

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022**  
**Location: Munster Town Hall**

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski presided and 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 Present:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

William Baker, Chairman

**Visitors:**

Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC  
Doreen Carey – Gary  
Gary Lee - Gary  
Sam Berg – FH Paschen  
Carolyn McCready – Gary  
Jeff Massey – Hammond Sanitary Dist.  
Marty Wielgos – Hammond Sanitary Dist.  
Stephen Sticklen – Donohue & Assoc.  
Neil Simstad – Nies Engineering  
Craig Zandstra – Lake County Parks

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0 (Commissioners Broadnax and Whittaker abstained).

**Chairman's Report –**

No Chairman's Report

**Finance –**

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the October 2022 claims in the amount of \$452,246.51. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Gariup Construction in the amount of \$118,549.50 for work on the new flood control closure structure at the Northcote Avenue Bridge. The project is complete, and the bridge is open after being closed for approximately 5 weeks. \$80,522.05 was paid to Dyer Construction for continued work on the Stage 7 Sealant Project. Work will continue on the project this fall as long as weather conditions allow. Lake County Parks submitted a claim in the

amount of \$50,017.95 on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Watershed Project. The Town of Dyer and the Town of Schererville submitted requests in the amounts of \$2,970.00 and \$10,000.00 from our Tree Program. Finally, Christopher Burke Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$12,307.58 for continued work on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Project. We will open bids on this project later this evening.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked about the progress of the Sealant Project. Mr. Repay stated that our contractor, Dyer Construction is about 40-45% complete with the project. Once the temperature is consistently below 40 degrees, the contractor will need to pause the project and finish up in the spring.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any 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:

- We received 3 bids for the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Improvements Project and will be opening them later this meeting.
- The Lake County Drainage Board opened bids on Phase Two of the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project. The lowest bid came in around \$716,000. The first phase of the project was previously awarded to Austgen Equipment.
- The Spring Park Project continues to progress. The contractor, Gariup Construction, began to lay the paver bricks at the site. There is a minor delay in the project as the delivery date for the shade structure has been pushed back until December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The final walkthrough for In-Project Mitigation was completed on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Moving forward the Commission has an obligation to monitor and maintain the mitigation site. It is important to note that this is the last project to be completed as part of the federal flood control and recreation project.
- The Stage 7 Sealant Project continues to move forward. The contractor, Dyer Construction, is currently over 40% complete on the project. Once the temperature gets under 40 degrees, Dyer Construction will need to halt the project until the spring. The USACE had the opportunity to do a brief inspection of the segments already completed.
- The Northcote Bridge Flood Control Closure Structure is complete, and the bridge is now open. The Town of Munster completed a closure exercise with the USACE in attendance. The previous closure took nearly 2 hours to install while the new closure structure was completed in under 40 minutes.
- A preliminary report was completed on the Calhoun Ditch Seepage Study. Our engineer, DLZ, would like to wait for a high water event to issue a final report with recommendations.

### **Presentations -**

The following Watershed Applications were presented at the meeting. The links to the video presentations are included below:

- Town of Merrillville – Matt Lake, Executive Director, Merrillville Stormwater Utility presenting:
  - [Hayes Farm Drainage Improvement Project](#)

Funding Request: \$23,425.00

Video: <https://youtu.be/1Bqvw3BQEcw>

- Town of Schererville – Neil Simstad, Principal, Nies Engineering presenting:
  - [Sunset Blvd. Detention Project](#)  
Funding Request: \$340,000.00  
Video: <https://youtu.be/pyhbKkcA8WU>
  
- Lake County Parks – Craig Zandstra, Assistant Superintendent, Lake County Parks presenting:
  - [Sarros Land Acquisition](#)  
Funding Request: \$200,000.00
  - [Penn Oak Property Acquisition at Veterans Memorial Parkway Trail](#)  
Funding Request: 25,800.00  
Video: <https://youtu.be/5hDsfDjkWLM>
  
- Hammond Sanitary District – Marty Weilgos, District Manager, Jeff Massey, Superintendent from the Hammond Sanitary District and Stephen Sticklen, Senior Civil Engineer at Donohue & Associates presenting:
  - [Southeast Combined Sewer Overflow Treatment Facility Design](#)  
Funding Request: \$1,000,000.00  
Video: <https://youtu.be/hFIWkqZUCdl>

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to open bids on the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation and Interior Drainage Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0. The bids opened were as follows: F.H. Paschen/S.N. Nielson & Associates - \$9,302,401.33; Grimmer Construction Inc. - \$7,986,715.70; and Earthwerks Land Improvement & Development Corp. - \$8,585,513.30.

**Statements to the Board –**

Doreen Carey, Gary, asked if there was any information on the payment that was due from Maya Energy by October 11, 2022. She further asked if Calabria was planning to take over the lease agreement from Maya Energy. She additionally stated her opposition to the project and asked that the Commission consider holding a future meeting in the City of Gary.

Carolyn McCready, Gary asked when the Commission received the payment from Maya Energy and they waited until the last minute to submit their payment. She stated that this is not the type of project that is needed in Gary. She would like to see more projects such as the Natural Spring in the City of Gary. She hoped the Commission would be able to find a way out of their agreement with Maya Energy.

Craig Zandstra, Lake County Parks, gave an update on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Project. The crew is transitioning to winter work. They were able to plant approximately 30 trees in Gary and several thousand plugs at the MLK South location.

Gary Lee, Gary, asked if the Commission ever considered negotiating out of the license agreement with Maya Energy.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Ware thanked the public for their comments and commended the communities for their hard work on the watershed application presentations.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the communities for attending our meeting and added that the quality of their presentations makes our job easier. He also thanked the public for their comments on Maya Energy and asked everyone to continue to voice their concerns regarding the project.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the public for attending the meeting and voice their opinions. He also thanked the presenters for their in-depth presentations.

Commissioner Ochi thanked the communities for their presentations. He also commented on the Hammond Sanitary District presentation and their innovative ways of treating water that were illustrated this evening.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the presenters from this evening. He added that he was encouraged by the new technology presented by the Hammond Sanitary District. He thanked the public for their comments regarding Maya Energy and encouraged them to continue to voice their opinions.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski thanked all for attending the meeting and thanked the communities for their great presentations.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 16, 2022.