

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

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 six (6) 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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Mark Gordish – City of Hammond
LuAnn Franklin – The Times
Charlie Svitko – Munster
Bill & Carolyn Connor – Munster
John Beckman – Catalysto Consulting
Jamie Miller – DNR
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Barry Halgrimson – Munster
Emanuel Smith – Gary
Paul Daniels – Munster
Denise Crowther – Gary
Karie Koehnke – Patrick Engineering
Natalie Mills – USACE
Verna Meacham – Highland
Evangaline Stafford – Hammond
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Annisha Whittaker – RTA
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. Engineering
Brad Woznak – S.E.H. Engineering
Riley Mondach – S.E.H. Engineering

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Today is the 10 year anniversary of the 2008 flood. Every meeting we have a display board of pictures showing the devastation that occurred and what can happen when maintenance on a \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission meet with communities once a month to make sure we are ready to take on Mother Nature. Keep in mind that when you pour 10 gallons of water into a 5 gallon bucket, problems can occur. But we are far better prepared

now than we were in 2008. We discussed the 2008 flood on WJOB Radio this morning and its effect on many people throughout the region. The Commission's task right now is the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this regional flood control project so events such as the 2008 flood, do not happen again.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the September claims in the amount of \$798,295.89.

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 The Lake County Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$130,092.00. This payment reflects their first draw of the Hermit's Lake Watershed Project that was approved last year.

\$147,789.36 was paid to Ellas Construction Co., for work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. Dyer Construction Co. submitted a claim in the amount of \$92,438.40 for continued work on the 35th & Chase Grade Adjustment Project. Work is substantially complete on the project, with only a few punch list items remaining. \$69,683.00 was paid to Patrick Engineering for construction management services on the CFER Bridge over Deep River Project. DLZ Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$87,520.00 for engineering design work on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. It is anticipated that the project will be ready to bid out and awarded in November of this year. Flores Insurance Group was paid \$82,434.00 and Meyers Glaros Group was paid \$11,018.75 for our general liability and pump station insurance. Finally, Finer Finish Grounds Care submitted a claim in the amount of \$20,400.00 for the 3rd cycle of levee mowing.

Commissioner Ware requested information regarding the aluminum gates fabricated by Gary Bridge & Iron in the amount of \$5,600.00. Mr. Repay stated the gate is part of the closure system near Burr Street underneath the railroad tracks. During annual USACE inspections, it was noted that the gate was missing. Gary Bridge & Iron previously fabricated the gate for us in 2014.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- Work has been substantially completed on the 35th & Chase Grade Adjustment Project and the road is open with just a few punch list items remaining. This project eliminates the need for the post and panel closure at this location.
- The Harrison Street Bridge Project has been delayed by NIPSCO utility relocations. We are working with all parties to move the project forward.
- A pre-construction meeting was held for the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project. This project is expected to be completed by October 1st.
- A pre-construction meeting was held for the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project. This project is expected to be completed by December 1st.

- We have received preliminary plans on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project. The plans have been shared with the City of Hammond and Town of Highland so they were able to make their comments. Bids for the project are expected to be opened at our November meeting.
- We are still working to acquire the final 3 properties needed for the Lake Station Levee.
- Fall weed spraying is being completed along the project.
- We received 5 submissions to our Lake Station Levee RFQ. Proposals with timelines and budgets are to be submitted by our October meeting.
- We received USACE final permission to acquire a flowage easement at the former Griffith Golf Center property. The next step will be to get the property appraised.
- We meet with the USACE regarding the Gary and Griffith annual inspections. There were a few minor issues that we are currently addressing.
- Lake County is doing an assessment of Hart Ditch. They have hired Christopher Burke Engineering to help with the process. It is expected that the County will make Hart Ditch a regulated drain.

Chairman Baker asked of the status of the levee wall that leaked during the February rain event. Mr. Repay stated that approximately 600 feet of wall was leaking on River Drive in Munster. Division at USACE needs to approve the repair and a contract should be awarded in winter or spring of 2019.

Update from the USACE –

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

- The LOMR for Hammond has been revised, effective November 14, 2018. FEMA will send notification of the map revision to the City of Hammond.
- Work on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project and In Project Mitigation Project continues with site work, herbicide application and plantings.
- There are a few items to complete before the Levee Wall repair issue is sent to Division. In the event there is a further issue or flood event, the USACE would take responsibility and flood fight if necessary.

Presentation -

Craig Hendrix, Brad Woznak and Riley Mondach from S.E.H. Engineering, gave a presentation on the Lake Station Flood Mitigation Study. This study used 1D and 2D modeling from Grant Street on the Little Calumet River to the confluence with Deep River/Burns Waterway and on Burns Waterway to the confluence with Lake Michigan. The complete audio of their presentation as well as the final report can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org.

Other Issues/New Business –

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineers to provide construction management services for the Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project in an amount not to exceed \$31,185.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. This

project was awarded to Gariup Construction at the August meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineers to provide construction management services for the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project in an amount not to exceed \$36,740.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. This project was awarded to Grimmer Construction at the August meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve an agreement with Garcia Consulting Engineers for engineering and design of the Marshalltown Levee Paving Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that Councilwoman Rogers requested the paving of the levee top during a tour of the levee system. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Statement from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos thanked Mr. Repay and Commissioner Ware for attending the Community Meeting with Councilwoman Rogers. He stated that we need a solution for the mosquitos and was researching bat boxes. He further stated that he was happy to hear about the levee paving in Marshalltown. He looks forward to working with the City of Gary on economic development and minority participation.

Commissioner Whittaker stated he was glad to hear the 4th District, Gary held a Community Meeting. He also participated in a meeting with the 3rd District recently. The City of Gary is being assertive with their economic development and we need to do what we can to help them move forward.

Commissioner Ware congratulated Commissioner Castellanos and Executive Director Repay on their recent presentation in Gary with Councilwoman Rogers. A lot of good questions were asked by the community. He further stated that there was a great talk regarding the 2008 flood on WJOB Radio this morning and worth listening to.

Chairman Baker thanked everyone on the Board and in the various communities for the work done to get to this point. Water know no political boundaries and this is truly a regional project. One idea that is being discussed is a way to remember the events of 2008 by placing memorials at various locations within the watershed that experienced issues.

Statements from the Floor –

Evangaline Stafford, Hammond, asked about flood insurance relief for Hammond.

John Beckman, Hammond, appreciated the board's reconsideration of Longwood Golf Course as out of state storage.

Barry Halgrimson, Munster, found the presentation very interesting. He asked if runoff from the Maya Energy Project would cause problems. He also requested information on the Gary Iron & Bridge claim.

Emanuel Smith, Gary, stated Tobin Development is interested in leasing available land and he hopes the Commission will work with developers regarding this.

Bill Connor, Munster, lives along Hart Ditch and spoke about the erosion issues and requested help from the Commission.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 10th, at the Munster Town Hall.