

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012**

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

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:10 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  
Tom Wichlinski

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus

**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  
John Beckman - CTWT  
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council  
Charles Svitko - Hammond  
Fred Baginski - Hammond  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond  
Steve Jadrnak - Hammond  
Bob Paulson – Northcote, Munster  
Mike Echterling – Lake Co. Fish & Game  
Dorothy Pazanin – River Drive, Munster  
Leon/Alice Kozlowski - Munster  
Kalliope Dedelow - Munster  
Linda Cook - Griffith  
Bridget Bodefled - Munster  
Elizabeth Johnson – Congressman's Office  
John Mulesa - Munster  
Lauren Riga – city of Gary  
Terry Ahearn – Forest Ave, Hammond  
Kerry Keith – S.E.H.

**Visitors:**

LuAnn Franklin – The Times  
Col. Drummond – Army Corps  
Bill Rochford – Army Corps  
Paul/MaryLou Daniels - Munster  
Sylvia Vucich - Munster  
Ronald Albin – River Drive  
Bea Hanusin – Munster

There was one change to the minutes. Ron McAhron was listed twice and Tom Wichlinski was not listed when he was in attendance. After amending the minutes to reflect all four Commissioners present, the minutes were approved by a motion from Anthony Broadnax; motion seconded by Tom Wichlinski; motion passed by a 4-0 roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Baker reiterated that, as we are moving forward getting things done, we need to remember the flooding event of 2008 so we never forget. This man-made flood control system requires all entities working together. We will prioritize O&M items that need to be done. The Commission is cleaning up deferred maintenance from the past 30 years.

**Army Corps Report** – In the Project Manager's absence, Col. Drummond and Bill Rochford represented the Corps. Bill Rochford updated the Commissioners on status of the current Corps contracts.

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Mr. Rochford reported that the Corps met with FEMA and Christopher Burke Eng to discuss issues on Forest Avenue.

In Stage VII, Ceres was substantially complete as of November 2011. Punch list items are still being addressed. The contractor needs to resolve some of the issues with residents' properties, whether it is drainage, turf establishment, sluice gate issues, items of debris cleanup. All work should be completed mid June. Dan Repay added that the contractor will be pulling up the mesh they previously laid and put down another round of grass.

In Stage VIII, Walsh was substantially complete as of December 2011. Trees have been removed within 15' of floodwall. Contractor is continuing doing some seeding, mowing, etc. Corps should be able to sign off with contractor by mid June.

By the beginning of June, the Corps is hoping to have an agreement and price in place for Southmoor. Remaining design work on state line tiebacks is continuing. They will discuss design with Munster and Hammond. Plans and specs for channel clearing is proceeding on final design and also final specs for 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase pump station.

Chairman Baker asked that the seeding in VII and VIII be priority areas to be completed since they are in the most densely populated areas.

Mr. Rochford also stated that they will be addressing INDOT crediting with our point of contact. Commissioner McAhrn added that Bose McKinney & Evans will be addressing the crediting issue with INDOT. After being reviewed by Bose, it will be sent up to the Corps. He thanked the Colonel for working with him on the crediting issue. The Colonel said he is committed to getting us as many crediting dollars as we deserve.

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

- Pump 2 at Burr Street has been put back in and is working well. The cost of that repair was \$25,495 and is on the claim sheet for approval. Pump 1 is partially working and under warranty but needs to be pulled to establish a repair cost.
- Gages are working. We are in the process of adjusting the levels to color code so they will be consistent. OMMYX is working on that.
- Videotaping will start in the coming weeks of the Forest Avenue area.
- Some blockages off Columbia Avneue have been cleared.
- Mr. Repay has had some good discussions with Lake Station and Hobart regarding Deep River issues.
- The levees are currently being mowed. They should finish up by the end of the week.
- Five RFQ's were received from engineering firms. Commissioners were all given a copy for review, which is ongoing. One will be selected to do an overall watershed plan for Lake County.

Finance Report – Executive Director Repay presented the claims for May and explained several of them. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$87,523.72; motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote of 4-0. Mr. Repay announced that the exit interview was just held with the State Board of Accounts after the completion of the 2011 audit of the Commission's records. Chairman Baker and Treasurer Broadnax were both in attendance. The end result of the audit was that there were no comments. The Commission is audited on a yearly basis, as per statute.

Other Issues/New Business:

- Now that specs have been completed for selected repair work, Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to move forward with securing bids for large repair items on Marshalltown and Burr Street. As long as funding is available, we

should take advantage of this construction season. Motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 4-0 roll call vote.

Statements from the Floor:

- Bill Coomes from Munster inquired about the progress on the siphon bridge at Northcote. Mr. Repay replied that it is not our project. That is a joint project between the town of Munster and the Hammond Sanitary District. Councilman Nellans added that the town is 100% committed to having the project started and they are in discussion with the HSD.
- Ruth Mores from Southmoor in Hammond asked about removal of homes from the floodplain. Mr. Repay replied that Christopher Burke Eng is working with Hammond and Munster to remove some residents and businesses from the flood plain because of better mapping now available. Some of the residents will be coming out of the flood insurance program east of Hart Ditch and Northcote. They will try to do all the way to state line. Commissioner McAhrn added it will be a different scenario in this area because the base elevation is different. They will work in segments at a time. Some properties may just be able to get a LOMA; others may be able to be certified and be totally removed.
- John Beckman from Portage distributed a copy of a grant outline to Commissioners and is seeking the Commission's informal interest to be a participant to help bring in money from the National Fish & Wildlife to match local dollars for a project to remove some of the phragmites that are unwanted. Commissioner McAhrn stated that if the site they are looking at is inside the project area, they would need to talk to the Corps. Mr. Beckman stated that eventually they would be looking for in-kind donations of \$75,000 to be able to match the grant money of \$75,000. No action was taken by the Commission.
- Laurie Czulno from Southmoor in Hammond asked the Corps why the State line plans are only at the 50% review level. Bill Rochford answered that the Corps was put on hold since last year because of the funding issue. They are now moving forward with them. Hopefully, 100% design level will be completed end of September 2012.
- Sandy O'Brien from Hobart suggested to the Commission that they contact Save the Dunes for input on storing water in upper watersheds when the Commission contracts for a Lake County watershed plan.
- Mike Echerling from Lake County Fish & Wildlife reminded the audience that the Little Calumet River Fest is May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- John Mulesa from Munster questioned the State line engineering being completed by the end of September. Bill Rochford confirmed they would be completed by September 30, which is the end of the Army Corps fiscal year. At that point, the funding issue will need to be addressed and that will depend upon appropriations.
- John Czulno from Southmoor in Hammond asked about the completion of engineering design by the end of the fiscal year. Bill Rochford explained that the design of the tieback would be completed by September. The Army Corps has reached their federal cap. The 902, which increases their budget capacity, has been completed and is going through the Federal process for approval. They foresee no problem with the approval but they still have to wait for finalization.

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, June 13th at the Munster Town Hall at 6:00.

