

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION HELD AT 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

**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 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
Anthony Broadnax
Ron McAhron

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Sandy Mordus

Visitors:

Roy Deda - USACE
Col. Christopher Drew - USACE
John Beckman – IWLA - PCC
Ruth Mores – Southmoor, Hammond
Charles Svitko – Munster resident
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Marcella Kunstek – 111 FFC
T. Cholipski – River Drive, Munster
Bob Krebs – Hobart 5th District
Bill Emerson Sr. – Hammond Councilman
John/Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave, Hmd
Dorreen Carey – DNR/Lake Michigan
Coastal Program
Sandy O'Brien – Izaak Walton, Hobart
Brian Ralstin – American Structurepoint
T. Ahearn – Forest Avenue, Hammond
Don Oliphant – Christopher Burke Eng.
Rick Newell – Briar Ridge

Chairman's Report - Chairman Baker stated that he opens the meeting each month referring to the flooding pictures from September 2008. This is a \$275 million manmade project that has been designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Now that funding has been secured for the maintenance of the levee system, deferred maintenance is ongoing as well as new projects in the entire Little Calumet River watershed. We will do all we can so a flooding event like we had in 2008 doesn't happen again. We are much more prepared than we were in 2008. All the water in the entire watershed eventually ends up in the Little Calumet River so maintenance of the entire watershed is necessary. He thanked everyone for their involvement and support; we will continue to move forward.

• **Finance** – Chairman Baker referred to the March claims in the amount of \$124,969.43. Anthony Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Ray Kasmark. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain some of the claims – the largest claim of \$39,491.25 for the city of Hobart is for the Deep River Flood Risk Management Plan (they will be making a close out presentation at the conclusion of this project); Hasse's \$22,943.45 is for the continuing project of the cost of Gary North levee rehabilitation; \$2,440 is for Cardno for the water testing service we had ordered on Harts Ditch to determine why the water had turned blue; and invoices for Garcia Consulting Engineers for various engineering oversee of projects. Commissioner Gozdecki asked that staff pass the water testing invoice onto to Enbridge for reimbursement (since they were the cause of the blue water). Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Repay made several reports:

- Gary North levee rehabilitation will be completed very soon. The project will be ready for this year's inspections that will begin May 4-8 and then May 18-21. This is the first time that entire project will be inspected; we are hopeful that the Corps inspections will be successful. The city of Gary is also having a closure exercise on April 24 at 35th & Chase.
- INDOT has started the culvert removal/replacement project at MLK/I-65. It is their project but will help us out also. Replacing the culvert will help drain water at the furthest east section of the river south of I-94& I-65. Superior Construction is the contractor.
- Three (3) proposals have been received on the manhole extensions between Harrison & Broadway. The proposals will be opened tonight and awarded to the lowest and most responsive proposal. This project did not have to be advertised for bidding because the project was anticipated to be under \$150,000.
- The Commission had a special meeting to discuss the emergency situation on Main Street in Dyer/Schererville/Munster, east of Briar Ridge. These communities will need to compromise on their cost participation in the project. The Commission will take action this evening on their participation. There are about ± 1100 structures that are affected.
- We will also be taking action on the two projects that was previously bid out – the High Velocity Flow Channel and the Sandbar Modification project.
- An emergency preparedness meeting was held this afternoon. Discussion was on upcoming levee inspections by the Corps. Issues were discussed on any maintenance items that need to be completed prior to those inspections.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked whether there were any problems with the pump stations. Mr. Repay replied that he is working with Gary Sanitary District to resolve some problems. It would be to our advantage to have those pump stations all in working order prior to the inspections. Commissioner McAhron asked if INDOT was a regular attendee at the monthly O&M meetings. Mr. Repay replied they are always invited and aware of the meetings and they attend off and on. Chairman Baker inquired about tree planting. Mr. Repay replied that he is working with the communities to determine location of the plantings. Trees must be planted 15' from the toe of the levee.

Chairman Baker referred to Col. Drew. Col. Drew reported that after coordination and working with the Corps headquarters, there is a limited opportunity to do work with the Commission in three areas: mitigation, tie backs, and cost share. Given that they have received permission from headquarters, the Corps and the Commission can work together and move forward in these three areas.

