

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018
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 seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki
Dave Castellanos
Derek Nimetz
Ron Ware
Levon Whittaker

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Laurie & John Czulno – Hammond
Ruth Mores - Hammond
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
John Beckman – Catalyst Eco Consulting
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Jamie Miller – DNR
Charlie Svitko – Munster
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Paul Petrie – Lake County EMA
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Karie Koehnke – Patrick Engineering
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Michael Jabo – DLZ
Dean Button – City of Hammond
T. Ahearn - Hammond

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood project and we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past. It has been 10 years since the devastating flood event of 2008. The yellowing pictures we show at every meeting serve as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission continues the practice of meeting with the communities in the Watershed on a monthly basis to ensure we are ready in case of a flood event. The goal of this Commission is a true regional flood project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the December claims in the amount of \$959,899.89. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner

Wichlinski. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to IHC Construction in the amount of \$408,758.18. Grimmer Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$280,233.85 for work on the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project. This project is substantially complete, a retainage is being held back to ensure the landscaping takes this upcoming spring. \$48,165.00 was paid to DLZ Engineering for continued engineering design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. A special meeting will be held on December 19th to open bids on the project. Dyer Construction was paid \$46,012.11 as final payment on the 35th & Chase Grade Adjustment Project. This project eliminates the post and panel closure at this location. Finally, \$10,950.00 was paid to ATC Group Services for soil borings in Lake Station. These borings are needed for the upcoming Lake Station Levee Project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- The Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project was completed just before Thanksgiving. This project will eliminate the need for a sandbag closure at this location.
- The 35th & Chase Grade Adjustment Project is complete. The as-builts have been sent to the USACE for their approval. The post and panel gates previously used at the site will be recycled.
- The Harrison Street Bridge Project has been resumed after utility relocations delayed the project. We are currently on track for a spring completion date for the project.
- Engineering on the Lake Station Levee Project will be awarded to Patrick Engineering later in the meeting. Construction on this project is expected to begin in 2020.
- We are back on track to acquire property from the School City of Gary that is needed for the Lake Station Levee Project. We are also looking to acquire property for the development of a new environmental center that will help benefit all children from around the area.
- The initial design for the paving of the Marshalltown Levee has been sent to the USACE for their review and approval. This project will bid out in early 2019 and begin as soon as asphalt plants open for the season.
- On January 9th we will be conducting a table top exercise that will help us to respond to a flood emergency and evacuation. All communities, along with the USACE, will be present for this simulation. Chief Timmer from Highland will be leading this exercise.
- We were contacted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding the Natural Spring on Chase Street. Because of the growing popularity of the Natural Spring, IDEM has requested that we have the water tested on a regular basis as required for public natural springs. We last had the water tested in November of 2017.
- The updated handbooks from the USACE are almost complete. The handbooks will be listed on our website once they are received from the USACE.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve an agreement with Patrick Engineering to design a Levee, Dam Improvements and Pedestrian Bridge on Deep River in Lake Station;

motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Patrick Engineering was recommended to design this levee after several submittals and interviews by the working group of Lake County Parks, City of Lake Station and the LCRBDC. This project will protect over 300 properties in Lake Station. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

No statements from the floor.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of the LCRBDC Radio Show on WLTH AM 1370 that is broadcast the 2nd Monday of every month at 9:00a.m. He also wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Nimetz thanked everyone for attending meetings this past year and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Commissioner Gozdecki stated he was happy for the residents in Hammond that are no longer required to carry mandatory flood insurance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished everyone Happy Holidays and said that the Commission has a lot planned for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Whittaker wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Ware wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chairman Baker wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.