

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012
HELD AT MUNSTER TOWN HALL
1005 RIDGE ROAD, MUNSTER, IN

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session and Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. Roll call was taken. Three (3) Board members were present. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Anthony Broadnax, Treasurer
Tom Wichlinski, Secretary

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Visitors:

Lynn Whelan – Army Corps
Lt.Col. Jim Schreiner – Army Corps
Colin Highlands - DNR
Natalie Mille – Army Corps
Ron Szafarczyk – N. Harvey, IN
Jan Szafarczyk – N. Harvey, IN
Michael Jabo – DLZ, Hammond
Dan Dernulc – Lake County Councilman

Visitors:

LuAnn Franklin, The Times
Mary Lou Daniels - Munster
Sylvia Vucich - Munster
Craig/Bea Hanusin - Munster
John/Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Hammond
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council
Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
Vanessa Villarreal – Army Corps
Charles Svitko - Hammond
Fred Baginski - Hammond
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave, Hammond
Mike Echterling – Lake Co Fish & Game
Dorothy Pazanin – River Drive, Munster
Leon/Alice Kozlowski – Munster
Bridget Bodefeld – Munster
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman's Office
John Mulesa – Munster
Terry Ahearn – Forest Ave, Hammond
John Harrigan – Northcote, Hammond
John Grskovich – Crestwood, Munster
Karen Lorenz – Southmoor, Hammond
Trudy Wasik – Southmoor, Hammond

Commissioner Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2012; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed with a roll call vote of 3-0.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Baker reiterated that the Commission is charged with making sure that the flooding that happened in 2008 never happens again. Construction is almost completed; funding source will start coming in shortly to take care of this \$250 million man-made structure. The project had to start at I-65 and then moved westward. Some of that eastern portion of levee construction needs the most maintenance. Mr. Repay has been working on developing a plan to areas where attention is needed. The Commission wants to accomplish some work this construction season. Also, the river is at a very low level where some debris can be removed now.

Army Corps Report – Project Manager Natalie Mills introduced Lt. Col. Schreiner. He announced that Col. Drummond is in Washington this week but that he is familiar with our project. He was in the area about 4 months ago and walked the levee with Mr. Repay. He passed along a message from the Colonel that

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he is committed to work with the Board to get all the credits we deserve but needs the Board's help to accomplish that. He needs the Board's action to bring the local cost share into alignment. The Corps needs the \$909,000 local share to balance up monies. They are committed to transparency and any changes that would be of interest to the stakeholders, they will inform us. Lt. Col. Schreiner went on to announce that the Southmoor area is being re-evaluated and will have a change. The issue is contract wording so there may have to be a re-solicitation. They still plan on the contract being awarded this year but there most likely would be a delay. He stated that the \$909,000 local share is the fall back to balance out funds as it applies to Southmoor and the entire project as a whole. Priority No. 1 is the Little Cal project.

Natalie Mills continued to give an update of construction areas.

Stage VII – Contract was substantially complete as of November 2011. Contractor was on site the week of May 1 and is continuing to complete punch list items. Remaining items are re-seeding of bare areas and restoring a resident's lot that was used for access. The contractor's 2nd version of as-builts are currently being reviewed; Corps expects final approval of as-builts in July.

Stage VIII – Contract was substantially complete as of December 2011. Contractor has re-seeded all bare areas; contractor will complete mowing of levees and areas adjacent to floodwalls. Contractor will submit 3rd version of as-builts for approval within the next 2 weeks. Corps expects final approval of as-builts in July.

V-2 Railroad Closure – AE is continuing work to modify design to address current problems with the closure. At this point, the AE has been non-responsive to fix the problem. Corps will be drafting a "no-kidding" letter to the AE this week asking for a solution. The railroad closure currently functions as a sandbag closure. Mr. Repay added that Hammond and Highland are OK with the sandbag closure but the Corps does not want the sandbag closure as the final design.

