

In the Matter Of:  
East Chicago Waterway Management

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**DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

*February 21, 2018*

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Iseminger & Associates, Inc.  
877-337-7379

1 EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT  
2 DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
3 City of East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building  
4 4444 Railroad Avenue  
5 East Chicago, Indiana  
6 February 21, 2018  
7 Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.

8  
9 Transcript of the proceedings had in the  
10 above-entitled matter, on the 21st day of  
11 February, 2018, at 5:00 p.m., at the City of East  
12 Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building, 4444 Railroad  
13 Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana, before Peggy S.  
14 LaLonde, Certified Shorthand Report and Notary  
15 Public for the County of Porter, State of  
16 Indiana.

17  
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20  
21 ISEMINGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
22 14 Indiana Avenue  
23 Valparaiso, Indiana 46383  
24 (219) 464-2178  
25

A P P E A R A N C E S:

MR. JOHN FEKETE, President

MR. JOHN BAKOTA, Board Member

MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ, Board Member

MR. KEVIN DOYLE, Board Member

MR. RAY LOPEZ, Board Member

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT Consulting

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, Ellen Gregory Law

ALSO PRESENT:

TIM ANDERSON, CliftonLarsonAllen

DAVID ALONZO, BMO Harris Bank

\* \* \* \*

District Board of Directors' Meeting  
02/21/2018

1 MR. FEKETE: I'd like to call to order  
2 the meeting of the East Chicago Waterway Management  
3 District Board of Directors'. Today's date is February  
4 21st, 2018, at 5:16 p.m. First order of business is  
5 roll call. John Bakota?

6 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

7 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

8 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Here.

9 MR. FEKETE: Patrick Rodriguez?

10 (No Response)

11 MR. FEKETE: Ted Zagar?

12 (No Response)

13 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?

14 MR. DOYLE: Here.

15 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

17 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? Here. We have  
18 a quorum.

19 First order of business is the  
20 FMT Consulting report, Fernando Trevino.

21 MR. TREVINO: Fernando Trevino, FMT  
22 Consulting. I'd like to start off by going over the  
23 contents of your Board packet. You have the meeting  
24 notes for January 17, 2018.

25 You have two letters of

1 authorizations that are related to the 2018 budget.  
2 One is to BMO Harris Bank for the amount of  
3 \$224,758.16, and that is from the Trust to the 2018  
4 Operating Budget. And the second letter of  
5 authorization is to First Merchants Bank to transfer  
6 \$246.84 to the 2018 Operating Budget.

7 And then behind that are a  
8 couple e-mails to and from myself and Tim Anderson  
9 related to the calculation of the year end cash  
10 balance for 2018. So we basically take the cash  
11 balance of 2018, deduct it from the Trust and  
12 non-Trust dollars, to give us the amount that we  
13 need to transfer. And those are reflected in the  
14 two letters of authorization that I mentioned.

15 You have the claims docket for  
16 today's Board meeting dated February 21, 2018.

17 You have a First Merchants Bank  
18 statement for the month of January 2018 for accounts  
19 ending in 608 and 616.

20 You have a lease agreement with  
21 our new landlord, which is Managed East Chicago  
22 Housing Association, and a cover letter/e-mail, from  
23 Jim Wieser reflecting that it passes the legal  
24 muster. And so the lease has been reviewed by  
25 Attorney Wieser and also reviewed by Attorney Ellen

1 Gregory.

2 You have an insurance quote  
3 summary dated February 19, 2018.

4 You have a BMO Harris ECI  
5 Facility Trust report for today's Board meeting,  
6 dated February 20, 2018.

7 You have Attorney Ellen  
8 Gregory's report to the Board, with revision date of  
9 February 19, 2018.

10 You have a couple 1099-INT forms  
11 for tax year 2017. One is from First Merchants Bank  
12 and the other is from BMO Harris Bank. And those  
13 have been sent to Mr. Tim Anderson.

14 You have an invoice, with  
15 invoice number of ECWMD-2018-BP 1, and that's for  
16 our reimbursement for the District work on the  
17 second modification to the Section 10 permit  
18 agreement, and that's to BP.

