

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

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 seven (7) 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
Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Laurie & John Czulno - Hammond
John Beckman – IWLA-PCC
George Barth - IDNR
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee
Tim Ferguson – Wildlife Exhibit of NWI
Paul Zaroway – Wildlife Exhibit of NWI
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Lauren Varga – Commonwealth Engineers
Jeanette Crawford – Marshalltown Terrace
Thomas Petro – Munster
Apostle East – Marshalltown Terrace
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA
Sandy O-Brien – Hobart
Karie Koehneke – Patrick Engineering
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
Chris Spolnik – Town of Munster
Dean Button – City of Hammond
Spencer Cortwright – IU Northwest
Sonya Holmes – Marshalltown Terrace
Sarah Taylor – Marshalltown Terrace
Elaine Motley – Marshalltown Terrace
Anthony Williams – Marshalltown Terrace
Todd Polacek – Applied Ecological
Jason Berens – Applied Ecological

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He reminded everyone that our minutes and audio of the meetings can be found on our website. Our website is a great place to find information on the Commission and the work that we do throughout the watershed. It is now the 11th year that we have been displaying the pictures of the 2008 flood event. The yellowing, almost green pictures are a great reminder of what can happen if maintenance on this \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission continues the practice of meeting with communities in the watershed on a

monthly basis. There are numerous issues from the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that the Commission is completing. Our goal is to make sure that all communities are protected. But keep in mind that we are much better prepared than in the past.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the June claims in the amount of \$1,092,514.33. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to IHC Construction in the amount of \$749,909.38 for work on the CFER Railroad Bridge Project in Hobart. This project is substantially complete as of the 1st week of June. A presentation on this Project will be shown later during the meeting. \$105,580.33 was paid to Ellas Construction Co. for continued work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. Gariup Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$69,505.44 for work on the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge. When complete, this bridge will connect the Gary North and South segments of the levee. \$15,402.00 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for their monthly pump station inspections and maintenance. Finally, Patrick Engineering submitted claims in the amount of \$10,104.00 for work on the design of the Lake Station Levee and \$31,339.30 for management of the CFER Railroad Bridge Project. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- We are in the midst of our USACE annual inspections. Inspections for INDOT and the Gary sections began on June 10th.
- Draft inspections reports of the Munster, Hammond and Highland sections were received from the USACE and are being reviewed.
- The USACE is reviewing the modeling and original designs of the Hart Ditch levee. The results of their review should be available by the July meeting.
- Bids for the emergency repair work on the leaking wall in Munster are due next week and should be awarded within the next 30 days. The contract will include joint sealant on a 1000 foot section of the wall. It also includes repairing trash racks on Cady Marsh Ditch.
- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project is progressing with clearing and seeding work being completed this past month.
- The In-Project Mitigation Project is moving along with clean-up work and invasive species management. There are several beaver dams that are effecting the project which will need to be addressed.
- Both the Marshalltown and Hammond North V-2 Paving Projects have been delayed by the rain but should be able to start up soon.
- The Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project should be completed in mid June. The weather has also impacted their schedule.
- The Gary North and South Culvert Cleaning Projects were scheduled to begin on June 1st but have been impacted by the weather.

Mr. Repay gave a presentation on the completed CFER Bridge over Deep River Project located in Hobart. This bridge, located immediately downstream of Old Ridge Road and the Lake George Dam, was found to be a major bottleneck, restricting the flow of water during high flow events. The original structure was removed and replaced with a structure having a larger opening to reduce water restriction along Deep River. Aerial footage of the bridge project can be viewed on our website at: www.littlecalriverbasin.org.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve our Resolution 2019-01 regarding the City of Hobart Aquatic Weed Control Program; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that we approved an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hobart last month for this weed control project on Lake George and this is the Commission's Resolution on the same. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve our Resolution 2019-02 and a Joint Interlocal Agreement among the Lake County Drainage Board, Town of Munster and Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that erosion on Hart Ditch has been an ongoing problem, as well as the issue of the sediment ending up in the Little Calumet River. Lake County commissioned a study on the issue and 3 areas along Hart Ditch were identified as priorities. The Town of Munster has already approved a one-time contribution of \$100,000.00, The Lake County Drainage Board will commit \$250,000.00 and the LCRBDC will contribute \$1,000,000.00 to the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. Mr. Repay further added that the County has already begun the permitting process and the project could potentially begin this fall. The general area of Hart Ditch is just north of Main Street to the confluence with The Little Calumet River at Wicker Park. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Tim Ferguson, Griffith, spoke about Wildlife Educational Exhibit of NWI. They are a no charge exhibit that travels to schools, clubs, parks, churches, libraries and fairs to show and teach the public what wildlife they have in their own area.

Jason Berens and Todd Polacek of Applied Ecological Services gave information regarding phragmites and methods they use to control this invasive species.

Apostle East, Gary, stated that he is a member of the Community Council and thanked the Commission for their work in the Marshalltown Terrace area.

Jeanette Crawford, Elaine Mopley and Sarah Taylor, members of the Marshalltown Terrace Block Club spoke about their efforts to revitalize the area and asked how the Commission could assist in any clean-up efforts.

Dave Nellans, Munster Town Council, thanked the Commission for approving the Joint Interlocal Agreement on the Hart Stabilization Project. He stated that this is a good start, but work will need to continue on the project.

Statements from the Board -

Commissioner Castellanos thanked all for attending the meeting. He asked the Commission to step forward and assist the Marshalltown Community with their mosquito problem. He stated that he attended a Community Meeting for the 4th District held by Councilwoman Rogers and felt it was a very informative meeting. He also appreciated the efforts of the community members to enhance their area.

Commissioner Nimetz thanked everyone that participates in our meetings every month.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of NWI for displaying their exhibit at our meeting and appreciates all their work.

Chairman Baker thanked Tim Ferguson for the work he does and admired the Wildlife Educational Exhibit that he displayed at our meeting.

Commissioner Wichlinski wished all a Happy Father's Day and thanked the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of NWI for their informative display.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of NWI for their display. He stated that he attended a Marshalltown Community meeting and a clean-up was discussed. He further added that the issue on Hart Ditch impacts multiple communities within the watershed and this is a necessary deferred maintenance project.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.