

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

**HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 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  
Dave Castellanos  
Tom Gozdecki  
Derek Nimetz

**Visitors:**

Natalie Mills – USACE  
John Beckman - IWLA  
Laurie Czulno – Hammond  
Ruth Mores – Hammond  
Jordan McCormack – Amer. StructurePoint  
Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee  
Paul Daniels – Advisory Board  
Shannon Pollard – PNW Student  
Evan Laviolette – PNW Student  
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. of Indiana  
Sandy O’Brien – Hobart  
Dean Button – City of Hammond  
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers  
Salvatore Di Bernardo – Ciorba Group  
Erik Sprenne - Highland

**Executive Director:**

Dan Repay

**Attorney:**

Dave Wickland

**Staff:**

Jodi Lambert

Chairman Baker welcomed Ron Ware, Jr. to the board. Commissioner Ware is an appointment from the Lake County Commissioners.

Chairman Baker referred to the minutes from the December 13, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos; motion passed with 6 aye votes.

**Chairman’s Report –**

Chairman Baker reminded everyone that 2018 is ten years since the devastating flooding that occurred in the region. The yellowing pictures serve as a reminder of what can happen if maintenance on a man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission is tasked with the ongoing and deferred maintenance of this \$275 million man-made flood project and while we cannot control Mother Nature, we are far better prepared now than we have been in the past.

**Finance –**

Chairman Baker referred to the January claims in the amount of \$331,450.53. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Repay explained several of the claims, beginning with a payment to Patrick Engineering in the amount of \$22,115.00. The C&W/CF&E Railroad Study is in the final phase with permitting requests

submitted. It is anticipated to bid out for construction in March with an award in April. \$32,937.75 was paid to DLZ for continued work on the Harrison Avenue Bridge design. This project is also in the permitting process with a bid for construction expected this spring. DLZ also submitted a claim in the amount of \$19,065.00 for work on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Design. While it was hopeful to have the project ready for bid this spring, it looks as if there will be a possible award this summer with construction in 2019. Walsh & Kelly submitted two claims in the amounts of \$50,440.39 for work on the Gary North Levee Paving Project and \$24,702.98 for the Hammond Levee Paving Project. Both projects are substantially complete with only retainage payments remaining. Metropolitan Industries was paid \$49,027.50 for installation of a SCADA system on our pump stations. We are holding back 10% retainage until all the required training is completed.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked if the payment of \$479.50 to Superior Engineering would be the last on the Burr North Back-up Generator. Mr. Repay stated that this invoice would be a final payment. Commissioner Gozdecki also requested further information on the payment to Security Industries for \$8,736.00. Mr. Repay replied that this was new split rail fencing to protect against motorized vehicles on the trail.

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

**Executive Director's Report –**

Mr. Repay discussed some of the upcoming projects for 2018:

- The Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project is currently in the engineering stage. This bridge will be the link between the north and south sections of the levee at Chase Street. It is anticipated that the project will be ready to bid this summer and be completed in the fall.
- The Clark Road Crossing Project will eliminate another closure for the City of Gary. The engineering is in progress with bid expected this summer.
- The bids for the 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Grade Adjustment Project will be opened later during the meeting tonight.
- The Harrison Avenue Bridge Project is under design with projected bid for construction in winter of 2018. This project will eliminate a closure within the City of Gary.
- The Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project is moving slower than anticipated, but we still hope to award in 2018.

Chairman Baker requested additional information on the Watershed Projects that we are still carrying over from 2017. Mr. Repay stated that he anticipated progress on many of the interlocal agreements soon.

**Update from the USACE –**

Natalie Mills from the USACE gave the following updates:

The contractor continues to make progress on the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project. Tree removal, fencing and clearing is ongoing. There are 2 pending modifications on the project.

The first is for tree removal and pruning. A proposal was received by the contractor, but additional information is needed at this time. The cost for this modification is estimated at \$150,000.00. The second pending modification is for additional gullies found at Quail Hollow. These gullies were found after tree clearing. Additionally, a culvert was identified that needed to be removed. The USACE is working with DNR and the City of Hobart to determine the necessary steps for removal of the culvert.

