

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Chairman William 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
Tom Gozdecki
David Castellanos
Anthony Broadnax
Levon Whittaker

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
John & Laurie Czulno - Hammond
James Busch – Lake Station
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond
Charles Svitko – Munster
John Beckman – CatalystEco Consulting
T. Cholipski – River Dr., Munster
Tony Kenning – DLZ
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H.
Ruth Mores – Southmoor Rd., Hammond
Peter Yanknovich – Forest Ave., Hammond
T. Ahearn – Forest Ave., Hammond
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Dean Button – City of Hammond
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart
James R. Dedelow - Munster

Chairman William Baker referred to the minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to elect the following slate: William Baker as Chairman, Tom Wichlinski as Vice Chairman, Tom Gozdecki as Treasurer, and Levon Whittaker as Secretary; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Motion passed with 6-0 roll call vote.

Chairman’s Report – Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood as a great reminder of what happens when a structure such as this is neglected. Ongoing maintenance is necessary to ensure the region is far better protected than it was in 2008. The commission is tasked with care and upkeep of this eleven mile, \$275 million dollar man-made flood control project. We continue to meet with communities every month to ensure that we are all better prepared. It is important to remember that, due to the completion of this federal control project, more than 1,400 properties have been removed from the mandatory requirement to pay federal flood insurance, saving residents premiums in the amount of \$4.1 million each year. These dollars are put right back into the community, making this a real economic development project.

Finance – Chairman Baker referred to the February claims in the amount of \$123,089.85. Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with a payment to Dawson & Associates in the amount of \$35,000 for continued assistance with crediting. Crediting is progressing, we now have a positive cost share balance and can continue to move forward with projects such as Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tie Back. Next discussed was payment to

Garcia Consulting Engineers for \$9,957.20, representing work on the Ribbon Parcel Mapping Project. This continuing project will allow for the transfer of important property documents to digital form and ensure that we have all the necessary easements for our flood control project. A claim in the amount of \$6,897.50 to USGS was represents the quarterly cost of monitoring stations. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay discussed some of the current and upcoming projects:

- Bids for floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair will be opened later in the meeting. This project will address issues from that last two USACE inspection reports in which some joints were failing.
- Bids to clean, inspect and video all culverts in Hammond, Highland, Munster & INDOT will be opened later in the meeting. This is part of the normal 5-year inspection process.
- Bids for the Lyman Manhole Rehab Project, located between Hohman Avenue and Calumet Avenue in Hammond will also be opened this evening.
- The Sandbar Modification Project, located just west of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge is progressing slowly due to weather challenges. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the spring.
- Bids for the Levee Paving and Georgia Street Projects will go out for advertising with bids opened at our March meeting.
- Our office continues to work with Dawson & Associates in making progress on crediting issues.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to open bids for floodwall joint sealant replacement and repair and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes. The bids were as follows: Hasse Construction - \$26,500.00, Gariup Construction - \$37,000.00, and Grimmer Construction - \$22,500.00.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to open bids for culvert cleaning and inspection and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes. The bids were as follows: Actin Inc. - \$43,500.00/Highland Segment, \$21,500.00/Munster Segment, \$70,230.00/Hammond Segment, and \$37,600.00/INDOT Segment; Greenline Environmental - \$40,430.00/Highland Segment, \$17,105/Munster Segment, \$65,310/Hammond Segment, and \$32,655/INDOT Segment.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to open bids for Lyman Manhole Rehab and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes. The bids were as follows: Gariup Construction - \$48,700.00, R.A. Oros, Inc. - \$57,540.00, and Grimmer Construction - \$35,640.00

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for electrical repairs to the Burr Street South Pump Station; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Commissioner Broadnax noted that we just recently acquired this Pump Station from the Gary Sanitary District and there was a healthy debate among the Commissioners on the best way to handle the extensive repairs. It is a tribute to the board and its members that everyone was able to express their opinions and concerns, and ultimately decide on a bidding process as the best choice. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for Levee grass cutting in the area from Hohman Avenue to Central Avenue; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. This area covers the majority of project, with the exemption of areas between Hohman Avenue and State Line, which requires smaller mowers and handwork. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Hobart for initial design of the Wisconsin Street Bridge in an amount not to exceed \$150,000; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained that the City of Hobart has a pending Watershed Application with the Commission. Several variables regarding their initial application are still being researched, but this motion will allow the design process of the Wisconsin Street Bridge to move forward without additional delay. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve mileage reimbursement, in perpetuity, at the allowable Federal rate; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. This motion ensures that we are reimbursing for mileage at the correct rate, as it changes annually. Chairman Baker called for a vote and the motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman Baker reflected on the passing of Bea Hanusin. He stated she and her son were very active in the process to receive our funding and she will be missed.

Natalie Mills of the USACE stated that the positive cost share balance will allow the Corps., in partnership with the commission, to move forward on project work. A kick off meeting is scheduled for this Friday to discuss Hobart Mitigation and the State Line Tie Back. The goal is to award a contract on the Hobart Mitigation during the summer and the State Line Tie Back after that, but still within the federal fiscal year which ends September 30th. More concrete information will be available for discussion after the meeting.

Statements from the Floor –

- Ruth Mores, Southmoor Road, Hammond shared information regarding the use of the Thornton Quarry Reservoir during high water times in December 2015. Additionally, she stated that she met with City of Hammond Public Work officials regarding unauthorized access of areas near 173rd and Lyman. Hammond has authorized a closure in hopes of eliminating the unauthorized vehicles in the area.
- Laurie Czulno, Hammond, had questions regarding the State Line Closure and if changes needed to be made to the design. Mr. Repay replied that more information would be learned at the Friday meeting with the USACE. A discussion was held regarding the proposed timelines for the State Line Tieback and Hobart Mitigation.
- Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, expressed her thanks to all that work on the Hobart Mitigation and State Line Tie Back can finally proceed. She is happy that things are moving along.

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