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MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HELD AT 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1993  
AT THE NIRPC COMMISSION OFFICE  
8149 KENNEDY AVENUE  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

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Chairman George Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Nine (9) Commissioners were present. Quorum was declared and guests were recognized.

Development Commissioners:

George Carlson  
Arlene Colvin  
Charles Agnew  
Robert Trelo  
Nathaniel Leonard  
Steve Davis  
Robert Huffman  
John DeMeo  
William Tanke

Staff:

Dan Gardner  
Lou Casale  
Sandy Mordus  
Bruce Stouffer

Visitors:

Virgil Meier - Highland  
Donald Shapiro - Highland  
Ola Kennedy - Lake County  
Park Board  
Stanley Petrites -  
Highland  
Bill Petrites - Highland  
Siavash Beik - DNR, Div. Water  
James Flora- RWArmstrong  
Pete Zak - South Shore Marina  
Mary Jane Zak - "  
Sunita Singh - Congressman  
Visclosky's Office  
Ray Young - Contract Community  
Services & Greater Gary Assoc.  
Contractors

The minutes of the March 4, 1993 meeting were approved by a motion from Arlene Colvin; seconded by Chuck Agnew; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report - Chairman George Carlson announced he had attended a meeting with staff to meet with the Col. Reed & his Corps staff for the purpose of a status update of the stages of contract work. Col. Reed stated the federal dollars were in place to keep on schedule. He emphasized the need to keep to regular staff coordination meetings. Mr. Carlson felt it was a very good, very positive meeting.

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Executive Director's Report - Mr. Gardner reported that property owners on River Drive in Wicker Park Manor have been signing the easements needed for construction start. The Corps target date for signed easements is April 15. Staff is pursuing. Mr. Gardner also announced that SEG engineering plans have now been received. They are available in our office. SEG has submitted a bill for revised additional work in the sum of \$11,500 (up to \$12,000 had been previously approved by the Commission at last month's meeting). There are two WHITECO signs that must be removed from the project area. Staff will pursue. The ConRail R.R. must also approve tying the levee into their railroad embankment. The town of Highland is working on plans with their consultant on the 81st pump station. Every effort is being made to allow construction start to begin this summer in Wicker Park Manor subdivision.

A response letter from Pat Ralston, Director of IDNR, has been received relative to the Erie Bridge removal. It states that IDNR would only be agreeable to the bridge removal if assurance was made that the Erie trail in Hammond would be connected with the segments planned by Highland, Griffith & Lake County. Mr. Gardner feels the Corps can commit to replacing the bridge when the construction of the levee begins in that area. Staff will follow up with DNR and the Corps. Also discussed was the need to pursue with the city of Hammond the granting of the \$18,000 earmarked to the Commission for the bridge removal. Mr. Tanke suggested checking whether or not any pilings could remain and be utilized with the new bridge.

Mr. Gardner referred to a copy of a bill being introduced by the Congressman that would allow the provision of local preference of contractors in the construction of the flood control project. He also presented a draft letter for approval to be sent to Col. Reed requesting the Corps to seriously consider the use of an independent "monitor" to assist the Corps in the tracking and assessment of local minority participation efforts. A motion to approve and send the letter was made by Robert Huffman; seconded by Arlene Colvin; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gardner informed the Commissioners that he, along with Mayor Barnes and Arlene Colvin, met with INDOT Commissioner Fred P'Pool regarding the INDOT commitment to raise Grant Street. The meeting went very well. INDOT will be contacting the Mayor in the very near future as to a statement relative to bridge raising.

A meeting will be held April 13 with city of Hammond officials, DNR, Corps relative to the future development of the Oxbow area in Hammond.

Finance/Policy Committee - Treasurer John DeMeo presented the financial status report for March as well as the claims for approval. John DeMeo made a motion to approve the pending claims with the exclusion of the Abonmarche bill (Task 6); motion seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee - Mr. Gardner referred to a letter written by Congressman Visclosky to Jean Blackwell, Budget Director of the State Budget Agency, in support of the Commission's capital budget request for this biennium. He also sent letters to Rep. Earl Harris, Senator Earline Rogers and Bart Peterson of the Governor's staff. Mr. Gardner stated his meeting with Ms. Blackwell has been rescheduled for April 13th. He will defend the Commission's request as best he can.

Land Acquisition Committee - Land Acquisition Chairman Chuck Agnew reported that the property known as DC288 Inez Scott is cleared and ready for closing. He made a motion to increase the offered price to \$1500 to avoid condemnation; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew also stated that staff would send 3 sets of plans to ConRail as per their request and made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for cost of ConRail performing their own engineering as to the viability of the plans; motion seconded by Robert Huffman; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Agnew made a motion ratifying the Chairman and Attorney signatures and approval of the Right-of-Way certificates for Stage III; motion seconded by Robert Trelo; motion passed unanimously.

Project Engineering/Construction Committee - Committee Chairman Robert Huffman informed the Commissioners that the contract has been signed and construction is underway for Stage III. Stage II Phase IIIA awarding date is aimed for June 1993 and on Stage II Phase IIIB - August, 1993 is the target date.

He stated that a meeting with IDNR should be held so we can explain the segments of construction to them for a better overall understanding of the project. Other utility issues will be addressed. Jim Flora has scheduled some utility meetings later this month and gave a brief utility update.

RBDC Minutes  
April 7, 1993  
Page 4

Marina/Breakwater Committee - Committee Chairman Bill Tanke referred to the schedule from John Hannon and concluded it was very optimistic. NIPSCO engineering approval and land lease continues to be pursued. An agreement has been drawn up by our attorney and Portage's attorney for presentation to NIPSCO shortly. Mayor is working on it. Mr. Tanke also stated that a funding problem also exists with the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission (LMMDC). They are in the same situation as us - waiting for funding from the General Legislature for this biennium.

After discussion of latest billing from Abonmarche, Mr. Tanke made a motion to pay the remaining 85% of Task 5 but to exclude Task 6 since it was not authorized at this time; motion seconded by John DeMeo; motion passed unanimously.

Statements from the floor - Donald Shapiro asked about plans on Wicker Park Manor levee reconstruction. He was informed they are on display this evening for his viewing.

There was no other business. The next Commission meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 1993 at 6:30 p.m.

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