Commissioner Broadnax questioned the Corps why they want community input if the Corps is the designer and we are the minority stakeholder, then why ask for input. Chairman Baker added that he just wants this done. Communities should have been involved at the beginning of the project so moving forward would not be held up because of outside input. Ms. Mills stated that they do have a 50% design for access roads, channel clearing, tie backs; they just want to make sure communities are in agreement. She reiterated that design work is dependent on additional local sponsor funds.

Discussion ensued on why more than one submittal of as-builts.

Mr. Repay stated that he met with the Corps last week on a discussion on the tiebacks. He will be meeting with Hammond and Munster to make sure they are in agreement with what is proposed.

Recreation trails – Ms. Mills said they are addressing where there are gaps and figuring out the needs of the communities.

Ms. Mills stated that Commission staff met with some of the Corps staff to talk about crediting dollars. They are trying to update crediting dollars before July 11. They are still waiting coordination of INDOT crediting dollars.

Mr. Repay will forward the latest construction progress sheet to the Board members.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay reiterated that he wants to utilize this construction season. Bids went out to repair work on the Marshalltown and Burr Street levees. Bids came in today and will be opened under New Business.

At the next Board meeting, Mr. Repay would like authority to bid out the mechanical component of the repair phase. Plans are being developed now that would address all the mechanical issues at one time.

Finance Report—Mr. Repay presented the claims for payment approval and discussed several of them. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$131,296.24; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with a 3-0 roll call vote. Chairman Baker stated that he thought the Commission records should be digitized. Although the State Board of Accounts only recognizes hard copies of financials; information should still be digitized to safeguard against such things as fire or flood. The Commission has retained records back to 1980.

O&M Report—Mr. Repay reported that both pumps at Burr Street and operating satisfactory. Pump #2 had been replaced at a cost of \$21,000. Pump #1 was under warranty so they replaced an eroded cable. Flood elevation levels in the pumps were changed slightly so the pumps aren't constantly running. There was an erosion issue on Pump #1 at Grant Street. It has been repaired at a cost of about \$2,500. Broadway was down for a while because of an electrical issue with NIPSCO. It is now operating. Taping of Forest Avenue pipes have been completed and those tapes have been given to the Corps. Mr. Repay has been working with Hammond to get curb cuts on Kennedy Avenue by Wendy's. Trail was repaired by the public works station.

Mr. Repay announced that 5 RFQs were received. They were: Civil Solutions Associates; S.E.H. of Indiana teamed with DLZ; Weaver Boos Consultants; Christopher Burke Engineering teamed with American Structurepoint; and the Center for Transformation of Waste Technology. All of them meet minimum qualifications to do the Lake County watershed plan. We will give them the plan to submit a formal proposal including phase and cost and timelines and deliverables. They will receive that information tomorrow.

There has been a tentative agreement with WJOB to video tape the Commission meetings from now on. Transparency is important and since we are expanding our jurisdiction, those that cannot attend the meetings will be able to view it online.

Legislative Report—Mr. Repay stated that he has talked to the cities that have new appointments to the Commission, as well as the Lake County Commissioners. Names need to be in to Governor by July 1; he will check back with them later this month. New appointments are based on new Statute.

New Business—Commissioner Broadnax stated that, to our credit, keeping records back to 1980 is certainly noteworthy. He appreciates the Colonels willingness to work with us on crediting dollars.

Mr. Repay proceeded to open the bids for Marshalltown and Burr Street repair.

Marshalltown - Grimmer Construction submitted a bid of \$389,320.

Burr Street - Grimmer Construction submitted a bid of \$234,865. Ellas Construction submitted a bid of \$129,905.55.

Bid advertisement was published twice in paper; site visit was held June 2 for interested parties. There should be no change orders. A motion was made by Commissioner Broadnax to take the bids under advisement and confirm that documents are in order; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with a roll call vote of 3-0. Mr. Repay added that having this repair work done will bring items up to standard as they are currently not in compliance with Corps standards. Levees can then be certified by FEMA, after Corps declares levees acceptable. Chairman Baker added that when levees are de-certified, no Federal money is available to help communities. That is why it is so important to keep levees up to standards.

