In the Matter Of:

East Chicago Waterway Management

#### **DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

September 15, 2022



Iseminger & Associates, Inc. 877-337-7379

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2	EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
3	DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
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5	City of East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building
6	4444 Railroad Avenue
7	East Chicago, Indiana
8	
9	September 15, 2022
10	5:00 p.m.
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14	Transcript of the East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of Directors' Meeting had in the
15	above-entitled matter on the 15th day of September, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m., taken at
16	City of East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building, 4444 Railroad Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana, and
17	via Zoom Video/Telephone conference, before Dawn M. Iseminger, RPR, and Notary Public, within and
18	for the County of Porter, State of Indiana.
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1	APPEARANCES
2	JOHN FEKETE, President
3	RAYMOND LOPEZ, SR., Treasurer and Fiscal Officer
4	HENRY RODRIGUEZ, Secretary
5	JOHN BAKOTA, Board Member
6	JAYLAN ROBINSON, Board Member
7	FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT Consulting
8	ELLEN GREGORY, Ellen Gregory Law - appearing via
9	Zoom
10	Also Present:
11	Vanessa Vargas, CliftonLarsonAllen - appearing via Zoom
12	Jim Wescott, Tetra Tech
13	David Alonzo, BMO Bank - appearing via Zoom
14	Todd Relue, Plews Shadley - appearing via Zoom
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1	MR. FEKETE: I'd like to call to order the
2	East Chicago Waterway Management District board
3	meeting. Today's date is September 15, 2022, and
4	the time is 5:07.
5	The first order of business is the roll call.
6	John Bakota?
7	MR. BAKOTA: Here.
8	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?
9	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Here.
10	MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?
11	MR. ROBINSON: Here.
12	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?
13	MR. LOPEZ: Here.
14	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, here. We have a
15	quorum.
16	MS. GREGORY: We're having audio trouble.
17	MR. FEKETE: We're ready for the executive
18	director's report.
19	MR. TREVINO: Are you with us, Ellen?
20	MS. GREGORY: I am. Sounds great.
21	MR. TREVINO: Fernando Trevino, FMT
22	Consulting executive director. I'd like to start
23	off by going over the contents of your board
24	packet. In your board packet you have today's
25	agenda, you have a copy of the public meeting

1	posting for today's meeting, the board minutes for
2	the August 18th board meeting, the
3	CliftonLarsenAllen financial report dated
4	August 31st, 2022, for the month of August, and
5	that was emailed earlier today and I handed out
б	hard copies that were distributed to the board.
7	You have today's claim docket dated September 15,
8	along with the purchase orders and check register.
9	You have the tipping fee agreement amendment,
10	which is with the Army Corps of Engineers and
11	Cleveland Cliffs. You have board resolution
12	2022-2 granting user fee waivers for parcels with
13	a conservation easement. You have First Merchant
14	Bank statements for the month of August of 2022
15	for accounts ending in 608 and 616, along with a
16	copy of the checks that cleared for the month of
17	August. And you also have copies of three user
18	fee deposit memos that were made in the month of
19	August. You have the BMO trust report through
20	August 31, 2022. You have Tetra Tech's monthly
21	Great Lakes Legacy Act Grand Cal' River remedial
22	design project report, which is dated September 8.
23	You have the Army Corps' report to the board dated
24	September 15. You have Attorney Ellen Gregory's
25	report to the board with a revision date of

1	September 12th. You have a copy of ACOM's monthly
2	invoice budget report and schedule for the Canal
3	Street bridge project. You have an EPA letter
4	dated September 13, 2022, from Rance Albert,
5	related to EPA's review of our 2020 annual work in
6	kind report. And you have a copy of Parsons'
7	monthly bird observation monitoring report for the
8	month of July 2022. And that's dated August 11,
9	2022.
10	To go over a couple items. Regarding the
11	action items on today's agenda, we have the two
12	traditional action items of the board minutes and
13	the monthly claim docket, and two additional
14	action items for the board consideration, which is
15	the tipping fee agreement amendment with
16	Cleveland-Cliffs and the Corps and resolution
17	2022-2 which provides user fee waivers for parcels
18	with conservation easements starting in 2023.
19	Regarding the financial update, Vanessa is
20	joining our meeting today and she'll provide an
21	update on our financial status. Regarding user
22	fees, to date we've collected approximately
23	\$382,700, which is about 83 percent of our 2022
24	user fees. Our original due date was August 3rd,
25	and a couple weeks ago at our August board meeting

1 the board approved extending the deadline to 2 October 3rd, and that will give the district an 3 opportunity to contact the companies and the 4 possibility of them paying their user fees before 5 the district starts pursuing legal matters on the unpaid accounts. 6

7 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act project, 8 the south tank farm sheet pile wall project, the 90 percent design has been completed and it was transmitted to the project team. AR/BP continues 11 to work towards finalizing the specs and drawings. 12 BP gave a presentation to the city's technical 13 review committee on September 7. BP has secured a 14 contractor for the procurement of the steel, which 15 will be with a domestic steel company, and now they're working on the request for proposals for 17 the installation of the wall. The sheet pile wall 18 is forecasted to be completed by early 2024.

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19 Regarding the Lake George Canal east section, 20 phase two dredging is scheduled to recommence 21 after the sheet pile wall project is completed, 22 which as mentioned is scheduled to be done by 23 early 2024. The Corps will be managing the 24 dredging project on EPA's behalf, and they are 25 coordinating additional canal sediment sampling,

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which is scheduled to be done sometime late
summer, early fall.

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Regarding the Lake George Canal middle cap project, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing the remediation project, construction activities are ongoing. The project is currently on pause to allow settlement of the first cap layer.

