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EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
CITY OF EAST CHICAGO, ENGINEERING/ANNEX BUILDING
4444 RAILROAD AVENUE
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
June 19, 2025
THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
above-entitled matter on the 19th day of June 2025 at
5 00 p.m. held at the City of East Chicago
Engineering/Annex Building, 444 Railroad Avenue, East
Chicago, Indiana.

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A P P E A R A N C E

MR. JOHN FEKETE, PRESIDENT
MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ, BOARD MEMBER
MR. RAY LOPEZ, BOARD MEMBER
MR. JAYLAN ROBINSON, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT CONSULTING
MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:
MS. VANESSA VARGUS, CLA
MR. ROBERT SANTORI, BMO HARRIS BANK
MR. KEVIN GUADALUPE

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. FEKETE: I would like to call to order
3 the East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of
4 Directors Regular Public Board meeting. Today's date
5 is June 19th and the time is 5:07. First order is roll
6 call. Jaylan Robinson?

7 MR. ROBINSON: Here.

8 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

9 (NO RESPONSE)

10 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

12 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

13 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

14 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. Here. We have a
15 quorum. Executive Director's Report, Mr. Trevino?

16 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Fernando Trevino, FMT
17 Consulting. I would like to start off by going over
18 the contents of your Board packet. You have a copy of
19 today's meeting agenda, a copy of the public meeting
20 posting for today's meeting. You have Board minutes
21 for the May 15th regular Board Meeting and the May 22nd
22 Special Board Meeting.

23 You have First Merchants Bank statement for
24 the month of May 2025 for accounts ending in 616 and
25 608, along with copies of checks that were processed

1 during the month of May.

2 You have a copy of the District's Letter of
3 Authorization dated May 22, 2025 to First Merchants
4 requesting the transfer of \$11.5 million to BMO for the
5 opening of several CDs. And also a Letter of Direction
6 from the District to BMO regarding the opening of the
7 seven new CDs, which also, of course, total
8 \$11.5 million.

9 You have a copy of the BMO Trust Reports
10 dated May 31, 2025, and a copy of the BMO non-trust
11 reports that summarizes the seven UCDs. And this is
12 the format of the financial report that BMO will be
13 providing monthly on the funds that were transferred to
14 BMO.

15 You have a copy of TetraTech's Monthly
16 Progress Report and invoice dated June 11th for the
17 month of May. And you have a copy of TetraTech's
18 Change Order Request Number 2 dated June 17, 2025.

19 You have a copy of the Army Corps Report to
20 the Board dated May 15th.

21 Attorney Ellen Gregory's Report to the Board
22 with the revision date of June 18th. And the following
23 two items are also part of the Board packet, and these
24 were emailed earlier today and hard copies provided.

25 The CliftonLarsonAllen Financial Report dated

1 May 31, 2025 for the month of May and today's Claim
2 Docket dated June 19, 2025 along with copy of the
3 purchase orders and the check register.

4 To go over a couple items regarding the
5 action item on today's agenda, we only have the routine
6 monthly action items on today's agenda. The Board
7 minutes for the regular Board meeting of May 15th and
8 the Special Board Meeting of May 22nd and also the
9 monthly Claim Docket.

10 Regarding the District's finances, as
11 approved at last month's Board meeting, \$11.5 million
12 was transferred from First Merchants to BMO for the
13 opening of seven UCDS with BMO. And we're still
14 working on transferring an additional 500,000 from
15 First Merchants to BMO for the deposit into a new Money
16 Market account at BMO.

17 I mentioned that in your packet there was a
18 TetraTech Change Order request which is related to the
19 Grand Cal River Remedial Design Remediation Project.
20 If approved, the change order will require a budget
21 amendment. I plan to have a recommendation on the
22 change order at the July Board meeting. But I want to
23 get a copy of the request to you as soon as possible,
24 so if anyone has any questions or concerns, please let
25 me know.

1 Also, part of today's Claim Docket includes
2 the payment of the renewal of our professional DNO
3 Liability Insurance. The annual cost for this
4 insurance has gone up, which they informed us was due
5 to an increase in receipts on our financials.

6 Regarding User Fees, the 2025 User Fee
7 assessment process is ongoing. I anticipate sending
8 out the invoice packet by the next Board meeting in
9 July or close to that date.

