that have passed since the work was performed.

**Executive Director's Report** – Mr. Repay reported:

**Finance Report** – Executive Director Repay presented the revised claims for June and explained several of the line items. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the revised claims in the amount of \$64,185.10; motion was seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 4-0. For better understanding of the O&M claims, the claims will be sent to the Commissioners prior to all future meetings. Staff was asked to pursue a unit rate contract from Garcia Consulting engineers since they do a lot of engineering work for us and to make sure we are getting a good value. Mr. Repay reported that some fixes on the pump stations will be part of the electrical/mechanical bid package that will soon go out. It was also stated that the contract we had with Austgen Electric, for pump inspection reports, has expired at the end of June. The renewal of the contract may be re-visited in the future.

- Ron McAhron stated that an Indianapolis firm, Bose, McKinney & Evans, has been retained by the Commission, to review the Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA), some items previously denied or reduced during Corps review, and past INDOT work that was done as part of this project for crediting. There are legal questions to be resolved and the goal is for the legal firm to assist in maximizing the credits to lessen the cash impacts on the project and those who pay the bills.

**O&M/Engineering Report:**

- Proposals were received for the repair and maintenance of both the Marshalltown and Burr Street levees in Gary, which currently are deemed as “unacceptable” by the Corps and are no longer inspected by the Corps. Bids were received from Grimmer Construction and Ellas Construction. Ellas ended up pulling their bid, leaving Grimmer as the only bidder. Their bid was under the engineer’s estimate. The proposal includes levee as well as electrical/mechanical work on the pump stations. Once this work is completed, it will bring the levees up the Corps standards and the Commission will request the Corps to come out and inspect these levees. Under new business, Mr. Repay will request a motion for the approval to bid out the mechanical portion of the project.

**Legislative Report** – Ron McAhron informed everyone, although he will not be a Commissioner, he intends to stay involved in the crediting issue with the Army Corps. It is an important component to this project. He will also stay involved with the legal firm reviewing INDOT costs. He stated that Colin Highlands will be the appointment to the Commission, although he has not been confirmed yet. With the cities of Gary and Hammond each recommending one (1) appointment and the Lake County Commissioners having 2 recommendations, there will be a total of 9 Commission members. Hopefully, all nominations will be completed and submitted to the Governor’s office for final appointment by August 1.

- Mr. McAhron stated he will be monitoring the Asian Carp issue and how it is addressed in the Chicago area; it could have a significant impact on our project.

**Other Issues/New Business:**

- Mr. Repay introduced Siavash Biek from Christopher Burke Engineering. Mr. Biek was instrumental in helping remove the areas from Cline Avenue to the Northcote bridge out of the flood zone in order to obtain flood insurance relief. Mr. Biek informed the Commission members that a second area was just submitted today to FEMA from the Northcote bridge to Stateline, on behalf of Hammond and Munster. He anticipates a 3 – 6 month turnaround, hopefully with a positive response from FEMA. Chairman Baker added that this is a major step for the residents of this area in Hammond and Munster and thanked the city of Hammond and the town of Munster for their assistance in making this happen for their residents. Mr. Biek continued that some structures in the area near Stateline/Forest Avenue in Hammond will remain in the flood zone until the Forest Avenue levee is repaired and a closure plan the State Line is completed by the Corps.
- Regarding the bids for Marshalltown and Burr Street levee repair, Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to award the contracts to Grimmer Construction at the proposed cost, which is under the engineer’s estimate, and he requested that legal counsel draft an agreement with a not-to-exceed bid amount. Motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with a 4-0 roll call vote. Mr. McAhron added that we are spending dollars in Marshalltown and Burr because from a fiscal point of responsibility, it makes fiscal sense to do so as well as to, ultimately getting these levees recertified as “acceptable” by the Corps.
- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion for the Executive Director to go out for bids for mechanical work on the pump stations along the Highland to Gary levee system; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 4-0 by a roll call vote.
- Commissioner Wichlinski then made a motion to open the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for a watershed study of Lake County portion of the little Calumet River Watershed and directed the Executive Director to evaluate the bids and take under advisement and report back at the next meeting; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 4-0 roll call vote. Three proposals were received. They were Christopher Burke Engineering

(partnering with American Structurepoint), DLZ (partnering with S.E.H.), and Weaver Boos Consultants (partnering with Environmental Consulting & Technology).

**Statements from the Floor:**

- **Ruth Mores** from Southmoor in Hammond questioned the status and time line of the Southmoor area. Ms. Mills answered that Southmoor will be going out for bid as a modification to the existing contract. Walsh will not be the contractor; there would be a new contractor. Bid package is not ready yet and there is no firm time line at this time. Roy Deda stated that he believes the Southmoor area needs to be built, even if some residents have a LOMA (Letter of Map Amendment) in place. Some are in disagreement with that.
- **Peter Yackavich** from Forest Avenue expressed concern about the length of time it is taking for Forest Ave completion. Ron McAhron reiterated that the city of Hammond will sandbag the area, if needed in a flood event. The area would be protected. They are trying to work through this with the Corps. Finding a utility line there slowed the process. Dollars are still committed to this area and it will be built. We are still working out some funding issues with the Corps but we are committed to build this area and we have not held up moving forward.
- **Laurie Czulno** from Forest Avenue expressed her disappointment on the length of time it is taking the Commission and the Corps, for Forest Avenue and State line tie-backs. She questioned the Corps if they had even seen Forest Ave. When they replied they had not, she encouraged everyone to write letters to the Colonel and to the Congressman.
- **Dave Nellans**, Munster town councilman speaking as a resident, also expressed some disappointment in how the Corps is proceeding. Residents have complained about increased traffic behind their houses; access control is an issue. He also said that he did not feel that the re-seeding by the contractor was sufficient. Mr. Repay replied that he will work with the public works department to limit access and put up either gates/signage that it is not a recreational trail but there for access only by the town or Corps. Mr. Nellans also stated that the town of Munster has purchased a generator by the pump station at Hammond Clinic that will serve as a backup.
- **Dan Dernulc**, Lake County Councilman and former chairman of the Commission and **Joe Simonetto**, Munster town councilman, expressed comments to Ron McAhron.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, which will be Wednesday, August 8th at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.