

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025**  
**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 eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners Present:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
David Castellanos  
Robert Ochi  
Ron Ware  
Anthony Broadnax

**Visitors:**

Gary Lee – Gary  
Dave Taborski - Gary  
Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Craig Zandstra – Lake County Parks  
Victoria Wittig – Audubon Great Lakes  
Michael Novotney – Wessler Engineering

**Commissioners Absent:**

None

**Zoom Participants:**

Peter Goodspeed  
Luke Haan – Wetlands Initiative  
Luke Kessler – American Structurepoint  
Siavesh Beik - CBBEL

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Nicole Bennett

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Statements to the Board –**

No Statements to the Board.

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2025 and December 3, 2025, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2025, adding that this is another year around the sun since September 2008, which changed the dynamic of this board and the community as a whole. This group is responsible for making sure something like September 2008 doesn't happen again. But it is managing Mother Nature, and at some point, we're going to get 10 gallons of water for our 5-gallon bucket, and we're going to have some issues. However, we are far better prepared within the watershed to make sure that there are resources available should we see an event like 2008 again. Further stating, it continues to amaze me as we move forward and get more involved in how much impact

we have by just doing the things that we're supposed to do, and how it improves the community as a whole, including economic development and not having to pay mandatory flood insurance as part of your mortgage. That, in and of itself, puts millions of dollars in the community every year. The board and everyone who contributed to these improvements have reason to be proud of their efforts. Looking ahead to 2026, their goal remains to keep the events of September 2008 as a distant memory, although one we never forget.

**Finance** –

Chairman Baker addressed the December 2025 claims totaling \$467,110.02. Commissioner Ware moved to approve the claims as presented, and Commissioner Broadnax seconded the motion.

Mr. Repay provided an explanation of several claims, starting with payment to American Structurepoint in the amount of \$30,030.00 for continued work on our Comprehensive Watershed Study. Structurepoint gave a presentation on the study at our November meeting. Once the final version is complete, it will be posted to our website. Wiltjer Excavating submitted a claim totaling \$47,000.00 for work clearing blockages and beaver dams from Clark Road to Central Avenue. Stantec Consulting Services submitted a claim in the amount of \$36,084.00 for mitigation work at the Chase Street Mitigation site. Finally, Lake County Parks was reimbursed \$42,565.01 as part of the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative. A funding request from the Collaborative is on the agenda for later this evening.

Commissioner Broadnax asked for further information on a few claims, starting with the \$3,500.00 claim from Spaceco Civil Engineering & Surveying. Mr. Repay stated that Spaceco recently conducted a drone survey of the system. The survey will assist in monitoring some of the more remote areas of the system. Commissioner Broadnax also inquired about the work done by Butler, Fairman and Seufert (BF&S). Mr. Repay advised that since USACE was unable to do inspections for the entire system, BF&S completed annual Pump Station Inspections for the west reach.

Commissioner Gozdecki questioned why Garcia LE & Associates delayed submitting invoices for the Kennedy Sandbar Remediation Project. Mr. Repay advised that he had discussions with Mr. Garcia regarding the outstanding invoices for this project, adding the engineer did not want to submit the invoices until the permit was approved. He was advised to submit the deferred invoices for the work completed to date.

Chairman Baker asked for clarification on the invoice from Stantec for the in-project mitigation site. Mr. Repay stated that the contract with Stantec is for one year. It is proposed that the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative take over the maintenance of the in-project mitigation for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Gozdecki requested staff check with municipalities that have outstanding watershed projects to verify the projects are still ongoing as there are several that have no billing against them. Mr. Repay advised that some municipalities wait until the end of the project before submitting for reimbursement from us but further added that we will contact those communities and get status on the projects.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions or comments and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

