

Local Sponsor Assistance

“Comprehensive project management strategy is crucial for working with the US Army Corps of Engineers. I saw firsthand how the Dawson professionals put their experience to work augmenting a local sponsor’s Project Management efforts by designing and implementing management efforts that were crucial to resolving Corps concerns.”

– Roy J. Deda
Deputy District Engineer, (Ret) Chicago District, US Army Corps of Engineers

“I can’t thank you and your team at Dawson & Associates enough for getting us to the finish line.”

– Dan Repay
Executive Director, Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

CLIENT

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is responsible for management of the Little Calumet River Basin and is the local sponsor for the federally authorized and funded Little Calumet River, Indiana Local Flood Protection and Recreation Project.

BACKGROUND

The Little Calumet River Basin project was a nearly \$300 million cost shared federal effort that began construction in 1990. After more than 20 years, disagreements between the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involving project costs and funding led to a work stoppage. Years later, the project was still in limbo with minimal positive discussion and a likelihood of insufficient funds for completion. In 2015, the Commission requested Dawson & Associates’ assistance to facilitate the project’s completion.

RESPONSE

The Dawson team included a retired Corps General, a former Deputy Chief Counsel for Real Estate, and two former Corps Project Management leaders. The team determined that the Little Calumet River Project suffered from multiple impediments including ineffective communication with the Corps, substantial undocumented cost-share credits and no plan for restarting and completion.

The Dawson team worked with the Commission to design and implement short- and long-term actions to comply with Corps requirements. This formed the basis of what became a joint Corps-Commission plan to restart the project. The Dawson team augmented Commission functions and facilitated group communications. Dawson also facilitated better tracking and scheduling of new initiatives, including collection, presentation, justification and defense of potential cost-share documentation and credits.

In particular, Dawson’s team facilitated Corps acceptance of an additional \$7.6 million cost share credits. This restored a positive project cost share balance and captured enough new project credits to enable restart of construction in 2016 and project completion. Dawson also facilitated the strategic planning necessary for completion.

The project was completed in December 2023 with an excess cost share of more than \$1 million returned to the Commission.