

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021
Location: Munster Town Hall

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 Present:

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

Visitors:

Laurie Czulno - Hammond
John Czulno - Hammond
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Lori Latham – Wessler Engineering

Commissioners Absent:

David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from April 21, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 8 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to our meeting. As a reminder, USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recording of our meetings can be found on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org. The Commission is tasked with the maintenance of 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. The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event serve as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project is neglected. 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 May claims in the amount of \$961,668.51. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the May claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment in the amount of \$762,160.65 to Earthwerk for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. This project is progressing well and almost complete. C & H Mowing submitted a claim in the amount of \$22,135.00 for the first levee mowing of the season. The mowing was completed in anticipation of our first round of USACE inspections. Finally, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$16,360.00 for the monthly Pump Station inspections. This claim also covered additional work during the annual USACE inspections.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any 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 Lake Station Rock Riffle Project is fast approaching conclusion. We recently met with city officials and staff and answered questions regarding the project. This 4.4 million dollar project has come in on time and without any change orders
- Norfolk and Southern Railroad has sent their agreement to complete the work needed for the Burr Street Closure. We are waiting for final paperwork and scheduling to complete this project. The estimated cost of the closure is around \$57,000.00.
- A controlled burn was conducted by the Audubon group and their partners last Friday. I have some pictures of the burn to share. Communication with the Audubon has been great since our meeting last month.
- The Spring Park Project is still in the design and planning stage. There has been a small delay while some permitting issues are resolved. The project is still scheduled to be completed this year.
- Annual USACE inspections have begun. The Gary, Griffith and INDOT segments were completed with no major concerns. The next round of inspections which included Hammond, Highland and Munster is scheduled for late June.
- We have the opportunity to take a closer look at Beaver Dam Ditch and see how this major tributary will be impacted by future development. A study proposed by Wessler Engineering is on the Agenda for later in the meeting. This study will be shared with the municipalities that impact Beaver Dam Ditch and will serve as a baseline for future applications coming from these areas.
- We are still working with the County to determine the best and most cost effective approach to stabilizing some of Hart Ditch.

- We have engaged Cardno Inc. to help us get through the IDEM permitting process on the Kennedy Avenue Sandbar Project.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve an agreement with Wessler Engineering for the Beaver Dam Ditch Watershed Study for an amount not to exceed \$205,000.00, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Statements to the Board –

No statement to the Board.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ochi thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that we have turned a corner and looked forward to the future.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked all for attending the meeting and congratulated Laurie Czulno on her recent retirement.

Commissioner Gozdecki wished congratulations to Laurie Czulno on her retirement and thanked her for all her time and effort she dedicated to the project.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked Laurie Czulno for her contributions and congratulated her on her retirement.

Commissioner Whittaker offered congratulations to Laurie Czulno on her retirement and also stated he was happy that the USACE Inspections were going smoothly.

Commissioner Ware congratulated Laurie Czulno on her retirement and spoke of the Deep River Rock Riffle Project and invited people to take a look at it.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, 2021.