

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 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 eight (8) 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  
Anthony Broadnax

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Visitors:**

Laurie Czulno - Hammond  
John Beckman – IWLA-PCC  
George Barth - IDNR  
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group  
Paul Daniels – Advisory Committee  
Anna & Robert Case – Lake Station  
Natalie Mills – USACE  
David Nellans – Munster Town Council  
Lauren Varga – Commonwealth Engineers  
Kathy Murphy – Ellas Construction Co.  
Vicki Williams – Munster  
Sandy O'Brien – Izaak Walton League  
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA  
Kalliope Dedelow – Munster  
Karie Koehneke – Patrick Engineering

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from April 10, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker; motion passed with 8 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. It is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that we have been displaying the pictures of the 2008 flood event. The yellowing 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 May claims in the amount of \$1,065,903.74. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to IHC Construction in the amount of \$431,607.32 for continued work on the CFER Railroad Bridge Project in Hobart. This project is in the final stretch, with an anticipated June 1<sup>st</sup> finish. \$283,278.00 was paid to Ellas Construction Co. for work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. This includes a change order amount of \$35,672.46 for costs incurred because of extra time needed for utility relocations. Gariup Construction submitted a claim in the amount of \$155,821.05 for work on the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge. When complete, this bridge

will connect the Gary North and South segments of the levee. A claim for \$24,710.00 was submitted by U.S. Geological Survey for the operation and maintenance of stream gages along the system. There are 14 gages in total and they can be viewed on our website. \$16,918.00 was paid to Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance for their monthly pump station inspections and maintenance. Finally, Patrick Engineering submitted claims in the amount of \$14,505.00 for work on the design of the Lake Station Levee and \$32,339.00 for management of the CFER Railroad Bridge Project.

Commissioner Broadnax asked for further information regarding the change order from Ellas Construction for the Harrison Street Bridge Project. Mr. Repay stated that the change order mainly covered traffic management while NIPSCO relocated the utilities.

Commissioner Whittaker asked if there was any way to expedite the construction of the Harrison Street Bridge so that it would open before IUN starts their fall session.

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 updates on some of the projects:

- We are in the midst of our USACE annual inspections. Munster and Highland have been completed with no significant deficiencies. Inspections will continue this week with the levees and gates in Hammond. Inspections for INDOT and the Gary section will begin on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Property acquisitions as required by the USACE are progressing. There are approximately 30 parcels that we still need to acquire. Currently, two property owners have accepted our offers. We are also working with the Gary Parks Department for an agreed acceptance of purchase or easements on their properties.
- The CFER Railroad Bridge Project is near completion. The contractor needs to be out of the channel by May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The estimated completion date is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There is a change order on the agenda for the Lake Station Levee Project. Initially the specifications called for approximately 100 acres of landside drainage. After review and survey, the actual drainage is closer to 500 acres.
- Work on the Harrison Bridge Project has been impacted by the weather. This project is still scheduled to be completed in early August.
- Contracts for both the Marshalltown and Hammond North V-2 Paving Projects have signed and the projects are expected to begin by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 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 are scheduled to begin by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Downed trees needed to be cleared at Kennedy Avenue and Georgia Street during the recent rain event. A sand boil was found in Wicker Park and was temporarily repaired. Monitoring of the system by our community partners as part of our action plan was key to discovering the sand boil before it became a bigger problem. The action levels for every community along the system can be found on our website. Chairman Baker asked what the next step is for a permanent fix on the sand boil. Mr. Repay stated that the USACE will give us a report on this issue and advise of the next steps.

Hart Ditch is the main artery to the Little Calumet River and runs between Munster and Highland. It was discussed in 2018 that the Wicker Park side of the levee was higher than the side bordering Hawthorne Drive. There is a cut out on the Wicker Park side that is meant to direct water in that direction during high water events. Several residents had concerns about the design. When brought to the attention of

the USACE, they assured the Commission that the design was correct. This spring, the Commission participated in an overtopping exercise with the USACE. During the scenarios, Wicker Park did not fill with water as was intended. Further review by the USACE determined that the Wicker Park area levee overtopping design may not work as designed. Chairman Baker added that the USACE told us in March, 2018 that the levee design would work and Wicker Park would be used as an overtopping area as the earthen levee would settle. Mr. Repay stated that the levee is currently 1.5 feet higher on the Wicker Park side.

**Update from the USACE –**

Natalie Mills of the USACE gave the following updates:

- The USACE will look at the modeling and original designs of the Hart Ditch levee. She added that she will ask their attorney if there is anything that can be done because the project is still open if a design deficiency is determined. Ms. Mills further stated that they will review the modeling next month and will have results by the July meeting. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission is working with the USACE by sending pictures of the area during the past high water events so they can compare them to the model. Further discussion was held regarding the timeline of potential fixes for this area.
- Emergency repair work on the leaking wall in Munster will be awarded this month. 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.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve and Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hobart in the amount of \$75,000 for an aquatic weed control project on Lake George; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that at our October, 2018 meeting, Clarke Aquatics gave a presentation on this method for weed control recommended for Lake George. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve Patrick Engineering Change Order 01 in the amount of \$167,000 for the Lake Station Levee Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that after review the actual landside drainage for this levee project is 500 acres, not the 100 as initially called for in the specifications. Chairman

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve a contract with Pangere Corporation in the amount of \$31,000.00 for painting the stems and gearboxes in the Gary North, Gary South, Burr Street and Marshalltown segments; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Mr. Repay stated that this project is part of the routine maintenance needed for the USACE annual inspections. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

**Statements from the Floor –**

Erik Sprenne, Highland, stated that the railroad bridge in Hobart now has a wider channel and the channel has been graded to allow passage. He also encouraged the Commission to consider adding an ADA launch facility. He complimented the Commission on the addition of the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, stated that she toured the area after the recent heavy rains and was happy to see the River's Edge Disc Golf Park was full of water, as designed. She still watched the river and gages and encourages everyone to keep secondary flood insurance coverage on their property. She further stated that she believes the repairs at Hart Ditch is the responsibility of the USACE and should not come back to the Commission.

John Beckman, Hammond, requested an update on the use of Longwood Golf Course in Will County as storage.

*Statements from the Board –*

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the WLTH Radio Station was off the air for 6 days due to flooding near the tower. He further added that many local residents use the station for emergency notification and the Commission should help the station with any necessary repairs. Commissioner Castellanos also added that Sandy O'Brien and Erik Sprenne will be guests on the next LCRBDC radio show to discuss the recreational components of the project. The radio show is broadcast the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month on WLTH AM 1370.

Commissioner Nimetz thanked everyone that came out to the meeting and the Commission listens and appreciates their comments.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked Ms. Mills if the USACE has a requirement to solicit minority contractors for projects. He also appreciates all the continued interest from community members on the project.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked all that attending the meetings and gave their feedback on the project. He also congratulated Mr. Repay on the work he has done on the project and that for the past 2 years the entire system has been certified. This is the first time in the history of the project that this has happened.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked our community partners for their assistance during the recent rain events.

Commissioner Whittaker complimented Dan Repay on the work he has done for the project and during these past rain events. He also thanked the community for attending the meeting as it's important to hear their concerns and comments. He also asked that the Commission revisit the WLTH Tower issue as 70,000-100,000 could be without emergency information during flood events. Commissioner Whittaker asked about minority participation and if our contractors have been compliant in this matter. He further stated that we will be reinforcing the problem if we keep awarding projects without verifying their compliance with minority participation.

Commissioner Ware thanked the community members that voice their comments and concerns during our meeting.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.