Other Issues/New Business

- Commissioner Kasmark made a motion to award the Sandbar Modification project to Hasse Construction at a cost of \$455,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay added that is project is long overdue. It was held up for 2 years with permitting issues but it is now a better design than what we started with. The project should take about 3 months. They will be working in the channel so it is weather permitting. Motion passed with an 8-0 roll call vote.
- Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to award the High Velocity Flow Channel project to Gariup Construction at a cost of \$857,500; motion seconded by Commission Gozdecki. Mr. Repay added that this project will help with water back up on Harts Ditch in a high water event. It will kick in a 100 year rain event; otherwise, it will be a dry channel. We have been working with Wicker Park with coordination of this project for over a year. At a minimum, the construction will impact the walkers there so we will need to work closely with Wicker Park officials. Construction would probably take about 30 days, weather dependent. Rip rap will be added so we will have to spray the rocks at least twice a year.

Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion for the Commission to participate in the Briar Ridge Sewer Storm Water Culvert Replacement project (watershed project) at an amount of \$693,750; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay reminded everyone that Christopher Burke Engineering had given a presentation of their solution to the emergency culvert replacement at the January meeting. A draft agreement has been prepared and is circulating with the other participants (towns of Dyer, Schererville, and Munster) to see what their participation will be. Mr. Repay added that the selected contractor, Gatlin Plumbing & Heating, will hold the bid amount for 120 days. They were the lowest and most responsive bidder. Commissioner Gozdecki added that the Commission is pledging this money based on a total of 75 days for the contractor to do the work to minimize the impact of closing Main Street. Commissioner Wichlinski added that there are about 14,000 cars that use Main Street on a daily basis. Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

- Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement rate for Commission related travel at the Federal mileage rate of 57 cents per mile; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Commissioner McAhrn added that this is just a housekeeping item to have on file. Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

- Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to open the proposals received for the manhole extension project between Broadway and Harrison Streets in Gary; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked Mr. Repay why there are manholes within the levee but pipelines in other places and Mr. Repay replied that it was a Corps design but they have caused problems. The shorter manholes have affected drainage in Gary and they need to be modified. Extending the manholes about 5' higher is an enhancement to better protect by lifting these manholes and sealing them so they will not be infiltrated. Manhole covers will have welded closure. The 3 proposals received were from Gariup Construction for \$38,870; Hasse Construction for \$40,000; and R. A. Oros for \$37,524. Motion passed 8-0 with a roll call vote.

- Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to award the manhole extension project to the lowest contractor after Executive Director and Attorney review, to be compliant; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with an 8-0 roll call vote.

Statements from the Floor - Sandy O'Brian, from Hobart and Porter County Izaak Walton League, stated that in the early days, the project was justified because of the eco system enhancement. She is glad to see the Commission and the Corps come to some agreement on moving ahead with the mitigation and inquired what exactly will be put in place and what the time frame was. Col. Drew stated that the Corps would be completing the Hobart Marsh mitigation plan. Once that plan is complete, it will require State approval (IDNR, IDEM, Fish & Wildlife). The Corps cannot commit to timing at this point. Sandy O'Brien added that she would hope that the design plan is as close to historic as current conditions allow. She would hope that there would not be too many trees or shrubs; fragmities are hard to fight. Long term management beyond the initial 5 years should also be addressed.

- Laurie Czulno from Forest Avenue in Hammond was happy to hear about the Corps proceeding ahead on the tie back in her area. There are still ±20 homes held hostage because of no tie back and asked Col. Drew to please expedite.

- John Beckman, Izaak Walton in Porter County, thanked the Commission for their leadership and incorporating upland water storage into the project. He also thanked the Colonel for the Corps' role in supporting upland water storage.

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- **William Krebs, Hobart, stated he is interested and active in the conservation of Robinson Lake Park and involved with the Hobart Marsh mitigation area. He commented he was impressed with the way the meeting was conducted; first time he has attended a meeting.**

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 8th at the Munster Town Hall.

