

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015**

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

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

**William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Ray Kasmark
LeVon Whittaker
Tom Gozdecki
Debbie Long
Ron McAhron
Anthony Broadnax**

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

**Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
Roman Sawczak - Dyer
John Beckman – IWLA - PCC
Dave Nellans – Munster Town Council
Charles Svitko – Munster resident
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Lit Cal
Natalie Mills - USACE
Peter Yackanich – Forest Ave, Hammond
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.
Bill Emerson Sr. – Hammond Councilman
Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Hmd
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council
T. Ahearn – Forest Avenue, Hammond
Sandy O'Brien – Izaak Walton
Eric Wolverton – Town of Schererville
Mary Tanis – Town of Dyer
Rick Newell – Briar Ridge
Thomas Burke – Christopher Burke Eng.
Andrew Pufundt – Christopher Burke Eng.
Dave Wellman – RDA
Rick Eberly – Town of Dyer
Neil Simstad – NIES Engineering
Bob Volkmann – Town of Schererville
Mike Sowards – River Drive, Munster
Dan Dernule – Lake County Council
Paul Daniels – Munster**

- Election of officers – Commissioner Anthony Broadnax made a motion to elect the following slate: William Baker as Chairman; Tom Wichlinski as Vice-Chairman; Tom Gozdecki as Treasurer; Ray Kasmark as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Ron McAhron. Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.
- Chairman Baker referred to the minutes of the December 10th meeting. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes as amended with minor changes in the study session; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki; motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker stated that it has been seven years since the flood event. That event set a different course for this project. This is a \$275 manmade project that has been going on for decades and that requires constant O&M. A lot of people in this room helped secure the funding for this deferred maintenance and new projects within the Little Calumet River watershed. We are far better prepared for a rain event than we were in

2008 and with the help of all communities in the watershed, we will continue moving forward. He wished all a Happy New Year.

• **Finance** - Mr. Repay referred to the January claims as presented. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$344,215.59; motion seconded by Ray Kasmark. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims – the largest claim of \$146,181.45 to the City of Hobart for the partial cost of the study of Deep River flood risk management plan that includes Lake George and Lake Station dam; \$121,287.28 to Hasse Construction for the partial cost of Gary North levee rehabilitation, which will be wrapping up very soon; and various claims from Garcia Consulting Engineers for their ongoing engineering oversee of the projects.

Commissioner McAhron asked Mr. Repay if he knew what percentage of work on the INDOT easements was represented in Garcia's invoice. Mr. Repay answered that he wasn't sure but he did know that they are working their way to the west.

Commissioner Broadnax questioned the review that Garcia did on the Hasse Construction invoice. Mr. Repay answered that they are reviewing tickets for trucks taking out dirt and stone to top off the levee. Mr. Broadnax questioned whether the review is worthwhile and helpful to us.

Commissioner Gozdecki questioned the high cost of overview of the channel clearing project. Mr. Repay said a lot of time was spent on dealing with the regulatory agencies and the design had to be re-engineered. He stated we would have a cap on the oversight for construction of the project when Mr. Gozdecki asked how much more would be spent. Chairman Baker asked how many agencies we have to deal with and Mr. Repay replied there are IDNR, IDEM, USF&W, and the ACOE. There was a real delay in the review by IDEM and USF&W, and as a result, plans had to be redone per their direction. Chairman Baker commented that he wished coordination would improve; would rather see things happen as opposed to just talking about it. Claims were approved with an 8-0 roll call vote.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay announced that, since last month when permits were received, the design plans & specs are prepared and ready to bid out for the sandbar clearing at Kennedy Avenue and high velocity channel at Hart Ditch. It will be advertised with the bid opening date being Wednesday, February 11.

- Hasse Construction is about halfway complete with the Gary north levee rehabilitation project. They have found a lot of sediment in the culverts – 3 culverts are finished; they are currently repairing the 4th one. Upon completion of the 4th culvert, there will just be a punch list of a couple of items, i.e. seeding in the spring.
- We have changed the locks on all gates in Gary South and Burr Street. Locks will be changed at Gary North once that section is completed. Locks were changed so we can maintain access to the levee. Too many people had keys so now we will have better control over access.
- We are looking into damaged bollards within the levee system and try to determine who is responsible.
- Levees are in good shape; pump stations in good shape, although we may have to end up having the Burr Street sump pump re-conditioned.
- We want to start the process of designing raised manhole elevations between Grant and Chase. The goal is to raise them above flood elevation and vent out above the 200 year flood elevation.
- More projects will occur in the spring, such as tree planting.
- Commissioner Whittaker asked how many manholes we have and Mr. Repay answered that we have about 12-15 manholes that are part of this project. Commissioner McAhron said that the sewers are probably combined – storm and sanitary. As the river rises and

pressure builds, the manhole covers blow. If the manhole elevations are raised, that should help some of the problem. The problem was brought to our attention by Gary Sanitary District.

Commissioner Whittaker asked whether an additional pump would help and Commissioner McAhron answered that the manhole elevation would really be an interim step; the long term solution would be more pumping capacity.

- Discussion was held on whether it would be prudent of us to go ahead and secure costs for a paved trail, instead of stone on top of levee in Gary North. There are always rutting issues with a stone path. The pathway is for walking and biking only. If prices were secured now, and priced out in sections, at least we'd be ahead of the game when we are ready to pave.
- Mr. Repay stated that we will be having a presentation by Christopher Burke Engineering, accompanied by representatives from Dyer and Schererville.

Other Issues/New Business

- Two resolutions were presented that were a previous oversight but requires passage by the Board. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve (1) Resolution 2015-01A to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Hobart for the Deep River study at a cost not to exceed \$259,960; and (2) Resolution 2015-01B to enter into a Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the town of Griffith for partial funding of O&M for the Cady Marsh Ditch at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Kasmark; motion passed with a 8-0 roll call vote.
- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to prepare a package for pricing out asphalt for the trail on top the levee and price out for a linear foot. Authorization is for obtaining a cost only; motion seconded by Commissioner Kasmark; motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.
- Commissioner McAhron made a motion to allow the Executive Director to begin process of bidding out manhole extensions between Chase and Broadway; motion seconded by Commissioner Kasmark. It would be a universal design for all the manholes. Mr. McAhron added that the problem is getting to some of the manholes, especially between Harrison and Broadway where access is very limited and difficult to get to. Motion passed with a 7-0-1 roll call vote with Commissioner Gozdecki abstaining.
- Chairman Baker thanked his fellow board members for electing him as Chairman again and wished all a happy new year. Fellow Commissioners joined in wishing a happy new year to all and are looking forward to a busy year with upcoming projects.

New Business – A power point presentation was given by Christopher Burke Engineering Company describing the Storm Sewer Improvements Project and Culvert Replacement for the Main Street collapsed culvert/sinkhole. A lengthy discussion was held on how the Commission can respond to an emergency issue of this nature. Everyone agreed that a complete bid package needed to be released so a definite dollar amount needed for the project could be developed. Questions from Board members consisted of who is responsible for maintenance and what is the cost. Commissioners did not want to project manage this project. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled soon.

Statements from the Floor - There were none.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 11th at the Munster Town Hall.