19 You have People's Bank account  
20 statement for the fourth quarter of 2017 for  
21 accounts ending in 46 and 47.

22 And so that was the packet that  
23 was e-mailed to you. And I just handed out a couple  
24 of correspondence related to the 2018 budget or  
25 Trust budget approval. One is from EPA, titled, EPA

1 Concurrence of 2018 budget for ECI Facility Trust.  
2 So they were basically agreeing to our 2018 budget,  
3 with an e-mail from Beth Admire, dated February 21,  
4 2018.

5 That concludes the items in your  
6 Board packet. To go over a couple items to report  
7 on. As I mentioned we have received budget approval  
8 letters from EPA, IDEM, which are in your Board  
9 packet. So we are good to go on approving claims  
10 docket related to the 2018 budget.

11 I am working on scheduling a  
12 meeting with U.S. Coast Guard, the Army Corps of  
13 Engineers, and a couple of the shipping contractors  
14 related to the Canal Street bridge project.

15 Buckeye reached out to me about  
16 an expansion project here in East Chicago. They  
17 have agreed to present their project to the Board at  
18 one of our Board meetings when the project gets  
19 further along.

20 The 2018 User fees are expected  
21 to go out in March.

22 The Great Lakes Legacy Act  
23 project, we are working on negotiations on the site  
24 agreement with BP, which is related to the project  
25 agreement with EPA. I have also been working on the

1 2017 annual work in kind report. Tim Anderson is  
2 helping out with the direct cost rate and dollar  
3 calculations. I hope to have a final report by our  
4 next Board meeting.

5 The dredging project is  
6 scheduled to start this Spring. Meeting is  
7 scheduled with EPA, the Corps, and other  
8 stakeholders for Monday to discuss the oil response  
9 process for dredging and reach 11.

10 Attorney Ellen Gregory has a  
11 couple updates on various legal matters.

12 Summarize a couple action items.  
13 You have the Board meeting notes on the agenda for  
14 approval. The claims docket, which includes a  
15 couple invoices that are going against the 2017  
16 budget. There are two financial statements, which I  
17 have shared with you, to help clarify that. Tim  
18 Anderson will be able to explain that a little bit  
19 more during his report.

20 Trust and non-Trust transfer  
21 regarding the 2018 budget are on the agenda for  
22 approval. So the Trust minus the -- the Trust  
23 budget minus the 2017 cash calculation give you a  
24 transfer that's required from the Trust and the  
25 non-Trust.

1                   There is a lease agreement on  
2 the agenda. It includes a \$1,000 security deposit  
3 and also \$100 penalty for late rent payments.

4                   Also on your agenda for approval  
5 is insurance. It includes liability here at the  
6 office and property insurance for the contents in  
7 our office space.

8                   That concludes my report.

9                   MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr.  
10 Trevino? (No Response) Hearing none, thank you.

11                   Next order of business is  
12 approval consideration of the Board meeting notes  
13 for January 17, 2018 meeting.

14                   MR. BAKOTA: I make a motion to approve.

15                   MR. FEKETE: I have a motion to approve.  
16 Do I hear a second?

17                   MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Second.

18                   MR. FEKETE: I have motion and a second  
19 approving the minutes. All in favor, signify by  
20 saying aye.

21                   (All signify aye.)

22                   MR. FEKETE: Any opposition? (No  
23 Response) Abstentions? (No Response) Hearing  
24 none, the motion is approved.

25                   Next order of business is

1 approval consideration for the budget transfers. I  
2 do have a question, could we do both with one motion  
3 or two separate motions?

4 MS. GREGORY: I think we can do both with  
5 one.

6 MR. FEKETE: Okay. I'll entertain a  
7 motion to approve the budget transfers from both the  
8 Trust account and from the non-Trust account as  
9 presented in our Board packet.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

11 MR. FEKETE: I have a motion to approve.  
12 Do I hear a second?

13 MR. DOYLE: Second.

14 MR. FEKETE: I'll have a roll call vote.  
15 John Bakota?

16 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

17 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

18 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

19 MR. FEKETE: Patrick Rodriguez?

20 (No Response)

21 MR. FEKETE: Ted Zagar?

22 (No Response)

23 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?

