

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019**

**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 five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

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

**Visitors:**

Laurie Czulno - Hammond  
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group  
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee  
John Beckman – Hammond  
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers  
David Nellans – Town of Munster  
Vicki Williams - Munster

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the minutes from July 10, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

**Chairman's Report –**

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded everyone that our website is a great place to find information on the Commission and the work that we do throughout the watershed ([www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org)). The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event are a great reminder of what can happen if a project such as this is neglected. There are numerous issues from the original design and decades of deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made project that the Commission is completing. Keep in mind, when dealing with Mother Nature, 10 gallons of water in a 5 gallon bucket will cause problems. However, we are far better prepared than in the past and the Commission continues to maintain open communication with the communities in the watershed by meeting on a monthly basis.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the August claims in the amount of \$1,014,157.13. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner

Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Grimmer Construction in the amount of \$288,636.60 for work on the Gary North/South Culvert & I-Wall Maintenance Project. Grimmer Construction submitted an additional claim for final billing of \$22,187.21 on the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project. \$115,497.78 was paid to Ellas Construction for continued work on the Harrison Bridge Project. This project is moving along and should be complete by the end of October. Northern Indiana Mechanical submitted a claim for \$34,687.81 to remove a large blockage at the confluence of Hart Ditch and Schoon Ditch. Additional precautions were necessary for this blockage removal as it was located near a NIPSCO gas pipeline. Vale Appraisal Group was paid \$22,800.00 for appraisal work on Pump Station Easements in Hammond and Highland. \$43,694.37 was paid to Gariup Construction Co. for final work on the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. Finally, reimbursements on two watershed projects were issued. The Lake County Board of Commissioners was reimbursed \$133,290.28 on the Hermit's Lake Watershed Project and the City of Hobart was reimbursed \$74,892.00 for the Lake George Aquatic Weed Control Watershed Project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- A final walkthrough was held on the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project. This project is now complete.
- The Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project is also complete. This pedestrian bridge will serve as connection point for the north and south segments of the levee trail in Gary.
- The good weather has been beneficial for the Harrison Avenue Bridge Project. This project was initially delayed due to utility locations and inclement weather. It is anticipated that the bridge will open mid to late October.
- Design work by Patrick Engineering continues on the Lake Station Levee Project. We expect to have preliminary design option available to us this fall.
- We have completed the USACE annual inspections and the entire system is considered active. There were a few deficiencies noted that we are working through with our community partners to fix. The inspection reports can be viewed on our website at [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org).
- We are still actively pursuing properties that the USACE has deemed necessary for the project. These include pump station easements as well as properties located inside the levee.
- The Hammond North Stage V-2 Levee Paving Project is substantially complete. This project was awarded to Walsh & Kelly at the April 10, 2019 meeting.
- The Marshalltown Levee Paving Project is almost complete. We are verifying the elevations needed on the project have been achieved. We should be able to close out the project once the information is verified.
- We were informed that the award of the USACE emergency repair project on the leaking wall in Munster has been delayed. We should have more information on the updated timeline next month.

- A theft occurred at the Grant West Pump Station. Approximately 300-400 feet of copper wiring was stolen. The station is back online after repairs. We have requested a surveillance system quote from Metropolitan Industries in order to prevent these issues in the future.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

No Other Issues/New Business

**Statements from the Floor –**

No Statements from the Floor

**Statements from the Board -**

Chairman Baker offered his congratulations on the results of the annual Inspections that were completed this year with the entire system deemed active by the USACE.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that he attended the 4<sup>th</sup> District Community meeting with Councilwoman Carolyn Rogers. He reminded everyone of the Commission's radio program on WLTH AM1370 at 9am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. He also stated that this Board consists of members with very diverse backgrounds, but we all work together for the good of the communities we serve.

Commissioner Ware thanked everyone that takes time out of their busy schedules to attend our meetings.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He also stated that the Board will meet to plan their projects for the upcoming year.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.