

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman (arrived after roll call)
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax
Ron Ware
Dave Castellanos
Robert Ochi
Derek Nimetz

Visitors:

Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Absent:

Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. As a reminder, USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recording of our meetings can be found on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org. The Commission is tasked with the 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 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 March claims in the amount of \$133,262.87. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the March claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment in the amount of \$5,544.00 to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for pump station inspections for the months of January and February. 1st Response Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$7,088.00 for exercising of the sluice gates in the Gary North and South locations of the system. \$11,144.50 was paid to Christopher B. Burke Engineering for continued work on the Griffith Levee Rehab and Interior Drainage Improvements Project. Finally, Patrick Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$41,340.00 for continued project management of the Deep River Rock Riffle Project.

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 an update on several of the projects:

- Most of our larger projects are just starting back up after a break for the winter. We are still working on some tree clearing and beaver dam blockage removals.
- We are in the permitting process on the Burr Street Railroad Closure Project. This project will make this closure permanent and relieve the City of Gary from installation of the closure during high water events.
- We continue to work on the updated Watershed Master Plan with Ciorba Group. The updated plan should be available within the coming months. Ciorba Group is expected to present the updated plan at a meeting this spring.
- We have completed acquisition of most of the properties needed by the USACE. There are a few parcels that still need to be acquired.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the Town of Winfield Watershed Application for the Hidden Creek Subdivision Regional Stormwater Project – Phase 1 in the amount of \$200,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an Interlocal Agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion deny the City of Crown Point Watershed Application for the Wastewater Utility Improvements – CSO 004 Parallel Interceptor Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the City of Lake Station Watershed Application for the Viking Village Pump Station Project in the amount of \$230,000.00,

pending legal review and final execution of an Interlocal Agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the Lake County Parks Watershed Application for the GEO Group Property Acquisition in the City of Hobart Nature District in the amount of \$246,000.00, pending legal review and final execution of an Interlocal Agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to table the Lake County Parks Watershed Application for the Sarros Land Acquisition at future Lake Hills County Park; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ochi stated he is looking forward to in-person meetings starting next month.

Commissioner Ware thanked everyone who took the time to join our virtual meetings this past year.

Commissioner Whittaker said it was good to see the community engaged in the work of the Commission. He also stated the board works well together and we do our best to respect each other and everyone's opinions.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the municipalities for bringing their projects to the Commission. He also thanked Sandy O'Brien for her continued support of the Lake County Parks application to acquire GEO Group Property in Hobart.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked Sandy O'Brien for her letters of support for the Lake County Parks acquisition of the GEO Group Property. He also stated that the members of the Board come from various backgrounds, but we come together in a positive way to support and respect each other.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, 2021.