

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 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 (via zoom)
Derek Nimetz
David Castellanos
Ron Ware
Robert Ochi

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Kenneth Ball – Gary
Gary Lee – Gary
Paul Daniels – CC x PD LLC

Commissioners Absent:

Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2022 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Chairman's Report -

Chairman Baker wished everyone a happy summer and thanked the public for attending our meeting. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood control project. The yellowing pictures shown at every meeting are a reminder of what can happen if maintenance is neglected. He reminded everyone of the progress the Commission has made over the past years including numerous parcels removed

from the flood plain. The work is ongoing but we are far better prepared than we have been in the past.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the June 2022 claims in the amount of \$271,016.95. 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 Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance in the amount of \$6,366.00 for monthly pump station inspections. Two payment totaling 70,461.16 were made to the Town of Griffith. The first was for reimbursement in the amount of \$50,000.00 for annual maintenance on the Cady Marsh Ditch. Additionally, \$20,461.16 was reimbursed for progress on the Cady Marsh Screen Raker Watershed Project. Wiltjer Excavating submitted a claim in the amount of \$39,140.00 for tree clearing along the levee in stages 7 and 8. Wessler Engineering was paid \$19,033.78 for continued work on the Beaver Dam Ditch Study. They are expecting to give a presentation on their finding at our July meeting. Garcia Consulting Engineers submitted claims totaling \$42,080.00 for various projects throughout the system. Finally, Christopher Burke Engineering was paid \$37,098.75 for work on the Griffith Levee Rehab and Interior Drainage Design. It is anticipated that this project will be bid out in July with an award in August.

Chairman Baker 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:

- The last round of USACE Inspections which include the Gary, Griffith and INDOT segments were completed last week. Initial findings from the USACE were some minor areas of rutting and erosion along the levee that will need to be addressed in the fall.
- It is anticipated that we will advertise for bids on the Griffith Levee project next month with an award in August or September.
- The monitoring wells have been place for the Calhoun Ditch Study. Additionally, we will have a contractor cut down weeds along the ditch.
- Our contractor, Gariup Construction continues to make progress on the Spring Park Project. We have regular update meetings to monitor the progress of the project.
- The next segment of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project was bid out by the Lake County Drainage Board. Work on the project should begin later this month.

- We continue to work with the USACE on acquisitions for the project. We have submitted some additional documentation and expect an update from the USACE later during the meeting.
- I met with the North Township Trustee regarding various projects we are completing that impact his property. We discussed the removal of a fence that separates the ditch and the walking trail around Wicker Park as it would be more convenient for maintenance purposes.
- Our summer crew is back to continue tackling our scanning project. They have completed the scanning of all minutes and agendas. Those should be available on our website soon. The next task will be to scan all the real estate acquisitions.
- We received an update from Lake County Parks regarding their work on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative with the Audubon Society and Wetlands Initiative. It is anticipate that we will have a presentation at our August meeting where they will show their findings and update us on their progress.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Ware made a motion to open proposals for floodwall joint sealant, replacement and repair in stages 7 and 8 and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney, engineer and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that it was noted during USACE inspections that several of the joints in stage 7 were failing so it was necessary to make these repairs. We received 4 bids, however one bid was late and rejected. The bid amounts were per 1,000 linear feet of joint repair. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0. The bids received were as follows: Dyer Construction - \$14.85/1,000LFT.; Gariup Construction - \$40.00/1,000LFT; and Grimmer Construction - \$52.00/1,000LFT.

USACE Real Estate Crediting Update –

Mike Rohde, Chief of Real Estate for the USACE Chicago District provided an update on the remaining real estate acquisitions. He stated that there were 68 outstanding real estate acquisitions for the project. Of these, 30 credit packages have been approved and 34 are pending. The USACE has completed the review on the properties the Commission acquired via tax sale and determined no additional information is needed. The tax sale property acquisitions should have final approval for credit by our next meeting. Additional information was requested regarding the Griffith Golf Center acquisition and is currently under review by the USACE. There are 4 remaining parcels that will need to be acquired to close out the project.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the Groundbreaking for the Spring Park Project was a great success. He thanked Commissioner Ware for attending the event. Additionally, Liz Johnson from Congressman Mrvan's office, Chuck Hughes and Mayor Prince were in attendance.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked those for making the effort to attend our meetings and he asked everyone to be safe during the current heatwave.

Commissioner Wichlinki thanked those for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Father's Day.

Commissioner Ware thanked those who continue to attend the meetings and asked everyone to keep safe during the summer.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted these are difficult times for the county and urged everyone to be careful.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, 2022.