

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

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020**

**Location: Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners:**

William Baker, Chairman  
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman  
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer  
Levon Whittaker, Secretary  
Ron Ware  
Dave Castellanos  
Robert Ochi  
Anthony Broadnax

**Visitors:**

Virtual Meeting

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from February 19, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Chairman's Report –**

Commissioner Baker welcomed everyone to our first virtual meeting and thanked those who joined. As a reminder, the Commission is tasked with the maintenance is a \$275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are completing. However, this Commission is far better prepared than was in the past and we continue to maintain open communication and work with all communities within the watershed.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the March claims in the amount of \$291,346.68 and the April claims in the amount of \$249,513.28. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with the March claims:

Grimmer Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$15,191.40 for continued work on the Gary North/South Culvert Maintenance Project. Christopher Burke Engineering was paid \$13,086.70 for engineering services on the Levee Overflow Project at Wicker Park. \$37,620.64 was paid to the National Audubon Society for the Marsh Bird Conservation Project. The Commission agreed to contribute \$300,000.00 over 2 years to this project. The City of Lake Station was reimbursed \$28,122.48 for continued progress on their Stormwater Master Plan. The Town of Griffith was reimbursed \$2,690.00 for costs incurred during the January heavy rain event. Two properties were purchased in Lake Station that are necessary for the Levee Project in the amount of \$96,160.00 and \$14,000.00. Finally, Greater Indiana Title submitted a claim in the amount of \$6,305.00 for title work on tax sale properties.

Chairman Baker asked for further information on the Gary North/South Culvert Maintenance Project. Mr. Repay stated that we are required to clear and televise the culverts every 5 years per USACE guidelines.

Chairman Baker asked if the partnership with the National Audubon Society is working well and if they are providing reporting to us regarding their work. Mr. Repay stated that this initial claim from the Audubon Society was heavy on administrative costs. It was expressed to them that the Commission needs to see more "boots on the ground" work in their claims. However, they are making progress with their work.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked if the Lake Station Stormwater Masterplan is completed. Mr. Repay indicated that the City of Lake Station has contracted with a new engineering firm and there is still additional work to be done before the final plan can be issued.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked about ICR costs listed on the National Audubon Society claim. He also expressed his disappointment with the Audubon Society in that the Commission made their expectations clear with regards to the Agreement and this invoice covers mainly administrative costs and not deliverables. Mr. Repay added that he has already conveyed this information to representatives from the National Audubon Society.

Mr. Repay explained several of the April claims: Security Door Inc. submitted a claim in the amount of \$101,413.00 for a security camera system and several of our Pump Stations. We have had several thefts of copper wire at the Pump Stations and the remote video access at the stations will hopefully help deter any other issues. Ellas Construction was paid \$31,459.81 for the Harrison Street Bridge Project. There is 5% retainage left on the project to ensure that the remaining punch list items are completed. \$17,112.50 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for Pump Station maintenance and repairs.

Chairman Baker asked if the invoice from Security Door Inc. is the final cost for the Pump Station Security System. Mr. Repay stated that the only additional costs will be for the monthly cellular service needed for the camera operation. We still need to complete training on the system.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any additional questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Executive Director's Report –**

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- The Harrison Street Bridge Project is substantially complete. We only have 5% retainage remaining that should be released within the next few months.
- The plans are complete on the Lake Station Levee Project. Patrick Engineering plans to prequalify the bidders starting later this month.
- A meeting was held regarding the Wicker Park Overbuild Project. The project should be ready to seek proposals or bid out in May or June.
- The 80/94 Culvert Maintenance Project should begin at the end of the month and is expected to take about 5 weeks to complete, weather permitting.
- We continue to work with Norfolk & Southern Railroad to devise a permanent closure at the gates under the tracks at Burr Street. Hopefully, this can be achieved later this year. A permanent closure would reduce the number of closures along the system that need to happen during a heavy rain event.
- The contractor has begun work on the Leaky Wall in Munster. This same contractor also changed the grates at the Deep Tunnel in Griffith.
- Annual Inspections are still moving forward. They are scheduled to begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>. All participants will be required to wear mask. The plans may change as we get closer to the start date.
- We are in the middle of our Indiana State Board of Accounts audit. The audit is being conducted remotely and covers years 2017-2019.
- We are reviewing options to update our Master Watershed Plan that was last completed in 2013.

Commissioner Ware asked if work had begun on the emergency Hart Ditch Repairs. Mr. Repay stated that the contract is being run by Lake County, and they are not mandating that contractors work during this health emergency. There are 3 different contractors on this project. One contractor has begun work, another is waiting for material and the 3<sup>rd</sup> will wait for the health emergency to subside before starting.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve a proposal with Christopher Burke Engineering on an Upland Feasibility Study in an amount not to exceed \$48,100.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that the Will County, Illinois Forest Preserve is in the process of purchasing Longwood Golf Course. They will, however, allow us to use some of the area for upland storage. This study will allow us to see what storage we can obtain from this area. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the City of Lake Station's Viking Village Pump Station Replacement Watershed Application in the amount of \$26,500.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that this was one of the applications that was presented to the Advisory Board in February. This would be for the design of a new Pump Station. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the Town of Winfield's 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue Culvert Upgrade Watershed Applications in the amount of \$204,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay stated that the Town of Winfield asked us to participate in the upgrade of a culvert that is part of a larger upgrade project by the County in the area. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the City of Crown Point's Sauerman Woods Drainage & Storage Improvements Watershed Application in the amount of \$124,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this application covers the design of stormwater improvement projects that were identified in the study previously funded by the Commission. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Statements to the Board –**

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, thanked the Commission for conducting this virtual meeting and that it went very well.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone that

Commissioner Ware thanked the public for participating in this virtual meeting and told all to stay safe.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked everyone that took the time to view our meeting and hoped everyone stays safe.

Commissioner Ochi thanked everyone that participated and to stay safe.

Commissioner Castellanos asked everyone to stay safe.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May, 2020 at Munster Town Hall.