8 Regarding the Grand Cal' River junction 9 reaches remedial design, the remedial design is Tetra Tech continues to work on 10 ongoing. 11 finalizing the design, and the project team 12 continues to have periodic meetings to discuss 13 design completion, property access coordination, 14 permit applications, the junction marsh 15 coordination, cost share documentation, community 16 engagement. EPA and the district have been 17 working on the project agreement for the Grand 18 Cal' River phase one remediation, which is 19 approximately \$27 million in federal funds. And 20 that scope includes the completion of the Grand 21 Cal' River west branch and the dredging of the 22 Indiana Harbor Canal branch, and, as an option, 23 the restoration of the junction marsh.

24The District and EPA continue to explore25whether the project will be done through a project

1 agreement or a cooperation agreement. And we're 2 hoping to have a final determination of which 3 direction we'll take by the October board meeting. 4 As I mentioned in the past, the project team for some time has been working on the cost share 5 calculations affiliated with the PCA and the 6 7 tipping fee agreement amendments which will be 8 used to leverage Great Lakes Legacy Act funding 9 for the Grand Cal' River phase one remediation 10 project. 11 You might recall that the PCA amendment has 12 been completed and we reported at the August board 13 meeting that I had forecasted that the tipping fee 14 amendment would be completed for today's board 15 meeting, and, yes, we were able to finalize the 16 tipping fee agreement amendment to present to the 17 board for approval. It's taken a couple of years 18 to get to this point but I assure you the wait was 19 well worth it. 20

The PCA amendment with the Army Corps of Engineers that was approved earlier this year, together with this tipping fee agreement amendment, will result in over \$6 million being refunded to the district. Before we started negotiating amending these two agreements, there

1	was some debate that the district might owe
2	several million dollars because of certain
3	prospectives under the two original agreements. I
4	want to thank Attorney Ellen Gregory, Attorney
5	Todd Relue, both representing the district, for
б	their efforts. I want to thank the Army Corps of
7	Engineers and their staff for their efforts, and
8	Cleveland-Cliffs and their staff for their efforts
9	and for being an outstanding community partner
10	through these negotiations and seeking a
11	neighborly resolution on this matter.
12	The Cleveland-Cliffs sep project that's
13	related to this tipping fee agreement will be used
14	as cost share to fund approximately \$27 million on
15	the Grand Cal' River phase one remediation
16	project. So the impact of these two amendments
17	are substantial as our partnership with our great
18	business neighbors, Cleveland-Cliffs.
19	Last month I shared with the board that EPA

20 provided us a letter regarding the 21 Cleveland-Cliffs sep project, that it would count 22 as Great Lakes Legacy Act cost share. So with the 23 PCA and the tipping fee agreement amendments and 24 the EPA letter, that should give the district a 25 high degree of confidence for the funding of the

Grand Cal' River phase one remediation project. And we'll continue to work on drafting the project agreement or the cooperation agreement. And we'll be looking to include similar statement in one of these agreements whichever route we consider going with that, you know, the sep cost share counts as cost share.

8 Regarding the work in kind reporting, I've 9 started working on the report for the first six months of 2022. EPA agreed to extend the deadline 10 11 to the end of September. EPA has recently sent us 12 a letter dated September 13 of 2022, accepting the 13 district's 2020 work in kind report. And now with 14 that acceptance, the EPA has approved a total of \$1.2 million in work in kind. And as I mentioned, 15 16 a copy of that letter is in your board packet.

17 Regarding Lake George Canal west remediation, 18 that work is ongoing; and a reminder that project 19 is between BP and EPA. And project manager Jim 20 Wescott from Tetra Tech is present today and he 21 will give an update on the project on the Grand 22 Cal' River remedial design and remediation 23 project.

Regarding the Canal Street bridge project, ACOM continues their effort on the dolphin design

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1	and permit applications. The project schedule and
2	a budget summary is in your packet. We had a
3	meeting last week to review the district's
4	comments to their draft drawings and specs. I'm
5	working with Attorney Gregory to establish
6	contractor insurance limits, which will be
7	included in the specs. The contractor and
8	material procurement is forecasted to be done
9	during the winter months, with construction
10	forecasted to begin in the May/June time frame.
11	Regarding the BP term sheet agreement for the
12	parcels that BP is interested in acquiring from
13	the district, those negotiations are ongoing; and
14	Attorney Ellen Gregory will give a brief update on
15	the status of that in her update.
16	The Corps' report is in your board packet.
17	Project manager Mike Nguyen was not able to make
18	today's meeting due to a schedule conflict, but as
19	I mentioned, his update, his written update, is in
20	your board packet. And Attorney Ellen Gregory
21	will give an update on various legal matters. And
22	that includes my report.
23	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions for
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Mr. Trevino?

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(No response).

