

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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 five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Dave Castellanos
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Ron Ware - Munster
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student
Tom Silich – Hobart Trustee

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the November 8, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect his point of order comments regarding the motion on land management and license agreements. Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman’s Report –

Chairman Baker, referencing the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event, reminded everyone that we are here to ensure that something like that flood event does not happen again. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood project. While we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. The Commission will continue to focus on our charge as a flood control project. 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 properties 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 December claims in the amount of \$516,030.19. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the claims, beginning with a \$89,549.92 payment to Cynthia Ramos for purchase of property in Lake Station. Lake County Parks and Munster Parks and Recreation were reimbursed \$23,899.00 and \$11,160.00 respectively for tree plantings done in their communities as part of our tree program. \$35,000.00 was paid to the Lake County Surveyor for clearing culverts at lateral 6. This month long project is part of an Interlocal Agreement with

Lake County. Wiltjer Excavating was also paid \$73,500.00 for additional clearing in the same area. There is some restoration work that will need to be completed in the area. Aerial Solutions was paid \$19,250.00 for their aerial data collection. They have been out for several days collecting data on the river via drone. \$11,441.05 was paid to American StructurePoint for continued work on the Broadway Avenue Sewer Crossing Study. Patrick Engineering was paid \$19,440.00 for ongoing work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Study. Permitting is in progress with the project expected to be ready for bidding in the spring.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- A Meeting was held with American StructurePoint regarding the Broadway Avenue Sewer Study Crossing. The study is almost complete and the design and an estimate of the project cost should be available by the first of the year.
- The G&W/CF&E Railroad Study is in the permitting stage. The Railroad has signed off on the plans from Patrick Engineering. Once the proper permits are approved, the project should be ready for bid.
- The installation of our SCADA system is in progress. The system is already sending alerts as we were notified when power went out at the Burr South Pump Station due to high winds. The SCADA system will be a valuable asset to assist in monitoring our Pump Stations.
- Real Estate is still be acquired as necessary to complete the flood control project. We have reached out the School City of Gary to inquire about purchasing property they own in Lake Station.
- 3 students from Purdue did their senior project on the Little Calumet River. We hope to show their presentation at a future meeting.
- The Harrison Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in spring of 2018. This project will eliminate a closure within the City of Gary.
- Permission to advertise for bids on the 35th & Chase Street Grade Adjustment Project will be requested later in the meeting. Bids will be opened at the January 2018 meeting.
- We are working with NIPSCO regarding easements needed for their pipeline upgrades.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for more information regarding the NIPSCO pipeline and how it effects our property. Mr. Repay stated that part of the pipeline goes through our mitigation area between Clark Road and Chase Street. We are working closely with their real estate department regarding this issue.

Commissioner Wichlinski requested an update on the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge. Mr. Repay stated that preliminary work has been completed including the necessary soil borings. The project should be read for bid in spring 2018. The bridge will be constructed of steel and concrete.

Commissioner Castallanos asked that the Purdue Northwest student's senior project be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Repay stated that this is the 4th senior project done on parts of the Little Calumet River.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

The contractor continues to make progress on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. Herbicide application, tree removal and fencing are in progress. Seeding is expected to begin in February. A proposal for the removal and pruning of hazardous trees has been received from the contractor and is being reviewed. The government estimate for this modification is \$150,000.00.

Comments were received from FEMA regarding the LOMR that was submitted on October 6th. A conference call is scheduled for tomorrow with Mr. Repay to discuss the requests from FEMA. The requests include addition of an Emergency Action Plan in the O&M Manual and annual practice of the stop log installation. FEMA further indicated that it could take up to 180 days to receive the completed LOMR. Discussion was held regarding the length of time needed by FEMA to respond to the LOMR, as it was indicated in October that we would receive an answer within 90 days.

Chairman Baker requested an update on Crediting. Ms. Mills stated that progress continues on crediting. One last remaining piece are the INDOT Credits which are valued over 12 million dollars. An agreement between the Commission and INDOT is needed. The language of the agreement is being worked on now with the goal to have the completed agreements by the end of the year. Additional outstanding crediting issues are utility relocations and some parcels to be acquired.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the 35th Avenue & Chase Street Grade Adjustment Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that this project will eliminate the post and panel closure currently used at this location. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-11 and Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Parks Department for the Tsirtsis Land Acquisition in the amount of \$82,250.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. This watershed application was approved by the Commission at the November meeting. Mr. Repay added that the Lake County Parks gave a presentation regarding the land acquisitions at a previous meeting. The Parks Department also did all the necessary leg work to acquire the properties and also sought additional funding to assist in the purchase. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-12 and Interlocal Agreement with the Lake County Parks Department for the Curtis/Costakis Land Acquisition in the amount of \$11,625.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This watershed application was approved by the Commission at the November meeting. As with the other land acquisition, the Parks Department did all of the leg work needed to acquire the property and sought out additional funding sources to assist in the purchase. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-13 and Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Munster for their SCADA System Proposal in the amount of \$50,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This watershed application was approved at the November meeting. Mr. Repay stated that the Town of Munster currently does not have any way to monitor the back-up generators on their Pump Stations as they are unable to utilize the Hammond Sanitary District SCADA system. The LCRBDC would also be able to access and view only the proposed SCADA system. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart thanked the Board for supporting the Lake County Parks land acquisitions. She also stated that the Pedestrian Bridge on Chase Street will be a great addition to the area. Ms. O'Brien added that the contractors working on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project are very hard working. She further

raised reservations on the City of Hobart Stinky Creek Watershed Application that was presented to the board at a previous meeting.

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, stated that she is disappointed with the 180 days needed by FEMA to approve the LOMR. There are still 20 house in the area that pay flood insurance in the amount of \$1,800-\$2,500 per year.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the Commission for supporting the Veteran's Day program on WLTH as well as a reception afterwards. He further stated that at the November meeting, a discussion occurred between Commission members regarding the ability to purchase and sell land. Commissioner Castellanos stated that our statute, IC 14-13-2 indicates that we can sell, transfer, lease or convey property. Commissioner Castellanos further asked for any license agreements that the Commission currently holds as well as a history of any conveyance of property by the LCRBDC. He wished everyone a very happy Holiday Season.

Commissioner Gozdecki wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He further stated that he has been monitoring the progress at Lateral 6 and was pleased to see the area draining.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that a lot has been accomplished this year and there are some very important projects set to begin in 2018. He requested a budget for 2018 to give some guidance as we start the new year. Commissioner Whittaker requested that the board establish and adopt a specific process to manage land management requests that we receive from interested parties. He additionally requested that criteria and thresholds be established for communities that submit watershed applications to the Commission. After discussion, Commissioner Whittaker made a motion that the Commission develop specific criteria, including how often communities can apply and funding amounts, to use in the acceptance and approval of watershed applications; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Commissioner Wichlinski stated that in the current process, applications are vetted by the Advisory Board before being sent to the Commission for a decision. Mr. Repay added that the Advisory Board meets about once a quarter to review several applications and the applications are considered on a case by case basis. Chairman Baker stated that each individual application is unique and the communities bring forward what is important and needed in their communities. Mr. Repay added that he can put together a list of guidelines and criteria for the watershed applications that can be reviewed and discussed by the board. After further discussion, Commissioner Castellanos rescinded his second and Commissioner Whittaker withdrew the motion. Commissioner Whittaker wished everyone peace and goodwill. He also offered congratulations to the Purdue Northwest students on their project.

Chairman Baker thanked everyone for their assistance during the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 10th, at the Munster Town Hall.