

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 six (6) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Laurie & John Czulno – Hammond, IN
Paul Daniels – LCRBDC Advisory Board
Bill Rochford – USACE
Natalie Mills – USACE
Jamie Miller – IDNR
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Sissy Pomplin – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Terry Steagall – Highland, IN
Andrew Robarge – Commonwealth Engineers
Theresa Criss-Hartwig – CEI
Charlie Svitck – Munster, IN
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Karie Koehneke – Patrick Engineering

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting. He referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event as a reminder of the devastation that can occur when maintenance to a \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission meet with communities once a month to make sure we are ready to take on Mother Nature. Keep in mind that when you pour 10 gallons of water into a 5 gallon bucket, problems can occur. But we are far better prepared now than we were in 2008. The Commission's task right now is the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this regional flood control project so events such as the 2008 flood, do not happen again.

(Commissioner Nimetz arrived at the meeting).

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the November claims in the amount of \$1,173,126.33. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner

Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims beginning with payment to IHC Construction Companies in the amount of \$435,993.78 for work on the CFER Bridge over Deep River Project. This is the second pay request on the \$4.4 million project. Wiltjer Excavating submitted a claim for \$230,817.50 for continued clearing work on Deep River. Reimbursements for pump station maintenance were paid to the Town of Highland and Hammond Sanitary District. The Town of Highland is reimbursed \$42,000.00 and the Hammond Sanitary District is reimbursed \$182,000.00 every year after they pass USACE inspections. \$91,420.00 was paid to DLZ Engineering for continued engineering design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. Bids for this project will be opened at the December meeting.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- The CFER Railroad Bridge over Deep River Project has started. Progress meetings are held every week.
- NIPSCO has received all permits needed for the utility relocations at the Harrison Street Bridge Project area. They are expected to begin moving the utilities on November 28th.
- The Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project is near completion. The road is being striped today and a guardrail needs to be installed. The road should be open to traffic by Thanksgiving.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is being advertised and bids will be opened at the December meeting.
- Interviews were conducted with the 5 Engineering Firms that submitted proposals for the Lake Station Levee RFQ. A recommendation will be submitted to the board prior to the December meeting.
- A meeting with the Commission, Lake County and Town of Munster will be scheduled in the near future to discuss financial contributions regarding Hart Ditch.

Update from the USACE –

Bill Rochford of the USACE gave an update on the 2018 East Reach Levee Inspection:

- All Levee Segments the LCRBDC are responsible for are considered 'Active' and eligible for the PL 84-99 Program.
- The Gary Burr, Griffith Burr, Gary North and Gary South Levee Segments received 'Minimally Acceptable' ratings.
- The Marshalltown Levee Segment received an 'Unacceptable' rating due to settlement of the levee crest below the design elevation. The Commission is working to correct these issues.
- This year, the USACE also inspected Non Project Segments (NPS) that the federal levee project ties into. These segments are not part of the Federal Project and do not impact our overall rating, but are being included as an overall risk assessment conducted every 5 years by the USACE.

All USACE Inspection Reports can be viewed on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org.

Mr. Repay stated that there were two areas in Marshalltown where the Levee has dipped. These issues will be correct when the Levee is paved this spring. Further discussion was held regarding the NPS Segments and whether the LCRBDC needs to make any repairs to these segments or make the segments part of the Federal Project.

Natalie Mills of the USACE gave the following updates:

- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project is about to wrap up for the year. Some tree and shrub planting, and mowing is currently underway.
- The State Line LOMR became effective today. This Letter of Map Revision means that approximately 20 homes near State Line in Hammond will no longer have to pay mandatory flood insurance.
- A report has been prepared regarding the Levee Wall Segment repairs. A segment of the levee wall in Munster was found to be leaking during the February Rain Event. The repairs will be made in accordance with PL 84-99 and are anticipated to be completed in 2019.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to open sealed license bids for property located near 2400 W. 35th Avenue, Gary, IN; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that approximately 70 acres were advertised for license and we received one offer from Tobin Development. Attorney Wickland further stated that at this time, the bid would be taken under advisement by the LCRBDC. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, said that she has been attending meeting for the last 10 years. She thanked the board for all of their hard work and stated she would be in contact with her neighbors regarding the LOMR.

Terry Steagall, Highland, requested the board put a halt on accepting bids on any LCRBDC lands. He further spoke about the effects of climate change and that the Commission should focus only on flood control and recreation.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded everyone to listen to the LCRBDC Radio Program on WLTH AM 1370 the 2nd Monday of every month.

Chairman Baker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Commissioner Whittaker wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He further added that we are doing better in having more conversations about available recreational opportunities and minority participation.

Commissioner Ware wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

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