

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021
Location: Virtual Meeting

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were nine (9) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

none

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Virtual Meeting

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Broadnax made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16, 2020 and December 28, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 9 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 of 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 January claims in the amount of \$528,808.94. Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the December 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 \$191,385.00 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. Austgen Equipment submitted claims in the amount of \$71,676.12 and \$40,578.30 for work on the HVFC – Wicker Park Bike Path and Levee Modification Projects. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a \$10,296.00 claim for monthly pump station maintenance. \$4,876.00 was paid to HWC Engineering for design work on the Artesian Spring. R.A. Oros, Inc. submitted a claim in the amount of 8,257.05 for work on the Hart Ditch Stabilization Project. This Project is nearly complete with just some punch list items remaining. A few other locations along Hart Ditch have been identified as potential areas to consider for repair in the upcoming years. \$32,788.40 was reimbursed to the City of Crown Point for the Sauerman Woods Drainage Study Project. Finally, a claim was submitted by Czaplicki-Lopez, PLLC in the amount of 5,382.00 for continued design work on the Burr Street Flood Control Closure.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- Most of our larger projects are currently on break due to the weather. We are still working on some minor tree clearing and beaver dam blockage removals.
- We have brought in a few college students to begin scanning older documents such as meeting minutes and state documents that do not exist in electronic form. We hope to have a data base of the documents in the near future.
- We have completed acquisition of most of the properties needed by the USACE. There are currently 6 parcels that still need to be acquired.
- HWC Engineering continues design work on Spring Park. This concept will allow better and safe access to 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.
- Christopher Burke Engineering has started work on the design for the Griffith Levee Rehabilitation Project. This project is scheduled to start in Spring 2022.
- The Hart Ditch/High Velocity Flow Channel is near completion. Since it was late in the season, it was decided to put off paving until Spring of 2021. However, the level of the levee is now where it should be when it was built in 2009.
- Five communities within the watershed will present their watershed applications later during the meeting.

Presentations –

The following Watershed Applications were presented at the meeting. The links to the video presentations are included below:

- City of Hammond
 - i. Calumet Avenue Pedestrian Bridge
Request Amount: 1,000,000.00
[Video: https://youtu.be/iAhKA6R-trQ](https://youtu.be/iAhKA6R-trQ)
- Lake County Drainage Board/City of Crown Point
 - ii. Beaver Dam Ditch Lateral 5 – Culvert Replacement
Request Amount: \$126,000.00
[Video: https://youtu.be/bVFGORH047A](https://youtu.be/bVFGORH047A)
- Town of Dyer
 - iii. Hart Ditch 2 Stage Ditch
Request Amount: \$600,000.00
[Video: https://youtu.be/HJ73ZhTADY0](https://youtu.be/HJ73ZhTADY0)
- City of Crown Point
 - iv. Sauerman Woods Drainage Improvements (Construction)
Request Amount: 3,464,000.00
[Video: https://youtu.be/woTRVnebdOI](https://youtu.be/woTRVnebdOI)
- City of Crown Point
 - v. Silver Hawk Drainage Improvements at Beaver Dam Ditch
Request Amount: \$140,000.00
[Video: https://youtu.be/2slTvehmU54](https://youtu.be/2slTvehmU54)

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve an agreement with Christopher Burke Engineering for the Deep River and Duck Creek Floodplain Revision Investigation Project in an amount not to exceed \$55,700.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that since the work we did replacing the railroad bridge in Hobart, the City has noticed a significant reduction in the water levels during rain events in their community. This hydraulic study would help determine if structures could be removed from the mandatory flood insurance program. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Statements to the Board –

Alva Muhammad, Gary Food Council, thanked the board for their work on improving the Natural Spring and for their efforts at the recent clean-up event.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting and looked forward to the projects that the Commission will undertake moving forward.

Commissioner Ware thanked the communities for the great presentations given at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Ochi thanked all for attending the meeting and appreciated the presentations from the communities.

Commissioner Gozdecki stated that we have been attending meetings virtual for almost a year & thanked everyone for still attending the meetings virtually. He also thanked the presenters for their presentations.

Commissioner Whittaker also thanked the communities for presenting their Watershed Applications.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked those who participated in the recent clean-up event and thanked Alva Muhammad from the Gary Food Council for her help and her comments at the meeting.

Commissioner Broadnax thanked Alva Muhammad from the Gary Food Council for her input at the meeting. He stated that the clean-up event was a success and also thanked the communities that presented during the meeting.

Commissioner Nimetz appreciated the presentations at tonight's meeting and thanked those that attended the meeting.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, 2021.