

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023
Location: Indiana Welcome Center, Hammond, IN

Chairman Baker presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were nine (9) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

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

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Andy Hansen – Town of Schererville
Courtney Anderson – Ciorba Group
Luke Sherry – C. Burke Engineering

Commissioners Absent:

None

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from June 21, 2023, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker thanked South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority for hosting our meeting this evening. He noted that the last LCRBDC meeting held at this location was on November 8, 2008, approximately two months after the devastating flood of 2008. He further added that the yellowing pictures from the 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 stated that the Commission is tasked with the continued 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 in the process of addressing. Despite this, the project has been constructed to manage Mother Nature and at some time there will be an issue when

we get 10 gallons of water for our 5-gallon bucket – but we are better prepared today for that situation than we were before the flood of 2008. The Commission's work has resulted in over 1,000 parcels being removed from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts 4 million dollars back into the local economy, making this an economic development project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the July 2023 claims in the amount of \$231,698.54. Commissioner Whittaker 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 Wiltjer Excavating in the amount of \$77,060.00 for work removing blockages and cutting back trees along Hart Ditch. The contractor is currently working in the area between 45th Avenue and Fran-Lin Pkwy. \$27,500.00 was paid to C & H Mowing for mowing the entire levee system. This is the 3rd cutting of the season. Encap Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$14,400.00 on their contract for maintenance of the Chase Street and Black Oak Mitigation sites. The maintenance plan includes selective herbicide application and mowing to prevent the establishment of non-native invasive species. Wessler Engineering was paid \$3,300.00 for continued work on the Georgia Street Overtopping Study. Finally, \$6,240.00 was paid to DLZ Engineering in final payment on the Calhoun Drainage Geotechnical Exploration Study.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- The USACE closeout is fast approaching. The partnership has been in place since the 1980's. We have submitted all documentation for administrative crediting. There are currently 4 parcels under review, and we expect approval on those anytime.
- We are looking at various funding sources for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Currently we are exploring the State Ready Grant to see if that is an option for the project.
- Christopher Burke Engineering continues to work on their modeling. One area they are looking at is the confluence of Deep River and the Little Calumet River and whether straightening or increasing the size of the culvert at that location will allow for a better transition and cause less back flow for both rivers.
- Wessler Engineering continues to verify and ensure that the various structures placed by the USACE are effectively working. These structures include the Diverter, the Highland Rookery Overflow and the culverts under Martin Luther King Drive. They are also looking into solutions for the overtopping of Georgia Street during high rain events.
- Design is complete to help alleviate blockages on the south side of I-94 at the I-65 corridor. This culvert is responsible for draining Rosser Lake as well as the property south of I-94 and east of Martin Luther King Drive.

- We have engaged Superior Engineering to look at the Burr North, Grant East and Grant West Pump Stations in order to determine if the PLC's are working as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- We are still waiting for Pump One at the Burr North Pump Station to be put back into service, parts are on backorder, but should become available within the next few weeks.
- We will be seeking proposals for asphalt sealant and crack repairs on several segments of the levee. The areas include Chase Street to Harrison Avenue on the south side of the levee as well as Cline Avenue to Kennedy Avenue.
- There are three small parking lots at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Site that we need to pave in order to be compliant with Hobart Municipal standards.
- Work continues to scan all pertinent documents for the project. We are in the final stretch with respect to the number of boxes that need to be looked over and scanned.
- We have not received any communication or payment from Maya Energy regarding their outstanding license payment.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-08 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Schererville on the Eagle Ridge Culvert Replacement Watershed Project in the amount of \$222,500.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-09 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Park and Recreation Board for the Three Rivers County Park Watershed Project in the amount of \$184,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-10 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board and the Town of Dyer Stormwater Management Board for the 2-Stage Channel for Hart Ditch Watershed Project in the amount of \$34,150.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board and the City of Crown Point for the 113th Avenue Culvert Replacement Watershed Project in the amount of \$357,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to enter into an Agreement with United States Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District under Section 214 of the Water Resources

Development Act of 2000 for review of Regulatory and 408 Applications, Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement with the USACE will help expedite permits and INDOT and NIPSCO have also entered into similar agreements with the USACE. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to amend an Agreement with HWC Engineering for bank stabilization along the Little Calumet River adding 2 sites and additional geotechnical investigation in an amount not to exceed \$154,400.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that during annual USACE inspections, two additional areas were found that required bank stabilization. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the public for continuing to attend our meetings.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished everyone a happy summer and thanked the public for attending our meetings.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the public for attending our meetings.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the SSCVA for hosting our meeting. He also thanked the Audubon Society and the Wetlands Initiative for appearing on the WLTH Radio Show. Finally, he commented on the ribbon cutting for the Calumet Avenue Bridge and the value the bridge brings to the community.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the Board and staff for their work and flexibility in allowing him to engage with the Commission from far away.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 16, 2023.