

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014**

**Held at  
Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN**

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

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

**Visitors:**

Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond  
Roman Sawczak - Dyer  
Charles Svitko - Hammond  
John Beckman – PCC - IWLA  
Colonel Chris Drew - USACE  
Fred Baginski – Hammond  
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Roy Deda - USACE  
Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Hmd  
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.  
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart  
Dave Wellman - RDA  
Don Oliphant – Christopher Burke Eng.  
Mike Echterling – Friends of the Little Cal

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Sandy Mordus

- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the June 19th meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as previously amended; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

**Chairman's Report** - Chairman Baker thanked Munster town officials for the use of their town hall for our meetings. He referred to the 2008 flooding pictures that are displayed each month as a reminder as to what happens when a \$275 million man-made structure is not maintained. Flooding of that magnitude never wants to be seen again so we have to be ready to deal with Mother Nature at any time. We are far better prepared than we were in 2008. The Director has monthly meetings with the municipalities to talk about maintenance issues, exercises are done in regard to flood control, and emergency preparedness is practiced/discussed. This is a regional project and now that there is a perpetual funding source for operation and maintenance, funds are available to do what needs to be done.

**Executive Director's Report –**

- **Finance** - Mr. Repay referred to the claims for the month of July. Tom Wichlinski made a motion to approve the July claims in the amount of \$68,116.54; motion seconded by Anthony Broadnax. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims. Pro Pump has a claim for the pump overhaul repair at Grant Street; ACTIN has performed some cleaning up in the area of several pump stations; Garcia Consulting Engineers have several claims with the highest claim being spent to get the bid package ready for Gary North. Bids were received today for the Gary North levee rehabilitation and they will be opened later in the meeting. There are also a few refunds made to property owners who paid the maintenance fee in error. Commissioner Gozdecki asked if maintenance and cleaning is necessary on all of the pump stations. Mr. Repay replied that right now some of the portions of Hammond and Highland have pumps over 10 years old and a build-up of silt has occurred. There are a



total of 27 pumps, with a big challenge in Gary because their pumps are outdoors so they incur the outdoor influence of debris, weather, wear, etc. Newer pumps are housed inside a pump house so they are easier to maintain. Chairman Baker asked how many of the pumps are totally maintained by us. Mr. Repay said we are responsible for 6 of them; the other 21 are maintained by the municipality they lie in.

Commissioner Wichlinski inquired about the refunds made to property owners who paid the fee in error. Mr. Repay stated that if we can catch the error prior to them paying, we notify the Auditor's Office and correct the error. However, some paid the fee not knowing it was an error so these are the ones who are entitled to a refund. We keep a list of the properties so we can confirm the removal of the fees with the County.

Motion to approve the claims passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

O&M/Engineering -

Mr. Repay reported the following:

- INDOT culverts under Martin Luther King Drive are being delayed right now because of an endangered species issue. Replacing the culverts is an INDOT project; not our project but it will benefit our project. Hopefully, it will be resolved in August.
- The levee inspection reports are still in draft. There is a wrap-up meeting being held this Friday at the Corps office. Once they are finalized, they will be put on the website.
- Regarding the design plan of the Hobart Marsh area, there are still some issues that are being worked out. We had hoped to have the plan completed this month but now we are hoping for August.
- Bids received for the Gary North Levee rehabilitation project will be opened under New Business.
- Regarding the high velocity channel at Hart Ditch and the sandbar removal on Kennedy Avenue, they are still in the permitting process with IDEM and IDNR. Commissioner McAhron is keeping an eye on it in Indianapolis.
- The mowing of the levees was done for July 4. With all the rain that we have had, we'll probably be cutting it more often.
- It was a heavy rainfall on June 30. We received about 2.5" in about 7 hours. Only problem was a back-up generator in Munster that didn't turn on but it was quickly rectified.
- On the Grant Street culvert removal, the contract was awarded at the last meeting. The permit has been received and that work should be starting this week.
- Discussion ensued on plantings to create a buffer that must outside the 15' from the top of the levee.
- Mr. Repay reported that we have assumed the cost of the monitors that the Corps previously funded. Discussion on whether or not monitors were needed in other areas within the watershed, possibly one at Deep River. Monitors are displayed on our web via the USGS link. There is an upcoming meeting with USGS on July 31. Speed to which elevation levels are posted on the USGS site will be discussed with them. Chairman Baker added that information should be transparent enough and clear enough that any resident can go to our website and check it out quickly.
- Chairman Baker inquired whether or not there were any blockages in the river from the storm. Mr. Repay replied that there was a blockage at the diverter in Munster and one at Northcote. Both were removed. There is another one on Columbia but there is an access issue. He also reported that the new bike trail is done. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new bridge at Monon on July 23.
- Commissioner Gozdecki asked about the progress on the hydrology study of the east branch of the river. Mr. Repay answered that Christopher Burke Engineering did a site visit on July 2. They are looking at the area by the rookery. They walked the entire area

and has asked for some additional information from us. As-builts have already been given to them.

*Other Issues/New Business*

• Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to allow the Executive Director to open bids that were received today for the Gary North Levee Maintenance Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 5 ayes.

Mr. Repay described the project running from the north side of the river from Cline Avenue by existing ramp to eastbound I-94 and goes to Martin Luther King Drive where levee intersects I-65 and I-80/94. Three bids were received: Hasse Construction at \$755,450; Grimmer Construction at \$856,491; Gariup Construction at \$1,992,900. Assuming the bids are in order and stated correctly, Commissioner Broadnax made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to award the project to the lowest and most responsive bidder with legal counsel review and technical review; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki; motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked about the time table for this award – Mr. Repay answered that he plans on meeting tomorrow with Garcia Consulting Engineers, who put together the specs. They will review them to make sure nothing is missing. Attorney Wickland will then review them from a legal standpoint. All review should be completed by end of week. There should be minimal change orders to project because an on-site pre-bid meeting was held prior to bidding. He will notify Board members of review status.

*Statements from the Floor*

• Mike Echterling from Highland asked when the Grant Street culvert removal was going to happen as he would like to watch the removal. Mr. Repay answered that he thought they were starting tomorrow.

• Col. Christopher Drew introduced himself as the new colonel of the USACE replacing Colonel Drummond. He's been briefed on the project's history and looks forward to working with us.

• Sandy O'Brien from Hobart, also representing the Izaak Walton League in Porter County, referred to a watershed funding request we received for a project in Winfield where water was flowing onto the road. She thought it should involve some detention there and we should not be funding projects that make the area worse. Mr. Repay replied that we did not vote on it. Additional information was requested from them and we have not received that at this point. She also requested a copy of the mitigation plan prior to the public hearing. At this point in time, the mitigation plan is not yet available.

There being no further business, the next meeting date is Wednesday, August 13 at the Munster Town Hall.