

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017

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 five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Judy Knapp – Hammond
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Katarzyna Chelkowska-Risley - USACE

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the February 8, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; 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 of the devastation that happened not long ago. 2008 should serve as a reminder of what can happen when you do not take care of a man-made structure. This \$275 million man-made flood control project requires continued maintenance. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire watershed. Through our partnership with the USACE, the flood control project goes through an inspection process. Without the inspection, we would be unable to remove as many properties as we have from the mandatory flood insurance requirement. We have put over \$4 million dollars back into the economy by removing the requirement for mandatory flood insurance. The Commission continues to meet with local communities within the watershed to ensure that we are all prepared in case of a heavy rain event.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the March claims in the amount of \$173,360.55. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with an invoice from Garcia Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$2,593.90 for work on the Ribbon Parcel Mapping. \$6,772.40 was also paid to Garcia Consulting Engineers for work on obtaining legal descriptions of Pump Stations as needed by the USACE. R.A. Oros submitted a claim in the amount of \$11,860.00 to clear a large log jam at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Sweney Electric

submitted an invoice in the amount of \$34,000.00 for work on the Burr Street South Pump Rehabilitation Project. This amount represents the retainage and final draw on the project. The Pump Station will now be ready for the USACE inspections in June. \$7,643.80 was paid to the City of Hobart representing continued progress on the Wisconsin Street Improvements Study. Chairman Baker asked if there were any other questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The Grant Street West Pump Station that was recently taken over from the Gary Sanitary District, experienced further problems. The station has 3 main pumps and a sump pump, however, only 1 of the main pumps was operational. This remaining pump went down as well, necessitating the rental of a portable pump. The trash rack and pump wells were also cleaned at the station. Two of the repaired pumps should be back in operating the week of March 13th.
- A permit is still pending for the Hammond Levee Paving Project, once received, this project will be ready to advertise.
- The Chase Manhole Extension Project is under review and should be ready to bid out in late spring or early summer.
- The 35th & Chase Overpass Project is also under review and slated to bid out in late spring or early summer.
- There will be a ground breaking ceremony for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project on April 24th at 11:30 am.
- We met with the Audubon Society of Chicago to discuss monitoring migrating birds in Northwest Indiana.
- The Advisory Board will be meeting on March 22nd to discuss 4 applications. The communities will formally present to the entire board at the April meeting.

Further discussion was held regarding the Grant Street West Pump Station and when the pumps repaired pumps would be back in service. Mr. Repay clarified that 2 of the 3 main pumps and the sump pump should be installed, including the rox system, and operational the week of March 13th. At the same time, the remaining pump that is inoperable, will be pulled and sent for service. As of now the control panel appears to be working, but there are no working pumps to check it against. Mr. Repay also stated that there was an infestation of mice in the control box that had been chewing on some of the wires.

Commissioner Wichlinski requested further information on using drones to view areas of the project that are not accessible on foot. Mr. Repay stated that he would research options.

Commissioner Gozdecki requested an update on the Burr Street North Back-Up Generator Project. Mr. Repay stated that there were a few punch list items, such as caulking, that needed to be completed with the deadline of March 21st to complete the items.

Presentation –

Mr. Repay gave a video presentation highlighting the Burr Street South Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, the ongoing repairs at the Grant Street West Pump Station, the Kennedy Avenue Bridge log jam, and an insight on storm preparations with the various communities within the watershed. (The complete video presentation can be viewed at our website – www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

There were 2 contract modifications necessary to correct errors in the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project contract. The first modification was needed as the original contract stated 50% of the Hawthorne trees needed to be removed when it should have stated 100% of Hawthorne trees to be removed. The error was not identified until after the bid documents were issued. This contract modification resulted in an increase of \$288,000. Chairman Baker and several Commissioners expressed their frustration regarding the overage, stating that 6% was added to the contract before the project even started. Further discussion was held regarding the contract and why the modification was necessary. Ms. Mills stated that the contract modification would not affect the contract timeline.

The second contract modification was in regard to drain tile at the project site. Ms. Mills stated it was decided to modify the existing contract instead of having the drain tile work done on a stand-alone contract. Ms. Mills added that it was cost beneficial to add this work to the existing contract rather than have a separate contract. The price for this contract modification is not yet known, a request for proposal has been sent to the contractor. However, the projected cost is estimated by the USACE at approximately \$200,000.00.

Clearing has started at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the project is scheduled for April 24th at 11:30 am.

The State-Line Tie Back project is still within the submittal process. The contractor has handed out flyers to some residents notifying them of the construction. It was recommended to expand the notification area and Ms. Mills will request that the contractor reach out to those residents as well. The contractor is scheduled to mobilize to the site the week of March 20th, a week delay from the original timeline.

The Conditional Letter of Map Revision is moving forward. The USACE responded to some comments by FEMA representatives in February and is waiting to see if there are additional comments or questions.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to open bids for the Gary South Levee Paving Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder, pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. This project will pave the tops of the levee from Chase Street to Martin Luther King Drive. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. The motion passed with 5 aye votes. The bids were as follows: Rieth-Riley - \$237,607.57; Walsh & Kelly - \$299,810.00. The engineer's estimate for this project was \$306,000.00.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to purchase properties on behalf of the Commission in Lake Station, necessary for flood relief at a maximum price of the appraised value, plus 10% if necessary; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained that there are areas in Lake Station that are exposed to flooding. Acquiring these properties will allow the construction of a levee that will protect over 260 homes. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. The motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone to tune in to the Commission's radio show on WLTH AM 1370 on March 13th at 9 am, the guest will be Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson, Jr.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that he is glad to see projects move forward and is looking forward to a successful year.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, asked if the contractor could take photos of resident yards at the State Line Tie-Back site prior to construction so there is a frame of reference if any damage is done.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 12th at the Munster Town Hall.