MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026
Location: LCRBDC OFFICE, Munster, IN

Chairman Wichlinski 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.

Commissioners Present:
Tom Wichlinski, Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Ron Ware
Dave Castellanos
Jenny Orsburn
Katie Fesko

Commissioners Absent:
Robert Ochi, Vice-Chairman
Anthony Broadnax

Executive Director:
Dan Repay

Attorney:
Nicole Bennett

Staff:
Jodi Lambert

Visitors:
Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
Michael Novotney – Wessler Engineering
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Mark Hopper – Dunnet Bay Construction
Laurie Czulno - Hammond

Zoom Participants:
Justin Sherman – American Structurepoint
Jeff Huet – Town of Schererville
Siavash Beik - CBBEL
Joe Exl – DNR

Amend Agenda
Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to modify the agenda to add two items: (1) Resolution 2026-17 and an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hammond regarding the transfer of certain real property within the Little Calumet River corridor and (2) a motion to enter an agreement for emergency motion woody vegetation removal throughout the watershed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Wichlinski, Whittaker, Gozdecki, Castellanos, Ware, Orsburn and Fesko vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements to the Board –
No statements to the board.

Approval of Minutes -
Commissioner Orsburn made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2026, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fesko. Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Wichlinski, Whittaker, Gozdecki, Castellanos, Ware, Orsburn and Fesko vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Wichlinski stated that we have had a lot of severe storm activity in the past few weeks. He thanked the Executive Director and partners in the field for all their assistance as we work through the damage.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is delayed due to the recent storms. NIPSCO and Comcast have had to pull off the project to deal with the widespread outages caused by last week's storm.
- Work has begun on the US 41 Pump Station Project near the SSCVA in Hammond; the project was only slightly delayed by the recent weather.
- A barge was scheduled to launch on Lake George to obtain soil samples for the Hobart Dam Design, however due to the current conditions, the work has been postponed until the lake levels are more favorable.
- We have been working with INDOT to address the drainage issues that caused flooding on I-94. The investigative work is currently scheduled for the week of August 24th.
- The Rock Riffle Trail Extension Project is complete, with just a few punch items remaining.
- The Town of Munster closed Northcote Bridge as a precaution, based off the upcoming weather forecast.
- The storm that came though affected all aspects of the system. All of our pump stations were without power. We have a back-up generator for the Burr North Station, so that was running. Power has been restored to the Burr South Station as well. Grant East and West and Marshalltown Stations are still out of power. There is a lot of debris down on the levee. Most contractors are occupied helping municipalities, but we have been able to clear some areas.

Commissioner Ware noted that there has been equipment on the levee between Grant and Broadway. Mr. Repay stated that the wind was so strong it flipped some of the billboards that we have on our property. Lamar Advertising asked for permission to be on the levee while they fixed the issues with the billboard.

Commissioner Castellanos asked about a blockage near Colfax and Burr. Mr. Repay stated that the debris was Styrofoam from a local job site and currently the current is too strong to remove it. However, the blockage doesn't appear to be causing any issues currently. Mr. Repay noted that we will address all the blockages once the water slows down and contractors become available to assist as most are currently busy working with the municipalities.

Commissioner Ware asked how the trash rack in Griffith was handling the water and debris. Mr. Repay responded that it worked as intended and is due to be inspected, but the numerous rain events over the summer have pushed it back.

Finance –

Chairman Wichlinski addressed the August 2026 claims totaling $1,391,710.04. Commissioner Ware moved to approve the claims as presented, and Commissioner Castellanos seconded the motion. Mr. Repay provided an explanation of several claims, starting with payment to Dunnet Bay Construction for $737,421.65. This represents pay application #3 for the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project and covers

material delivered to the site. $79,743.20 was paid to American Structurepoint for construction observation of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project. Northern Indiana Mechanical submitted claims totaling $127,300.66 for work on the Kennedy Avenue Sandbar Remediation Project. All of the sandbar west of Kennedy Avenue has been removed, once the Bank Stabilization and Boat Ramp Project is completed, we will be able to access and clear the sandbar on the east side of Kennedy Avenue. Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions or comments and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Wichlinski, Whittaker, Gozdecki, Castellanos, Ware, Orsburn and Fesko vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 7-0.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Fesko made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-17 and an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Hamond and the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission regarding the transfer of certain real properties within the Little Calumet River corridor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Attorney Bennett noted the Board previously approved the acquisition of two parcels from the City of Hammond located on the south side of the river, just south of Cabela's and west of Indianapolis Blvd. One parcel is in the Town of Highland, the other in the Town of Munster, but they are owned by the City of Hammond as part of the Cabela's acquisition. The amount offered is $5,000.00 per parcel for a total of $10,000.00. The City of Hammond intends to use the funds for park improvements. Both parcels are in the floodplain and cannot be built upon. Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions or comments and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Wichlinski, Whittaker, Gozdecki, Castellanos, Ware, Orsburn and Fesko vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement for emergency woody vegetation removal and processing throughout the watershed in an amount not to exceed Four Million Dollars. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that when this system came through, we were asked by a lot of cities and towns if we could help them. Many municipalities are struggling financially and since they are in the watershed and pay the fee, this is our way of helping them. Since this area was declared a national emergency, 75% of the cost will be reimbursed by FEMA. There is also the possibility the state will supplement some of the remaining costs. This is our opportunity to get help to as many communities as possible. Chairman Wichlinski asked if there were any questions or comments and called for a roll-call vote. Commissioners Wichlinski, Whittaker, Gozdecki, Castellanos, Ware, Orsburn and Fesko vote in favor. None vote against. Motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

Appointing Authority Disclosure:

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: 05/01/2026 to 04/30/2030
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: 05/01/2026 to 04/30/2030
Jenny Orsburn, Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor/INDR, Term of Appointment: 05/01/2026 to 04/30/2030
Katie Fesko, Commissioner, Appointed by: Governor, Term of Appointment: 06/02/2026 to 04/30/2030