1	MR. FEKETE: Thank you very much for your
2	report.
3	The approval consideration of the meeting
4	notes for the August 18 board meeting minutes.
5	MR. BAKOTA: Motion to accept.
б	MR. LOPEZ: Second.
7	MR. FEKETE: A motion and a second. We will
8	take a voice vote since all board members in
9	attendance are here in this room.
10	So all in favor, signify by saying aye.
11	(All signify aye).
12	MR. FEKETE: Any opposition? Abstentions?
13	(No response.)
14	MR. FEKETE: The motion is approved.
15	The next order of business is the accounting
16	consultant report, Vanessa Vargas.
17	MS. VARGAS: Vanessa Vargas, with CLA. Can
18	you hear me okay?
19	MR. FEKETE: Yes.
20	MS. VARGAS: In front of you, you have the
21	August 31, 2022, financial statement on a cash
22	basis. If you would please turn to Page 2, we
23	will begin with the statement of cash receipts and
24	cash disbursements for the eight months ended
25	August 31, 2022. You have received interest

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1	income of \$4,616.64, user fee income of
2	\$432,899.54, as well as a trust transfer of
3	\$398,338.19, for total cash receipts of
4	\$835,854.37.
5	Through August 31st you have had \$427,471.10
6	in cash disbursements, made up of the various line
7	item expenses above. On January 1st you began
8	with a cash balance of \$3,992,407.94. As of
9	August 31st, 2022, you have a cash balance of
10	\$4,400,791.21.
11	If you will turn to Page 3, we'll go over the
12	schedule of cash account activity for the eight
13	months ended August 31, 2022. You began the year
14	with a cash balance of \$1,409,578.39 in your
15	operating account. You have earned interest
16	income of \$273.23. You've had cash disbursements
17	through August of \$428,521.10, which includes a
18	voided check for \$1,050. You've had a trust
19	transfer of \$398,338.19, as well as a budget
20	transfer of \$212,225.79. Bringing your operating
21	cash balance as of August 31st to \$1,592,944.50.
22	Your user fee account began with a cash
23	balance on January 1st of \$1,076,244.74. You've
24	earned interest through August of \$1,646.38.
25	You've had user fee income of \$432,899.54. You've 13

	07,13,2022	
1	had a budget transfer of \$212,225.79. And you	
2	also redeemed a CD for \$1,509,281.84, which brings	
3	your user fee account balance as of August 31st to	
4	\$2,807,846.71. You began the year with a CD with	
5	a balance of \$1,506,584.81. You earned \$2,697.03	
6	of interest, and it was redeemed bringing your CD	
7	balance as of August 31st to zero.	
8	Moving on to Page 4. You have the schedule	
9	of 2022 available budget. Your 2022 budget began	
10	at \$1,919,735. Adding back in your accounts	
11	payable at 12/31/2022 of \$50,407.37. You had a	
12	budget amendment of \$50,000, bringing your 2022	
13	total appropriation to \$2,020,142.37. Through	
14	August 31, 2022, you've had cash disbursements of	
15	\$427,471.10. In front of you, you have a claim	
16	docket dated September 15, 2022, totaling	
17	\$43,849.37, which brings your total 2022 unused	
18	budget to \$1,548,821.90.	
19	Are there any questions on the financial	
20	statements?	
21	MR. FEKETE: Any questions from the board?	
22	(No response).	
23	MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.	
24	MR. FEKETE: Vanessa, thank you very much.	
25	MS. VARGAS: One item I did quickly mention	_
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1	to Fernando yesterday was your 1041 tax return is	
2	going to be due at the end of this month, so	
3	September 30th. CLA will be in contact as soon as	
4	that is ready for signature and pick up.	
5	MR. TREVINO: In the past, Ray Lopez signed	
6	that. Right, Vanessa?	
7	MS. VARGAS: Correct. He did sign it last	
8	year.	
9	MR. TREVINO: I'll contact you when it is	
10	ready.	
11	MR. LOPEZ: Okay. Thank you.	
12	MS. VARGAS: Thank you.	
13	MR. FEKETE: Okay. The next order of	
14	business is the approval of the accounts payable	
15	voucher register dated September 15, 2022.	
16	MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.	
17	MR. FEKETE: We have a motion to approve.	
18	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Second.	
19	MR. FEKETE: We have a second.	
20	We'll have a roll call vote. John Bakota?	
21	MR. BAKOTA: Yes.	
22	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?	
23	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.	
24	MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?	
25	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.	1

1	MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?
2	(No response).
3	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?
4	MR. LOPEZ: Yes.
5	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, I vote yes. Okay,
6	that motion is approved.
7	The next order of business is the
8	Cleveland-Cliffs/US Army Corps of Engineers
9	tipping fee agreement amendment.
10	MR. TREVINO: Yes. We have Todd Relue on the
11	call with us to give a quick summary of this
12	amendment.
13	MR. RELUE: Thank you, Fernando. Thank you,
14	John.
15	So back in 2012 the district entered into a
16	tipping fee agreement with the Army Corps of
17	Engineers and Cleveland-Cliffs so that
18	Cleveland-Cliffs could define some of its dredged
19	material in the Indiana Harbor and canal confined
20	disposal facility.
21	As part of that, the district was able to
22	charge Cleveland-Cliffs what is called a "tipping
23	fee," which essentially is a cost for the right to
24	put that material into the CDF. Under that
25	agreement, we charged a rate of \$71 per cubic yard

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1	based on the information we had from the Army
2	Corps of Engineers. It turned out that over the
3	years the cost to construct the combined disposal
4	facility was significantly higher, and the amount
5	that the Corps decided to charge the district for
6	confining those Cleveland-Cliffs' materials grew
7	to be \$89.17 per cubic yard. And so we entered
8	into an amendment of the project cooperation
9	agreement between the district and Corps earlier
10	this year to kind of cap the amount that we would
11	have to pay toward the confined disposal facility.
12	And the next part of this in this process was to
13	go to Cleveland-Cliffs and the Corps and to amend
14	the tipping fee agreement so that Cleveland-Cliffs
15	would pay the cost to confine the materials at the
16	full cost, the \$89.17 per cubic yard. And that's
17	effectively what this amendment accomplishes. It
18	adjusts the amount of the tipping fee rate to
19	\$89.17 per cubic yard. It sets the amount that
20	can be confined under the tipping fee agreement to
21	the amount that Cleveland-Cliffs has already
22	confined. And as a result of that and
23	Cleveland-Cliff's agreement to pay more than they
24	originally would have under the 2012 agreement,
25	that will result in a payment to the district of