24 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

25 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

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1 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.

3 The motion is approved.

4 The next order of business is  
5 Accounting Consultant report, Mr. Anderson.

6 MR. ANDERSON: Hello, Tim Anderson, with  
7 CliftonLarsonAllen. Does everybody have a copy or  
8 anybody want a paper copy? Can you read it okay?

9 MR. TREVINO: Tim, I have given them the  
10 long spreadsheet, so you might want to hand out the  
11 full packet if you have it, if you have the full  
12 packet.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Let's do that. (Packet  
14 handed out.) So as Fernando eluded to, this is a  
15 little different this month, but I don't think it's  
16 a big problem. This report is as of January 31st.

17 Page 2. Not much going on  
18 through January. Little bit of interest income on  
19 the two checking accounts. And then we have  
20 written -- these are the January cash disbursements,  
21 the \$24,067 is what we wrote in January. So our  
22 increase in cash is really a decrease in cash of  
23 23,000. But at this point we have over \$3 million  
24 in the combination of the Operating account and the  
25 User fee account, which has grown dramatically.

10

1                   Page 3. Again just shows the  
2 two accounts, the balances at the beginning of  
3 January. We write the checks out of the Operating  
4 accounts and the interest is earned on the two.

5                   Now page 4, we have a couple of  
6 checks -- and this is the first time this has  
7 happened, which is why we were a little excited. We  
8 actually got invoices in February that related back  
9 to 2017, which we've never done that before. So I  
10 wanted to show you -- and Fernando was all over  
11 this. I think he's an accountant at night. He  
12 wears a lot of hats, no pun intended.

13                   So there's a little mark by the  
14 two that are actually for last year, and I wanted to  
15 show you, because usually we wrap up '17 and we are  
16 done, and February we are looking at the current  
17 year budget. So you wouldn't really know that you  
18 have budget left to absorb those two payments. So  
19 the 213 of telephone and the 4,000 of rent, we do  
20 have budget from '17 to cover those.

21                   Now, 4,000 is all we had. But  
22 we did have 4,000 left of rent budget that we could  
23 use. It's kind of confusing because these are still  
24 payables, but they relate back to '17. But we are  
25 good on both of those. We have room to go on

1 telephone and we had just enough to cover the rent.  
2 Now, Jan, at the office, said, you know, that  
3 invoice on the telephone that we got in February  
4 actually related back to like June or July or  
5 something of '17, so I don't know if we are going to  
6 get another one then for September through December.

7 MR. TREVINO: When the City moved, when  
8 the City departments moved to City Hall, I was kind  
9 of in limbo on who was managing the building here.  
10 So I think when they moved, they probably cut the  
11 telephone off because no one else was here. And I  
12 was using, you know, my cell phone for  
13 communication. So I'm hoping that we don't have any  
14 fourth quarter phone.

15 MR. ANDERSON: If it happens, it happens.  
16 We still have \$640 available budget from '17. So  
17 this way -- that was the purpose of page 4.

18 And then page 5 is what we normally  
19 present, so those are the accounts payables. So the  
20 2018, very left column, that's your '18 budget. We  
21 get to add to it the payables that we have budgeted  
22 for at the end of '17. That's the second to the  
23 left column, accounts payable 12/31, that's  
24 \$28,002.80 from the prior page. So your total  
25 appropriations for '18 is your budget, plus those

1 approved payables from last year, which is now over  
2 a million, million eight. And then we wrote the  
3 checks in January for 4000, and then 38,000 is what  
4 is on your claim docket today. Now that claim  
5 docket includes items that are for '18 and some for  
6 '17. Does that make sense to you guys?

7 MR. FEKETE: Yes, it does.

8 MR. TREVINO: Just another, for  
9 clarification, so if you see under other office  
10 expenses, there is a line item for \$1,000. That's  
11 where we charged the security deposit to, right,  
12 Tim?

13 MR. ANDERSON: Right. So in a normal  
14 environment, a security deposit would go on the  
15 balance sheet as sort of like a prepaid item. But  
16 that's not how the State Board -- that's not how we  
17 account for it here. So everything is an expense  
18 here, no matter what it is. So, yeah. We have got  
19 \$1,000, which you would think would be an asset. It  
20 is an asset, they are keeping it as a security  
21 deposit, but we've got to have a line item on the  
22 budget for it.