10 Regarding the Lake George Canal East and
11 Middle Project, the design of the South Tank Farm
12 Barrier Wall System Groundwater Management System is
13 ongoing. The Corps is managing the Lake George Canal
14 East Dredging Project and their work on the dredging
15 design is ongoing.

16 The Phase II of the Lake George Canal East
17 dredging is scheduled to be done in 2026.

18 The Cleveland Cliff CEP dredging is now
19 forecasted to be done in 2027.

20 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle CAP
21 project, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing that
22 part of the project. The CAP part of the project has
23 been completed. ECO construction activities are
24 periodically ongoing. The contractor was out last week
25 for planting activities. The Corps continues to work

1 on the Adaptive Management Plan to address the areas in
2 the CAP that appear to have penetrating oil sheets.

3 Regarding the Lake George Canal West
4 Remediation project, that work is ongoing and the
5 project is between BP and EPA. Based on the latest
6 site characterization data of the Lake George Canal
7 West, BP recommended no further action was necessary on
8 that section of the canal. The Corps and EPA are
9 assessing BP's "No Further Action" recommendation.

10 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction
11 Reaches Remedial Design, TetraTech remedial design work
12 is ongoing. The project team continues to meet weekly
13 to advance the remedial design and planning activities
14 for remediation construction.

15 Regarding the schedule of the Grand Cal River
16 Reaches Remediation, in 2025 we're forecasting
17 completing the remedial design and also finalizing the
18 project agreement. And also we plan on beginning the
19 construction solicitation process. Construction is
20 forecasted to start in 2026 and go through 2027.

21 I mentioned earlier in my report that we will
22 be considering TetraTech's Change Order Number 2
23 request related to this project. And if approved, the
24 Change Order will require a budget amendment. I plan
25 to have a recommendation on their request at the July

1 Board meeting.

2 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act work in
3 kind reporting, the Board might recall that we
4 submitted the District's 2024 annual report on March
5 31st of this year, which we have not heard any feedback
6 from EPA.

7 Regarding the Canal Street Bridge project,
8 there are no new updates on the underwater obstruction.
9 Old Cline Avenue Bridge project, no new updates on that
10 project -- on the assessment of the demolition of that
11 part of Cline Avenue.

12 Regarding the Atlantic Richfield Settlement
13 Agreement between the District, the City of East
14 Chicago and Atlantic Richfield, the project team
15 continues to work on completing a couple final action
16 items. One of the final action items is the transfer
17 of ownership of a parcel that we commonly refer to as
18 the "south of the South Tank Farm parcel". And we're
19 in the process of transferring it from the District to
20 the City's Redevelopment Department.

21 The Board might recall that based on recent
22 site characterization data obtained by BP, it was
23 determined by both BP and IDEM that no further action
24 was required of the parcel. So I've been working with
25 Attorney Weiser and Attorney Alan Gregory and the

1 City's Department of Redevelopment on executing the
2 necessary documents to transfer that parcel.

3 The City has approved and signed a Sales
4 Disclosure Form and approved a resolution to accept the
5 transfer of the property, which I have forwarded to
6 both Attorney Gregory and Attorney Weiser. So the
7 transfer effort is ongoing.

8 The resolution that the City approved and
9 provided to us states that we need to enter into a
10 Donation Agreement for the City to accept the transfer
11 of the parcel. So I'll be working with Attorney
12 Gregory and Attorney Weiser on drafting that and
13 getting that finalized. So we'll probably have that at
14 the July Board meeting.

15 Regarding the Army Corps of Engineers Report
16 that's in your Board packet. Is Vaughn Coolman on,
17 Ellen?

18 MS. GREGORY: No.

19 MR. TREVINO: He didn't say he was going to
20 miss, so may I just summarize his report for him? And
21 then -- so that, the Army Corps Report is in your
22 packet, as I mentioned, and then Attorney, Ellen
23 Gregory will give an update on various legal matters.

24 And that concludes my update to the board.

25 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Trevino?

1 I have a question.

2 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

3 MR. FEKETE: We're talking about two separate
4 parcels. The one is a sliver of land that we're
5 donating and that's the one adjacent to the high
6 school?

7 MR. TREVINO: Right. That's the south of
8 South Tank Farm parcel. That's the one.

9 MR. FEKETE: That sliver?

10 MR. TREVINO: Right.

11 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Because you say south of
12 the South Tank Farm, that's the large piece of
13 property?

