

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022
Location: Munster Town Hall

Chairman Baker 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:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
David Castellanos
Anthony Broadnax
Robert Ochi
Ron Ware

Visitors:

Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC
Gary Lee - Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary

Commissioners Absent:

Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from November 16, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0 (Commissioner Broadnax abstained).

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the last meeting of 2022 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He reflected on the 2008 flood event and the devastation that can occur when maintenance to a \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission's task right now is the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this regional flood control project. We continue to meet with communities once a month to make sure we are ready to take on Mother Nature. Keep in mind that when you pour 10 gallons of water into a 5-gallon bucket, problems can occur. But we are far better prepared now than we were in 2008.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the December 2022 claims in the amount of \$1,192,268.36. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to the City of Crown Point in the amount of \$508,751.55 for work on the Sauerman Woods Drainage Watershed Project. The first phase of the project is about 25% complete. \$157,000.00 was paid to Wiltjer Excavating for clearing of Deep River. The contractor has completed the work for the year and will restart the clearing in the

spring. The initial payment of \$156,500.00 on the Cady Marsh Screen Raker was paid to Duperon Corporation. A final claim in the amount of \$44,453.02 was submitted by Grimmer Construction for CCTV inspection that was done earlier this year. C&H Mowing was paid \$27,500.00 for the final mowing of the season. Security Door Inc. submitted claims totaling \$55,380.00 for the installation of security cameras at two locations. Finally, \$42,569.55 was paid to Highland Parks & Recreation for our portion of the Erie-Lackawanna Trail Resurfacing.

Commissioner Broadnax asked if the security cameras were new installations or replacement of older equipment. Mr. Repay stated that they were both new installations at the Lake Station Dam and Ironwood Pump Station. We are currently waiting for installation of the cameras at the Natural Spring. Further discussion was held regarding the clarity of the images and if the cameras would help with the illegal dumping that is occurring at some locations. Mr. Repay also noted that access to the cameras is being shared with local police departments.

Commissioner Broadnax requested further clarification on the Grant West Pump Station maintenance. Mr. Repay stated that the sump pump at the location needed to be replaced, the two main pumps were pulled for routine maintenance. The next Pump Station scheduled for maintenance is the Burr North Pump Station.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that he was very impressed with the work done at the Natural Spring and that the contractor, Gariup Construction has done a wonderful job. Commissioner Castellanos asked if contractors we use are reaching out to minority companies as part of their bidding process as he feels the Commission has an obligation to engage with minority companies. He further asked if any of the contractors or businesses on the current claim list were minority companies. Additional discussion was held regarding opportunities for minority companies. Mr. Repay indicated that contractors are welcome to contact the Commission office to discuss these opportunities.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked for clarification on the Lake County Parks reimbursement request for tree planting. Mr. Repay stated that the amount was capped at \$15,000.00. Our typical reimbursement amount in our tree program is \$10,000.00, but since Lake County Parks was planting a great number of trees, we increased the amount.

Commissioner Gozdecki requested further information on the reimbursement to Highland Parks regarding the Erie-Lackawanna Trail paving. Mr. Repay stated that this claim was for repaving our bridge near the pipeline corridor and building of a retaining wall along the river.

Commissioner Ochi asked if the water testing at the Natural Spring would continue. Mr. Repay replied that we test the water on a monthly basis and the results are submitted to IDEM.

Commissioner Ware asked about the payment to Duperon Corporation. Mr. Repay answered that this is the initial deposit on the Cady Marsh Screen Raker and that the Commission chose to purchase this equipment outright rather than going through the contractor.

Commissioner Ware asked about the invoice for the Northcote Bridge traffic counts. Mr. Repay answered that these counts were taken during and after the bridge closure for the installation of the new floodwall closure structure.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further 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:

- Pump One has been pulled for maintenance from the Grant West Pump Station. Once that pump is back in service, we plan to pull Pump Two for similar maintenance to make sure they are all working properly for the spring season.
- Several meetings and calls have taken place regarding the status of the pending Gary/Griffith LOMR. The USACE and FEMA have different standards that must be met before the LOMR can be issued. The City of Gary will be reviewing all the options as they move forward with the LOMR.
- In the past month, we have dealt with several blockages and animal activity. We are working through the list of blockages located of the main channel that need to be addressed. Additionally, we have contacted the railroad about a blockage at Burr Street that needs to be cleared at their tracks.
- The Natural Spring Project is complete with the shade structure installed earlier this month. There is an issue with the lights at the site which is being addressed.
- The Hart Ditch Stabilization project continues to move forward. The contractor intends to continue with the stabilization work through the winter as long as the level of the water remains low.
- The Sauerman Woods Watershed Project is approximately 25% complete. The contractor will continue to work during the winter so long as the weather cooperates.
- The Commission continues to move forward on USACE required property acquisitions. INDOT is working on our requested easement and the final remaining properties to acquire are in various stages of condemnation. Additionally, we are still waiting to receive USACE crediting approval on 12 parcels that were submitted earlier this year.
- I have met with several communities over the past few weeks regarding future projects that they may seek funding for in 2023. They include the Town of Schererville with culvert and detention opportunities for the Kennedy Avenue extension, the City of Hobart on the Stinky Creek Diversion Project and the Town of Merrillville for water detention and culvert replacement opportunities.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the management and maintenance of the Hobart Marsh Mitigation site for the period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$13,620.00, pending review by Chairman, Executive Director and legal; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that long-term maintenance of the 345-acre mitigation site is required by the USACE and will cover items such as prescribed fires, trash abatement, mowing and invasive plant control. An additional MOU will be executed this summer and will extend for two years. 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 approve the 4th Addendum to the Leaf Compost Agreement with the Lake County Solid Waste Management District extending the agreement for an additional 3 years, pending review by Chairman, Executive Director and legal; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission has licensed land to the LCSWMD for a leaf compost farm since 2013. This Addendum extends the agreement until June of 2025. 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 2nd year funding for the Lake County Parks' Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative – Phase II Watershed Project I the amount of \$229,871.00, pending review by Chairman, Executive Director and legal, and final execution of an Interlocal

Agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that Lake County Parks and their partners have presented to the board several times during the year. We initially approved one year of funding for this Watershed Project in October, 2021. 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 Castellanos commented on the Spring Park Project completed saying it is a great asset to the community. He wished everyone safe and Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Ochi wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He also thanked the Commission and staff for all the hard work.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the public for their support and input. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He commented on the Spring Park Project and the Deep River Rock Riffle as the types of transformative projects that the Commission can do to improve the community.

Commissioner Gozdecki stated that we have accomplished a lot and he is proud to serve on the board. The Commission strives to make the community a better place for everyone. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2023.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and looked forward to a productive 2023.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that it has been an eventful year and we have accomplished a lot. He thanked Mr. Repay for being forward thinking with public safety issues. He thanked the public for their input and offered best wishes to all.

Commissioner Ware thanked the staff for their hard work. He stated that this is a great board with a lot of diversity and input and the entire board strives to do what is best for the people within the watershed. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Chairman Baker wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He added that the Commission does great things and he looks forward to the next year and further improving this part of Northwest Indiana.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2023.