

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 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 six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners Present:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Dave Castellanos  
Ron Ware  
Anthony Broadnax

**Commissioners Absent:**

Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Robert Ochi

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Nicole Bennett

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Gary Lee – Gary  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
Thomas Burke – CBBEL  
Bryan Lane – Town of Dyer  
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC  
Bryan Hood – American Structurepoint  
Tim Hollandsworth – VS Engineering  
John Kennedy – American Structurepoint  
Eric Wolverton – American Structurepoint  
Adrian Vera – City of Lake Station  
Mayor Bill Carroll – City of Lake Station

**Zoom Participants:**

A.J. Fricke - CBBEL  
Jeff Huet – Town of Schererville  
Kristi Johnson - DNR

**Statements to the Board –**

No Statements to the Board

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from March 19, 2025, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that the Commission is responsible for maintaining a \$275 million man-made federal flood control project. He noted that the historical pictures shown at every meeting serve as a reminder of the importance of maintaining this system to manage natural events. Chairman Baker mentioned that although there are challenges, the preparations today are significantly better than before the 2008 flood. He emphasized the importance of remembering this history while addressing new issues. The Chairman highlighted the ongoing collaboration with communities within the watershed to prevent a recurrence

of the 2008 events. Additionally, he pointed out the economic benefits of completing and certifying the levee annually, which eliminates mandatory flood insurance for at least 4,000 properties, saving about \$4 million per year for the community.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker addressed the April 2025 claims totaling \$922,964.01. Commissioner Ware moved to approve the claims as presented, and Commissioner Wichlinski seconded the motion.

Mr. Repay provided an explanation of several claims, starting with payment to Hasse Construction in the amount of \$65,297.65 for continued work on the 80/94 Culvert Clearing Project. This project involves the cleaning and inspection of the four culverts underneath the expressway. Grimmer Construction is cleaning and inspecting culverts in the Gary North and Gary South segments and submitted claims in the amounts of \$129,034.70 and \$180,131.40 for these projects. Claims totaling \$48,170.00 were submitted by Superior Engineering for work on upgrading PLC's at several Pump Stations. Lake County Parks was reimbursed \$45,191.35 for continued work on the Little Calumet Conservation Collaborative Project. Wiltjer Excavating completed tree removal necessary for the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project and was paid \$180,145.00.

Commissioner Ware asked for further information on the trees removed for the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. Mr. Repay stated that the trees were removed for the next phase of the project, which extends from approximately Fran Lin Parkway to Independence Park. Due to permit restrictions, the trees needed to be taken down prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

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

- USACE inspections for the Griffith, Burr Street, Gary North, Gary South and Marshalltown segments were completed last week. There were a few minor mechanical issues with a gate that need to be addressed, but there were no critical issues discovered during the inspections.
- We cleared a blockage at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. We typically conduct a clearing at the bridge during the spring to clear the area of trees that have fallen over the winter. We still need to clear near the railroad tracks, but this area requires more coordination because of the various pipelines that run through the area.
- INDOT has given us permission to clean out the ditches on the land side along the expressway. We are in the process of obtaining permits for this project.
- We are still waiting for a 408 permit on the Kennedy Avenue Sandbar Modification Project. Responses have been submitted to the USACE's latest questions on the Sluice Gate Modification project, and it is anticipated that a

408 permit will be issued soon. We also anticipate receiving our permit for the Bank Stabilization/Boat Ramp project very soon.

- We have two Watershed Applications presentations this evening as well as several applications that were heard last month and are up for vote later in the meeting.

**Presentations –**

The following Watershed Applications were presented at the meeting. The link to the video presentation is included below:

- Town of Merrillville – Tim Hollandsworth, VS Engineering presenting:  
Hendricks Street Drainage Improvement Project (Construction)  
Funding Request: \$212,120.50 (50%)  
Video: <https://youtu.be/KeTJIB0OsSE?si=mytdoFO4jOYTBrys>
- City of Lake Station – Bryan Hood, American Structurepoint presenting:  
Central Avenue Storm Water Improvements (Construction)  
Funding Request: \$2,520,000 (80%)  
Video: <https://youtu.be/eEKkfaw3CTg?si=ThG7zesnIVsEYdG>

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01 and an interlocal agreement with the Town of Merrillville for their Stormwater Master Plan Update Application in the amount of \$39,265.00 or 50% of the total cost whichever is less; subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that Merrillville last updated their stormwater plan ten years ago. Further discussion was held regarding stormwater plans for other municipalities within the watershed. It was requested that staff compile a list of municipal stormwater plans and when they were last completed. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board for their Turkey Creek Maintenance – Phase 1 Application in an amount not to exceed \$444,000.00 or 60% of the awarded amount whichever is less; subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that the Drainage Board divided the Turkey Creek project into three segments. This is Phase 1 which is just to the east of I-65 and runs to almost Broadway Avenue. Thomas Burke of Christopher Burke Engineering spoke to the Commission and provided additional clarification on the project area and the scope of the work. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-03 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Dyer for their Storm Water Improvements at Sandy Ridge Park Application in an amount not to exceed \$240,408.30 or 60% of the

total cost whichever is less; subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that the road that leads into the Sandy Ridge subdivision has about a foot and a half of water on it after a hundred-year rain. Afterward, the road will be traversable with just a few inches of water. Thomas Burke of Christopher Burke Engineering also provided additional information regarding the project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04 and an Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board for their Schererville Ditch Streambank Maintenance Application in the amount of \$528,250.61 or 60% of the total cost whichever is less; subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this project will stabilize the rapidly eroding streambanks. There are also multiple pipelines in the area. Thomas Burke of Christopher Burke Engineering spoke to the Commission and provided additional clarification on the project area and the scope of the work. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0. (Commissioner Broadnax abstained).

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 and an Interlocal Agreement between LCRBDC, Town of Highland, and the North Township Trustee's office with respect to maintenance of the Pump Station located on US 41 in Highland. This agreement is subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman, and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that in 2012 INDOT built a pump station on US 41 and gave the rights to maintain the station to the Town of Highland and North Township. The Commission would like to make improvements to the pump station and this agreement allows us to make the necessary changes. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve an amendment to the Christopher B. Burke Engineering East Reach Levee System Geotechnical and Structural Evaluations Agreement for an amount not to exceed \$165,000, pending legal review. Motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this is part of the geotechnical analysis that we are doing to not only make sure the levee was built correctly, but also for the benefit of the City of Gary and their LOMR application. After discussion with the USACE, it was determined that additional consultations and permitting will be required, thus resulting in a revised scope of services. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve an Agreement for East Reach Levee System Field Drilling Observation with Advanced Engineering Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$54,000. This agreement is subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman, and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this agreement is in conjunction with the geotechnical evaluations that were discussed in the previous motion. This will cover the cost of a professional field engineer to monitor the drilling. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06 and an interlocal agreement between LCRBDC, City of Hammond, and South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority for the design of the boardwalk on Optimist Lake. This agreement is subject to review by our Attorney, Chairman, and Executive Director. Motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that at our March meeting, we approved an agreement with HWC Engineering for the design of the boardwalk. This agreement memorializes how the City of Hammond and the South Shore Visitors and Convention Authority will contribute to the project. Chairman Baker 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 American Structurepoint, Inc. for our Watershed Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$148,000.00 pending legal review. Motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission last did a Watershed Plan in 2020. This new Watershed Master Plan should be completed in six months and every municipality within the watershed is expected to contribute. The Watershed plan will be an important tool for communities to use when they present applications to the Commission. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2025.