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1	\$3,589,624.90. And that's money that the district	
2	will have because it had contributed money toward	
3	the CDF, so it had already covered that when it	
4	effectively became a short fall because of the	
5	rising cost of the confined material. So that	
6	amount will be paid to the district by	
7	Cleveland-Cliffs under the tipping fee agreement	
8	amendment.	
9	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions for	
10	Mr. Relue?	
11	(No response).	
12	MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Todd. We'll	
13	entertain a roll call vote.	
14	John Bakota?	
15	MR. BAKOTA: Yes.	
16	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?	
17	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.	
18	MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?	
19	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.	
20	MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?	
21	(No response).	
22	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?	
23	MR. LOPEZ: Yes.	
24	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, I vote yes.	
25	The next order of business is the resolution	-
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2022-2 referring to the user fee waiver for conservation of easements, Mr. Trevino.

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3 MR. TREVINO: So you might recall that a couple of months ago one of the companies that we 4 5 assess user fees to sent us an appeal based on the parcel having a conservation easement and we 6 7 didn't have any existing rules that allowed a 8 waiver for conservation easements. But after we 9 did review their proposal, we did think it was a 10 good idea that the district should grant companies 11 that have a conservation easement a waiver of user 12 fees, and it's based on the percentage of 13 conservation easement property on the parcel 14 assessed. And the other part of this resolution 15 is that the waiver will begin in 2023; so 16 basically by default we would be denying -- the 17 bad news this year for the companies is, we would 18 be denying the waiver in 2022. But if they apply 19 for the waiver in 2023, with this resolution in 20 place it would grant the discount for the 21 conservation easement.

22 Ellen, is there anything you would like to 23 add?

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, I would just add that other entities might have conservation easements

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1	on the properties, so this will apply not only to
2	the entity that submitted an appeal but to any
3	other company or entity that has a conservation
4	easement on the property.
5	MR. TREVINO: Good point.
6	MR. FEKETE: I have a question for you,
7	Ellen. Is it appropriate for us to publicize the
8	fact that we have this resolution?
9	MS. GREGORY: It's a little late for that.
10	Yeah, I think it's appropriate.
11	MR. FEKETE: Okay. So now the next question
12	is: How do we go about doing that?
13	MR. TREVINO: What was the question? I had
14	to turn off the alarm.
15	MR. FEKETE: I just asked the question, was
16	it appropriate for us to publicize the fact that
17	we have this resolution in place, assuming that we
18	pass it, of course.
19	MR. TREVINO: So my plan is, if we pass this
20	resolution, it would be posted on our website and
21	we would include language when we transmit the
22	2023 user fee assessments that this waiver is in
23	place.
24	MR. FEKETE: Okay. That this resolution, if
25	approved, would be in effect for the calendar year

1	2023?
2	MR. TREVINO: Yes.
3	MR. FEKETE: Okay.
4	MS. GREGORY: Correct. The resolution itself
5	becomes effective as soon as it's passed, but it
6	won't have any impact until next year.
7	MR. FEKETE: Right. Okay.
8	MR. LOPEZ: So what's the resolution? Read
9	it.
10	MR. FEKETE: I might need a motion to approve
11	the resolution.
12	MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.
13	MR. ROBINSON: Second.
14	MR. FEKETE: We have a motion and a second.
15	We'll have a roll call vote.
16	John Bakota?
17	MR. BAKOTA: Yes.
18	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?
19	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
20	MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?
21	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.
22	MR. FEKETE: Kevin Doyle?
23	(No response).
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24	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

1	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, I vote yes.
2	As an aside or a comment, I think it was well
3	done. I think the principle behind a conservation
4	easement is an appropriate one in helping not only
5	the waterway but the environment in its entirety.
6	The next order of business is the BMO trust
7	report, Mr. Alonzo.
8	MR. ALONZO: Good evening. I would agree,
9	the audio sounds perfect.
10	On the first page, going through the numbers,
11	and then we'll talk a little bit about interest
12	rates.
13	So the value of the trust as of August 31st,
14	2022, is \$4,137,189.64. Year to date, we had
15	distributions of \$398,338.19. So as we've
16	discussed, it seems like forever interest rates
17	have been very bad. We've only really started to
18	see them moving probably over the last two months
19	and banks have finally jumped on board with that.
20	At the last meeting we talked about looking
21	at a finance committee meeting, but also, too, the
22	Fed did not meet at all last month, in August.
23	They're set to meet in about a week with the
24	anticipation of a pretty good rate hike coming up.
25	The last time we saw a big rate hike, we didn't

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1 it was a pretty big jump. We went from nothing to 2 about 2 percent on a 13-month CD. So based on the 3 Fed meeting coming up here, the recommendation was to hold on the rate, from doing anything with 4 5 rates for this meeting but to really meet next month and see what direction the Fed went with 6 7 Obviously, they're going up. rates. But I 8 definitely think between now and our next meeting, 9 we want to get together; and even if it doesn't 10 impact CD rates, because sometimes it might not 11 move interest rates on CDs or the banks might not 12 have any advantage to doing that, especially if 13 they don't need the money. If interest rates rise, mortgage rates go up, and the need for 14 15 lending declines, so the asset intake might not be 16 as much as before. So if rates -- even if rates hold and they don't go up, we probably want to 17 18 make some adjustments to where we're at. So where 19 things are right now, we have a 13-month paying 2 20 percent, a 25-month paying 2.1; and then a 21 35-month at 2.35. So with the amount that we have 22 and what we've historically kept, about a half a 23 million liquid, and just making sure we have 24 enough for budget, we can look at laddering down 25 some CDs. So I think going into our finance

