

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

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 seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

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

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Paul Daniels – Advisory Board
Laurie Czulno - Hammond
Jamie Miller - DNR
George Barth - DNR
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Charlie Svitko - Munster
John Beckman – IWLA-PCC
Tim Werner – Ciorba Group
Peter Yackanich - Hammond
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Erik Sprenne – NWIPA & SST
Kalliope & James Dedelow - Munster
Andrew Robarge – Commonwealth
Engineers
Karie Koehneke – Patrick Engineering

Election of Officers –

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to nominate Mr. Whittaker as Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. The nomination was declined by Commissioner Whittaker. Commissioner Ware made a motion to nominate Mr. Baker as Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. There being no further nominations, a roll call vote was called. Motion passed 6-1 (Commissioner Castellanos nay).

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to nominate Mr. Wichlinski as Vice-Chairman; motion seconded by Commissioner Gozdecki. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further nominations and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to nominate Mr. Gozdecki as Treasurer; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further nominations and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to nominate Mr. Whittaker as Secretary; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further nominations and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2019 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Wichlinski; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for attending. It is the 11th year that we have been displaying the pictures of the 2008 flood event. The yellowing pictures are a great reminder of what can happen if maintenance on this \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission continues the practice of meeting with communities in the watershed on a monthly basis. Table Top and field exercises are also conducted with the local municipalities to ensure that we are ready in case of a flood event. The goal of this Commission is a true regional flood control project.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the February claims in the amount of \$685,459.29. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to IHC Construction in the amount of \$243,696.42 for continued work on the CFER Bridge Project. \$123,995.53 was paid to Ellas Construction Co. for further work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. This project was delayed by utility relocation but is expected to start up on March 1st and be completed this summer. Grimmer Construction was paid \$49,411.20 for work on the Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project. This project is complete with the exception of grass planting that will take place this spring. Repairs to a water main in New Chicago under Deep River resulted in payments to Grimmer Construction for \$118,883.48, Utility Supply Company for \$10,770.34 and Paul's Paving for \$6,000.00. It is anticipated that we will be reimbursed these amounts by the Contractor's insurance company. Finally, Patrick Engineering submitted a claim in the amount of \$33,845.00 for work on the levee design in Lake Station. 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 updates on some of the projects:

- CFER Railroad Bridge Project in Hobart was delayed due to the cold temperatures. A change order was submitted in the amount of \$14,569.75 due to a change in stone as required by the railroad. The Commission continues to participate in weekly status meetings to ensure we are up to date on the progress of the project.
- The Harrison Street Bridge Project was delayed due to the cold weather and utility relocations. The project is expected to start up March 1st.
- The Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project has been delayed due to INDOT work on the Chase Street over 80/94. We are working with the contractor to find an alternate route to the site without having to drive their heavy equipment on the levee path.

- The Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project is essentially complete with the exception of grass planting that will happen this spring.
- Will County Forest Preserve is in negotiations to acquire Longwood Golf Course. They have been in contact with us and the Town of Dyer. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the property.
- There was a lightning strike at the Marshalltown Pump Station that knocked the station off-line. The Station is back running with no lasting issues.
- The Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project is slow due to the weather. Work continues on the In-Project Mitigation Project with the cutting and girdling of trees.

Chairman Baker asked if any additional inspections have been completed on the Pump Stations after the severe cold weather this past month. Mr. Repay stated that the Pump Stations are inspected monthly. Our contractor, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance, also made sure each station was grounded properly. There was an issue with the SCADA System at the Grant West Pump Station that is being repaired. All Pump Stations are working properly after the cold weather.

Commissioner Broadnax asked if there were any concerns regarding the upcoming USACE Inspections. Mr. Repay stated that during the last inspection, we had an issue with the nature preserve near IUN. The land is owned by the Gary Parks Department and the Commission has an easement over the property. We are working on an agreement with IUN and Gary Parks so that the University can continue to use the land in a manner that is acceptable to the USACE. Additionally, we will need to inspect the 4 culverts underneath the expressway. In past years, Pump Stations have been an issue during inspections, but we should not have concerns this year. Fragmites and other vegetation continue to be an issue during the inspection process.

Commissioner Whittaker asked if lightning arresters were present and working properly on the Pump Stations. Mr. Repay stated that the stations are all grounded properly and all pumps were in working order.

Commissioner Whittaker asked if there is a process to ensure that utilities are consulted with regards to our projects to ensure that we do not have delays with utility relocations. Mr. Repay stated that we coordinate with utilities for all our projects. With the Harrison Street Bridge Project, the utility changed their relocation plan, which caused a delay in the project.

Other Issues/New Business –

No New Business.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos stated that he would like to attend future Advisory Board Meetings. He also thanked Attorney Wickland for his continued work regarding minority participation. He also stated that he would like to see minority participation with our professional services as well. Commissioner Castellanos reminded everyone of the LCRBDC Radio Show on WLTH AM 1370 that is broadcast the 2nd Monday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Whittaker stated that last month the Commission extended Maya Energy's license agreement for an additional six months. He wanted to reiterate that this is a project the community does not favor.

Statements from the Floor –

John Beckman asked the Commission to consider the use of Longwood Golf Course in Will County, Illinois as storage and recreation. He stated it is legal to own out of state land as long as the property is adjacent. He also said that the Commission should consider a small burn of fragmites in May as a test to see if it is a viable option

Eric Sprenne, Highland, asked about the Commissions policy on snow removal of the levee. He stated that many people still use the paved levee tops during the winter months.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at the Munster Town Hall.