

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2017

Location: LAKE STATION CITY HALL, Lake Station, 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 six (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Tom Gozdecki
Levon Whittaker
David Castellanos

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

Dave Wickland

Visitors:

Natalie Mills – USACE
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Kevin Tobin – Tobin Development
John Talbot – Weaver Consultants Group
Greg Lorig – American StructurePoint
Robert Novick – City of Lake Station
Richard Hertaus – Lake Station
Chris Anderson – City of Lake Station
Sandy O'Brien – Hobart
Mike Yacullo – Ciorba Group
Mark Milsap – Lake Station

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the June 14, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 5 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker thanked the City of Lake Station for allowing the Commission to have our monthly meeting here. He reminded everyone to not lose sight of the reason we are here, as he referred to the yellowing pictures of the 2008 flood event. There is ongoing maintenance necessary with the \$275 million man-made flood control project and we are working through decades of deferred maintenance, but we still need to keep a watchful eye on things as you cannot control Mother Nature. However, we are far better prepared now than we ever have been in the past. Chairman Baker also stated that this is the first year that the entire system has passed the USACE inspections.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the June claims in the amount of \$434,043.45. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker called for any discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay proceeded to explain a few of the claims, starting with the \$50,160.00 claim from Patrick Engineering for continued work on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge Study. \$13,050.00 was paid to Austgen Engineering for work on the Burr Street North Back-up Generator Project. The work on the project is essentially complete, with only the retainage amount remaining. Several properties were acquired in Lake Station in the total amount of \$203,611.23. Approximately 20 properties will be necessary for the flood control project. C&H Mowing was paid \$22,135.00 for the 2nd cycle of mowing the entire levee system. The next mowing is scheduled to begin mid-August. Finally, IPFS submitted a claim for \$12,011.95 for our monthly general liability

insurance payment. Commissioner Gozdecki asked the paid through date on the general liability insurance policy. Mr. Repay stated the policy is paid through August 5th. 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 design of the G&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge over Deep River is on schedule. The design is expected to be complete in September and will then be ready to bid.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge design is progressing with the anticipation of bidding in 2018 and construction in 2019
- The Harrison Avenue Bridge design is on schedule with bidding expected later this year for construction in 2018.
- USACE inspections of have been completed and they went well. A few minor repairs need to be completed, but all indicates that we should receive at least a minimally acceptable rating on all segments. A meeting was held last Thursday at the Chicago location of the USACE to review the reports. A final report should be available by September.
- The Gary North Levee Paving project will begin soon. This project paves the tops of the levees from Chase Street to Martin Luther King Blvd.
- Also starting soon is the Hammond Levee Paving Project. This project will pave the tops of the levees from Calumet Avenue to Northcote.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for a status update on the G&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge Study. Mr. Repay stated that he had a meeting with Patrick Engineering earlier in the day. The preliminary design is complete and next is a review by the railroad company.

Chairman Baker asked how the Pump Stations handled with all the rain we have had in recent weeks. Mr. Repay answered that all Pump Stations performed well with no issues.

Considering all the rain and flooding received in Lake County Illinois, Chairman Baker reminded everyone that we meet with local communities once a month to work on storm preparedness. Mr. Repay said that the model prepared by the USACE overlaying the Lake County Illinois rain totals on our system will be shared with the local communities to aid in storm preparation.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

Progress with crediting continues as \$740,000 crediting package was approved.

Work continues at the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. This is a five year contract, with the contractor continuing to work on clearing and debris removal.

The State Line Tie Back Project is progressing. The contractor recently completed the concrete portion of the project and started the earthen levee portion. The contractor anticipates completion of the earthen levee by this Saturday. Notices were sent to residents regarding parking restrictions in the area while the work is ongoing. There will still be seeding and restoration work to be completed.

Col. Drew has retired from the USACE and the new Colonel in charge of the project is Col. Reisinger.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked what additional work will be necessary at the State Line Tie Back Project before as-builts will be ready. Ms. Mills stated that a survey of the earthen levee will be necessary, a survey of the concrete wall has already been completed.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-06 and an Inter Local Agreement with the Lake County Drainage Board in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Mr. Repay explained that the Lake County Drainage Board asked for assistance with improving drainage along lateral 6. Commissioner Whittaker asked if there was a specific designation of where the funds can be spent. Mr. Repay stated that the funds can be spent only on the area which extends from Bailey School in Gary to I-65. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to award a contract to Metropolitan Industries in the amount of \$54,475.00 to furnish and install a SCADA System for the Burr North, Burr South and Grant Street West Pump Stations; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that proposals were received from Gasvoda & Associates, Metropolitan Industries and Wunderlich-Malek. Discussion was held on the upgrade options for the chosen SCADA System. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the Sauerman Woods Drainage Study and Design Watershed Application from the City of Crown in the amount of \$200,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this application deals with drainage issues near Route 231 in Crown Point Indiana. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the Stormwater Management Plan Watershed Application from the City of Lake Station in the amount of \$80,000.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the Hermit's Lake Sanitary Infiltration and Intrusion Reduction Project Watershed Application from the Lake County Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$317,480.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote; motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the Griffith Levee Certification – Preliminary Engineering Watershed Application from the Town of Griffith in the amount of \$250,644.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Commissioner Whittaker stated he was concerned about the priority of the Town of Griffith Watershed applications and how they were submitted to the Commission. He was also concerned that this was the second request for reimbursement on work that was previously completed. Mr. Repay stated that he has discussed with the Town of Griffith, the Commission's preference of submitting applications prior to work being completed rather than as a reimbursement. Further discussion was held on the current application and a prior funded application regarding the Arbogast Bridge. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further and called for a roll call vote. Motion failed with 4 aye votes and 1 abstention.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the City of Lake Station for hosting our monthly meeting and stated that the guest on the previous WLTH AM 1370 radio programs was Spero Batistatos of the South Shore CVA.

Statements from the Floor –

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, stated that she was happy to see trucks moving at the State Line project but still disappointed that nothing happened from June 14th until now.

Mayor Chris Anderson, Lake Station, thanked the board for having their meeting here in Lake Station. He expressed thanks to the Commission for their continued support of Lake Station and the approval of their Watershed Application. He also had a question about the extent of the jurisdiction of the LCRBDC. Mr. Repay stated that the Commission's jurisdiction extends to the county line.

Richard Hertaus, Lake Station, stated that he has lived along the river since 1962 and with the weather event of last week, the river rose 27 inches.

Kevin Tobin, Tobin Development stated that he represents a group that wishes to purchase vacant farmland in Gary for an economic development project. He further stated that he submitted an offer 2 months ago and has not received a response to the offer. Chairman Baker stated that it is necessary to seek input from the state on whether the Commission can sell property. Attorney Wickland added that the statute that governs the LCRBDC was inconsistent regarding selling real estate. Barnes & Thornburg was contacted for their legal opinion and further opinion is being sought by the Attorney General. Attorney Wickland stated it is a complicated process that can take time. Commissioner Castellanos asked that Mr. Tobin not get discouraged with the process.

Mark Milsap, Lake Station, stated that there is a beaver dam and several trees in the river at the Hobart Lake Station line.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 9th at the Munster Town Hall.