

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017

Location: MUNSTER TOWN HALL, Munster, IN

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Anthony Broadnax
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Col. Aaron Reisinger – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Ruth Mores – Hammond
Judy Knapp – Hammond
Ron Ware – Munster
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
James Dedelow – Munster
John Beckman – Catalysteco Consulting
Peter Yackanich – Hammond
T. Ahearn – Hammond
Evangeline Stafford – Hammond
Bob Fulton – City of Hobart
Emanuel Smith – Gary
Samara Smith - Gary

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the July 26, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event which occurred, in part, as a result of deferred maintenance. This \$275 million man-made flood project requires ongoing maintenance in order to ensure something like the 2008 flood event does not happen again. While we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. The reorganization of the Commission and the work done by many to obtain a funding mechanism has allowed us to continue to move forward and remove over 1,400 from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. This puts \$4 million dollars annually back into the economy, making this project an economic development project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the July claims in the amount of \$446,015.88. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the claims, starting with a \$37,916.00 payment to DLZ for engineering work on the Kennedy Avenue bridge design. This project will likely go for bid in the summer of 2018. DLZ also submitted a claim in the amount of \$6,975.00 for

continued work on the Harrison Avenue Bridge Design. Preliminary designs have been received and the project is in the permitting stage. The raising of the bridge will eliminate another closure on the system. \$26,974.50 was paid to Austgen Electric as final payment on the Burr Street North Back-up Generator Project. Rieth-Riley submitted a claim in the amount of \$158,415.04 for work on the Gary South Levee Paving Project. This project is expected to come in under budget by approximately \$60,000.00. Reimbursement in the amount of \$58,500.00 was requested by the City of Hammond for their participation in our tree program. Hammond planted trees in several locations including Rich's Park, Riverside Park and Optimist Park. Dawson & Associates submitted a claim in the amount of \$35,000.00 for continued work on crediting. \$33,440.00 was paid to Patrick Engineering for continued work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge Study.

Chairman Whittaker asked which other communities have participated in our tree program. Mr. Repay stated that North Township, Town of Munster, Town of Winfield and Town of Merrillville have all taken part and reminded everyone that over 3000 trees have been removed during construction of the project. This program is open to every community in the watershed.

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

Executive Director's Report –

- Preliminary designs have been received for the Harrison Avenue Bridge project.
- The Chase Street Manhole Extension Project has been signed by the contractor, R.A. Oros, and should begin within the month.
- We have solicited opinions from the USACE and the Lake County Surveyor's office regarding the placement of new USGS monitoring stations. A contract for the new gages should be received at the beginning of the new fiscal year. This new contract will add 6 new gages to the system along the Little Calumet River and Deep River.

Commissioner Gozdecki wanted to point out that the original Gary South Levee Paving contract will be reduced substantially by approximately \$62,000 due to material savings.

Chairman Baker asked how the Harrison Avenue and Kennedy Avenue bridge raising projects, effects the number of sandbag closures needed during a major rain event. Mr. Repay stated that we are actively working to reduce the amount of manpower needed for closures. In addition to Harrison and Kennedy Avenue, we are planning to eliminate the post and panel closure at 35th and Chase. The Georgia Street Grade Adjustment Project has already been completed. It is estimated that the total number of sandbags needed for closures has been reduced by approximately 7,000-8,000 sandbags as a result of these projects.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for the defined areas of the Gary North and Gary South Levee Paving Projects. Mr. Repay stated that the Gary North Levee Paving Project runs from approximately Cline Avenue to Martin Luther King Drive on the north side of the levee. The Gary South Levee Paving Project runs from Martin Luther King Drive to Chase Street on the south side of the levee.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

Ms. Mills introduced Colonel Aaron Reisinger who has taken command effective July 21st. Colonel Reisinger stated that he is currently getting up to speed on the project and happy to be part of the team.

