

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 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
Anthony Broadnax
Levon Whittaker
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Ruth Mores – Hammond
T. Ahearn – Hammond
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Bill Emerson, Jr. – Lake County Surveyor
Katarzyna Chelkowska-Risley – USACE
Keith Halper – IWLA
Thomas Burke – Christopher Burke Engin.
Peter Yackavich – Hammond
Stephen Stofko – City of Lake Station
Rick Konopasek – Town of Griffith
Rick Ryfa – Town of Griffith
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the March 8, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker reminded everyone of what can happen when you do not take care of a man-made structure. Referencing the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event, he stated the photos should serve as a reminder of the devastation that can happen if a structure such as this is neglected. This \$275 million man-made flood control project requires continued maintenance, which was not done in the past. This project not only involves the 5 communities along the Little Calumet River, but, after the legislation was passed, the entire watershed. The Commission has open communication with all local municipalities throughout the 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.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the April claims in the amount of \$336,838.80. Commissioner Broadnax 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 a payment to Chicago Title Company for \$93,078.34 for acquisition of a property in Lake Station along Deep River. \$91,600.14 was paid to Xylem Water Solutions for continued work on the rehabilitation of the Burr Street South and Grant Street West Pump Stations. Both pump stations are currently up and running. One pump at the Grant West Pump Station is still under repair, but is expected to be ready in time for inspections. Griffin Dewatering submitted a claim in the amount of \$12,620.00 for a portable pump needed at the Grant West Pump Station. \$8,996.20 was paid to Actin Inc. for clean-out work at the Grant West Pump Station. Dawson & Associates submitted a claim for \$35,000.00 representing continued work on crediting.

Commissioner Whitaker asked for status on crediting. Mr. Repay stated that we have made significant progress in the last month with many credits moving from pending to approved. The USACE will give further update later in the meeting.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

- The Grant Street West is up and running. One pump is still under repair but should be operational before inspections later this spring.
- An Advisory Board Meeting was held on March 22nd to discuss the 5 applications that were submitted by local municipalities. The applications will be presented to the board later in the meeting.
- The State Line Tie-Back project has started. Mr. Repay toured the site area with Commissioner Broadnax.
- A Little Calumet River Clean-up was held over two weekends. The volunteers did a wonderful job with the clean-up. The Commission provided dumpster for their use.
- There will be a ground-breaking ceremony for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project on April 24th at 11:30 am.
- USACE inspections begin May 1st with the Highland and Hammond and Munster segments. Gary segment inspections are scheduled for early June.
- The monthly Operations & Maintenance meeting with local communities was held today and all are ready for inspections.

Further discussion was held regarding the USACE inspection process. Mr. Repay felt that, since the repairs were completed on the pump stations, the Commission has completed, we would receive an acceptable rating for all segments this year.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

Significant progress has been made with regards to crediting. \$800,000 in credits have been approved this month; a total of \$1.3 million in credits have been approved over the past few months. While much progress has been made, there is still quite a bit of work to do, and we are working towards that.

The contractor continues to do clearing work on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the project is scheduled for April 24th at 11:30 am.

The contractor for the State-Line Tie Back project has mobilized to the site. They are scheduled to begin pouring footings and blocks in the near future.

Discussion was held regarding the change orders necessary for the Hobart Marsh Mitigation project and the completion time for the State-Line Tie Back project. Additional discussion was held on the status of the Conditional Letter of Map Revision. Ms. Mills stated that the as-builts would be submitted to FEMA when the contractor completed the line of protection work. The CLOMR process with FEMA has been expedited, with as much documentation as possible already submitted.

Presentations –

Stephen Stofko of Mecca Engineering, representing the City of Lake Station, presented their Stormwater Management Plan Watershed application. Lake Station is requesting \$80,000 to assist in completing their plan.

Greg Lorig of American StructurePoint presented the Sauerman Woods Drainage Study and Design application on behalf of the City of Crown Point. Crown Point is requesting a total of \$250,000 to complete the study.

The Lake County Surveyor's Office and Town of Schererville, represented by County Surveyor Bill Emerson, Jr. and Thomas Burke of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, presented their Teibel Pond Restoration Project application. The total cost for this project is estimated at \$8,320,000.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners, represented by County Commissioner Jerry Tippy and Surveyor Bill Emerson, Jr., presented their Hermit's Lake Sanitary Infiltration and Intrusion Reduction Project application. They are requesting \$317,480 to assist in completing their project

The Town of Griffith, represented by Town Council President Rick Ryfa, presented their Griffith Levee Certification (Preliminary Engineering) application. Griffith is requesting \$250,644.18 to assist in their continued work on the Levee Certification.

The complete audio of all the Watershed application presentations can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-05 establishing an Internal Control System and Policy, and a Materiality/Irregular Variances, Losses and Shortages Policy, as required by the State Board of Accounts; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Attorney Wickland stated that this is a resolution mandated by the State Board of Accounts. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Baker thanked all the volunteers and organizations who participated in the Little Calumet River Clean-up for the outstanding job done.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the Izaak Walton League and all the volunteers for their great work on the Little Calumet River clean-up.

Commissioner Wichlinski echoed the sentiments of a job well done at the Little Calumet River Clean-up.

Commissioner Broadnax also thanked the volunteers that participated in the Little Calumet River Clean-up. He also thanked the municipalities that presented watershed applications and stated in the future the Commission will be more pro-active with process and reach out to communities to submit applications.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked all the volunteers that assisted at the Little Calumet River Clean-up. He also stated that Keith Halper of the Izaak Walton League will be the guest on the next Commission's radio show on WLTH AM 1370.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, expressed concern with the contractor at the State Line Tie-Back maintaining the line of protection during construction. She stated that the river reached a height of 11.5 feet, which is the action stage, but didn't see any action by the contractor. Additionally, the first piece of equipment did not arrive to the site until April 27th, later than the scheduled start date.

Keith Halper, Izaak Walton, thanked the Commission for their assistance with the river clean-up. There were 130 volunteers over two weekends that helped fill two 50 yard dumpsters of tires and four 40 yard dumpsters of garbage.

Pete Yackavich, Hammond, asked if a formal letter can be sent to the USACE regarding the State Line contractor maintaining the required line of protection.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 10th at the Munster Town Hall.