

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015****Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN**

Chairman William Baker called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski
Tom Gozdecki
David Castellanos
Levon Whittaker
Ron McAhrn

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Roy Deda – USACE
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Laurie Czulno – Forest Ave., Hammond
John Beckman – Izaak Walton League
Judy Knapp – Forest Ave., Hammond
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster
Paul Daniels – Munster
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Rd., Hammond
Ron Ware – Fran-Lin Pkwy., Munster
Joe Simonetto – Munster Town Council
Craig Hendrix – SEH of Indiana
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Jim Simmons – Town of Winfield
Ed Bogucki – Munster
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA/SST
Kalliope & James Dedelow - Munster
Sherry Meyer – Catalyst Eco Consulting
Sandy O'Brien - Hobart

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the August 12, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone of our purpose, the eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project that runs from the state line to approximately I-65. Chairman Baker referred to the yellowing 2008 flood pictures as a reminder of what can happen if a project such as this is neglected. Continued maintenance of the flood control project is a priority to make sure we are better prepared and while we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better off at this moment, then we were in September, 2008. It is important to remember that more than 1,400 properties were removed from the floodplain due to the completion of this federal, flood control, saving residents from the requirement to pay federal flood insurance premiums in the amount of \$4.1 million each year. These dollars are put right back into the community, making this system a real economic development project.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the July claims in the amount of \$490,061.78. Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with payment made to the Town of Schererville in the amount of \$269,251.60. This is the final disbursement of our \$697,000 obligation to the Main Street Sinkhole project. The project is nearing completion, with only some lighting, fence and seed work remaining. Next discussed was the payment to Hasse Construction in the amount of \$94,231.17, representing a partial payment on the Sandbar Modification project, which is located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. There is a 60 day window to complete the project, with work started about 2 weeks ago. The two payments to the City of Hobart totaling \$30,400 denote our final disbursements to them on the Deep River Study. Several payments to Garcia Consulting Engineers were discussed next, beginning with the payment of \$14,221.85 on the continuing Ribbon Parcel Mapping Project. When complete, this project will allow for the transfer of important

property documents, currently in paper form, onto digital form. The amount of \$2,470.00 paid to Garcia Consulting Engineers represents the continued work on drawing INDOT Easements at the I-65/I-80 Interchange. When complete, this project will ensure that the Commission has all the necessary easements at the Interchange. \$14,875.00 was disbursed to Wiltjer Excavating for tree removal on Main Street. Several trees, one over 90 feet needed to be removed as they were causing dams within the system. Finally, the payment of \$8,186.20 to Sweney Electric for work completed at the 32nd & Burr Street Pump Station was discussed. According to Mr. Repay, it was necessary to reprogram the entire transducer system to get the pump up and running properly. Commissioner Gozdecki questioned why there was not a claim for grass cutting this month. Mr. Repay stated that the grass along the entire 22 mile levee system was cut at the beginning of September, however an invoice was not submitted yet by the contractor. It is anticipated that another cut will be necessary sometime in October. Commissioner Whitaker asked for further information on the work done at the 32nd & Burr St. Pump Station. As explained by Mr. Repay, the transducer at this station would turn off after three cycles, making it necessary for a complete reprogramming. Mr. Repay also stated that none of the other Pump Stations on the system use this type of equipment. Commissioner Wichlinski requested further clarification of the payment to Cardno ATC. Mr. Repay stated that soil borings were necessary for the back-up generator pad at the Burr Street North Pump Station. The soil boring tests were then reviewed and approved by Superior Engineering. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The back-up generator for the Burr Street North Pump Station has been ordered. There is a 15 week lead time on the order, with Superior Engineering continuing to work on the specs during this time. It is anticipated that once the generator arrives, we will be able to bid out for the installation.
- The final inspection reports are ready to be reviewed with the Army Corps of Engineers. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at the ACOE office in Chicago to discuss the reports. This is the first year that all segments of the levee have been inspected. Final reports will be posted on our website.
- Information regarding the State Line Tie Back for use in their 408 process, and easement drawings of the I-65/I-80 Interchange area will be submitted to the Corps tomorrow.
- The Levee Paving Project, which will pave the tops of the levee from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue in Highland and from Oxbow Park to the railroad tracks in Hammond, is expected to be approved by the ACOE soon. However, as most asphalt plants close for the winter around November 1st, it is anticipated that this project will be bid out over the winter, with actual construction taking place in the spring of 2016.

Chairman Baker questioned whether contractor equipment stuck at the Sandbar Modification job site would affect the timeline of the project. Mr. Repay indicated that the contractor has until November 24th to finish the project and that they are well aware and comfortable with the timeline.

Additionally, Chairman Baker discussed several of the Pump Stations that are not operated due to lack of necessity and how often these pumps are inspected. Mr. Repay explained that all the Pump Stations in the system are inspected on a monthly basis. The pumps are turned on, the hours recorded and the monthly reports are submitted to the commission.

Chairman Baker requested an update on the status of the Watershed applications. Mr. Repay stated that the Advisory Board met on August 19th. They had a few questions on the application from Winfield, and, additionally, expect applications from Hobart and Crown Point. The Advisory Board plans to meet again in 2 months.

Other Issues/New Business –

- Commissioner Castellanos made a motion authorizing our attorney to prepare for review, a resolution stating the Commission's MBE/WBE contracting and participation goals; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

Statements from the Floor –

- Laurie Czulno, Forest Ave., shared with the Commission several articles and letters dated as far back as February 2009 regarding the State Line Tie Back. Ms. Czulno feels it is her obligation to remind the commission that people are still waiting for relief from paying flood insurance.
- Eric Sprenne, NWIPA/SST, requested clarification on the Levee Paving Project and how it would double the number of recreation trails in Highland and Hammond. Discussion was held on the areas currently scheduled for paving and long term goals for Levee paving.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 14th at the Munster Town Hall.