23 MR. FEKETE: So we have it as an expense  
24 with a footnote.

25 MR. ANDERSON: The only thing that they

1 were really concerned about is that you have budget  
2 to cover your expenditures, and we do.

3 Any questions at all on the  
4 report? (No Response) I'm working on the special  
5 district annual report for the State Board that's  
6 due at the end of February.

7 MR. FEKETE: Those are the two letters  
8 that Fernando mentioned in his review of the Board  
9 packet?

10 MR. ANDERSON: No.

11 MR. FERNANDO: No.

12 MR. ANDERSON: No, sir. The budget  
13 transfers you are talking about?

14 MR. FEKETE: No. There was another form  
15 that you said that was --

16 MR. TREVINO: No. Oh, the 1099s. Those  
17 are year end tax reports from the banks what we  
18 received in interest. Those have been forwarded to  
19 him for handling. But what Tim is talking about is  
20 a State Board of Accounts requirement.

21 MR. ANDERSON: So basically what we do, go  
22 online and enter this report, and that's what they  
23 use to audit is what you submit.

24 MR. FEKETE: I think you explained it in  
25 the past.

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1 MR. ANDERSON: I just enter it.

2 MR. FEKETE: That's the statement that we  
3 don't have any employees.

4 MR. ANDERSON: Well, they want to know how  
5 much you spend, how much you took out of the Trust,  
6 you know. It's an annual report.

7 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

8 MR. ANDERSON: We'll submit that before  
9 it's due.

10 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

11 MR. FEKETE: The next order of business  
12 then would be the accounts payable voucher register  
13 dated February 21, 2018. Entertain a motion to  
14 approve.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. DOYLE: Second.

17 MR. FEKETE: I have a motion and a second.  
18 Roll call vote. John Bakota?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

20 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

21 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

22 MR. FEKETE: Patrick Rodriguez?

23 (No Response)

24 MR. FEKETE: Ted Zagar?

25 (No Response)

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1 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?

2 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

3 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

4 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

5 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.

6 The motion is approved.

7 Next order of business is the  
8 approval of our lease agreement, and I think we have  
9 pretty well reviewed that. Any questions? (No  
10 Response) Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to  
11 approve.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

13 MR. FEKETE: I have a motion to approve.

14 Do I hear a second?

15 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Second.

16 MR. FEKETE: We have a second. Roll call  
17 vote. John Bakota?

18 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

19 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

20 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

21 MR. FEKETE: Patrick Rodriguez?

22 (No Response)

23 MR. FEKETE: Ted Zagar?

24 (No Response)

25 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?

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1 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

4 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.

5 The motion is approved.

6 MR. TREVINO: And just to clarify, there  
7 is a blank in the lease that says, you know, by when  
8 do we want their invoice, and that date will be the  
9 10th of the month.

10 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

11 MR. TREVINO: That will give us ample time  
12 to go through our process to pay for it.

13 MR. FEKETE: They give us ten days after  
14 the 10th of the month?

15 MR. TREVINO: No, it's due by the 1st.

16 MR. FEKETE: Okay. And the final order of  
17 business for approval consideration, the insurance  
18 proposal. And basically this is liability insurance  
19 to cover us?

20 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, it's liability and  
21 property insurance for being in this, in our office  
22 space.

23 MR. FEKETE: Entertain a motion to  
24 approve?

25 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.

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1 MR. FEKETE: I have a motion to approve.  
2 Do I hear a second?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

4 MR. FEKETE: I have a motion and a second.  
5 Roll call vote. John Bakota?

6 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

7 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

8 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 MR. FEKETE: Patrick Rodriguez?

10 (No Response)

11 MR. FEKETE: Ted Zagar?

12 (No Response)

13 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?

14 MR. DOYLE: Yes.

15 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

17 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.

18 The motion is approved.

19 Next order of business is the  
20 BMO Harris report.

21 MR. ALONZO: David Alonzo, BMO Harris  
22 Bank. The Trust report, I printed this off or  
23 created this on the 20th of February.