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1	committee meeting in the next month, we're going	
2	to want to make a decision on it. And the	
3	anticipation is we're hoping with the Fed rate	
4	hike, it will be better and we will be rewarded	
5	for waiting another couple weeks.	
6	Are there any questions at all on the	
7	accounts or the reports?	
8	MR. FEKETE: No. The only question I have is	
9	that as these rates presumably will go up, are	
10	there other instruments out there that will be	
11	tracking this that we might be interested in?	
12	MR. ALONZO: Yeah, I wish we could go back to	
13	what's considered a with a brokerage CD. So	
14	brokerage CDs are FDIC insured, principle	
15	guaranteed, and they return, of course, principle	
16	at maturity. Broker CDs essentially are from	
17	banks across the U.S. So when we look at our	
18	regional banks, and that does include Chase even	
19	though they're a national bank, we're all about in	
20	the same area; but when we look at brokerage CDs,	
21	an example would be I had a client do a 12-month	
22	CD with Discover Bank, so Discover credit card, so	
23	Discover Bank, and it was 3.3 percent for one	
24	year, which is a pretty huge difference from what	
25	we're looking at on the local retail level. So,	24
		7.4

1 you know, I know we've been stuck with the rules 2 from the State of having to deal with banks inside 3 of the State of Indiana, but before we did what was called CDARS. And brokerage CDs are 4 5 essentially the same thing. There is no cost affiliated with them, there's no risk involved. 6 7 Again, they're FDIC insured, but they're from 8 banks that aren't held within the State of 9 Indiana. So we can definitely do better, but I 10 think there would have to be some digging to see 11 if that's something we would be able to do, 12 because I definitely feel those rates have really 13 picked up quite a bit. And we can lock in for 14 three years probably close to like 3.5 percent for 15 three years. So rates have gotten really good on 16 those. But again we've been sort of hand tied 17 with what we can do. Treasuries are held, 18 purchased directly with treasury direct. And the 19 time frame on some of the better rate paying ones 20 are probably well outside of our spectrum of what 21 we can do. But CDs have really been where we're 22 at.

23 MR. FEKETE: Yeah, I think back in the early 24 days we got a little bit outside of our boundary 25 on some of those. And we were basically -- it was

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1	pointed out to us the requirements that you have	
2	just stated. So it is moving in the right	
3	direction, and I guess that kind of applauds the	
4	fact that our decision not to jump in and	
5	reinvest when the last one came due. Okay.	
6	MR. ALONZO: Yeah. We would be stuck with	
7	some shorter rates. But, yeah, we'll hold on.	
8	And we will want to schedule that finance	
9	committee meeting and come with some	
10	recommendations to make some moves and get	
11	approved at our next meeting.	
12	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions for David?	
13	(No response.)	
14	MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Dave.	
15	MR. FEKETE: Thank you again.	
16	MR. ALONZO: Thank you. Have a good evening.	
17	MR. FEKETE: All right. Great Lakes Legacy	
18	Act, Grand Cal' junction reaches, Mr. Wescott.	
19	MR. WESCOTT: Yes. Good evening. A quick	
20	update on the status. Since the last meeting,	
21	we've applied for two more permits. MPDS	
22	discharge permit, which would be temporary. Every	
23	wastewater treatment plant has a MPDS discharge	
24	permit and industrial facilities that	
25	discharge.	26

1 So this project would also -- because we 2 would be removing sediment and dewatering all that 3 water that we collect, the plan would be to treat 4 it in a temporary water treatment plant and discharge it. We would clean it and discharge it 5 back to the Grand Calumet River. So we applied 6 7 for that permit. Which we've used the same 8 process on previous projects and that was 9 approved, so I don't anticipate any issues with 10 that application. And we also applied for the 11 construction floodway permit, because we'll be 12 building and constructing things within the 13 floodway. And the work would not increase any 14 flooding within the area, which is a requirement 15 for the permit. It's part of the allocation. 16 So those have been submitted. We've got a 17 PCB work plan and a local storm water permit that 18 we need to finish up in the next couple weeks, and 19 that should be all the permits that are required. The drawings are complete. The specifications are 20 21 kind of on hold, waiting to see how the project 22 moves, because currently the project 23 specifications always talk about EPA and the

25 agreement, then all of them will have to be

contractor, and if there's a cooperative

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1 changed. They're minor changes, but all of them 2 will have to be modified; so I'm waiting to see 3 how that plays out.

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So we're still in a good position to implement as soon as these final details about who is going to be in charge get worked out in the next, say, four to six weeks.

MR. FEKETE: You did mention -- when you mentioned the permits, you mentioned there might be a change if we take over?

