

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
HELD AT 6:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024
Location: Munster Town Hall, Munster, IN

Chairman Baker presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were five (5) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners Present:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice-Chairman
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Dave Castellanos (via zoom)

Visitors:

Gary Lee – Gary
Dave Taborsky - Gary
Paul Daniels – CCxPD LLC
Vicki Williams – Munster
Michael Zoeller – Conservation Law Center
Laurie Czulno – Hammond
Michael Novotney – Wessler Engineering
Ted & Christine Bogucki – Schererville
Fred Baginski – Friends of the Little Cal River
Luke Sherry - CBBEL

Commissioners Absent:

Robert Ochi
Anthony Broadnax
Derek Nimetz
Ron Ware

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2024, as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Whittaker. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting. He stated that the Commission is tasked 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. We have a continued collaboration with all the communities within the watershed, and we are better prepared today than we were before the flood of 2008.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the May 2024 claims in the amount of \$294,357.21. Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims,

starting with several claims from Christopher B. Burke Engineering for engineering work totaling \$17,548.75. Mr. Repay highlighted the claim on the Deep River Watershed Modeling in the amount of \$15,932.50, stating that Christopher B. Burke Engineering will be giving a presentation on the model at our meeting in June. 1st Response Maintenance submitted several claims. A claim in the amount of \$15,120.00 for continued work on clearing Cady Marsh Ditch, a claim in the amount of \$1,640.00 for clean-up in Marshalltown and a claim in the amount of \$8,410.00 for clean-up near Chase Street. 1st Response Maintenance provided equipment to assist in the Isak Walton clean-up at Chase Street and they were able to fill an entire dumpster with debris. VVP Enterprises submitted claims totaling \$52,850.00 for continued work on clearing Cady Marsh Ditch. This project is wrapping up for the season. There was a large blockage near Martin Luther King Drive that was causing water to overtop the road. Wiltjer Excavating was paid \$5,000.00 for work clearing debris and a beaver dam using their floating excavator. Northern Indiana Mechanical also assisted in clearing blockages at the same location and submitted a claim in the amount of \$6,894.84 for their work. Northern Indiana Mechanical was also paid \$3,685.11 for their work in clearing a blockage at the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. \$15,829.00 was paid to Tyrone Integrated Services for work in clearing silt and debris at various Pump Stations in Gary. Encap Incorporated submitted a claim in the amount of \$14,700.00 for continued maintenance of the Chase Street and Black Oak Mitigation Sites. Finally, Great Lakes Electrical Maintenance was paid \$13,979.50 for completion of the monthly Pump Station inspections.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions on the claims and called for a roll-call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive Director's Report –

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

- USACE Inspections were completed in Hammond, Highland and Munster earlier this month. We are currently reviewing draft reports with comments due back to the USACE by May 21st. The Gary Levee inspections are complete, and the reports are available on our website. Griffith and INDOT inspections will be completed later this month.
- The rehabilitated pump for the Burr North Pump Station is scheduled to be reinstalled within the next two weeks.
- We are on track to have the PLC's upgraded at Burr North, Grant East and Grant West during the first week of June. The PLC upgrade for Marshalltown will occur later this summer.
- I met with representatives from Norfolk Southern Railroad about several issues along their rail line that have an impact on our project, including the issue with getting power to the Natural Spring.
- We currently have 6 new Watershed Applications for funding of projects. We expect to hear presentations from the Lake County Drainage Board, Town of Merrillville, Town of Dyer, City of Lake Station and City of Crown Point over the next few months.
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering is expected to give a presentation on the Deep River Watershed Modeling at our next meeting.

- Work has begun on the levee surveying. The work is being completed by drone and we are coordinating with the pilot for access points along the system.
- Plans for the Sandbar Modification Project have been reviewed by the USACE. They came back with some questions that are being addressed.
- The first mowing of the season has been completed. We may need to do an additional cut within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked for status on the ATV's that were causing rutting on the levee. Mr. Repay stated that the information regarding the ATV's has been submitted to DNR.

Commissioner Whittaker asked for an update on the Georgia Street/Malcolm X Levee Design Project. Mr. Repay stated that there is an on-site meeting scheduled for tomorrow to go over the initial plans. It is anticipated that we will be able to move forward with the project later this summer.

Other Issues/New Business –

No New Business

Statements to the Board –

No Statements to the Board

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Castellanos commented on the excellent meeting. He also noted that the past radio show on WLTH AM 1370 was excellent, featuring the Rock Riffle Project in Lake Station and the economic development that it can bring.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked everyone for attending this month's brief meeting.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked the public for attending our meeting.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the public for continuing to attend our meetings.

There being no further business, the next regular meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, 2024.