

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

**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018**

**Location: MUNSTER TOWN HALL, Munster, IN**

Chairman 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 six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Dave Castellanos  
Derek Nimetz  
Ron Ware  
Anthony Broadnax

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Paul Daniels – LCRBDC Advisory Board  
Pam Eanes – Munster  
John & Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Judy Knapp - Hammond  
Natalie Mills - USACE  
Bridget Bodifeld  
Barbara Whittaker  
John Beckman – Catalyst Eco  
Dean Button – City of Hammond  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. of Indiana  
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart  
Michael Jabo – DLZ  
Michael Kummeth – DLZ  
Roz Jovanovich

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report -**

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood project and we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. It has been 10 years since the devastating flood event of 2008. The yellowing pictures we show at every meeting serve as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project is neglected. The communities saw from the recent rain event what can happen when dealing with Mother Nature. Keep in mind that 10 gallons of water in a 5 gallon bucket will cause problems. The Commission continues the practice of meeting with the communities in the Watershed on a monthly basis to ensure we are ready in case of a flood event. The goal of this Commission is a true regional flood project.

**Finance -**

Chairman Baker referred to the April claims in the amount of \$487,792.30. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Industrial Railroad Services in the amount of \$195,584.00. This claim covered tree cutting and clearing for the CFER Railroad Bridge Project. Patrick Engineering submitted a claim for \$23,123.80 for continued engineering work on the same project. Sealed bids for the CFER Railroad Bridge Project will be opened at the May meeting. S.E.H. was paid \$24,283.00 for continued work on the Lake Station Flood Mitigation Project. DLZ submitted claims in the amount of \$46,283.23 and \$26310.00 for engineering work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project and Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project. DLZ will give a status report on the projects later in the meeting.

\$35,000.00 was paid to Dawson & Associates for continued work on crediting. We recently submitted over 14 million dollars in INDOT crediting packages to the USACE. Finally, the Town of Griffith submitted a request for reimbursement in the amount of \$14,115.04 for the February rain event.

Commissioner Ware asked if we anticipated anymore reimbursements from the February rain event. Mr. Repay stated that this should be the last of the claims. A letter was submitted to the USACE requesting reimbursement for damages and issues that were noted during the February rain event. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- Over 14 million dollars in crediting was recently submitted to the USACE. The remaining crediting issues include approximately 30+ parcels in Gary that need to be acquired and easements for the pump stations.
- USACE Inspections for Hammond, Highland and Munster begin at the end of the month. Gary, Griffith and INDOT Inspections are scheduled for June.
- All permits are complete for the CFER Railroad Bridge Railroad Project. A request to bid out the project will occur later in the meeting.
- We continue to move forward in the purchase of properties in Lake Station. Once complete we will be able to design a levee to protect over 200 residences in Lake Station.
- The 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Grade Adjustment Project should begin soon. This contract was awarded to Dyer Construction at a previous meeting. Once the project is complete, the City of Gary will have one less closure during a high water event.
- The engineering is completed for the Clark Road Grade Modification Project. The plans will be submitted to the USACE for their approval. This will be similar to the Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project completed previously.
- Geotechnical work was completed on the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. The preliminary plans are ready to submit to the USACE for their approval.

**Update from the USACE –**

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project continues to progress. The contractor is working on clearing, seeding and planting. A well was filled and a few burns have been completed.
- The In-Project Mitigation Project has started with clearing work and burns. Phone calls have been fielded from US Fish & Wildlife and other interested parties regarding a nesting bald eagle in the area. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss any changes that may be necessary due to the nesting bald eagle.
- We are still waiting on further information regarding the Hammond LOMR.
- The USACE has received the crediting packages for the INDOT Easements.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the CFER Railroad Bridge over Deep River Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this is the largest project this year and one that was identified through previous studies as a concern. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>, with bid opening at the May meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to grant a temporary easement to INDOT necessary for their Highway Improvement Project known as Project I-65/Little Calumet River; motion seconded by