Work continues at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project with clearing and earthwork in progress. There is a pending modification for additional gullies that were located. This will result in an approximately \$50,000 increase to the contract. A contract credit in the amount of \$13,000 was issued at the beginning of August for fencing changes.

The contractor has completed the line of protection at the State Line Tie-Back Project with both the wall and earthen levee complete. Grading and top soil will be completed soon to prepare the site for seeding. As-built drawings for both the wall and earthen levee are anticipated by the end of the week. Once the as-builts are approved, they will be ready to submit to FEMA. Ms. Mills anticipates submittal to FEMA in October.

The In-Project Mitigation encompasses 65 acres near Chase Street and Clark Road in Gary. The USACE posted for bids on July 31st. The bids should be due by August 31st with contract award on September 30th. This contract is a small business set aside. The current working estimate of the project is \$1.5 million.

Commissioner Castellanos asked if there was a minority participation requirement for the In-Project Mitigation. Ms. Mills stated that there are no minority requirements for small business contracts, but participation is encouraged.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-07 and Inter Local Agreement with the City of Crown Point for the Sauerman Woods Drainage Study and Design Watershed application in the amount of \$200,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-08 and Inter Local Agreement with the City of Lake Station for the Stormwater Management Plan Watershed application in the amount of \$80,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-09 and Inter Local Agreement with the Lake County Board of Commissioners for the Hermit's Lake Sanitary Infiltration and Intrusion Reduction Project Watershed application in the amount of \$317,480.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the Griffith Levee Certification – Preliminary Engineering Watershed application from the Town of Griffith in the amount of \$250,644.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that, although the Griffith Levee is not a part of the federal project, it is still a weak link in the line of protection. The Town of Griffith took the lead on the design of the levee and this application is a request for reimbursement of their costs. Commissioner Whittaker stated he felt that, since this motion failed as presented at the July 26th meeting, a different motion was needed to pass the motion at the current meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the proper procedure for the motion. Commissioner Castellanos amended the motion to approve the Griffith Levee

Certification – Preliminary Engineering Watershed application from the Town of Griffith in the amount of \$255,643.00; amended motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-10 and Inter Local Agreement with the Town of Griffith for the Griffith Levee Certification – Preliminary Engineering Watershed application in the amount of \$250,643.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 6-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Evangeline Stafford, Hammond, IN, stated that she currently pays flood insurance and asked when she can expect relief from paying. Ms. Mills stated that the earliest the information can be sent to FEMA is October, but that this is the last step in the process.

John Beckman, CatalystEco Consulting, asked if there was any progress on a contract for wetlands initiative. Mr. Repay stated that he has met with the Autobahn and he has given them a tour of the area.

Erik Sprenne, NWI Paddling Association, wanted to bring several flow issues to the attention of the commission. Mr. Sprenne felt the High Velocity Channel needed attention as well as an area from Northcote to State Line. Additionally, there is a lot of debris between Indianapolis Blvd. and Kennedy Avenue.

Emanuel Smith, Gary, stated that he is in support of Tobin Development's purchase of property near 35th & Chase. This would be a great economic stimulus for the City of Gary and all of Northwest Indiana.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Whittaker stated that he is pleased to see people coming out to our meetings. We currently have a lot of projects in planning and development. It is helpful when people assist us by looking out for issues along the system.

Commissioner Wichlinski stated that he appreciates residents keeping an eye on things and letting us know of any issues they see.

Commissioner Broadnax encouraged residents of Hammond who still pay flood insurance to not get discouraged. We are getting towards the end of the process. Commissioner Broadnax also stated that he recommends keeping some sort of flood insurance and not eliminating it completely.

Commissioner Castellanos welcomed Colonel Reisinger and looked forward to working with him. The Commission offers radio show on WLTH AM 1370 the 2nd Monday of every month and extended an invitation to the Colonel. Speros Batistatos of the South Shore CVA was a guest on a recent show. Commissioner Castellanos also stated that the Tobin Development property issue is in the hands of our legal counsel.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 13th at the Munster Town Hall.