24 So as far as looking to page 2,  
25 looking at the numbers, on the 20th the Trust is

1 valued at \$4,867,921. That was a positive  
2 difference from the last meeting of \$15,768 worth of  
3 interest that was paid out.

4 Column over to the side there  
5 just shows that 2017 total withdrawal was 800,466.

6 Third page goes through each  
7 account. Shows where the interest rates are. So  
8 the CD, if we look at the column that says, interest  
9 rate -- I'm sorry, the last column, we just had some  
10 CD pay interest out in January, which pretty much  
11 was every one of them. The next interest payment  
12 will be in April, which will then be reflected in  
13 the May report. We do have two CDs coming due this  
14 year, one in January and one in -- I'm sorry -- one  
15 in July and one in June. There's been good movement  
16 in interest rates, so likely to be -- if the Fed  
17 increases -- coming up maybe next month, and by the  
18 time the CD comes due, we're looking at better  
19 interest rates, and that's something we were waiting  
20 for for awhile, that \$2.1 million will come due this  
21 year.

22 MR. FEKETE: Any questions at all on the  
23 report?

24 MR. LOPEZ: The essential business  
25 checking, we got 25,000, we don't get any interest?

1 MR. ALONZO: That one pretty much keeps  
2 free of expenses, free and clear.

3 MR. LOPEZ: We don't get interest?

4 MR. ALONZO: It doesn't pay any interest.  
5 What's the word I'm looking for? The FDIC coverage  
6 beyond what the normal FDIC limit would be that  
7 would cover, that also helps cover everything beyond  
8 what the formal FDIC limitations are. Unfortunately  
9 for that, that doesn't pay any interest. I can  
10 definitely say, if you guys had funds in other banks  
11 that you're looking to move out, we have great rates  
12 on money market accounts and CD rates. So we'll be  
13 more than happy to accommodate you with that and  
14 present those at the next meeting. Any other  
15 questions?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

17 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Our next order of  
18 business is Attorney Ellen Gregory's report.

19 MS. GREGORY: Ellen Gregory, with Ellen  
20 Gregory Law. Just a few items that Fernando and I  
21 have been working on the legal front.

22 The first is that we have  
23 reinitiated discussions with the Corps regarding  
24 cost share issues, presenting the Waterway  
25 Management District's position regarding what ECWMD,

1 what it was reimbursed for contributions its made in  
2 the past towards the CDF construction.

3 And the other item is continuing  
4 negotiations with BP regarding a site agreement that  
5 is to be entered into at the same time as the Great  
6 Lakes Legacy Act Project agreement. And that's all  
7 I have.

8 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions for Miss  
9 Gregory? (No Response) Thank you very much.

10 Any new business to come before  
11 the Board? (No Response)

12 Any other business? (No  
13 Response)

14 Any public comments? (No  
15 Response)

16 Hearing none, the next Board  
17 meeting will be March 21, 2018, at 5:00 o'clock at  
18 this facility.

19 I'll entertain a motion for  
20 adjournment.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

22 MR. FEKETE: Is there a second?

23 MR. DOYLE: Second.

24 MR. FEKETE: All in favor signify by  
25 saying aye.

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(All signify aye.)

MR. FEKETE: This meeting is adjourned at  
5:41.

(MEETING ADJOURNED.)

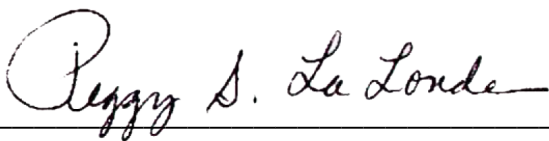
\* \* \* \* \*

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. Lalonde, Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR), and Notary Public within and for the County of Porter, State of Indiana, do hereby certify that I appeared at the City of East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building, 4444 Railroad Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana, on the 21st day of February, 2018, to report the proceedings had of the District Board of Directors' Meeting.

I further certify that I then and there reported in machine shorthand the proceedings given at said time and place, and that the testimony was then reduced to typewriting from my original shorthand notes, and the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of said proceedings had.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2018.



Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR

My Commission expires: 2/06/2026



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