

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

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

**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 seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

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

**Visitors:**

Laurie Czulno - Hammond  
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group  
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee  
John Beckman – Hammond  
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers  
David Nellans – Town of Munster  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the minutes from August 14, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded everyone that our website is a great place to find information on the Commission and the work that we do throughout the watershed ( [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org) ). It has been 11 years since the devastating events of 2008. The yellowing pictures from the flood event are a great reminder of what can happen if a project such as this is neglected. There are numerous issues from the original design and decades of deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made project that the Commission is completing. Keep in mind, when dealing with Mother Nature, 10 gallons of water in a 5 gallon bucket will cause problems. However, we are far better prepared than in the past and the Commission continues to maintain open communication with the communities in the watershed by meeting on a monthly basis.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the September claims in the amount of \$463,194.19. Commissioner Ware 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 the Hammond Sanitary District and Town of Highland in the amounts of \$182,000.00 and \$42,000.00 respectively. These payments are reimbursements for Pump Station maintenance that are distributed once the municipalities pass the annual USACE Inspections. Patrick Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$32,525.00 for continued work on the Lake Station Levee Project. \$23,300.00 was paid to C&H Mowing for the third cycle of levee mowing. There will be one final cut before the end of the year. Our annual insurance premiums were paid with \$71,280.00 to Flores Insurance for general liability and \$11,736.25 to Meyers Glaros Group for Pump Station coverage. Vail Appraisal Group was paid \$14,000.00 for appraisal work on the Pump Station Easements needed in Gary. \$1,070.50 was paid to Columbia Lock & Key for new locks needed at the Burr North Pump Station due to a break-in and copper theft. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- The good weather has been beneficial for the Harrison Avenue Bridge Project. This project was initially delayed due to utility locations and inclement weather. It is anticipated that the bridge will open at the end of October.
- Design work by Patrick Engineering continues on the Lake Station Levee Project. We expect to have preliminary design option available to us soon.
- The USACE emergency repair project on the leaking wall in Munster has been awarded as of September 6<sup>th</sup>. The contractor will have 180 days to complete the project.
- A theft occurred at the Burr North Pump Station that knocked the station off-line for a time. Connection with the SCADA system was lost on a dry evening and our contractor arrived on scene to find approximately 1,200 pounds of copper wiring already cut and coiled. This Pump Station is one of the most critical in the system and required extensive repairs to be put back on-line. Later during the meeting, I will request authorization to seek proposals for surveillance and security systems at various pump stations to hopefully reduce this kind of activity. The Grant West Pump Station was vandalized in a similar manner last month.

Mr. Repay gave an overview of our website and the information that can be found at the site. Starting with the 15 streamgages located throughout the system that can be accessed through our website. The annual USACE Inspection Reports going back as far as 2013 are available on our site as well as minutes and audio recordings of past public meetings. Our website can be found at [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org).

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals and enter into a contract for the installation of surveillance and security systems at various

Pump Stations in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that we have had 2 separate thefts of copper wire at Pump Stations that have resulted in extensive damage. Hopefully, a security and camera system will eliminate these thefts. Commissioner Whittaker asked that the Commission also consider surveillance systems at Pump Stations that are near populated areas. Chairman Baker asked if there was any further discussion and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to award a contract to Walsh & Kelly in the amount of \$49,797.00 to mill and pave the Hobart Rugby Parking Lot; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained that this parking lot was used for equipment staging on the CFER Bridge Project and we were repairing any damages to the lot. Chairman Baker asked if there was any discussion and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to table the extension of the Leaf Compost Agreement with the Lake County Solid Waste Management District; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Attorney Wickland stated that they were still working on revisions to the agreement and it would be put back on the agenda at a future meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there was any discussion and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve an Agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for engineering of levee modifications on Hart Ditch near Wicker Park in an amount not to exceed \$54,500; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that as stated in previous meetings, there is a section of the earthen levee on the Wicker Park side of Hart Ditch that is higher. It will be necessary to modify the levee in order for the system to work as originally intended by the USACE with water first overtopping in Wicker Park. Chairman Baker asked if there was any further discussion and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

**Statements from the Floor –**

No Statements from the Floor

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.