

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017**

**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, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki  
Levon Whittaker  
Anthony Broadnax  
David Castellanos

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Natalie Mills – USACE  
John & Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
Judy Knapp – Hammond  
David Nellans – Town of Munster  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. of Indiana  
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond  
Oliver King – Great Lakes Electrical Maint.  
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group  
Salvatore DiBernardo – Ciorba Group  
Col. Drew – USACE  
Katarzyna Chelkowska-Risley - USACE

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the November 9, 2016 and November 14, 2016 meetings. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He referenced the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event as a continued 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 the events of the 2008 flood event never happen again. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire Little Calumet River Watershed. 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. 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. By removing the mandatory flood insurance requirement, we have put over \$4 million dollars back into the local economy, making this an economic development project.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the December 2016 claims in the amount of \$809,938.21 and the January 2017 claims in the amount of \$282,504.21. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any

discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the December claims, beginning with a payment in the amount of \$340,000.00 to the Town of Griffith for Griffith's Watershed Application of the emergency demolition of Arbogast Bridge. The Town of Highland was paid \$42,000.00 and the City of Hammond was paid \$182,000.00 for reimbursement of Pump Station Maintenance. Sweney Electric submitted invoices totaling \$4,868.55 representing megger testing and monthly pump station inspections. \$29,475.00 was paid to Austgen Electric for the Burr Street North Back-up Generator Project. Garcia Consulting Engineers submitted an invoice in the amount of \$11,170.30 for continued work on the Hart Ditch Study. A presentation on the study will be scheduled for a later meeting. \$14,500 was paid to R.A. Oros for work clearing blockages and removing beaver dams.

January claims include reimbursement to the City of Hobart in the amount of \$21,685.10 for continued work on the Wisconsin Street Bridge Design. Munster Parks and Recreation participated in our tree program and was reimbursed \$40,330.00 for tree planting near waterways in their community. Sweney Electric submitted a claim in the amount of \$105,000.00 for continued work on the Burr Street South Pump Station Rehabilitation. 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 Burr Street South Pump Station Rehabilitation Project is progressing. The new PLC has been installed and two pumps are currently out for repair. It is anticipated the repairs will be complete in the next few weeks. The Pump Station should be completely operational in time for the USACE Inspections this spring.
- The Burr Street North Back-Up Generator Project is essentially complete. The generator has been installed and is running, just a few punch list items remain.
- Two pumps and the sump pump at the Grant Street West Pump Station were in operational and have been pulled for repairs, leaving one pump in operation at the station. The pump repairs should be completed by early February. The Pump Station cabinets and wiring are also being inspected and will be repaired if necessary.
- The Harrison Street Bridge is in the design stage, with the project expected to be bid out in late 2017.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge is also in the design state, with projected construction to begin in 2018.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Overpass Project has already been submitted to the USACE and City of Gary for review, with construction anticipated over the summer.
- The Gary South Levee Paving Project and Hammond Levee Paving Project have received the necessary permits and will be going out for bid with construction this season.
- The Chase Manhole Extension Project plans have been submitted to the City of Gary for review. This project location has 10 manholes that will be extended.

Commissioner Whittaker asked about the estimated complete date for the Burr Street North Back-up Generator Project. Mr. Repay stated that there were just a few minor issues to be addressed and the project should be complete by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Whittaker also requested the estimated repair time on the pumps at the Grant Street West Pump Station. Mr. Repay stated that the repair work on the 2 pumps and sump pump should also be completed before February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve a service agreement with On-Site Computer, LLC for the Commission's computer network services; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker as if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The Motion passed 5-0 (Commissioner Wichlinski abstain).

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve a service agreement with Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance, Inc. for Pump Station Maintenance; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. This service agreement covers the following pump stations: Burr Street North, Burr Street South, West Grant Street, East Grant Street, Broadway, Ironwood, Marshalltown and 32<sup>nd</sup> & Cleveland. 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 table the proposal from Cause 4Paws Gary, Inc. to allow the Commissioners more time to review the proposal; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineers for the design of the Gary North Levee Paving Project, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000. The Gary North Levee Paving Project will pave the tops of the levees from Cline Avenue to Martin Luther King Drive. Commissioner Wichlinski requested that the lack of access between the north and south sides of the levee be addressed in the future. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to table the proposal from Patrick Engineering on the design of the G&W-CFE Railroad Bridge Replacement over Deep River in Hobart to allow more time to review the proposal; 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.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Gary South Levee Paving Project and Hammond Levee Paving Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. 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 accept the proposal from Grimmer Construction for the Belmont Sluice Gate Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. The following proposals were received: Grimmer Construction - \$54,982.00, Hasse Construction Company - \$74,955.00, and Gariup Construction – \$63,700.00. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

**Update from the USACE –**

Col. Drew of the USACE introduced Katarzyna Chelkowska-Risley as the new Deputy Project Manager for the project.

Natalie Mills of the USACE reported that the Hobart Mitigation contract, awarded to Applied Ecological Services, is currently in the submittal phase, however some clearing work will begin next week.

The State Line Tie-Back contract, awarded to DSI & Associates is also in the submittal phase. The contractor plans to mobilize to the site in March with the line of protection completed in June.

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 further asked for confirmation that the contractors are required to meet minority participation goals.

Commissioner Broadnax requested that the construction schedule for the State Line Tie-Back contract be provided to the commissioners.

**Statements from the Floor –**

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, asked how many of the 13 Hammond Sanitary District Pump Stations have back-up generators. Mr. Repay stated that the 4 HSD Pump Stations located in Munster have back-up generators.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, thanked the Commission for discussing the disconnect between the north and south levees at Chase Street. She was also happy that the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project was moving along.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the Commission has a radio show every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month on WLTH AM 1370. He thanked Col. Drew for being a guest on the show recently. Commissioner Castellanos also said that they have gotten a great response from the show and encouraged everyone to listen.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that he was pleased by the progress of the Commission and was encouraged that the Commission took the time to adopt Minority Participation goals.

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