

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024
Location: LCRBDC OFFICE, Munster, IN

Chairman Baker presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were eight (8) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary (arrived late)
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Dave Castellanos
Robert Ochi
Derek Nimetz
Ron Ware

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborski – Gary
Linda Cook – Griffith
Richard Cook – Griffith
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Michael Novotney – Wessler Engineering

Commissioners Absent:

Anthony Broadnax

Zoom Participants:

Siavash Beik – CBBEL
Thomas Burke – CBBEL
Kristi Johnson – DNR
Jeff Huet – Town of Schererville

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Nimetz made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2024, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a vote. Motion passed with 8 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to our final meeting of 2024, the inaugural meeting in our new office. He stated the reason we are here, and that is with the continued maintenance of a \$275 million man-made federal flood control project. He added that the yellowing pictures that are shown at every meeting are a true reminder of why we are here and an example of what happens when you don't maintain a system that was designed to control mother nature. If we get 10 gallons of water for our 5-gallon bucket, we are going to have some issues. But we are far better prepared today than we were before the flood of 2008. He added that this is a true economic development project by getting the levee completed and having it certified every year. There are at least 4,000 properties that no longer have to pay mandatory flood insurance. This saves about \$4 million dollars every year that goes back into the community.

Chairman Baker further added that the Commission's attorney, David Wickland is retiring from his law practice and wanted to take the opportunity to thank him for all of his assistance in getting us to where we are today.

(Commissioner Whittaker arrived)

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the December 2024 claims in the amount of \$353,007.33. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims, starting with a claim in the amount of \$25,350.00 from Superior Engineering for the Marshalltown Pump Station Controls upgrade. He added that we are replacing the PLC's at the Burr North, Grant East, Grant West and Marshalltown Pump Stations. \$27,500.00 was paid to C&H Mowing. This was for the 5th and final mowing of the year. Our electrical contractor, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance (GLEM) submitted a claim in the amount of \$20,080.00. In addition to conducting our monthly Pump Station inspections, GLEM is rewiring the stations for the new PLC's. Barnes & Thornburg submitted claims totaling \$15,765.70 for various legal matters. Site Services was paid \$17,579.75 for the levee trail maintenance and parking lot projects. This amount was final payment on these projects that was released after the final walkthrough.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave an update on several of the projects:

- We are still waiting for several 408 permits to be approved by the USACE including the Kennedy Avenue Sandbar, bank stabilization work in Gary and Highland and soil borings along the levee. The borings are important to the City of Gary's LOMR application.
- After completing the Deep River Watershed Modeling, we asked Christopher Burke Engineering to provide some additional information regarding flood reduction possibilities. The Lake George Dam and an area just east of the Turkey Creek Golf Course were identified as potential projects to consider.
- Paul Zarowny, who, along with Tim Ferguson, traps animals for us passed away suddenly earlier this month. He was a great asset to the Commission and will be missed.
- Culvert Clearing for the Gary North, Gary South and INDOT segments of the project will start soon. We are required by the USACE to complete the clearing and inspection of the culverts every 5 years.
- We continue to deal with hunters along the levee moving boulders and causing damage. Krooswyk Excavating will be placing additional boulders to try and eliminate their access points.
- Similar to last winter, we started up patrols along the levee. There have been some recent issues with trespassing and hunters. Hopefully the patrols will be a deterrent to these issues.

- The security cameras at the Natural Spring have been installed and we are able to monitor the area in real-time.

Mr. Repay stated that Dave Wickland has been the Commission's attorney since he started in 2010. He thanked him for his help and guidance over the past 15 years and wished him well during his retirement.

Other Issues/New Business –

No Other Issues/New Business.

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware congratulated Dave Wickland on his retirement and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe prosperous New Year.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked Attorney Wickland for his years of service to the Commission. He also thanked the public for continuing to attend our meetings and wished all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked Attorney Wickland for serving the Commission for so long and wished him the best in his retirement. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked everyone who continue to attend our meetings. He congratulated Dave Wickland on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the Commission.

Commissioner Ochi thanked Attorney Wickland for his help and guidance while working with the Commission. He stated that we have a really strong team and looks forward to working with everyone in the new year.

Commissioner Castellanos congratulated Dave Wickland on his retirement stating that he will be missed. He also thanked the public that came to our last meeting of 2024 and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2025.