

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015****Location:****Hobart City Hall, Hobart, 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. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
 Tom Wichlinski
 Tom Gozdecki
 Debbie Long
 Levon Whittaker
 Ron McAhrON (executive session only via telephone)

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Col. Christopher Drew - USACE
 Roy Deda - USACE
 Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
 Sandy O-Brien – Izaak Walton, Hobart
 Robert Fulton – Hobart Stormwater District
 Doug Olson – SEH Engineering
 Craig Hendrix – SEH Engineering
 Rachel Pichelmann – SEH Engineering
 Brad Woznak – SEH Engineering
 Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave., Hammond
 Louise Karwowski – Sierra Club
 Dan McDowell – Robinson Lake
 David Lahey, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc.
 Pete Mendez – Hobart City Council

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the May 13, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Baker thanked the City of Hobart for hosting our monthly meeting. He reminded us that the devastating flooding of 2008 also affected Hobart and that the continued maintenance of the \$275 million man-made flood project is a priority to make sure we are more prepared for events such as the 2008 flood. He also mentioned that 2015 was the first year that the entire flood control project has been completed and inspected by the Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally it is important to remember that more than 1,400 properties have been removed from the mandatory requirement to pay federal flood insurance, although it highly recommended that some insurance be kept on the properties. By removing the requirement, it saves these property owners \$4.1 million each year which is put back into our community – a real economic development project.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the June claims in the amount of \$484,942.31. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, the first in the amount of \$348,369.97 to Gariup Construction Co. Mr. Repay explained that this claim was a partial payment for the work completed to date for the High Velocity Flow Channel Project. This project has been completed except for the seeding and some mitigation work that requires drier conditions. The claim in the amount of \$20,262.50 to C & H Mowing covers the cost of mowing the 22 miles of the levee. With all the recent rains, there may be a need to add additional mowing beyond the schedule of once a month. The claim for \$20,094.80, to the City of Hobart, covers the partial cost of the Deep River Flood Risk Management Plan which SEH Engineering will present later in the meeting. The final claim discussed was to R.A. Oros in the amount of \$37,524.00 which was explained as the final payment for the Manhole Extension

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Project between Harrison and Broadway in Gary. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- Mr. Repay reported that the annual Army Corps inspections of the federal flood control project were completed in May. The inspection encompassed the levee, walls and pump stations. A draft copy of the report was received by the office and copies will be distributed to the Commissioners for comment. This is the first time the entire levee system was inspected and the final report will be issued July 31st, at which time it will be available on our website.
- The High Velocity Flow Channel project, which is located where Hart Ditch meets the River near Wicker Park, is on schedule.
- The Sandbar Modification project, located just west of Kennedy Avenue bridge, is on hold due to the recent rains.
- The Main Street sinkhole project has started and street itself is scheduled to close July 13th for approximately 35 days. This road closure will be a challenge for the community since 14,000 vehicles travel this section of Main Street every day.
- The Advisory Board has their first meeting on May 27th. It was an introductory meeting with the next meeting to be scheduled in the near future.
- SEH will be presenting their findings on Deep River later in the meeting.

Commissioner Gozdecki inquired about the timeline for the Sandbar Modification Project. Mr. Repay replied that it is 90 days from the signing of the contract. A formal extension will be needed if the project moves out of the 90 day timeline. Mr. Repay explained that construction equipment is brought in over the top of the levee, additionally, a permanent ramp is being built on the west side of Kennedy Avenue. Chairman Baker confirmed with Mr. Repay that all required agencies have issued permits on the project.

Commissioner Whittaker requested clarification on the Army Corps inspection report timeline. Mr. Repay explained that a draft report has been issued to the Commission, with the date of July 1st to report corrections and/or comments to the Army Corps. The Army Corps will review the Commission's comments and issue a final report by July 31st which will be posted on our website.