11 MR. WESCOTT: I have sent some emails to the 12 state about how that would work. I'm hoping that 13 it just is an amendment. Right? They've looked 14 at the entire permit. The applicant is the US 15 It's pretty clear in all the permit EPA. 16 applications that the district is a partner. 17 They're just sort of the junior partner. And if 18 it would flip, the expectation would be that it's 19 just a permit amendment that would take, like, a 20 30-day review to switch from EPA to the district. 21 I need to confirm that. And there's different 22 agencies reviewing things, but it should work out 23 I'll try to confirm that kind of with -fine. 24 before the next meeting. And I know Fernando and 25 Ellen want to know that before they get too far

1	along. I do think, though, that the schedule I
2	mean, there's a lot of wiggle room in the schedule
3	as well. So if there is some issues with the
4	permits, there's probably time between now and
5	next spring to work out those details as well. So
б	there's a lot of I don't think switching from a
7	project agreement to a cooperative agreement with
8	the switch on who the permit applicant is, I don't
9	think derails or really affects the project
10	execution significantly.
11	MR. FEKETE: Okay.
12	MR. BAKOTA: This project is from the river
13	to Columbus Drive?
14	MR. WESCOTT: This one will be, if you can
15	imagine, it's from so Indianapolis down at the
16	Grand Cal', down by the water treatment plant. So
17	Indianapolis over to where it runs into the canal
18	and the east branch, they kind of come together.
19	So it's from the Grand Cal' from Indianapolis over
20	to the confluence; and then from that point up to
21	Chicago.
22	MR. BAKOTA: Okay.
23	MR. WESCOTT: And then there's a second phase
24	where it would actually go so that's where all
25	the dredging is occurring. And then there will be

1 some capping in the Grand Cal' section. So the 2 west branch of the Grand Cal' will be entirely 3 complete at the end of this phase. In the future 4 there will be this phase, too, where the rest of the east branch and all of Indiana harbor all the 5 way to Columbus would get capped as well. 6 But 7 because of the USS Lead site down by Kennedy 8 Avenue, and it's a superfund site still, the EPA 9 would prefer to wait until that superfund site is 10 resolved before they spend money in the river 11 because they're not sure what's still on the banks. The stuff on the banks could flow into the 12 13 river.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Does the project show a sediment trap? I asked that some time ago.

16 No, because we talked about MR. WESCOTT: 17 that several years ago, and there was a sediment 18 trap, and a lot of the concern with the sediment 19 trap was the stuff in the harbor because the stuff 20 right north of Columbus Avenue had not been 21 dredged yet. It was very shallow and there was 22 high levels of PCBs right there, and there was 23 going to be a sediment trap the other side of 24 Columbus to catch stuff.

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MR. BAKOTA: On the south end?

1	MR. WESCOTT: On the south side of Columbus.
2	But since all that area north of Columbus has been
3	dredged out now, the concern of stuff flowing
4	because the river flows both ways right
5	depending on the weather and the wind direction.
б	MR. BAKOTA: And lake level.
7	MR. WESCOTT: But since the harbor, a lot of
8	that dirty sediment north of Columbus has been
9	dredged out, so we sort of eliminate the need to
10	do the sediment traps south of Columbus because
11	the threat kind of got removed.
12	MR. BAKOTA: So actually the sediment trap is
13	after that, then.
14	MR. WESCOTT: Well, that's true.
15	MR. BAKOTA: It drops off.
16	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Well, yeah, so the
17	sediment services, it's much deeper now on the
18	other side of Columbus, so the concern that stuff
19	is going to flow out of the harbor into the Grand
20	Cal' is much, much diminished from what it was.
21	In 2015 it was an issue that got a lot of
22	discussion. But since the dredging has occurred,
23	that threat is kind of gone.
24	MR. BAKOTA: They dismissed that sediment
25	trap in that whole length?

1	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.	
2	MR. FEKETE: I think what you're saying is	
3	that because at that point in time you didn't know	
4	when they were going to get around to dredging	
5	that.	
6	MR. WESCOTT: Correct.	
7	MR. FEKETE: So then if the 2016 plan were to	
8	come into effect before they got to it, and then	
9	it would also almost necessitate doing something	
10	like that.	
11	MR. WESCOTT: Right.	
12	MR. FEKETE: Since they already dredged it,	
13	and it will be part of a routine dredge rather	
14	than, you know, this is a legacy dredge.	
15	MR. BAKOTA: Our sanitary district dumps	
16	16 million gallons a day into the canal. I mean,	
17	it's treated. I don't know to what extent. Gary	
18	does the same thing, you know, and U.S. Steel.	
19	MR. WESCOTT: There is a sediment trap up at	
20	Cline ready to catch stuff that comes down.	
21	MR. FEKETE: Comes down from Gary.	
22	MR. BAKOTA: From east.	
23	MR. WESCOTT: Yeah, it's on the west side of	
24	Cline Avenue.	
25	MR. BAKOTA: Right, west side.	2.0
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1	MR. FEKETE: Right. Right.
2	MR. WESCOTT: It's a relatively large
3	sediment trap. I believe the Fish and Wildlife
4	Service samples that every year.
5	MR. FEKETE: Yeah.
6	MR. BAKOTA: They sample the quality of
7	water?
8	MR. FEKETE: Yes, they do.
9	MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: And they take sediment
10	samples and fish samples. There's a significant
11	amount of biological sampling.
12	MR. BAKOTA: Do we get that report?
13	MR. FEKETE: We can get it, because the USDS
14	does a lot of that work, and Fish and Wildlife.
15	MR. WESCOTT: It should be available.
16	Fernando can talk to the EPA rep.
17	MR. FEKETE: Actually, maybe we can contact
18	Michael Spinar.
19	MR. WESCOTT: Michael would have access.
20	MR. FEKETE: It's reported out regularly, or
21	fairly regularly, in our Care Committee meetings.
22	MR. WESCOTT: I would just say that they're a
23	little behind. They do the sampling; but writing
24	the report, they're a little slow on the report
25	writing.