A public meeting will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the project. The place of the meeting is to be determined.

The Hammond Tie-back project will be concluded in the spring after the seed takes. The LOMR was submitted to FEMA on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Comments have been received from FEMA and the majority have been addressed. There is one outstanding comment regarding the need for an Emergency Action Plan from the City of Hammond. The package cannot be resubmitted to FEMA until the Emergency Action Plan is received. FEMA has stated that it may take up to six months for approval with two public comment periods needed.

A contract was awarded for the In-Project Mitigation. The contractor is still in the submittal phase. Once more information is received, it will be shared with the Commission.

**Presentation –**

Jordan McCormack from American StructurePoint gave a presentation on the Broadway Avenue Sewer Crossing Study. The complete audio and corresponding PowerPoint slides of the presentation can be found on our website at [www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org](http://www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org).

**Other Issues/New Business –**

Commissioner Ware made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to open bids on the 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Grade Adjustment Project and award to the lowest and most responsive bidder; pending review by attorney and staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay stated that this project will eliminate a post and panel closure for the City of Gary. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0. The bids amounts are as follows: Hasse Construction - \$496,380.75; Austgen Equipment - \$469,588.80; Grimmer Construction - \$537,724.99; Rieth-Riley - \$463,485.00; Walsh & Kelly - \$558,173.90; and Dyer Construction - \$445,200.00.

Commissioner Castellanos made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise and solicit bids for the periodic mowing of the Levee system in the area from Hohman Avenue in Hammond to Martin Luther King Drive in Gary; motioned seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay stated that the levee will need to be mowed a minimum of 4 times from early spring to late fall. Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the supplemental work proposal by SEH of Indiana on the Lake Station Flood Mitigation Study in an amount not to exceed \$79,880.00. This supplemental work will extend the development of both the one-dimensional and two-

dimensional hydraulic models for the Burns Waterway from County Line Road to the waterway's outlet at Lake Michigan; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. 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 extend the license agreement with Maya Energy for an additional 6 months in order to afford them additional time to obtain financing and required permits; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 6-0.

**Statements from the Floor –**

Dean Button, City of Hammond Engineer, wanted to give further information regarding the Emergency Action Plan submittal for the State Line LOMR. Mr. Button stated that he has notified by the USACE on December 18<sup>th</sup> that an Action Plan submittal was required. He further stated that a plan was submitted within two days and the USACE was not satisfied with that plan. Additional time would be needed if changes are necessary to the submitted plan. Mr. Button also offered his assistance, as a former employee of the Gary Sanitary District, with the Broadway Avenue Sewer Crossing Study.

Laurie Czulno, Hammond, wished everyone a Happy New Year. She reminded the Commission that she has been attending meetings for 10 years. She urged the Commission and the USACE to work together and figure out what needs to be done. Ms. Czulno further stated that, if necessary, she would reach out to Congressman Visclosky, Mayor McDermott and the 22 households still paying flood insurance regarding the situation. Natalie Mills of the USACE replied that the requirements for the Emergency Action Plan came from FEMA, not the USACE.

Eric Sprenne, Highland, thanked the Commission for considering the pedestrian bridge at Chase Street. He also stated that when cutting the grass along the levee, the grass needs to be cut back and the clippings need to be cleared off the trail.

Sandy O'Brien, Hobart, stated that she reviewed the IDEM permit for Maya Energy and they will not be burning at the site. She also thanked the Commission and the USACE for scheduling a meeting regarding the Hobart Marsh Mitigation Project.

Commissioner Castellanos invited everyone to a Martin Luther King breakfast on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Westside School. He also reminded everyone of the radio on WLTH AM 1370. The next date will be February 12 and the guest speaker will be Col. Reisenger of the USACE.

Commissioner Ware thanked the Commission for the warm welcome. He stated that he is a resident of Munster and the business manager for Iron Workers Local 395.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Munster Town Hall.