Mr. Repay announced that Commissioner Ron McAhron has resigned from the Commission; he proceeded to read Mr. McAhron's resignation letter. It was apparent that everyone regretted hearing this news.

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Commissioner Wichlinski stated that Ron had his heart and soul into this project and doesn't even live in the community. He urged everyone to write a letter to the Governor on Ron's behalf. Ron plans to retire at the end of the year and move out of state to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Statements from the Floor –

John Mulesa from Munster said he would really miss Mr. McAhron; he was invaluable to the Commission. He went on to say that he has a concern that as-builts are not finalized yet and that we are still waiting a design on Stateline. We have had 4 years since the flood; this project has got to get done.

Laurie Czulno from Forest Ave in Hammond asked where we are on Forest Ave. Mr. Repay answered that video tapes were given to Corps today; permit is in hand to do construction; hopes to be bidding it out next month. She expressed concern with the RR closure not completed yet in V-2. She asked that no work or money be spent on recreation until the levees are completed.

John Grskovich from Munster spoke on behalf of his son. He is dissatisfied with improper grading and seeding on his property. Last December, the Colonel stated he would have it taken care. They are still waiting. It is not completed to their satisfaction. Mr. Repay added that there was a ponding issue there; it is still being addressed and will be completed to their satisfaction.

Karen Lorenz from Southmoor in Hammond questioned Lt. Col. Schreiner about the potential delay if the contract had to go out for solicitation. It was hoped that the Corps would know by the next meeting. Mrs. Lorenz, an insurance agent, said she has received many calls from people who have now been declared in a flood zone because of the new remapping; they were not in prior to this. Mr. Repay stated that Hammond's Mayor has submitted a Lomar to reduce the amount on behalf of the residents in this situation. The new base flood elevation has been lowered; but an application has been sent out to correct this situation.

Sandy O'Brien from Hobart expressed her opinion that Commissioner McAhron really lived this project and was a dedicated person who did an amazing job. She went on to ask the Army Corps when the mitigation project will go out for bid. Ms. Mills answered that when the 902 limit is lifted around February 13, the mitigation project could be authorized then. The 902 limit will increase the cost funds to this project once Congress approves it. At this point, the Corps must stay below the 902 limit. The new funds will allow the Corps to do the mitigation, tiebacks, general clearing, Southmoor, design work and finish the existing construction projects.

Mike Echterling from Lake County Fish & Game announced that the Little Calumet River Fest was a complete success; they had about 89 boats, 150 people, 200 people in the park. People saw the eagles and really enjoyed the day. At present, they have a "Friends of the Little Calumet River" facebook page but they would like to organize into a not-for-profit group. Grants could be available then and they would be considered a watch dog over the river. He invited anyone that would be interested to let him know.

Dan Dernalc, Lake County Councilman and former Commission member praised the work efforts of Ron McAhron who was instrumental in securing funding for the Commission and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He then praised the current members who have continued to have passion in this project. We are almost at the end and, although frustration is felt many times, they are doing a good job and he thanked them. He urged all to write a letter to the Governor and DNR expressing Ron's commitment to this project. Mr. Repay added that he has always talked to Ron at least a couple times of day and he will miss that, although he still expects him to be engaged. He will not be able to completely let go. He was truly a public servant. He announced that there is a DNR replacement for him but it has not been finalized yet. It is expected that Colin Highlands of DNR will replace Mr. McAhron on the Commission. He

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stated that we will also be getting 4 new members, plus a vacancy needs to be filled, and we will continue to move forward.

Chairman Baker added that the Board members are just stewards of this project. They just want to leave it better than they found it. The new members will also be engaged and work for the people. That is exactly what Ron did and the people from the region appreciate the fact that he spent so much time in this area to benefit them when he didn't even live here. He will truly be missed. He asked residents to please stay engaged.

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, July 11 at the Munster Town Hall at 6 p.m.