

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024
Location: LCRBDC OFFICE, Munster, IN

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

Commissioners Present:

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

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
Linda Cook – Griffith
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Bill Hasse – Hasse Construction
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Luke Sherry - CBBEL
Mike Kummeth – DLZ
Tony Kenning - DLZ

Commissioners Absent:

Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from October 16, 2024, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to our November meeting, the inaugural meeting in our new office. He stated that this new location not only serves as a home for our public meetings, O&M meetings and Advisory Board meetings, but it will also be command central should there ever be an event that requires it. He continued with the reason we are here and that is with the continued maintenance of a \$275 million man-made federal flood control project. He added that the yellowing pictures that are shown at every meeting are a true reminder of why we are here and an example of what happens when you don't maintain a system that was designed to control mother nature. If we get 10 gallons of water for our 5-gallon bucket, we are going to have some issues. But we are far better prepared today than we were before the flood of 2008. He added that this is a true economic development project by getting the levee

completed and having it certified every year. There are at least 4,000 properties that no longer have to pay mandatory flood insurance. This saves about \$4 million dollars every year that goes back into the community. We have a continued collaboration with all the communities within the watershed in an effort to make sure the events of 2008 are something only history knows about.

(Commissioner Castellanos arrived)

Other Issues/New Business - Item (8a) -

In an effort to save time, Chairman Baker requested that Agenda item 8a) be moved up to this slot on the agenda as there are a lot of bids to be opened.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to open bids for the CCTV Inspection of Pipes Penetrating the Levee in the Gary North, Gary South and INDOT Segments of the project and award each segment individually to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by engineer, attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that we have five different companies that submitted bids on the three segments. We are required by the USACE to conduct this inspection every five years. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Bids were opened and read aloud at the meeting:

Gary North Segment

Taplin Group, LLC	\$639,137.78
National Power Rodding	\$2,194,100.00
Hasse Construction Co.	\$332,203.00
Grimmer Construction Co.	\$192,283.00
Gariup Construction Co.	\$292,725.00

Gary South Segment

Taplin Group, LLC	\$419,676.15
National Power Rodding	\$1,211,302.00
Hasse Construction Co.	\$178,478.00
Grimmer Construction Co.	\$118,597.00
Gariup Construction Co.	\$197,500.00

INDOT Segment

Taplin Group, LLC	\$1,196,466.38
National Power Rodding	\$3,988,500.00
Hasse Construction Co.	\$327,485.00
Grimmer Construction Co.	\$386,601.00
Gariup Construction Co.	\$898,500.00

Finance -

Chairman Baker referred to the November 2024 claims in the amount of \$1,156,620.21. 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 a claim in the amount of \$235,280.47 from the City of Crown Point on the Sauerman Woods Drainage Improvements Project. The only amount remaining is the retention that we are holding back, but all the storm sewer and detention work is complete. There are two claims from the Lake County Parks for watershed projects. The first is in the amount of \$28,964.00 for the Three Rivers Project which is located just opposite the Rock Riffle. As a part of this project, we will assist in paving some of the roads and pathways in that area. The second claim in the amount of \$21,200.26 is for continued work on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative. We recently approved a third year of funding for this project. There are four separate claims from Site Services for parking lot paving in Hobart as well as trails in Hammond, Highland and Gary totaling \$334,015.25. These projects are complete with just retainage remaining to be released. Wiltjer Excavating was paid \$110,500.00 for clearing blockages in Hart Ditch from Twin Creeks to Main Street. Finally, \$29,10.00 was paid to U.S. Geological Survey for quarterly maintenance and operation of stream gages throughout the system.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

(Commissioner Ochi arrived)

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We are opening bids this evening for CCTV Inspection of Culverts in the Gary North, Gary South and INDOT Segments of the levee. We received sealed bids from five different companies. We are required by the USACE to have these culverts inspected every five years.
- We are finishing phase four of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project which is from Fran-Lin Pkwy to Main Street. The final component for this phase will be tree planting. The trees are currently on backorder, so they will be planted in the spring.
- The permit for the next phase of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project is in the works. This next segment will run from Fran-Lin Pkwy to Independence Park. We are estimating the cost of this segment at \$1.5 million dollars. The next phases will be more challenging as very little stabilization work has been done in the past and the banks are in worse shape.
- In addition to the Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization, we are doing some minor stabilization in Gary, Hammond and Highland as part of a 408 permit. The Gary stabilization work is between Grant and Chase Streets. The work in Highland is near the Sharp Athletic Complex and the Hammond area is off of Northcote. These areas were brought to our attention during USACE Inspections.
- Wiltjer Excavating completed some clearing along Hart Ditch including removing trees that have fallen into the ditch as well as debris such as tires.
- One of the 408 permits pending with the USACE is for sluice gate improvements in Highland. This particular gate is underground and requires someone to climb

down the well into a confined space. The plan is to bring the sluice gate to grade and above, which will be much safer.

- We continue to work on the PLC upgrades at several pump stations with our contractor Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance.
- We continue to deal with hunters along the levee moving boulders and causing damage. There are several areas that will need to be filled and seeded this spring.
- Work on the Levee Sealcoating Project has been completed for the Hammond, Highland, Gary South and Burr Street Segments. The next segment to be addressed is Gary North, which should be completed within the next two years.
- The parking lots at the Hobart Mitigation Site have been completed. We will add some fencing to the area next year.
- The security cameras at the Natural Spring have been installed and we are able to monitor the area in real-time.

Commissioner Castellanos asked if we have had any theft issues recently. Mr. Repay stated that the security cameras we have throughout the system have been very helpful. We have over 20 different cameras that we can view in real time and have record of who goes in and out of certain areas such as our pump stations.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked for status on the Sauerman Woods project. Mr. Repay stated that everything related to stormwater is complete. The City of Crown Point will be handling the recreational component of the project.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve an agreement with DLZ Indiana, LLC for engineering services to update plans and other required construction documents and permits for the replacement of the existing Kennedy Avenue Bridge over the Little Calumet River in an amount not to exceed \$567,910.00 pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that it has been almost eight years since we last designed the Kennedy Avenue Bridge and since then, USACE and IDOT standards have changed. He added that Kennedy Avenue is the lowest spot in the system, and we spend a lot of time, energy and money to unblock the current bridge. Mr. Repay further stated that the new bridge would not have to be closed during high water events. 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 thanked Dan and Jodi giving us a new space for meetings and all the new technology so the public can see the work we are doing. He looks forward to a great 2025.

Commissioner Ochi thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the public for attending our meeting and hopes everyone enjoys the new space and fully appreciates all aspects of it.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked Dan and Jodi for all the work put into the move and is appreciative that we will not have to worry about using other people's spaces any longer.

Commissioner Whittaker requested that we still have meetings on the road so we can share our visibility with participants in the community. He also added that in light of some discrepancies with bid openings that we had recently, it may be a good idea to have a board member review the information to make sure we are all on the same page.

Commissioner Ware thanked everyone for their attendance this evening and thanked all those involved with the planning and building of the new offices and meeting space. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2024.