

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

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

**Location: Munster Town Hall**

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

**Commissioners Present:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Anthony Broadnax (via Zoom)  
Robert Ochi  
David Castellanos

**Visitors:**

Gary Lee - Gary  
Dave Taborski – Gary  
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC  
Ed Hero – Lake Station  
Salvatore Di Bernardo – Ciorba Group  
Laurie Czulno - Hammond

**Commissioners Absent:**

Tom Wichlinski  
Derek Nimetz  
Ron Ware

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**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 November 2021 claims in the amount of \$429,765.00. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the November claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with reimbursements to the Hammond Sanitary District and Town of Highland in the amounts of \$182,000.00 and \$42,000.00 for annual pump station maintenance. The LCRBDC reimburses the municipalities for pump station maintenance after passing USACE inspections. \$56,595.06 was paid to Austgen Equipment for work on the Wicker Park Levee Modification Project. This payment closes out the project. Wiltjer Excavating, Inc. submitted a claim in the amount of \$47,150.00 for clearing, sediment removal and clean-up of the Calhoun Ditch. Some additional work such as seeding will still need to be completed at the site. 1<sup>st</sup> Response Maintenance was paid \$4,312.00 for sluice gate inspection and maintenance. \$10,000.00 was reimbursed to North Township for our tree program. Several other communities within the watershed have expressed an interest in the tree program and will be submitting for reimbursement in the coming months. Finally HWC Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$7,989.15 for continued work on the Spring Park Project. They are currently working on preparation of an IDEM permit that will be required for the project. 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 an update on several of the projects:

- The final mowing for the season is being completed now. We mowed 5 times this year, we will pick up again in the spring before USACE inspections.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project was not included as an earmark in the Federal Transportation Bill but instead will be included in funds that were given to NIRPC to distribute as necessary. We will work with them to obtain the funding for the bridge project.
- The Spring Park Project has been moved to the spring for start of construction as we seeking additional permitting required from IDEM.
- 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 2022 bidding on the project.
- We will be conducting some maintenance along the levee trails including cutting trees within 15 feet of the toe of the levee.

Chairman Baker asked Mr. Repay to evaluate if there were any other projects that can be brought to NIRPC for funding.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked about the status of funds we have set aside for Watershed Projects. Stating, for example, the Hammond Sanitary District that has had \$150,000.00

earmarked for a project since 2017. Mr. Repay stated that he will contact those with outstanding dollars and give them a deadline to use the funds.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to advertise and accept proposals to license up to approximately 69 acres of land at a location of 2400 35th Street in Gary, Indiana. All proposals shall be sealed and delivered to the LCRBDC at 900 Ridge Road Suite H Munster, Indiana no later than 12 pm (cst), February 16, 2022. Proposals shall be opened and taken under advisement later that evening at the regularly scheduled LCRBDC meeting at 6 pm; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos.

Mr. Repay explained that the land is currently farmed and the goal of this advertisement is to gauge any potential interest in the license of this property. Commissioner Whittaker stated that the Commission needs to make sure the language is clear in the advertisements for the property. Commissioner Gozdecki also added that no Commission funds will be used in the development of the property. Chairman Baker stated that the Commission will review all proposals, but is under no obligation to accept any of the submittals.

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

**Statements to the Board –**

Ed Hero, Lake Station, stated at the Deep River Rock Riffle Project ribbon cutting, the Mayor stated the project would help reduce flood insurance costs. He asked if the LCRBDC had any additional information regarding possible flood insurance reductions.

Gary Lee, Gary, thanked Mr. Repay for walking the Calhoun ditch with him and asked what the plan is moving forward to solve the chronic issues in that area.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Ochi thanked those for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked those for attending the meeting and to stay safe.

Commissioner Gozdecki wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked those for continuing to attend our meetings.

Commissioner Castellanos wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 15, 2021.