

2018 Year End Report

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) has been tasked with resolving decades of neglect along the flood control system, since the flood of 2008. This has also included a litany of paperwork issues that required attention as well. In 2018, the LCRBDC achieved a significant accomplishment by securing over \$13 Million in real estate credits from the project's federal partner – the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).

This time consuming, bureaucratic exercise was critical insomuch as if it were not finalized/approved, then the LCRBDC would have been obligated to pay \$13 Million to the federal government. This continuation of working in collaboration with all governmental entities once again was successful as INDOT, the LCRBDC's executive director and current/past commissioners worked diligently over the years to finalize this agreement.

Aside from resolving a serious paperwork issue, the LCRBDC committed significant resources to improve a number of areas along the federal flood control project as well as within the watershed. These projects focused on both flood protection as well as recreation for the long term benefit of the community. The following projects were a part of a busy 2018:

- Grade Adjustment – 35th & Chase/Gary - The grade adjustment was awarded to Dyer Construction in the amount of \$445,200. The work raises the road and therefore removes the need for the city of Gary to install the USACE designed post and panel structure. This critical work eliminates the possibility of repeating the situation during the 2008 flood event, when the structure was not installed properly and led to flooding in the area.
- Grade Adjustment – Clark Street/Gary - This grade adjustment was awarded to Grimmer Construction in the amount of \$334,245. It was completed in October and eliminates the need to deploy 4000 sandbags during high water events.
- Harrison Avenue Bridge Replacement – Gary - The bridge replacement was awarded and completed by Ellas Construction in the amount of \$2,357,547. The new structure will eliminate the need for the city of Gary to install sandbags at this closure and will better protect the Gleason Park and Indiana University Northwest campus
- Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Construction – Gary - The pedestrian bridge connects the gap between the two segments of the recreation trail as per the strategic plan. This project was awarded to Gariup Construction in the amount of \$283,500 and will begin in Spring of 2019.
- C&W/CF&E Railroad Bridge Replacement – Hobart - This is a major project with significant impact on the Deep River segment of the watershed. This area has been neglected for decades as it relates to long term maintenance regarding flood control. The contract was awarded this year to IHC in the amount of \$4,481,271.20 and has seen significant progress in 2018 and should be completed by May 2019. Once this project is complete it will more than double the size of the opening and allowing water to freely pass through this area and get water through the system faster without causing back-ups in the Lake George area.
- Kennedy Avenue Bridge and Recreation Enhancement – Hammond/Highland – The engineering company (DLZ) had completed their design (December 2018) for replacing the Kennedy Avenue Bridge and the project has been put out to bid. This bridge is a low point along the river system

and one of the first to close during a high-water event. The estimated two-year project to replace the bridge would eliminate the need for closure (sandbags) per the original USACE's design.

- LCRBDC continues to include new technology in managing the system. In 2018, the implementation of a new SCADA system was installed at key pump stations along the project. The SCADA system allows for remote monitoring of these locations thus eliminating the need to visit each station during significant rain events. Additionally, the LCRBDC partnered with the Town of Munster to implement the town's own SCADA system enhancing the number of pump stations equipped with this technology.
- Another addition to the flood control system was partnering with United States Geological Society (USGS) to add an additional 5 gauge stations throughout the watershed. This eliminates an issue where watershed communities had no way to determine how much water was coming downstream during rain events. These new gauges will assist in determining if water is cresting upstream and how much time will be needed to implement their emergency plan.
- The entire flood control project passed the USACE annual inspection making 2 years in a row beginning a legacy never achieved in the history of the project.

Other projects and partnerships involving the LCRBDC in 2018:

- Completed 2-Dimensional modeling of both Deep River and Burns ditch on the east side of the watershed
- Partnering with National Audubon Society (Audubon Great Lakes) on the Little Calumet Marsh Bird Conservation Area to focus on restoring wetland ecology
- Partnered with the city of Lake Station and Lake County Parks to develop and plan a new 3,000-foot levee that will be designed to protect over 400 homes while offering new recreational opportunities to area residents. This levee will be designed in 2019 for construction in 2020.
- Working with USACE on the continuing implementation of two mitigation projects that encompass over 400 acres
 - Hobart Mitigation Project- This 350+ acre mitigation project cost is a 5-year project started in 2017 on Indiana Department of Natural Resources land and is one of the last projects (non-flood control) needed to complete the entire project.
 - In Project Mitigation – Gary - This project is generally located south of the river between Chase Street and Clark Road. This 65 + acre mitigation restoration project is a continuation of the original contract that was awarded by USACE in the early 2000's but never completed.
- Hammond State Line Tie-Backs – The USACE completed the tie back modification contract and thus removing the last remaining 20 + properties from having to pay mandatory flood insurance through their mortgages.