

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016
Location: 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 six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
Ron McAhron
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
John & Laurie Czulno – Hammond
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
Dean Button – City of Hammond
David Nellans – Town of Munster
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
Judy Knapp – Hammond
Rick Konopasek – Town of Griffith
Rick Ryfa – Town of Griffith
Ron Ware – Munster
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Richard & Linda Cook - Griffith

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the September 14, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman’s Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and referenced the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event as a reminder of what can happen when you do not take care of a man-made structure. This \$275 million man-made flood control project requires maintenance. The community as a whole worked together to obtain the necessary funding so something like the 2008 flood event never happens again. Today, we are far better prepared than we were in 2008. In fact, tomorrow evening Kennedy Avenue over the Little Calumet River will be shut down for a flood control training exercise. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire watershed. Through our partnership with the USACE, the flood control project goes through an inspection process. Without the inspection, we would be unable to remove as many properties as we have from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. We have put over \$4 million dollars back into the economy by removing the requirement for mandatory flood insurance. The Commission continues to meet with local communities within the watershed to ensure that we are all prepared in case of a heavy rain event.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the October claims in the amount of \$472,095.29. Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner

Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with payment to Sweney Electric for \$155,000.00 representing ongoing work on the Burr Street South Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. Two invoices in the amounts of \$16,815.66 and \$3,286.08 were submitted for payment by Xylem Water Solutions for pump refurbishment at the Burr South Pump Station. It is anticipated that all 4 pumps at the station will be in good working order in the next few weeks. Payments of \$40,450.00 and \$21,275.00 were made to Wiltjer Excavating for work done clearing blockages and dead trees on Hart Ditch. Once all the blockages have been removed, a trip down Hart Ditch will be planned so the Commissioners can see firsthand the problems in that area. Additionally, \$5,467.10 was paid to Garcia Consulting Engineers for continuing work on a Hart Ditch Study, to determine property lines and owners, so we are prepared when it comes time to fix the problems. Finally, \$14,557.10 was reimbursed to the City of Hobart for the Wisconsin Street Improvements Study. Commissioner Gozdecki requested a status update on the INDOT Easement expenditure from Garcia Consulting Engineers. Mr. Repay explained that legal descriptions were prepared for the culverts under the expressway, Grant Street and Georgia Street. They have been submitted to the USACE, and the Corps requested some revisions to the legal descriptions. The INDOT Easements are part of a larger crediting package that we are in the process of preparing. Commissioner Gozdecki also requested clarification on the 49th and Liverpool Invoice submitted by Garcia Consulting Engineers. Mr. Repay replied that the claim was for the Hobart Mitigation Project. A homeowner had a fence on the Mitigation property and a survey was needed to determine the correct property line. Commissioner Wichlinski asked for status on the Wiltjer Excavating work in Hart Ditch. Mr. Repay stated that Wiltjer is continuing the work as far as Fischer Street. To date we have cleared Hart Ditch, Schererville Ditch up to 213th Street, and will be clearing Dyer Ditch in the near future. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

Presentation –

The Town of Griffith representatives Rick Ryfa, Council President, and Rick Konopasek, Public Works Director, presented their Arbogast Bridge Watershed Application. The Town of Griffith is requesting \$686,369.50 for the emergency demolition and replacement of the Arbogast Bridge, which spans Cady Marsh Ditch on Arbogast Avenue between Brinwood Avenue and Lawndale Avenue. The Town of Griffith believes the replacement of the bridge was necessary due to water currents undermining the original bridge after the installation of the Deep Tunnel Diversion Project and the bridge replacement should have been made part of the Deep Tunnel Project. (A complete audio of the presentation, corresponding presentation handouts and discussion can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

Executive Director's Report –

- There will be a closure demonstration at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge over the Little Calumet River will be conducted on Thursday, October 13th. It is required by the USACE to conduct a closure exercise every 5 years.
- The 5th mowing of the entire levee systems was completed this month. This will be the last mowing of the year.
- The Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project has a few punch list items to be completed by the contractor before the retainage is released.
- The Levee Paving Project is also substantially complete, with just a few punch list items remaining.
- The Belmont Sluice Gate permit was received by the USACE.

- Permit was received for the Gary South Levee Paving Project. This project will pave the levee tops from Chase Street to Martin Luther King Drive on the south side of the levee.
- Several meetings are being held with the City of Hobart regarding a few issues. The first being the CF&E Railroad Bridge. It is hopeful to work with the railroad to redesign the bridge in order to help reduce flooding. Additionally, the City of Hobart is working on a comprehensive 10 year plan to address their flooding issues. A meeting is planned for October 20th to discuss the plan.
- Mr. Repay attended a conference in Indianapolis regarding USGS Gage Stations. A meeting will be planned with USGS to discuss additional gage stations in the south Lake County as well as a potential warning system
- The trees and debris are being cleaned off of Chase Street in Gary so that we can finish the last Manhole Extension Project. There are approximately 9 manholes from 27th and Chase Street to the Railroad Tracks. The Manhole Extension Project will raise the manholes to the 200 year flood level plus 3 feet.

