

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

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski 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:

Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Dave Castellanos
Ron Ware
Robert Ochi

Commissioners Absent:

William Baker, Chairman
Anthony Broadnax
Derek Nimetz

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborsky – Gary
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Jacob Ballah – BF&S
Michael Novotney – Wessler Engineering
Vicki Williams - Munster
Chad Nondorf – Town of Schererville
Andrew Hansen – Town of Schererville
A.J. Fricke – CBBEL (via Zoom)
Thomas Burke – CBBEL (via Zoom)
Sivash Beik – CBBEL (via Zoom)

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the minutes from February 21, 2024, as presented and modify the current agenda, changing item 9c to reject instead of approve; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Chairman's Report –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski welcomed all to the meeting. He added that Chairman Baker couldn't be here this evening. He stated that the Commission has a lot happening in the field and as you can see from tonight's agenda, numerous projects are coming up.

Finance –

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski referred to the March 2024 claims in the amount of \$1,005,497.81. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims, starting with several payments to Austgen Equipment for the Hart Ditch Bank

Stabilization Project, Phases 1&2 totaling \$421,580.45. The Lake County Surveyor's Office was in the middle of a move when these claims were submitted to them and unfortunately, they were misplaced in the shuffle. These payments will close-out Phases 1&2, including retainage. \$88,717.54 was paid to the Lake County Parks on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Watershed Project. They will give an update presentation at our May meeting. The Hobart Sanitary District submitted a claim in the amount of \$29,000.00 for continued engineering work on the Stinky Creek Lateral 6 Diversion and Regional Stormwater Watershed Project. Hasse Construction submitted two claims. The first was in the amount of \$29,467.29 for a flap gate repair. The second claim is in the amount of \$90,733.39 for repairs to the 24" pipe that runs under I-80/94. This pipe drains parts of Gary, Lake Station and Rosser Lake. Superior Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$62,000.00 on the Pump Station Upgrades Project. \$32,218.29 was paid to Krooswyk Trucking & Excavating for boulder delivery and installation in Lake Station near the Rock Riffle and in Gary in the Marshalltown area to try and prevent 4 wheelers from riding on the levee.

Commissioner Gozdecki questioned the Superior Engineering invoice noting that it states, "Upon Electric Panel Order Placement". He asked if we have received a purchase order or proof of the panel order. Mr. Repay stated that we do not have any documentation reflecting the order of the panel, but he would follow up with Superior Engineering. Commissioner Gozdecki stated that he was uncomfortable approving the \$62,000.00 claim at this time without additional information.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to amend his original motion and approve the claims in the amount of \$943,497.81, eliminating the \$62,000.00 claim from Superior Engineering; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any further questions on the claims and called for a roll-call vote on the claims as amended. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- We have set the date of June 24th for the official close-out ceremony. Details are being discussed with the USACE.
- The 408 Expedited Review Memorandum has been signed by the Colonel and the payment is on the claim list for this evening.
- USACE Annual Inspections for the East Reach will begin on April 8th and last the entire week. The East Reach includes Gary, Griffith and INDOT.
- A meeting regarding the Pump Station upgrades was held with Superior Engineering. We discussed final engineering issues and the SCADA system. Our contractor, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance, was also present at the meeting.
- The Pump Stations in Gary will have all sediment and trash racks cleaned prior to the USACE Inspections.
- Plans for the Sandbar Modification Project have been reviewed by the USACE. Garcia Engineering is implementing some changes based on the comments received from various departments within the USACE.

