

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014**

**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/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. Six (6) Commission members were present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Debbie Long
Anthony Broadnax
Tom Gozdecki
Ron McAhron

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus
Judy Vamos

Visitors:

Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Charles Svitko - Hammond
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart
Rick Long – Lake Station City Council
Fred Baginski – Hammond
T. Ahearn – Forest Avenue, Hammond
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council
Bonnie Vavrek – State Line, Hammond
Robert Earnshaw – The Times
Linda Sorn – Army Corps
Peter Yackanich - Hammond
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.
Bill Emerson Jr. – Lake County Surveyor
Todd Rogers – Lake Station City Council
Dan Gossman - Munster
Dan Gardner – Munster
James Dedelow - Munster
Bill Emerson Sr. – Hammond City Council

• Election of 2014 officers was held. Tom Wichlinski made a motion to elect the following Commission members for officers: William Baker as Chairman; Tom Wichlinski as Vice Chairman; Tom Gozdecki as Treasurer; Anthony Broadnax as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Anthony Broadnax; motion passed with a 6-0 roll call vote.

• Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the December 18th meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker stated that we are going into the sixth year of the flooding event of 2008. Looking at the flooding pictures reminds us why we are here and to do whatever we can to eliminate that kind of event from ever happening again. This \$275 million man made project requires continuous maintenance. It has its challenges but we are more prepared than we ever have been before. As we move forward with everybody in this room, we will make sure this flood control project, as designed by the Army Corps, does what it is suppose to do. We will continue forward taking care of \pm 20 years of deferred maintenance. Setting the foundation, this will be a project everyone can be proud of.

Executive Director's Report –

- Finance - Mr. Repay referred to the January claims in the amount of \$149,803.12. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$149,803.12; motion seconded by Tom Gozdecki. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the higher claims. Pro Pump did repair work for Burr Street Pump 1 in the amount of \$43,319.00; all pumps are up and running. Garcia's charges of about \$29,000 consist of engineering oversight on various projects; claims for \$30,000 from Wiltjer Excavating are for the demolition of a house on Stateline as well as tree removal and property clean up; other claims are standard. Motion to approve the claims was passed by a 6-0 roll call vote.
- Executive Director Report - Dan Repay reported because of the cold weather, not a lot has been going on right now.
 - The concrete blocks are continuing to be made for Stateline tie-back.
 - Engineering design work is proceeding on the Gary North rehabilitation project.
 - There have been several inquiries about watershed projects. We will have communities present their projects at a meeting.
 - The latest inspection reports by the Army Corps will be put on the Little Cal web site for public viewing. The next inspection will take place in April.
 - The monthly meeting on emergency management was held with local communities. Emphasis was put on getting the word out to the public when necessary. It is important that all communities know the protocol on how to proceed in an emergency situation. Closing roadways is important and a presentation on a road closure device was viewed.
 - We will be renewing the farm leases and the computer service agreement.
 - For clarification, Mr. Repay referred to a newspaper article about the Little Cal Bridge. Article was incorrect; it is the Grant Calumet River that was talked about and not the Little Calumet River.
 - Commissioner Gozdecki asked about the status of the culverts at Martin Luther King. Mr. Repay replied that INDOT is still planning to replace those culverts. Their engineer is in the process of securing proper permits to redesign the culverts running underneath Martin Luther King Drive and the culvert to the east. They plan to bid out the project this spring.
 - Commissioner Gozdecki inquired about the channel clearing project. Mr. Repay replied that we have to re-submit the application due to design change. Commissioner McAhrn added IDNR and IDEM has jurisdiction that overlap. More discussion is needed with the two agencies. They just want to be sure that it is environmentally satisfactory.
 - Chairman Baker asked about the USGS monitors. Mr. Repay replied that the gage stations that we previously had on our website are no longer working and will be taken off the web site. USGS has them now and they will be making them user-friendly. The Commission will incur the cost for them, as well as the other gage stations that the Army Corps has turned over to us. He will be meeting with USGS in February and will have a better idea of a time frame for completion.

New Business – There was none.

Statements to the Board

- Peter Yackanich from Forrest Avenue in Hammond asked about the schedule of the completion of protection on State Line. Mr. Repay answered that he will send an email to the residents once he knows the exact date. Work was stopped when weather was below 0. There are about 2,000 blocks; some 10' and some are 6'. In December 45% of the blocks were complete. Commissioner Gozdecki asked if the contractor, Grimmer Construction, has a deadline in their contract. He was informed that they do have a

deadline of 160 days to complete, which goes to the middle of February. The base is complete; the blocks just need to be put in place and then sealed.

- Todd Rogers, Lake Station City Council, questioned the maintenance fee that was charged to the public. He asked whether there was an appeal process in place. Mr. Repay replied that we've been suggesting to property owners that they combine their lots where they can and we would refund the difference to them. Fee was charged according to individual property key numbers. His suggestion would be for his residents to call us and work with us to see what can be done. We continue to work with the Auditor's Office to ensure that fees are properly applied. Commissioner McAhrn added that these were statutory fees applied per parcel. Mr. Repay added that already there are about ±700 parcels less where people have combined their lots to save money. Mr. Rogers also asked about a time table for dredging Burns Ditch. Mr. Repay explained how their Rosser Lake diverts over to Burns Ditch. He has met with each community, including the Mayor of Lake Station. Our application is posted on our web site and we are just waiting for submittals. We have already cleared several areas in Lake Station. He is also working with Hobart on some of their anticipated projects.
- Bill Emerson Jr. introduced himself as the new Lake County Surveyor. He looks forward to having a good working relationship with the Commission. His office is open anytime to anyone. He supports our work and stressed the importance of working together on mutual projects that will benefit the public.
- Sandy O'Brien from Hobart stated that she looked at our application on line and thought it was pretty good and asked the right questions. She was glad to see the Surveyor's office proposal because it is about retention, which she feels is extremely important. She expressed disappointment in the other couple of projects that were submitted because they contained no mitigation value; they only addressed local drainage problems. She also inquired about the schedule for Hobart mitigation. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission is aware that it must be completed for the project to be entirely done. When everything is in place with proper approval, we hope to complete it. We may end up with more land than what was originally required of us. There is no certain time frame at this point.

There being no further business, the next meeting date is Wednesday, February 12 at the Munster Town Hall.

