

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall**

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were nine (9) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners Present:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Anthony Broadnax (via Zoom)  
Ron Ware  
Derek Nimetz  
Robert Ochi  
David Castellanos

**Visitors:**

Gary Lee - Gary  
Dave Taborski – Gary  
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC  
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal  
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA  
Laurie Czulno - Hammond

**Commissioners Absent:**

none

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to our meeting. The Commission is tasked with the continued maintenance of a 275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are in the process of completing. The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event are shown at every meeting as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project such as this is neglected. This Commission is far better prepared than was in the past, but there is always room for improvement. We continue

to work with Communities within the watershed so that events such as the flood in 2008 does not happen again. The Commission has worked to remove over 1,400 properties from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts 4 million dollars back into the local economy, making this project an economic development project.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the October 2021 claims in the amount of \$853,879.97. Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the October claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Austgen Equipment in the amount of \$341,020.65 for work on the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. A reimbursement was paid to the City of Lake Station in the amount of \$230,000.00 for the Viking Village Pump Station Watershed Project. The City of Crown Point was reimbursed \$13,012.20 for Sauerman Woods Drainage Design & Study Watershed Project. \$50,000.00 was reimbursed to the Town of Griffith for 2021 Cady Marsh Ditch O&M. C&H Mowing submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00 for mowing of the levee. There may be one additional mowing yet this season. Wiltjer Excavating was paid \$83,650.00 for removing trees and blockages along Hart Ditch. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$8,299.00 for monthly Pump Station inspections. Finally, \$3,825.00 was paid to Weedpatch for the fall weed control application.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

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

- We had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. Lake Station and Lake County Parks are very excited about the project and the opportunities it brings to the area.
- The Hobart Mitigation area will officially be turned over to IDNR later this month. We will enter into an agreement with the state for the maintenance and upkeep of the Mitigation area.
- The Calhoun ditch clearing is expected to be finished today. The resident, Mr. Lee seems pleased with the work. I will walk the area with Mr. Lee to go over the clearing and answer any questions.
- A meeting with the USACE is scheduled for next week to discuss the current status of our crediting submission as well as the documentation that was submitted regarding the Griffith Mitigation acquisition.
- Christopher Burke Engineering indicated that there would be a delay in the design of the Griffith Levee. The initial timeline was for plans to be ready to bid this winter. The revised timeline calls for a spring bidding on the project.

- We are working on some small projects that were listed as deficiencies on our latest USACE inspection report. Most were vegetation issues such as trees too close to the levee or poor sod cover. We will be encasing two manholes in Gary that are outside the levee but within the exterior drainage ditch.
- The Burr Street closures has been officially completed by the railroad. USACE is pleased with the project and we are awaiting final as-builts before the closure is taken out of the Handbook. This project represents one less closure that will need to be performed during a high water event.
- I had the opportunity to meet with the lead engineer for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. This is the organization that controls the Thornton Quarry, which has an indirect impact on water levels in Hart Ditch and the Little Calumet River by diverting millions of gallons of water into the quarry during high water events. I plan to tour their operation later this month to better understand their system as well as invite them to tour our side of the state line.

Commissioner Castellanos asked about the status of the Spring Park Project. Mr. Repay stated that we were supposed to open bids at the last meeting. However, due to the results of our water samples, we delayed the opening. We are working with IDEM regarding the testing and a required permit. The project is expected to now start in spring 2022.

Chairman Baker asked about work in Hart Ditch. Mr. Repay stated that we are working with the county to put together a list of areas that require the most attention. We will more than likely start on those areas next year.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to open proposals for the CCTV and Sonar Inspection of Pipes Penetrating Levees Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the USACE requires this inspection every 5 years. This project will be for the Munster, Hammond, Highland and INDOT segments. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0. The bid opening was as follows: Grimmer Construction, Inc. - \$119,550.00.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-08 and an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hobart for the Stinky Creek portion only of the Stinky Creek and Turkey Creek Lateral 6 Diversion and Regional Storm Water Project subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-09 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Park and Recreation Board for the Phase II Little

Calumet River Marsh Bird Conservation Corridor Project subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-10 and an Agreement with the Lake County Park and Recreation Board summarizing the LCRBDC's contribution in the purchase of real estate from the School City of Gary subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-11 and an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lake Station and the Lake County Park and Recreation Board to establish the maintenance responsibilities of each party for the Rock Riffle Project subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Statements to the Board –**

Erik Sprenne, NWIPA, spoke to the Board regarding various recreational activities that are gone as a result of the Deep River Rock Riffle Project

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Whittaker thanked all for attending the meeting. He is confident the Commission will end the year on a positive note.

Commissioner Wichlinski commented on the ribbon cutting for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project by stating that it is an evolving project and there is work that we can do in the future.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the Commissioner who attended the Deep River Rock Riffle ribbon cutting and said the people are pleased with the project.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 17, 2021.