

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
Location: Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, Merrillville, IN

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski presided and 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:

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

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
Luke Sherry – CBBEL
Bud Crist – Merrillville Stormwater
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi – Merrillville Stormwater
Matt Lake – Merrillville Stormwater
Bob Fulton – Hobart Sanitary District
Phil Gralik – City of Hobart

Commissioners Absent:

William Baker, Chairman
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 19, 2023, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman's Report -

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski thanked Merrillville Stormwater for hosting our May meeting. He stated that 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. He added that the Commission is tasked with the continued maintenance of a \$275 million man-made flood control project, and we are better prepared today than we were before the flood of 2008.

Finance –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the May 2023 claims in the amount of \$813,937.09. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims, starting with payment to Dyer Construction in the amount of \$146,433.77 for continued work on the Stage 7 Sealant Project. \$27,500.00 was paid to C&H Mowing for mowing the entire levee system. U.S. Geological Survey submitted a claim in the amount of \$25,110.00 for the quarterly operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the system. Hobart Sanitary District was reimbursed \$220,750.00 for engineering on the Stinky Creek Watershed Project. F.H. Paschen submitted a claim in the amount of \$198,182.25 for the purchase of a generator needed for the Cady Marsh Screen Raker. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in August. Wessler Engineering was paid \$15,000.00 for work on the Cady Marsh Ditch Watershed Study. Finally, HWC Engineering submitted claims totaling \$10,252.50 for design of bank stabilization at 3 sites and an access boat ramp along the Little Calumet River.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any further 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:

- We had an out brief with the USACE regarding the recent inspections that took place in Gary, Griffith and INDOT. Some of the items brought up, such as rutting and minor blockages/debris on the trash tracks, will be handled by local contractors. A missing flap gate on the INDOT segment will also need to be replaced.
- Annual USACE inspections for the Munster, Hammond and Highland segments are scheduled to begin June 5th.
- We received a draft memo on the Cady Marsh Ditch Watershed Study. This study looks at the impact of the diversion tunnel on Cady Marsh and other tributaries.
- Work on the Stage 7 Sealant Project has restarted. Since the temperature has been consistently above 50 degrees, the contractor was able to continue the work. We are hopeful the project can be completed before our annual USACE Inspections.
- The latest phase of the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Project is winding down. Debris and woody vegetation are being removed and ground cover is being installed. The next phase of the project is currently being permitted.
- The Hammond Pedestrian Bridge is scheduled to open before Memorial Day. A ribbon cutting or celebration will be scheduled by the City at a later date.

- We have four Watershed Project applications from various communities on the agenda for consideration at tonight's meeting. Additionally, we will hear presentations from the City of Hobart and Town of Merrillville.
- We continue to recondition our Pump Stations. Currently Pump #1 at the Burr North Pump Station is pulled for service. Pump #2 and the sump pump are still in operation at the station.
- Both the Kennedy Avenue Bridge and Clark Road Bridge have blockages in the water that need to be addressed. We will start with the Kennedy Avenue Bridge on Thursday. Both will require lane restrictions or closures to complete the work.
- Once again, we are having students scan all of our documents currently held in storage. Our goal is to complete all the scanning by the end of this year.

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 and Luke Sherry, Christopher B. Burke Engineering presenting:
[Hickory Ridge Flood Control Improvements](#) (Construction)
Funding Request: \$932,168.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/tclhQvQFFDA>
- City of Hobart – Phil Gralik, City Engineer, City of Hobart presenting:
[Stinky Creek Diversion Stormwater Project](#) (Construction)
Funding Request: \$9,980,000.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/1oRVqevr0-s>

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the Town of Dyer's 2-Stage Channel for Hart Ditch Watershed Application, for engineering only, in the amount of \$34,150.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Lake County Parks' Three Rivers County Park Watershed Application in the amount of \$184,000.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the Town of Schererville's Eagle Ridge Culvert Replacement Watershed Application in the amount of \$222,500.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve the City of Crown Point's 113th Avenue Culvert Replacement Watershed Application in the amount of \$357,000.00; pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an interlocal agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements to the Board –

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that she is very familiar with the Stinky Creek Project area and hopes that environmental care is taken with the project.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked the Town of Merrillville for hosting our meeting and commended the presenters for their informative presentations.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the Town of Merrillville for hosting our monthly meeting. He stated that the quality of the presentations has improved over the years and thanked the presenters for their effort. He further encouraged the public to stay involved by attending our meetings.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the communities for their presentations and thanked the Town of Merrillville for their offer to host our meeting.

Commissioner Gozdecki commended the communities for their watershed presentations. He also thanked the Town of Merrillville for hosting our monthly meeting.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, 2023.