

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Location: Munster Town Hall

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
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Anthony Broadnax (via Zoom)
Ron Ware
Derek Nimetz
Robert Ochi
David Castellanos

Visitors:

Gary Lee - Gary

Commissioners Absent:

none

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed everyone to our meeting. USACE inspection reports, minutes and audio recording of our meetings can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org. The Commission is tasked with the continued 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 in the process of completing. The yellowing pictures from the 2008 flood event are shown at every meeting as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood

control project such as this is neglected. This Commission, however, is far better prepared than was in the past. We continue to work with all communities and our partners within the watershed to ensure an event like 2008 does not happen again.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the September 2021 claims in the amount of \$185,212.93. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the September claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ochi.

Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Flores Insurance Group in the amount of \$57,256.00 for renewal of our general liability insurance. \$25,206.30 was paid to Austgen Equipment for completion of the levee modifications near Wicker Park. Security Door Inc. submitted a claim in the amount of \$13,429.00 for installation of a fence for the Deep River Rock Riffle Project. HWC Engineering was paid \$17,744.47 for design work on the Spring Park Project. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$11,767.00 for pump station inspection and maintenance for the month of August. \$8,306.50 was paid to Christopher Burke Engineering for continued work on the Insbrook County Club/Turkey Creek Flood Study. Finally, \$235 was paid to Microbac Laboratories for water testing at the Natural Spring in Gary.

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:

- We are working to clear Hart Ditch from 45th Street north up to Ridge Road. The operation is to cut back dead, dying or leaning trees within this critical segment. It has been about 3 years since we did a clearing that was not an emergency.
- We are working on several projects to remove an abundance of trees near the levee. Our plan would be to begin the work sometime in October or November.
- A meeting was held with the City of Crown Point and the Lake County Surveyor's Office to discuss the problem areas along Beaver Dam Ditch as well as high priority areas that impact this ditch. Our study, conducted by Wessler Engineering will continue over the winter into the spring.
- We are working with the Lake County Drainage Board and Surveyor's office to continue general cleaning of Deep River from approximately 53rd Street to the Rock Riffle in Lake Station.
- I recently participated in a final walkthrough of the Hobart Marsh Mitigation site accompanied by Commissioner Nimetz. We will be entering into a maintenance agreement with IDNR in the near future.
- We conducted an annual flood emergency exercise in the Town of Munster. The exercise was completed to USACE standards with no issues. The Towns of Highland and Griffith sent officials to watch the exercise as well.

- The construction of a permanent rail road closure at Burr Street was delayed due to scheduling conflicts. It is anticipated that the construction will be complete by our October meeting.
- The post and panel closure at Northcote Bridge will be bid out this winter with an anticipated lead time of five months.
- The environmental area at the Lake Station Rock Riffle Project has been seeded by Cardno. This is one of the final phases for the project.

Other Issues/New Business –

Sealed bids for the Spring Park Project were not opened at the meeting. This project will be addressed at a later meeting.

Statements to the Board –

Gary Lee, Gary, IN stated that, after speaking with Mr. Repay, has agreed to allow our contractor to access to clear a ditch on his property. Mr. Repay added that after the clearing is completed, he would meet Mr. Lee at the property and inspect the area for any additional work that may be needed at the site.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked all for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Castellanos stated that the Commission recently donated several computers to the Sojourner Truth House in Gary and they were very appreciative of the donation.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 20, 2021.