

**MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020**

**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:**

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

**Visitors:**

Virtual Meeting

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

David Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

**Approval of Minutes -**

Commissioner Ochi made a motion to approve the minutes from May 20, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. 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, the Commission is tasked with the maintenance is 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.

**Watershed Application Presentations -**

Matt Lake from the Merrillville Stormwater Utility and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering gave a presentation on the Meadowdale Lateral Floodwater Storage Basin Watershed Application. A funding request for design of the project was previously approved by

the Commission. The current application is a request for funding the construction of the storage basins at a 50% cost share in the amount of \$426,625.00. A complete audio of the presentation and discussion can be found on our website at [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org). Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the Meadowdale Lateral Floodwater Storage Basin Watershed Application in the amount of \$426,625.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-1.

Matt Lake from the Merrillville Storm Water Utility gave a presentation on the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Outlet Watershed Application. This projects consists of a culvert replacement to lower the normal water level of Bon Aire Lake and increasing the stormwater capacity to alleviate flooding. The request for funding is at a 50% cost share in the amount of \$74,572.00. A complete audio of the presentation and discussion can be found on our website at [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org). Commisisoner Ware made a motion to approve the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Outlet Watershed Application in the amount of \$74,572.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Thomas Burke from Christopher Burke Engineering gave a presentation on the Hart Ditch 2-Stage Ditch Watershed Application on behalf of the Town of Dyer. This project involves constructing a modified 2-Stage Ditch that will provide 26.9 ac-ft of on-line storage and decrease the surface water elevation of Hart Ditch by up to 0.9 fee during a 100 year storm event. The request for funding in \$1,200,000.00 of the total estimated cost of \$3,958,140.00. A complete audio of the presentation and discussion can be found on our website at [www.littlecalriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalriverbasin.org). Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to take the application under advisement and defer and action on the Hart Ditch 2-Stage Ditch Application; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the June claims in the amount of \$274,043.03. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to Patrick Engineering in the amount of \$67,767.00 for continued engineering and design of the Lake Station Levee Project. This project is set for bid opening at our July meeting. \$41,548.50 was paid to Hasse Construction for their work on the 80/94 Culvert Crossing Project. Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance submitted a claim in the amount of \$17,653.00 for monthly pump station inspections and maintenance. Due to significant rain events the past month, GLEM put in long hours to ensure the pump stations were working properly. Payment was made to the Lake County Surveyor in the amount of \$26,758.08 for work completed on the Hart Ditch Stabilization Projects.

Commissioner Gozdecki requested additional information on the payment to Pangere Corp. for repairs to the levee wall. Mr. Repay stated that the metal walls had rigging holes from initial installation that needed to be repaired.

Commissioner Broadnax asked about payment to Kelton Aaron for Pump Station mowing. Mr. Repay stated that Mr. Aaron is a local minority contractor that maintains the grass at several of our Pump Stations in Gary.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any additional 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:

- Two large rain events occurred in May. Several large blockages were removed along the system and additional pumping was needed at Georgia Street in Gary. We also assisted the Gary Sanitary District with some issues in the Ironwood Subdivision. Overall, the system performed as it was designed.
- The Hart Ditch Stabilization Project is progressing, although the recent rain events have caused some delay. The 45<sup>th</sup> and Camellia area of the project is on standby due to a utility conflict. The Twin Creek portion of the project is progressing well with about 3 weeks remaining for this segment.
- The annual USACE inspections for the Hammond and Munster sections of the system will be held July 6-8<sup>th</sup>. Highland inspections will take place on July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The second cycle of mowing was completed last week. The recent rains have put us ahead of schedule so 5 cycles of mowing are anticipated this season.
- We continue to work with Norfolk & Southern Railroad to devise a permanent closure at the gates under the tracks at Burr Street. Hopefully, this can be achieved later this year. A permanent closure would reduce the number of closures along the system that need to happen during a heavy rain event.
- Plans for the Wicker Park Overbuild Project have been distributed. Proposals for the project will be opened at the July meeting.
- Plans for the Deep River Rock Riffle Improvement Project will be advertised later this week with bid opening at the July meeting.
- We continue to work on property acquisitions as required by the USACE. It is anticipated that we will have the Griffith Golf Course easement completed within the month. We have also had several discussions with the City of Gary and anticipate acquiring the necessary easements within the next few months.
- The Marshalltown Levee fix has been delayed because of the recent rain events. It is anticipated that the work will be complete in the next few weeks.
- The 80/94 Culvert Clearing Project has also been delayed due to the recent weather. The contractor will be able to continue work once the water returns to normal levels.

Commissioner Wichlinski asked for an update on the Kennedy Avenue Sandbar Project. Mr. Repay stated that the engineering and permitting of the project have been delayed because of the recent heavy rain events.

Discussion was held regarding the abundance of phragmites and our options to control them. Mr. Repay stated that we are looking into a weed control option that we will test in a pilot area in the near future.

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve an agreement with Czaplicki Lopez, PLLC for design of the Burr Street Flood Control Closures under Norfolk Southern Railway Track, in an amount not to exceed \$24,880.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Broadnax. Mr. Repay stated that we would design a permanent closure at this location, instead of the temporary closure that would need to be put in place during high water events. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Rock Riffle Dam, Bridge and Pedestrian Improvement Project on Deep River in Lake Station; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that bids for this project will be opened at our July meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 9-0.

**Statements to the Board –**

Ed Hero, Lake Station, requested status on the Deep River Levee Project in Lake Station.

**Statements from the Board –**

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked all that helped during the recent heavy rain events.

Commissioner Ware thanked everyone that participated in the meeting and wished all a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked everyone that participated in the meeting and for the great presentations we heard. He also encouraged minority participation in all the Commission contracts and agreements.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked all for attending the virtual meeting and also encouraged more minority participation.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked all that helped during the recent rain events and wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, 2020.