14 MR. FEKETE: Right. And that's why it's
15 called south of the South Tank.

16 MR. FEKETE: South of, okay.

17 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. It's a smaller piece.

18 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

19 MR. TREVINO: It's more like closer to, you
20 know, the high school and MacArthur Golf Course.

21 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. It's adjacent to the high
22 school property.

23 MR. ROBINSON: Yeah, so it made sense the
24 City keep ownership of that. I mean, it would have
25 been landlocked. There would have been no reason for

1 it.

2 MR. FEKETE: And then on the south property,
3 south tank farm. Not south of south of, but the
4 south -- sorry about that.

5 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. The South Tank Farm,
6 that's where the sheet pile wall was installed and BP
7 has ongoing efforts to design their groundwater
8 management system.

9 MR. FEKETE: But who actually owns it right
10 now?

11 MR. TREVINO: BP.

12 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

13 MR. TREVINO: So we've -- we officially
14 transferred all the parcels, except this south of South
15 Tank Farm parcel. We were waiting to receive site
16 characterization data to see if the property was, you
17 know, would require some cleanup, some remediation.
18 But based on the analysis, it was basically deemed
19 clean. And so that was BP's recommendation. IDEM
20 agreed with it. So that's why we're in the next step
21 of transferring the parcel. It was all hinged on
22 whether it was going to be clean or not.

23 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you,
24 Mr. Trevino. Approval, consideration of Board Meeting
25 notes. We'll have a Motion to Approve. We'll do it.

1 We'll have two of them. The May 15, 2025 Board
2 minutes, entertain a Motion to Approve.

3 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to Approve.

4 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

5 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

6 MR. FEKETE: All those in favor Signify by
7 saying aye.

8 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

9 MR. FEKETE: Aye. That motion is approved.
10 The May 22, 2025 Board minutes.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to Approve.

12 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

14 MR. FEKETE: All in favor, signify by saying
15 aye.

16 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

17 MR. FEKETE: Aye. That motion is approved.
18 The Accounting Consultant Report.

19 MR. TREVINO: Vanessa.

20 MS. VARGAS: Good Afternoon, everyone.
21 Vanessa Vargas with CLA. Can you hear me okay?

22 MR. FEKETE: Yep. I can hear her, but I
23 can't -- she's not coming through here. Well, that's
24 okay. Doesn't matter.

25 MS. VARGAS: In front of you, you have the

1 financial statement on a cash basis dated May 31, 2025.
2 If you turn to Page 2, we will begin with the statement
3 of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements for the five
4 months ended May 31, 2025. You had interest income in
5 the amount of \$197,135.06. You received a trust
6 transfer in the amount of \$7,437.30, bringing your
7 total receipts to \$204,572.36.

8 Your total Cash Disbursements have been
9 \$208,631.56. This brings you to a decrease in cash in
10 the amount of \$4,059.20.

11 You began the year with a Cash Balance on
12 January 1st in the amount of \$14,760,488.82. Your cash
13 balance as of May 31, 2025 is \$14,756,429.62. If you
14 turn to Page 3, we will continue with the schedule of
15 cash account activity for the five months ended May 31,
16 2025.

17 Your operating account began the year with a
18 cash balance on January 1st of \$892,511.65. You've
19 earned interest in the amount of \$18,589.91. A trust
20 transfer in the amount of \$7,437.30, as well as a
21 budget transfer in the amount of \$879,643.53. Cash
22 disbursements have totaled \$208,931.66, along with a
23 voided check in the amount of \$310, bringing your
24 Operating Cash Balance as of May 31st to \$1,589,550.83.

25 Your User Fee account began the year with a

1 cash balance on January 1st in the amount of
2 \$13,867,977.17. You've earned interest totaling
3 \$178,545.15.

4 You had cash disbursements for the purchase
5 of CDs in the amount of \$11,500,000, as well as a
6 budget transfer for \$879,643.53, bringing your User Fee
7 account balance as of May 31st to \$1,666,878.79.

8 You began the year without any CD balance.
9 With the purchase of the May CD, your CD balance as of
10 May 31st comes to \$11,500,000.