1 MR. FEKETE: But they do the sampling. Thev 2 always report out how many samples they've taken. 3 MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ: Fernando and I have 4 been on calls where we talked about this in much 5 detail. And the areas that have been cleaned up in the past, like Roxanna Marsh, those continue to 6 7 be cleaned. It's just the areas that haven't been 8 clean, kind of continue to be a concern. And the 9 Fish and Wildlife was one of the organizations 10 that expressed some concern about the USS Lead 11 site at Kennedy Avenue, about possibly sort of 12 splitting this junction project into two phases 13 because they were concerned about stuff coming 14 into the river off the USS Lead. 15 MR. FEKETE: And then we have to resolve the 16 issue if it's an issue with the habitat area, the 17 marsh area, with the pipeline people. 18 MR. WESCOTT: Yeah. I mean, that's sort of a 19 separate -- regardless of who manages, the way the 20 project will likely be structured for phase one --21 right, it's a two-phase thing. But phase one 22 would be in the river from Indianapolis over to 23 the confluence and then the confluence to Chicago. 24 Do all that. And then there's also a Right? 25 design, at least a conceptual design at this

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1	point, to do like a 10 or 15-acre wetland that's
2	just south of the river; and most of that property
3	is owned by Buckeye Partners. Some of it is owned
4	by NIPSCO, and then a small part is owned by the
5	city. And the EPA is continuing to have
6	discussions with Buckeye Partners they own like
7	80 percent of the land about trying to get them
8	to clean and there would be no cost to them the
9	way the project is. It's just trying to get their
10	management to agree to have somebody come on their
11	property and basically dig out all the dirty
12	sediment and put in a nice marsh like they did at
13	Roxanna Marsh. And hopeful and that wouldn't
14	happen until the winter of 2023; so there's plenty
15	of time. Once the project gets started and
16	Buckeye sees how things are going, maybe they'll
17	be more it's not that they're disagreeing. I
18	think part of it is everybody is so busy and they
19	are in the oil pipeline businesses and they're
20	probably swamped trying to get fuel out. This is
21	probably a low priority. I think Fernando and
22	myself and EPA are pretty optimistic that once
23	that you know, that there isn't much reason for
24	them to say no. They just haven't got around to
25	saying yes. And quite frankly, the conservation

1 easement thing that was just passed probably would 2 be a carrot to them because --3 MR. FEKETE: Right, right. MR. WESCOTT: -- that would provide them a 4 5 financial incentive to say, yes, and potentially the marsh gets cleaned up. And then if they 6 7 convert that -- currently, I don't believe it's a 8 conservation easement. But that might incentivize 9 them to turn it into one. 10 Does the State keep up with MR. BAKOTA: 11 invasive plant species? 12 Oh, yeah. MR. FEKETE: 13 MR. WESCOTT: They do. And this project 14 would also have a large invasive species 15 component. We would -- even though we won't do 16 any active in-water work all the way to Columbus, 17 we would try to spray the banks from Columbus all 18 the way down to the Grand Cal' and from Kennedy to 19 Indianapolis. All the invasive species along the 20 bank, we would try to treat, because it doesn't --21 we need to kill those because the seeds come out 22 and they spread. 23 Especially in a river. MR. BAKOTA: It takes 24 the seeds downstream. 25 MR. WESCOTT: Right. So we're planning on

1	several, like I said, from basically Columbus all	
2	the way to the Grand Cal', on both sides of the	
3	Grand Cal' would all get sprayed.	
4	MR. BAKOTA: Then it will be a state process.	
5	Aren't they responsible?	
6	MR. WESCOTT: They are well, the operation	
7	and maintenance of different parts of the project	
8	would still need to be worked out. Ultimately,	
9	it's some of it might be the district, some of	
10	it might be the State, some of it might be the	
11	private property owners. They have crossed this	
12	bridge on other parts of the river, you know,	
13	where the agencies or the property like with	
14	Buckeye, for example, they already have a lot of	
15	real estate in the area and they already have	
16	contracts with landscape and natural resource	
17	firms come out and spray their property. So I	
18	don't think it's a big concern if the district and	
19	with EPA, cleaned up their property. They already	
20	have sort of the mechanism to come in and manage	
21	it. And what we've been trying to explain is the	
22	EPA project, the funding would cover the first	
23	three years as a warranty period, and typically	
24	after three years all the invasive if there	
25	were any invasives, the native plants that are	
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1 planted take over and really there's not -- the 2 long-term maintenance after that warranty is very low. It may be two or three times a year somebody 3 4 has to go through with a little spray pack like 5 you see and just spray spots, right, here and 6 there.

7 So the financial obligation for the private property owner, or the district, or whoever, is pretty low after that warranty period is going to be over. Most of the heavy lifting, in terms of trying to keep the invasives out, is in that first three years.

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13 So there's still some hurdles with the 14 Buckeye Partners and other pieces, but I think 15 Fernando has a good handle on what, in the big 16 picture, needs to happen. I think it's just 17 getting everybody in the room and hashing out what 18 has to happen.

19 MR. FEKETE: A good example is the stretch 20 from Kennedy to Cline. That's basically what you 21 did there.

22 MR. WESCOTT: Correct. And like some of the 23 private property owners will then -- they'd either 24 have their own or the nature conservancy owns a 25 lot of land, and then there's agreements for

1	nature conservancy to come on other people's					
2	properties and treat things. There's a lot of					
3	ways to skin a cat. We just have to get to that					
4	point. And really it's talking people off the					
5	ledge that think it's going to be very expensive					
б	because it isn't very expensive. Once it's all					
7	managed I mean, once it's growing, there isn't					
8	much to do.					
9	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Thank you.					
10	MR. WESCOTT: Uh-huh.					
11	MR. FEKETE: Good report.					
12	MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.					
13	MR. FEKETE: US. Army Corps of Engineers,					
14	Fernando.					
15	MR. TREVINO: Yes. As I mentioned,					
16	Mr. Nguyen isn't available. So just to summarize					
17	Mr. Nguyen's report regarding the CDF					
18	construction, they completed the closeout package					
19	for the dredging contract, clean harbors has					
20	started mobilization of the water treatment plant					
21	in late August, which was last month, and they					
22	should start treating water in late September of					
23	this month. The phase two dike raising project,					
24	that construction is ongoing. Regarding CDF					
25	documentation, oil boom coordination, nothing					