Chairman Baker inquired about the process of Manhole Extension project and Mr. Repay responded that the first phase of the project has been completed. As background to the issue, Mr. Repay explained that there are manholes that are inside the levee in Gary and in 2008, pressure caused the manhole lids to pop off. Water did not overtop the levee at this location, instead it went through the exposed manholes into the city's sanitary system. This current project included a process designed and approved to encase the manholes in concrete and venting them over the 200 year flood elevation. There are two more phases that still need to be addressed, near Chase Street and behind the Southmoor Area/Jackson Street Pump Station in Hammond. Mr. Repay further explained that these repairs are not part of the original project, but we are doing them to be proactive in providing flood protection to the community. Commissioner Gozdecki asked if further engineering is required for the remaining phases and Mr. Repay replied that the same process used in the first phase will be utilized in the remaining repairs. It is anticipated that a request to complete the remaining phases will come at the July meeting.

Other Issues/New Business

- Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to award the Burr Street North Pump Station back-up generator design and engineering contract to Superior Engineering in the amount of \$22,500.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay explained that the plan is to install back-up generators at the most important Pump Stations along the system. The Burr Street Pump Station has the propensity to lose power and this contract will allow for a bid package to be prepared for a new generator. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to award Garcia Consulting Engineers a contract, not to exceed \$38,000, in order to complete final design of paved bike paths on sections of the levee; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Commissioner Gozdecki stated that our charter includes a recreational component and this bike path will help fulfill this objective. Mr. Repay stated that paving the tops of the levees will not only add a recreational component to the project, but it will improve the logistics in bringing in maintenance equipment as well as access for inspections. Chairman Baker requested the areas to be paved be listed, they are as follows: Kennedy to Cline in Highland; Kennedy to Oxbow Park in Hammond; Liable Road in Highland; and Calumet to Lyman/Manor in Hammond which will connect with an existing bike trail. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.
- Commissioner Whittaker presented a motion to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gary Sanitary District to take over the operation and repairs of the Pump Station located at 3311 Burr St.; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that there are no pumps currently working at this location leaving people in the area without adequate protection. Commissioner Wichlinski asked if these pumps were in our jurisdiction. Mr. Repay responded that, while they are not part of our jurisdiction, they do affect our system and are inspected by the Army Corp of Engineers as part of annual certification of the federal flood control project. Commissioner Gozdecki added that he wants the public to know that the Commission is stepping up to address this critical issue and take care of problems such as this before they create larger problems. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Baker acknowledged Col. Drew of the Army Corp of Engineers, thanked him for attending the meeting and asked if he had anything to say regarding the project. Col. Drew stated that the Corps is in the process of preparing responses to a few outstanding items and is optimistic that things are moving forward.

Presentation - Craig Hendrix, Brad Woznak & Rachel Pichelmann from SEH Engineering were in attendance to present their findings on the Deep River Flood Risk Management Project. Bob Fulton from the City of Hobart started the presentation by thanking the Commission for coming to Hobart as well as funding the Deep River study. Mr. Fulton stated that it is important to have a good understanding of Deep River and Lake George and that this study was very eye-opening. SEH Engineering proceeded to present a comprehensive and detailed overview of their findings and itemized the project priorities and recommendations. (Audio of the presentation & coordinating Power Point slides can be accessed from our website - www.littlecalriverbasin.org – and clicking the SEH Deep River Study link).

Phil Gralik from the City of Hobart reiterated the importance of acting on the information in the study, and in that regard, referred to a letter from the City of Hobart requesting assistance with the project

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recommendations. Chairman Baker thanked SEH Engineering and the City of Hobart for the informative presentation. Chairman Baker further added that a great deal of information was offered and it would take some time to process and review the data.

Statements from the Floor –

- Robert Fulton, Hobart Stormwater District, invited all to Hobart's Water Festival on June 20th at Festival Park. The Pokagon Band of the Potawatomi Indians will perform a water ceremony and cultural and historical information about the area will be presented.
- Pete Mendez, Hobart City Council, urged the Commission to support the Deep River project. As a former resident of Lake Station, he had been a part of 6 flood events with numerous homes damaged. This project is important to the entire area.

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