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

- We received our INDOT permit to clear the ditches along I-94 from Burr Street to I-65.
- Our engineer is finishing up the modeling of the Little Calumet River. We will be able to input scenarios, like the 2008 event, into the model. A presentation will be given at a Commission meeting in early 2026.
- We will request to advertise for bids on the US 41 Stormwater Lift Station Improvements Project later in the meeting. This project will improve drainage in and around the Wicker Park area. It will also allow us to decommission two other gates in the area and improve the efficiency of the pump station that we took over from INDOT.
- Last week we cleared several blockages at the Kennedy Avenue and Indianapolis Blvd bridges.
- Over the winter months, we plan to continue clearing blockages throughout the system. There are a few beaver dams between Grant and Georgia, as well as an issue off of the Pump Station at 27<sup>th</sup> and Chase.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Ware made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to open bids on the Rock Riffle Trail Extension Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this trail will extend to Liverpool Road on the south side while connecting to Lake Station's existing trail on the north. There will be some grading and security features added to this trail improvement. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions or discussion and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

The following bids were opened and taken under advisement:

Dyer Construction	\$670,000.00
Rieth-Riley Construction	\$701,800.00
Grimmer Construction	\$648,700.00
Gariup Construction	\$682,500.00

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the US 41 Stormwater Lift Station Improvements Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Mr. Repay stated that as discussed earlier, this is a Pump Station built by INDOT and will play a pivotal role in draining the Wicker Park area. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions or discussion and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve a funding request for the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative in the amount of \$490,000.00. Subject to final draft and approval by Executive Director, Chairman and Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that this request covers funding for restoration at three existing sites, taking over maintenance of the Black Oak Mitigation site, and funding of

a field crew. Craig Zandstra, Lake County Parks and Victoria Wittig, Audubon Great Lakes, provided additional background on their funding request, which was revised from their previously requested amount of \$643,771.00. Further discussion was held regarding the partners within the collaborative which include Lake County Parks, the Wetlands Initiative, the Audubon Society and the Nature Conservancy. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions or discussion and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-19 Adopting and Establishing a Part-Time Employment Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that at our last SBOA Audit, it was noted that we do not have a Part-Time Employment Policy. We are using part-time employees to scan and upload various documents and historical records that will ultimately be available on our website. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions or discussion and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to defer action on Resolution 2025-20 Updating the Salary Per Diem and Travel Reimbursement Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that we would like to have by-laws in place prior to approving a Per Diem and Travel Policy. The Commission's previous by-laws were rescinded in 2010. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions or discussion and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Baker, Wichlinski, Gozdecki, Whittaker, Broadnax, Castellanos, Ware and Ochi vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Repay advised the Board of clarification to a vote taken at our December 3, 2025, Special Meeting. At the meeting, a vote (four in favor and three against) was taken on Resolution 2025-16 and Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Schererville for the SCADA to Three Stormwater Facilities Watershed Application in the amount of \$70,099.50, and the motion failed. After further discussion with our Attorney, it was determined that the Commission does not require a quorum to take official action, but rather a majority of the members present. As seven members were present, the motion did in fact prevail. The Town of Schererville was notified of this action.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

*Appointing Authority Disclosure:*

William Baker, Chairman, Appointed by: Governor, Term of Appointment: 10/01/2008 to 12/31/2021  
Thomas Wichlinski, Vice Chairman, Appointed by: Governor, Term of Appointment: 08/01/2009 to 12/31/2021  
Thomas Gozdecki, III, Treasurer, Appointed by: Governor, Term of Appointment: 08/30/2012 to 12/31/2021  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary, Appointed by: Governor/City of Gary, Term of Appointment: 06/30/2014 to 06/30/2018  
Anthony Broadnax, Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor, Term of Appointment: 04/01/2010 to 12/31/2021  
David Castellanos, Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor/ Lake County Commissioners, Term of Appointment: 06/30/2014 to 06/30/2018  
Ronald Ware, Jr., Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor/Lake County Commissioners, Term of Appointment: 12/01/2017 to 12/31/2021  
Robert Ochi, Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor/City of Hammond, Term of Appointment: 10/01/2019 to 09/30/2023