

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax
Ron Ware
Dave Castellanos
Robert Ochi

Visitors:

Virtual Meeting

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Commissioner Baker welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked those who joined. As a reminder, USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recordings of our meetings can be found on our website at www.littlecalriverbasin.org. The Commission is tasked with the maintenance is a \$275 million man-made flood control project. There are numerous issues with the original design and decades of deferred maintenance that we are completing. However, this Commission is far better prepared than was in the past and we continue to maintain open communication and work with all communities within the watershed.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the November claims in the amount of \$1,464,980.20. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the November claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with

payment to Earthwerks in the amount of \$1,159,740.00 for continued work on the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. This is a \$4.4 million dollar project located in Lake Station that was awarded in July of this year. The project has benefited from the great weather. Several additional claims on this project were paid including \$58,520.00 to JM Industrial Services for clearing and grading of the prairie area. Comcast Communications submitted a claim in the amount of \$34,031.67 for the relocation of utility lines necessary for the project. Claims in the amount of \$8,102.20 and \$41,340.00 were submitted by Patrick Engineering for continued engineering and project management of the Deep River Rock Riffle Project.

Czaplicki-Lopez submitted a claim in the amount of \$5,866.00 for engineering design on the Burr Street Flood Control Closure. The closure plan has been submitted to N&S Railroad for their review. 1st Response Maintenance, was paid \$6,730.00 for work done exercise sluice gates in the Griffith, Burr Street, Gary North, Gary South and Marshalltown areas of the project. \$11,000 was paid to Dave's Tree Service for removal of dead trees in Hammond and Highland. The City of Hammond was reimbursed \$6,742.24 for expenses incurred during the USACE annual inspections. Finally, the City of Crown Point was reimbursed \$20,816.64 for continued work on the Sauerman Woods Watershed Project.

Commissioner Castellanos asked why payment to WLTH Radio was in the amount of \$6,240.00, and not the higher amount requested by WLTH. Mr. Repay stated that, per the signed agreement between the Commission and WLTH, the Commission paid the maximum amount allowed.

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 an update on several of the projects:

- The Deep River Rock Riffle Project in Lake Station is progressing well. The warm temperatures have allowed the contractor to continue working. This project includes a prairie area to the north of 29th Street as well as the rock riffle dam and pedestrian bridge.
- The Hart Ditch/High Velocity Flow Channel is near completion. The elevations were being verified before paving is completed. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of the year.
- A large blockage was removed by Northern Indiana Mechanical along Indianapolis Blvd. near the old bus terminal. There is still a lot of silt caught under the bridge that will need to be addressed as a future maintenance project.
- The Hart Ditch Stabilization Project is nearly complete with just some punch list items remaining at the three sites. A few other locations along Hart Ditch have been identified as potential areas to consider for repair in the upcoming years.

- Initial discussion was held with HWC Engineering regarding the design concept for the Natural Spring. We were also able to get some ideas from area residents in what they would like to see at the Natural Spring.
- We will continue to do general maintenance throughout the winter months. Some more dead trees and brush along the river will be cut back. Ditches leading to Hart Ditch and some open ditches around Calhoun and Colfax will also be cleared.
- Drawings of the City of Hammond's proposed Pedestrian Bridge along Calumet Avenue were distributed to the Commission. It is anticipated that the Bridge will be built during the 2021 construction season.

Other Issues/New Business –

No new business.

Statements to the Board –

Ed Hero, Lake Station, asked for additional information on a notice he received from DNR regarding permitting on the Deep River Rock Riffle Project.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ochi thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Whittaker wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged the Commission to do all we can to include minority and local business participation.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the Isaak Walton League for their clean-up event at the river and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to stay safe.

Commissioner Ware thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Broadnax stated that he has been doing some work with several groups that have environmental interests in the area. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to stay safe.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 2020.