

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

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020**

**Location: Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Ron Ware  
Dave Castellanos  
Robert Ochi  
Derek Nimetz

**Visitors:**

Virtual Meeting

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Chairman's Report -**

Commissioner Baker welcomed everyone to our virtual meeting and thanked those who joined. As a reminder, the Commission is tasked with the maintenance is a \$275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are completing. However, this Commission is far better prepared than was in the past and we continue to maintain open communication and work with all communities within the watershed.

**Finance -**

Chairman Baker referred to the May claims in the amount of \$398,530.35. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims submitted for payment. \$118,060.45 was paid to Ellas Construction as final payment on the Harrison Avenue Bridge Project. Several

claims were submitted for clearing blockages throughout the system due to the heavy rain events including Northern Indiana Mechanical in the amount of \$8,973.20 to clear blockages at several locations in Gary. R.A. Oros was also paid \$2,500.00 to clear the culverts at Georgia Street. C&H Mowing submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00 to mow & trim the entire levee system for the first cycle this season. The areas are cut 4-5 times each season. \$13,831.86 was paid to Christopher Burke Engineering for continued work on the Longwood Flood Control Basin Feasibility Study. USGS was paid \$24,910.00 as our quarterly payment for the operation & maintenance of the streamgages along the system. Hasse Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$31,500.00 for work on the 80/94 Culvert Crossing Project. \$6,990.00 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for the monthly pump station inspections.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any additional questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

#### Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- USACE Inspections were completed last week for the area of approximately Cline Avenue to I-65 with no major findings discovered. The inspection included Pump Stations, running all the gates up and down as well as walking the levee. The USACE is preparing their draft reports now with a final report likely out later in the summer.
- We are working with Norfolk and Southern Railroad to permanently close the two USACE designed gate structures. It is likely that the railroad will handle the closure and seek reimbursement from us for the expense.
- Hasse Construction continues to work on the culvert clearing under Georgia Street and I-94. The heavy rain events have caused some delays in the project.
- All Pump Stations that we manage are working and in good shape. A secondary pump at the Ironwood Station was pulled for maintenance.
- The Pump Station security cameras are officially online. Some camera angles may need to be slightly adjusted to capture different aspects of the stations, but the addition of the cameras was a great help during the recent rain events.
- Christopher Burke Engineering has completed the final plans on the Hart Ditch Overbuild near Wicker Park. We have received the necessary permits from the USACE and are waiting for the DNR permits before we will be able to go out for proposals.
- The Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project has begun. This project is being overseen by the Lake County Surveyor's Office. There are three separate areas of the project: Chestnut, 45<sup>th</sup> & Camellia, and Twin Creek. All three areas have shown progress, but the high water levels in Hart Ditch will cause some delays
- We continue to adjust plans from the original levee construction to the path and dam project. We are working with NIPSCO to move conflicting power poles. Additionally, we have received phone calls from 2 residents on Wyoming Street asking if we would still purchase their homes.

- We have reviewed the detention pond plans for the Hard Rock Casino in Gary and have no objection to their plan as stated.

Chairman Baker asked how the system performed during the heavy rain events and if there were any issues noted. Mr. Repay stated that despite the volume of water, the system handled as expected. We have already worked to resolve areas that would cause problems during these events such as raising the closures at Harrison Street, 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase and Clark Road. WLTH Radio station was never off the air during the heavy rain. We had road closures at Colfax and Georgia due to water on the roadway. The City of Hobart had no issues on Duck Creek which is directly attributable the CFER Bridge Project we recently completed. We continue to update and communicate with the local municipalities about any concerns or issues that may arise due to the heavy rain.

Commissioner Ware asked if the review of the casino detention included just the current footprint or did it take into account the potential parking garage and hotel. Mr. Repay stated that the review included all potential builds and it was more than adequate.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield for the 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert Upgrade Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that this watershed project was approved last month by the Commission in an amount not to exceed \$204,000.00. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02 and an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Crown Point for the Sauerman Woods Drainage & Storage Improvements Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this watershed project was approved by the Commission last month in an amount not to exceed \$124,000.00. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-03 and an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lake Station for the Viking Village Pump Station Replacement Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay stated that this watershed project was approved by the Commission last month in an amount not to exceed \$26,000.00. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Patrick Engineering Change Order 03 for the Deep River Levee Project in an amount not to exceed \$95,740.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay stated that this project has taken different turns from its original design of a levee, rock riffle dam and pedestrian bridge. It was ultimately determined that the infrastructure in Lake Station couldn't support the original project. This change order reflects the current scope of final design of the rock riffle dam and bridge and pedestrian

improvements. Commissioner Castellanos asked about minority participation on this project and added that the Commission should have a minority participation clause on all agreements including professional services. Commissioner Gozdecki amended his motion to reflect the correct Patrick Engineering Change Order dollar amount of \$106,570.00; amended motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve an agreement with Ciorba Group Consulting Engineers for services related to updated our Watershed Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$46,095.65; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay stated that the Master Plan has not been updated since 2013. Since that time, several projects have been completed and it's necessary to update the plan for the benefit of the Commission and all the communities within the watershed. Mr. Repay stated that as part of the project, Ciorba Group will meet with each community and update their stormwater concerns and priority list. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve an agreement with Christopher Burke Engineering for final design of the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation & Interior Drainage Improvement Project in an amount not the exceed \$395,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that this levee located approximately a half a mile south of Ridge Road and just east of Cline Avenue in Griffith, was built by a private developer in the 80's. In order for Griffith and Gary to have the opportunity to remove themselves from the FEMA Flood Insurance Program, it is necessary to address the deficiencies in the levee. Additionally, the Town of Griffith will sign over a flowage easement on property that is needed by the USACE. Chairman Baker asked if the Town of Griffith and the USACE had agreed to area needed and the language of the flowage easement. Mr. Repay stated that the easement has been reviewed by the USACE. Commissioner Whittaker asked for explanation on the 2 phases of the study. Mr. Repay stated that the first phase involves USACE guidelines to determine what aspects of the levee are acceptable and what needs to be repaired. The second phase involves interior drainage in order to make sure water doesn't get trapped on the land side of the levee. This study will help determine what is needed in terms of pump stations or gates. We will work with the Town of Griffith to determine what is necessary for USACE standards and what additional builds the Town may want to see and move forward on their own. Further discussion was held regarding the project and the amount of interior drainage that the Commission required for their needs. Sivash Beik from Christopher Burke Engineering also added that the interior drainage is necessary for the project to make sure the area is accessible. Once the study is complete, we will be able to determine what portion of the drainage is solely for the benefit of Griffith. Commissioner Gozdecki asked about the current interior drainage in the area. Mr. Beik stated that the current interior drainage is not adequate for the area. Additionally, there are properties that will be removed from the flood plain as a result of this project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0, Commissioner Whittaker abstained.

**Statements to the Board –**

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, thanked the Commission for conducting this virtual meeting and said that she was very pleased how the system handled the recent heavy rains.

Ray Kasmark was happy he could participate in the meeting and the Commission is doing a great job.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone that participated virtually and hoped everyone continues to stay safe.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked everyone that participated in the virtually meeting and was pleased the system functioned well.

Commissioner Ochi thanked everyone that participated and to stay safe.

Commissioner Castellanos asked everyone to stay safe and reminded all of the Commission radio program on WLTH AM 1370 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month at 9am.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, 2020.