- We have submitted our applications to the Northwest Indiana Forum for consideration of our READI2 grant. It is anticipated that we will find out if our application is successful in May.
- I met with INDOT officials from LaPorte and Indianapolis regarding the takeover of the Indianapolis Blvd. and Kennedy Avenue Pump Stations. It appears there is a path forward to take over the Indianapolis Blvd. Station because of an existing agreement with the Town of Highland.
- The Deep River modeling is almost complete. The current plan is to have Christopher B. Burke Engineering present their findings at our May meeting. As communities have come to us with their Watershed Projects, I have forwarded the plans to Burke to input into the model.
- The Hart Ditch Bank Stabilization Interlocal Agreement has been signed by all parties and recorded. Lake County is making final arrangements to utilize Munster Park Department property for staging and access to the ditch.
- Clearing of Cady Marsh Ditch has begun. It is likely that we will put a second contractor on the job to speed up the clearing.
- NIPSCO was able to move the pole that was causing traffic issues on Arbogast for the Cady Marsh Screen Raker Project. The project is still not complete, it is anticipated that it will be finished in time for USACE Inspections.
- Because we were having so much trouble with people and vehicles trespassing on our Marshalltown Levee and Lake Station Dam, we contracted Krooswyk Landscaping to place large boulders in some of the areas we observed tracks. While the action seems to have worked in Lake Station, we are still experiencing ATV's causing significant damage on the Marshalltown Levee. We have shared the videos and have had communication with both DNR and the Gary Police Department. As the warmer weather approaches, we are likely to have even more activity. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked how the ATV activity would impact our USACE Inspections. Mr. Repay stated it is unlikely that repairs could be made prior to the inspections. The USACE would cite us and then give us time to repair the rutting.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked why the repairs to the levee could not be completed before the inspections begin in a few weeks. Mr. Repay replied that the rutting is severe, and the repairs could potentially reach six figures.

Vice-Chairman Wichlinski requested the areas that are included in the next phase of the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. Mr. Repay noted the area runs from approximately 45th Avenue to Fran-Lin Parkway.

Presentations –

The following Watershed Applications were presented at the meeting. The links to the video presentations are included below:

- Lake County Drainage Board – Jacob Ballah, Butler, Fairman & Seufert presenting:
[Turkey Creek, Ditch Lateral 1 Drainage Study](#) (Engineering)
Funding Request: \$131,280.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/NFZgsNdlkEM?si=vpF10WsgRzKHwKPW>

- Town of Griffith – Jacob Ballah, Butler, Fairman & Seufert presenting:
[Wood Street Stormwater Lift Station Improvements](#) (Engineering)
Revised Funding Request: \$825,000.00
Video: <https://youtu.be/6p8RY1DnOOE?si=M3Yiva0KkMAAeV7v>
- Town of Griffith – Jacob Ballan, Butler, Fairman & Seufert presenting:
[Wood Street Storm Sewer Improvement Project](#) (Construction)
Revised Funding Request: \$690,000.00
Video: https://youtu.be/TdTPep7fFDM?si=xAsR8iH_rGJKr4T3

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Merrillville for the Grand Boulevard Drainage Improvements Watershed Project in an amount not to exceed \$345,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that Merrillville made their presentation at our last meeting, and they are asking for a 50/50 match on this Project. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Schererville for the Grand Canyon Watershed Project in an amount not to exceed \$64,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Town presented their Project at our February meeting and has already done some of the work themselves and this is the second part of the Project. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to reject the Watershed Application from the Town of Dyer for the Highpoint Prairie Detention Basin Restoration Watershed Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05 and an Interlocal Agreement with Lake County Parks for the Spurlock Acquisition Watershed Project in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00. Subject to final draft and approval by attorney, Executive Director and Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that this property is adjacent to land we helped Lake County Parks acquire last year. Lake County Parks also received funding through various grants. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve an agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering for the Independent Levee System Evaluation Project including surveying, hydraulic analysis, and freeboard evaluation for the entire levee system from the Indiana-Illinois state line to Interstate 65 and geotechnical evaluation for the East Reach only in an amount not to exceed \$835,000.00, pending legal review; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the surveying is to ensure that the levee, built by the USACE, is at the levels it should be, including any settling and this will encompass the entire system. The geotechnical analysis will include the East Reach only at this time. Vice-Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked the Community presenters for their informative presentations on potential Watershed Applications and thanked the public for continuing to attend our monthly meetings.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the public for attending our meetings both in person and on Zoom, adding that we have a full house tonight. He also noted that we have USACE annual inspections coming up very quickly and hopes we can find a resolution to the issues with the 4 wheelers in Marshalltown.

Commissioner Castellanos commended the communities for their excellent Watershed Presentations and said the Commission looks forward to working with them. He added that he hopes the communities will include participation by minority contractors in their projects. He reminded all that the Commission has two radio shows, on WLTH AM 1370 which airs the 2nd Monday of the month and on WJOB AM 1230 that airs on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the public for attending our meeting and the presenters for their quality and informative Watershed Presentations.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, 2024.