

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN**

Vice-Chairman Tom Wichlinski 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:**

Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki  
Levon Whittaker  
Anthony Broadnax  
Debbie Long

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Mike Padilla – USACE  
Mike Echterling – Friends of the Little Cal  
Dean Button – City of Hammond/HSD  
Marty Wielgos – Hammond Sanitary District  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting  
Dave Nellans – Town of Munster  
Judy Knapp – Hammond  
John & Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Charles Svitko – Munster  
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
T. Ahearn – Hammond  
Peter Yankovich – Hammond  
Ryan Boyle – Superior Construction  
Brian Banach – Superior Construction  
T. Cholipski - Munster  
Bob & Cindy Merritt – Hammond  
David & Kim Murphy – Hammond  
Janet Venecz – City of Hammond  
Dan Spitale – City of Hammond  
Salvatore DiBernardo – Ciorba Group  
Janet Evans – Hammond  
Arnold Schmidt – Hammond  
Evangeline Stanford – Hammond  
John Schreiner – Hammond  
Steve VanderWoude – Hammond  
Jody & Marty Wagner – Hammond  
Thomas Gyure – Superior Engineering

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the minutes from the May 11, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

**Vice-Chairman's Report** – Vice-Chairman Wichlinski welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone of our purpose, to make sure a devastating flood, like the devastation shown in the pictures, never happens again. We are far better prepared than we were in 2008 and keep working to keep the communities safe.

**Finance** – Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the June claims in the amount of \$948,971.87. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with a payment to the RDA in the amount of \$690,000.00. This payment is the fourth of five total payments to the RDA in repayment of a six million dollar loan. The final payment of \$500,000 will be payable on July 1, 2017. Final Payment of \$52,486.91 was made to Hasse Construction for the SandBar Modification project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Payment in the amount of \$42,575.90 to GreenLine Environmental represents the ongoing culvert inspections, which are required every 5 years. The 2<sup>nd</sup> mowing cycle of the entire length of the levee was completed by C&H Mowing for the amount of \$22,135.00. Payment to Garcia Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$11,632.10 represents work on the 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase design project. This project will eliminate the post and panel closure system currently in place. Dawson & Associates submitted a claim for \$35,000.00, which represents continued work on crediting. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski 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 discussed some of the current and upcoming projects:

- The Levee Paving Project is progressing. The area between Oxbow Part and the Railroad Tracks in Hammond was completed this morning. The paving in Highland, from Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue will be completed next.
- With water levels low, a concerted effort is being made to clear fallen trees in Hart Ditch. The work is starting at Main Street and progressing north.
- The Georgia Street Project, located at approximately 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Georgia Street has been started. The timeline to complete the project is approximately 3 weeks. The contractor did run into one small problem when concrete was found underneath the asphalt, but nothing that will delay the project more than a day or two.
- The floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair project that was awarded to Grimmer Construction has been completed.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Project is being designed. This project will eliminate the current post and panel closure system.
- A walk-thru was conducted at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation site.
- We received specifications for the State Line Tie Back Project from the USACE and were given the opportunity to submit comments regarding the project.
- Approval for the Gary South Levee Project is in progress. This project will pave the levee from Chase to Martin Luther King Drive.
- The Watershed Projects presented last month have been continued until next month.

**Other Issues/New Business** –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to open bids for the Burr Street North Pump Station, Standby Generator Installation Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. The back-up generator would turn on automatically in the event power went out during a rain event. The Burr Street North Pump Station is the first station considered as part of a back-up plan for all Commission operated Pump Stations. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski called for a vote and the motion passed with 5 aye votes. The bids were as follows: Austgen Electric - \$269,745.00 and Emcor Hyre Electric - \$295,000.00.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-02 regarding the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project; seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This resolution will authorize the transfer of one million dollars into an interest bearing account specifically earmarked for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. While the Commission currently has a positive Project Cost Share Balance in excess of \$1,500,000.00; the setting aside of dollars to complete the project represents our continued commitment to meeting the terms of the Local Cooperation Agreement. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski called for roll-call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

**Update from the USACE -**

Mike Padilla from the USACE provided updates on several issues.

- Project Manager Natalie Mills will be returning from maternity leave sometime in July.
- The contracts for the State Line Tie-Back and Hobart Marsh Mitigation are on track to be advertised in early July and awarded in August of 2016. The Corps plans to work with residents to minimize disruptions while work is being completed. Items such as notification procedures, incentive clauses and videotaping the area before work is started were discussed.
- Work has started on a Levee Documentation Report in efforts to fast-track the process with FEMA.
- Work with Dawson & Associates continues in an effort to document crediting. Recently, credits were approved for Grant Street in the amount of \$800,000. Credits are now estimated to be in the range of 2.3 million.
- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Resolution is appreciated and shows commitment to the project.

Commissioner Whittaker asked everyone to keep Commissioner Castlellanos in their thoughts after the sudden passing of his wife.

**Statements from the Floor –**

- Laurie Czulno, Hammond, said she walked her neighborhood and invited people to attend tonight's meeting. 22 households are still paying thousands of dollars in flood insurance every year and it is unacceptable to keep the residents in this position. She asked the affected residents at the meeting to give their names and addresses to USACE personnel.
- Pete Yankovich, Hammond, stated that the State Line Tie Back wall goes right through his neighborhood. The Commission did a great job with the design and it is not an eyesore in the neighborhood.
- Martin Wagner, Hammond asked why sandbagging the openings in the wall was not enough to remove everyone from the flood zone. A discussion was held regarding the wall as it was built in 2014 and what additional requirements are necessary to remove properties from the flood zone.
- Steve VanderWoude, Hammond, requested more information on the FEMA map revision timeline. Mr. Padilla of the USACE, stated that it was their desire to work with FEMA to fast track the process and hoped to have most issues completed by July 2017.
- Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, thanked the Commission for passing the Hobart Marsh Mitigation resolution and commented on the great crowd at the meeting.
- Mike Echterling, stated that the Little Cal Fest was a huge success and thanked everyone for their help. He stated that the eaglets will be leaving their nests in about a month. Additionally, asked the Commission to consider handicapped access on the river.

- Eric Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, thanked everyone for their help with the Little Cal Fest. There were a total of 110 people and 76 canoes and kayaks that took the paddling trip. He also stated that more access sites were needed.
- Evangeline Stafford, Hammond, stated that she was wary of awarding the State Line Tie-Back project to the lowest bidder.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 13th at the Munster Town Hall.