Commissioner Whittaker requested further information on the \$15,000 Change Order on the Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project. Mr. Repay explained that, although the as-builts showed no concrete under the road, concrete was found and a special grinder was required by the contractor.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked the anticipated date of Bid Packages going out on the Gary South Levee Paving Project. Mr. Repay stated that he expects bids to be advertised in December so that this project can be ready when the Asphalt plants open in the spring. The remaining segment left to be paved is the Gary North section.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to deny the Lake County Parks and Recreation Thomae Land Acquisition Watershed Application on the grounds that it does not meet the criteria as set forth by this Commission; 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.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Chairman, Executive Director and Secretary to enter into and execute an Inter-Local Agreement with the Hammond Sanitary District and execute Resolution 2016-03; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. As explained by Mr. Repay, this agreement calls for the annual reimbursement to the Hammond Sanitary District of \$14,000 per Pump Station. This reimbursement is contingent on the Pump Stations passing the annual inspections conducted by the USACE. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Chairman, Executive Director and Secretary to enter into and execute an Inter-Local Agreement with the Town of Highland and execute Resolution 2016-04; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. As explained by Mr. Repay, this agreement calls for the annual reimbursement to the Town of Highland of \$14,000 per Pump Station. This reimbursement is contingent on the Pump Stations passing the annual inspections conducted by the USACE. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion authorizing the Chairman and Commission attorney to extend the employment agreements for the Executive Director and Office Manager as related to reasonable cost of living increases and the establishment of a Health Savings Account; motion seconded by

Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills of the USACE reported that two contracts were awarded on September 30th. The State Line Tie-Back contract was awarded to DSI & Associates from Burr Ridge, Illinois. The contractor is currently in the process of getting the proper bonds and insurance before they receive a Notice to Proceed. A pre-construction conference will be held in the near future and the dates will be shared with the Commission when available. The conditional LOMR review regarding State Line is being completed by the USACE and will be sent to FEMA by the end of the month. The final LOMR will be completed after construction is finished for the State Line Tie-Back. The contract is for 420 days, which includes planting and seeding to be completed in spring of 2017. Commissioner McAhrn asked for a more precise timeframe on spring. Ms. Mills replied that it would be June before the plantings were completed. Commissioner McAhrn further clarified that the as-builts, necessary for the final LOMR, did not need to wait until the plantings were completed. Additionally, he requested that the USACE provide the Commission with monthly updates and tracking on the progress of the project. Relief from paying mandatory flood insurance will not be realized by property owners until October or November of 2017. Chairman Baker asked about the possibility of fast-tracking the project. Ms. Mills stated that, after reviewing the contractor's schedule, the possibility of accelerating the project can be discussed. However, the contractor is aware of the desire to move the project along quickly.

A contract was also awarded for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project to Applied Ecological Services out of Brodhead Wisconsin. This is a 5 year contract, which includes 4 years of maintenance. The contractor is also in the process of getting the proper bonds and insurance before they receive a Notice to Proceed.

Commissioner Castellanos asked for the amounts of the awarded contracts: State Line Tie Back – approximately \$600,000, and Hobart Marsh Mitigation - \$4.5 million. Commissioner Castellanos confirmed the requirement for minority participation and asked for information regarding using local contractors. Ms. Mills answered that contractors are encouraged, but not required, to use local contractors for the projects.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, asked who issues the Notice to Proceed and when it will be issued. She also requested information on the timeline of the State Line Tie Back Project. Ms. Mills of the USACE stated that a Notice to Proceed cannot be issued until the bond and insurance is verified. Ms. Mills also offered that the contractor establishes the project schedule.

Rick Konopasek, Town of Griffith, thanked the Commission for listening to and considering their Arbogast Bridge Watershed Application.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated she was pleased that the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project was moving along.

Tom Silich, Hobart Township Trustee, discussed the 4 foot culverts under the railroad tracks near Evergreen Cemetery. He also feels that a plan needs to be developed so the water flows more clearly to the catch basin near Bailey School. Mr. Repay added that the Commission is aware of the problems and has meet with the Lake County Surveyor to discuss the issues.

Commissioner Castellano stated that he and Commissioner Gozdecki attended the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the new paved trail near the Highland Rookery. He encourages everyone to visit the Rookery and see everything that it offers. Additionally, Commissioner Castellanos added that he participated in a tour of the river and project area with Dan Repay and Jeff from WLTH Radio. The Commission has a radio show every 2nd Monday of the month on WLTH.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 9th at the Munster Town Hall.