11 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue with
12 the schedule of 2025 available budget as of June 19th,
13 2025. Your 2025 budget appropriation totals
14 \$1,718,525. Adding back in accounts payable dated
15 12/31/2024 in the amount of \$61,067.48. Brings your
16 2025 total appropriation to \$1,779,592.48. Cash
17 disbursements for the five months ended May 2025
18 totaled \$208,631.56.

19 In front of you, you have a Claim Docket
20 dated June 19, 2024 in the amount of \$69,559.05. This
21 brings your total unused budget for 2025 to
22 \$1,501,401.87.

23 Are there any questions?

24 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

25 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Our claim docket --

1 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to Approve.

2 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

3 MR. FEKETE: Let's have a roll call vote.

4 Jaylan Robinson?

5 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

6 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota. Henry Rodriguez?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

8 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

10 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. I vote yes. Okay,
11 that motion is approved. Our approval consideration
12 for the accounts payable?

13 MR. ROBINSON: Motion to approve?

14 MR. FEKETE: Is that the same thing?

15 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

16 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. Okay, so that.

17 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, yeah. We just did that
18 part.

19 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. Okay, so nothing there.
20 BMO Trust and non-trust Reports.

21 MR. TREVINO: Is Bob on?

22 MR. SANTORI: Thanks. Hi. Good afternoon,
23 everybody. Yeah. So now I've provided separate Trust
24 Reports, and then we'll have the new CD reports. But I
25 will go over the Trust Reports first. It shows the

1 combined balance of your Money Market account and
2 Certificates of Deposit for the Trust. The current
3 value or the value on May 31st was \$4,099,772.38. In
4 the month of May, there was an interest credit for
5 \$520.21 for the Money Market account.

6 The second page of the Trust Report is the
7 historical distribution page. And this page shows the
8 values of the trust account from inception in 1997 with
9 current distribution for the year 2025, \$7,437.30.

10 And then, as Fernando mentioned at the
11 beginning of the call, has now created a new report for
12 the District. This one shows the new -- the seven new
13 CDs that were opened on May 23rd. And there's also a
14 space for the Money Market, which is to be determined
15 as far as account numbers and information. But this
16 new report will show you the seven CDs that were
17 opened. The total amount was \$11,500,000. And as it
18 will at the moment, there's no activity as far as
19 interest is concerned. But the last column does show
20 you when you can anticipate interest. The first round
21 of interest earnings will be August 23, 2025. And for
22 all these CDs, you can expect interest to be earned
23 every three months. So it's paid on a quarterly basis
24 starting at the opening days of the CD.

25 And then this particular page will also give

1 you all the breakdown of the interest rate, the
2 maturity date, but it starts for the month of May. So
3 the ending balance on May 31st was \$11,500,000.

4 Are there any questions? Please let me know.
5 Fernando also wanted me to -- last time I spoke to him,
6 he wanted me to give a quick little mention of a
7 product and service that BMO offers in regards to fraud
8 protection. We are seeing a lot of fraud attempts and
9 fraudulent transactions take place where client
10 accounts are being manipulated. And unfortunately,
11 sometimes it's too late before the fraud is caused.
12 Not necessarily needed, maybe for these new CDs and
13 maybe not the Money Market. I guess it depends on the
14 activity for that particular account. But BMO does
15 have several types of fraud services that can be added
16 to accounts to help fight off any type of fraudulent
17 checks or ACH transactions or wire transactions.

18 So, you know, we had discussed maybe a future
19 date at one of your Finance Committees I can bring on
20 one of our Fraud Department people who can kind of give
21 you an overview of the product and see if those are a
22 fit for you guys or not.

23 But other than that, it's -- any questions
24 regarding the reports, please let me know, but I think
25 that covers everything.

1 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Santori?
2 Thank you. Thanks, Bob.

3 MR. TREVINO: And, Bob, we could -- maybe
4 next week or the following week, we could talk a little
5 bit more about those fraud protection services that BMO
6 offers.

7 MR. SANTORI: Sure.

8 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Great Lakes Legacy at
9 Grand Cal Junction Reaches Project Update.

10 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, I gave Carol, the Project
11 Manager from TetraTech wasn't able to attend. So I
12 pretty much gave the update during my opening.

13 MR. FEKETE: Your run through. Okay. U.S.
14 Army Corps Board Report.

15 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, I don't think Vaughn's
16 on. So I'll -- I'll pinch hit for him. There's an
17 Army Corps Report in your packet regarding CDF
18 Construction Facility Operation Plans. Water treatment
19 should resume in September/October after schedules and
20 submittals are fully approved for the new contract that
21 was awarded on March 7th of this year.