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

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve a contract with Garcia Consulting Engineers for oversight and monitoring on the 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Grade Adjustment Project in an amount not to exceed \$49,500.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained that this project was awarded to Dyer Construction at the previous meeting and would eliminate a post and panel closure for the City of Gary. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**Presentations -**

Michael Kummeth, Bridge Division Manager from DLZ presented the following updates:

- Final plans on the Harrison Street Bridge Project were presented to the Commission and will be forwarded to the USACE for their review. Advertising and bidding should occur late spring to early summer. Permit requests from IDEM, DNR and the USACE are in process and should be completed soon. It is anticipated that the project will be under construction this year.
- Preliminary plans for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project were presented for review. Survey and hydrologic work has been completed. Commission members questioned the delays in the progress of this project. Mr. Kummeth stated that DLZ submitted a proposal in 2015 and was awarded the contract after the interview and selection process. The Contract negotiation phase also took an extended period of time with notice to proceed received on May 30, 2017. DLZ understands that urgency of the project and anticipates the project ready to bid in late fall this year with construction in 2019.

Matt Lake, Executive Director of the Merrillville Stormwater Utility and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering presented the Meadowdale Lateral Floodwater Storage Basins Watershed Application. The Merrillville Stormwater Utility is requesting \$133,000 for engineering work on the project. The project consists of two floodwater storage basins that will add 45 acre-ft of floodwater storage to an area that has received significant flooding in the past. 439 structures would benefit from the proposed floodwater storage. This was also identified as a high priority area in the Town's 2014 Stormwater Master Plan as well as noted in the Commission's Comprehensive Watershed Plan. Total project cost is estimated at \$4.06 million.

A complete audio of the presentations can be found at our website: [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

**Statements from the Floor –**

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, gave information on Lateral 6 and potential areas for water storage. Damage has been caused by beaver dams and there are numerous invasive species and fragmites but the areas could be used for storage in her opinion.

Barbara Whittaker, Munster, stated that she is still concerned with the concrete wall and levee along Hawthorne Drive. Mr. Repay stated that Mr. Rochford of the USACE gave a presentation last month regarding these concerns. He will ask Mr. Rochford to put his comments and answers to questions in writing so they will be available to the public. Ms. Whittaker further added that she believes the levee is higher on the Golf Course side than the side by the residences and the water would overtop on the residential side first. Ms. Whittaker had an additional concern that the Northcote Bridge was acting as a dam. Mr. Repay responded that there is lower portion of the levee on the Golf Course side to direct the water to the open area and away from the residences.

John Beckman, Catalyst Eco Consulting, asked what other wetland projects were being considered by the Commission. Mr. Repay stated that we have the In-Project Mitigation and Hobart Marsh Mitigation in progress. We have meet with the Wetland Initiative and Autobahn Society regarding further opportunities.

Pam Eanes, Munster, stated she attended a meeting two months ago and asked questions about Maya Energy leasing land from the Commission. She requested a status update on this issue. Mr. Repay stated that we have a license agreement with Maya Energy that is contingent on their receipt of all necessary permits. It was his understanding that Maya Energy was waiting for a response from IDEM regarding their Solid Waste Permit.

Roz Jovanovich, Munster, stated that she recently met with Mr. Repay to discuss the Maya Energy license agreement. She prepared and distributed a letter to the Commissioners with several questions. Ms. Jovanovich asked if given the recent concerns voiced, would the Commissioners vote to terminate the license agreement with Maya Energy? Ms. Jovanovich asked **how** granting a license agreement to Maya Energy serve the purpose of the Commission? Chairman Baker responded that the purpose was to generate additional revenue and the license agreement was contingent upon Maya Energy following all local codes and receiving all the necessary permits. Further discussion was held regarding whether the property was publicly marketed or if a Commercial Real Estate Broker was utilized to ensure the Commission's interests were represented. Finally, Ms. Jovanovich asked if the Commission felt confident in Maya Energy's ability to successfully run their facility without any environmental incidents.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that as a resident of Gary he sees that the City of Gary is in need of jobs for its citizens and that he feels that Maya Energy would bring jobs to the community.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the residents for their input and feedback.

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