

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
Location: Plum Creek Center, Dyer, IN

Chairman Baker 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:

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

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Jeff Huet – Town of Schererville
Courtney Anderson – Ciorba Group
Thomas Burke – C. Burke Engineering
Bryan Lane – Town of Dyer

Commissioners Absent:

Derek Nimetz
Robert Ochi

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from July 19, 2023, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker thanked the Town of Dyer for hosting our meeting at the Plum Creek Center this evening. He said 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 August 2023 claims in the amount of \$721,548.35. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Duperon Corporation in the amount of \$366,210.00 for the 2nd payment on the Cady Marsh Screen Raker. 10% retainage was held as a few components were on backorder. \$82,300.00 was paid to VVP Enterprises for work clearing Spring Ditch. The Hobart Sanitary District submitted a claim in the amount of \$60,000.00 for continued engineering on the Stinky Creek/Lateral 6 Diversion and Regional Stormwater Project. USGS submitted two claims totaling \$35,775.00 for quarterly operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the system. Finally, \$27,500.00 was paid to C&H Mowing for mowing the entire levee system.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any 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:

- Spring Ditch was cleared from just south of Main Street to the confluence of Cady Marsh Ditch in Highland. Our contractor received comments that the ditch has not been cleared in about 30 years. Next, we plan to partner with the County to clear Cady Marsh Ditch from Hart Ditch to Cline Avenue.
- Work continues to clear leaning and dead trees from Hart Ditch. A late July rain and wind event also caused several trees to blow over into the ditch that had to be removed. The last phase of the work will start at the confluence of Cady Marsh Ditch and go north until the Little Calumet River at Wicker Park.
- The Sauerman Woods Project has been slowed by the recent rains. The contractor is in the final steps of excavating the detention pond and the pond needs to be pumped out after every large rain event. The infrastructure is on site and waiting to be placed for the project to be completed.
- The parts for Pump One at the Burr North Pump Station are enroute so we can get the station fully operational. During a storm on July 26th, the Burr North Pump Station's SCADA system was knocked out, however the pumps were still working. Additionally, we are having the back-up generator inspected to make sure it is functioning properly.
- Superior Engineering is doing an analysis of the Burr North, Grant West and Grant East Pump Stations. They will be giving us recommendations of upgrades needed at the stations.
- Wolverine Pipeline contacted me regarding several anomalies that were discovered in their pipes that run adjacent and through the levees. Wolverine and I are working on a long-term fix regarding access and repair of the pipes they have within the project limits.

- The final outbrief for this year's USACE Inspections will be held this week. Once this is complete, all the year's inspections will be available for review on our website. There were no significant deficiencies in this year's inspections.
- We are looking into several funding sources for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Currently we are exploring the State READI Grant to see if that is an option for the project. The application is out soon and awarded in March of 2024.
- Our scanning project is winding down as our summer help is going back to school. At the end of July, we were able to get rid of our storage unit and all project files are in our office or have been scanned. Over the fall and winter, we plan to work on getting the pertinent documents up on our website.
- The Commission puts together a spreadsheet to show the money spent on projects in each Community. The dollar amounts do not include maintenance such as grass cutting, but rather substantial investments in each Community. This information is updated quarterly.

Chairman Baker asked for an update as to when the banners on the Calumet Avenue Pedestrian Bridge will be installed.

Chairman Baker also asked for an update on the asphalt sealcoating for the levee. Mr. Repay stated that we will be doing the RFP in-house and there are three areas to be addressed: Northcote Ave. to Indianapolis Blvd. in Hammond, Kennedy Ave. to Cline Ave. in Highland and Chase Street to Harrison Street in Gary.

Update from the USACE –

Paula Kohl, Realty Specialist, USACE Detroit District, presented an update. Ms. Kohl stated that her update covered only Real Estate and LERD Crediting. She stated that the USACE is finalizing the four remaining credit approvals, and she expects the final credit memo to be issued by the end of August. She is also working on final accounting and reconciliation of all the LERD credit packages for accuracy. She added that the final accounting is moving faster than anticipated and expects completion by the end of September or early October.

Commissioner Broadnax asked Ms. Kohl if she had been working on the project the entire time. She stated that she previously worked on the project prior to being deployed overseas but is currently up to speed on the project. She also stated that she does not anticipate any hiccups.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked what information is being audited? Ms. Kohl stated that she is reconciling everything to make sure that Resource Management has all the numbers that they need to submit for the credit package.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the Town of Merrillville's Hickory Ridge Flood Control Improvements Watershed Project in an amount not to exceed \$932,168.00 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is less, pending review by Executive Director, Chairman and Legal, and final execution of an Interlocal Agreement; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve a Joint-Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for the for the operation and maintenance of multiple streamgages throughout the watershed during the period October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The combined agreement amount is \$131,789.00, with the LCRBDC contributing \$116,424.00 and USGS contributing \$15,365.00; pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated the gage information can be accessed from our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve a Resolution Electing to Join or Enlarge the Public Employee's Retirement Fund as administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System. Subject to final draft and approval by Attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay stated that this Resolution is required by the state to join PERF. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements to the Board –

Bryan Lane, Storm Water Director for the Town of Dyer thanked the Commission for their participation in the 2-Stage Ditch Project. He added that the Town is looking to extend the 2-Stage Ditch in the future. He announced that the Town won an award on the project at the annual MS-4 meeting and presented the Commission and the other partners in the project with the award.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked the Town of Dyer for hosting our meeting.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the Town of Dyer for hosting our meeting and the USACE for participating in the meeting and answering questions.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked the USACE for attending the meeting and answering questions.

Commissioner Wichlinski stated that it was nice to hear an update from the USACE.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the Town of Dyer for hosting our meeting. He added that the City of Hammond Mayor McDermott was recently a guest on the Commission's WLTH AM 1370 radio show and discussed the new pedestrian bridge over Calumet Avenue and opportunities for similar bridges throughout the area.

Mr. Repay mentioned the passing of Highland's Fire Chief Bill Timmer. He stated that Chief Timmer was very involved with the Commission, in fact he started the monthly O&M meetings in 2010 that continue to this day. He will be missed.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 20, 2023.