22 Phase 2 Dike Raise ongoing work to complete
23 documents for the project closeout.

24 Indiana Harbor Dredging, Dredging Operations,
25 maintenance dredging will resume in 2025 and/or 2026

1 once a new contract is awarded later this year.

2 Sediment sampling and borings, the results
3 from sediment sampling and borings conducted in June
4 and July are being used to finalize the plan inspects
5 for the upcoming dredging contract.

6 Regarding oil boom coordination, a contract
7 was awarded the 23rd of September for maintenance
8 operation of multiple oil booms.

9 Contractor schedules have been approved and
10 the transition took place on February 1st of this year.
11 Other items reporting the Parkway, the ongoing CDF
12 Parkway Maintenance. The core Staff inspects the
13 parkway once, once a month and clean and removes debris
14 as needed.

15 Regarding the obstruction removal over by the
16 Canal Street Bridge project, Roen Salvage removed the
17 obstruction on November 1st of last year and placed it
18 on the CDF debris pad. The obstruction will be placed
19 into the CDF at a later date. The final report given
20 to the Board the week of May 12th of this year can be
21 made available to the general public. And that
22 concludes the Army Corps Report.

23 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Thank you. Attorney
24 Ellen Gregory's Report?

25 MS. GREGORY: Yes, Ellen Gregory with Ellen

1 Gregory Law. A couple of the legal matters that I've
2 been working on over the past month include assisting
3 Mr. Trevino with reviewing the directors and officers
4 liability insurance renewal, transfers of the
5 \$11.5 million to BMO and associated documentation
6 regarding that. The transfer of the south by South
7 Tank Farm parcel, which includes a resolution. And Jim
8 Weiser will be working primarily on the additional
9 documents required, which includes a Donation
10 Agreement, the Great Lakes Legacy Act PA Modification
11 Negotiations.

12 And finally, Todd Relue informed
13 Mr. Trevino and me that there's a new Indiana law that
14 goes into effect July 1st that regulates meeting
15 notices for state government agencies going forward.
16 We will need to be putting Board Directors' names and
17 terms on all meeting notices as well as agendas. So
18 Mr. Trevino and I will be working on preparing the
19 documents that will be in compliance with that law. As
20 I said, it goes into effect on July 1st. So starting
21 next month we need to add that information.

22 MR. FEKETE: So you have to put terms on?

23 MS. GREGORY: Terms, terms and appointment
24 authority.

25 MR. FEKETE: That's interesting.

1 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

2 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. Other business? Any
3 other thing to come before the Board? Any public
4 comments?

5 MR. GUADALUPE: Okay. I was just wanting to
6 talk to Vaughn to see if you had come to a conclusion
7 yet as far as who they were going to award the contract
8 to. Okay. I know you said they were accepting the
9 bids until the end of June. I just thought maybe he
10 had an idea who was the company that I applied for
11 here.

12 MR. TREVINO: Okay. I'll ask him for an
13 update.

14 COURT REPORTER: And I'm sorry, your name?

15 MR. GUADALUPE: Kevin Guadalupe.

16 MR. FEKETE: Hearing no other business to
17 come before the Board, our next board meeting will be
18 July 17, 2025 at 5:00 o'clock. I'll entertain a motion
19 to adjourn.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to adjourn.

21 MR. FEKETE: A second.

22 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

23 MR. FEKETE: All in favor, signify by saying
24 "aye".

25 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

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MR. FEKETE: This meeting is adjourned.

(WHEREUPON the Meeting was
adjourned at 5:40 p.m.)

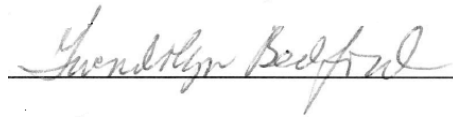
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2)
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)
4

5 C E R T I F I C A T E
6

7 The within and foregoing meeting was taken
8 before GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, Certified Shorthand Reporter
9 in the City of Gary, County of Lake and State of
10 Indiana.

11 The undersigned is not interested in the
12 within meeting, nor of kin or counsel to any of the
13 members.

14 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand this 14th day of July, 2025.

16 
17

GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

No. 084-003700

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