1	significant to report. The PCA non-federal
2	funding, PCA closeout with the PCA amendment and
3	the final LERRD credits, the Corps will work to
4	close out the project cost share based on the
5	amended PCA. That concludes Mr. Nguyen's update
6	to the board.
7	MR. LOPEZ: Thanks, Mike.
8	MR. BAKOTA: Can I address the Army Corps of
9	Engineers?
10	MR. FEKETE: Yes.
11	MR. BAKOTA: To whom it may concern on Army
12	Corps of Engineers, I have issues with the
13	sidewalk and the sidewalk parallel to the CDF
14	between Indianapolis Boulevard and the wall of the
15	CDF. So it runs north and south of the sidewalk.
16	Friends of mine are bicycle enthusiasts. They
17	were riding down that sidewalk and got flat tires
18	because of the debris on the sidewalk: Glass,
19	metal parts and everything. I'm asking the Army
20	Corps of Engineers to set up a program to clean,
21	on a basis not, you know, one and forget about
22	it to clean that periodically. However they
23	want to contract it every other week or so. And
24	actually I'm a homeowner in East Chicago and I'm
25	responsible for clearing my sidewalk of snow. So

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1	I think the obligation is on them to also do that,
2	to clear the snow. And I would like a report from
3	the Army Corps of Engineers to see what system
4	they put into effect and we'll go from there.
5	MR. FEKETE: That's a point well taken and I
6	think it would be best to have Mr. Trevino send a
7	memo or some form of communication to the Army
8	Corps of Engineers basically responding to your
9	request.
10	MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.
11	MR. TREVINO: I'll call them.
12	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Attorney Ellen Gregory
13	report.
14	MS. GREGORY: Yes. Ellen Gregory with Ellen
15	Gregory Law. One of the legal matters that
16	Mr. Trevino and I have been working on is the BP
17	property transfer. We had an in-person meeting
18	with representatives from BP on September 1st. We
19	had sent a first draft of the settlement
20	agreement. BP is supposed to be preparing a
21	redline and returning the redline to us with their
22	comments. It should be any day. It was supposed
23	to be yesterday. We will continue to have
24	meetings. And hopefully we will be wrapping up
25	the entire agreement and the transfer in the next $_{41}$
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1 three to four months, is the hope. 2 GLA amendment has already been discussed. 3 Gran Cal River junction work, Fernando and I are 4 assessing the various pros and cons of continuing 5 on with the project agreement versus entering into a cooperation agreement where the district would 6 7 be taking over more of the oversight work. As 8 Fernando mentioned, we're going to try to have a 9 decision by the October board meeting. And then on the user fees, the conservation 10 easement resolution, which we have discussed, I 11 12 think that we have discussed everything there is 13 to discuss on the resolution. As I mentioned, as 14 soon as it is passed by the board, it will become 15 effective; and the intent is that the users that have conservation easements on their properties 16 will be able to discount or waiver for those 17 portions of the property that have conservation 18 19 easements on them beginning in 2023. And that's 20 all I have. 21 Okay. Any questions for Miss MR. FEKETE: 22 Gregory? 23 (No response). 24 MR. FEKETE: Any new business to come before 25 the board?

1	(No response).
2	MR. FEKETE: Any public comments that have
3	been received?
4	(No response).
5	MR. FEKETE: Hearing none, the next board
6	meeting is October 20th, at 5 p.m. at this
7	facility.
8	This meeting is now over.
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1	CERTIFICATE					
2	I, Dawn M. Iseminger, Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), and Notary Public within and for					
3	the County of Porter, State of Indiana, do hereby certify that I appeared on the aforementioned					
4	date, time, and location, for the East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of Directors'					
5	Meeting.					
6	I further certify that I then and there reported in machine shorthand the proceedings of					
7	said Special Meeting, and that the testimony was then reduced to typewriting from my original					
8	shorthand notes, and the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.					
9	I further certify that I am not related by					
10	blood or marriage to any of the parties, nor am I an employee of any of the parties or of their					
11	attorneys or agents, nor am I interested in any way, financially or otherwise, in the outcome of					
12	said litigation.					
13	Dated this 18th day of October 2022.					
14	Dauen M. Joiminicer SEAL *					
15	Dawn M. Iseminger, RPR / Million OF INDIANA My Commission expires: 9/22/2025					
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Index: \$1,0..agre

\$	<b>\$89.17</b> 17:7,16,19	3	Α
<b>\$1,050</b> 13:18	1	<b>3</b> 13:11	Abstentions 12:12
<b>\$1,076,244.74</b> 13:23	<b>10</b> 35:1	<b>3.3</b> 24:23	accept 12:5
<b>\$1,409,578.39</b> 13:14	<b>1041</b> 15:1	<b>3.5</b> 25:14	acceptance 10:14
<b>\$1,506,584.81</b> 14:5	<b>11</b> 5:8	30-day 28:20	accepting 10:12
<b>\$1,509,281.84</b> 14:2	12-month 24:21	<b>30th</b> 15:3	access 7:13 33:19
\$1,548,821.90 14:18	<b>12/31/2022</b> 14:11	<b>31</b> 4:20 12:21,25 13:13	accomplishes 17:17
\$1,592,944.50 13:21	<b>12th</b> 5:1	14:14	account 13:12,15,22
<b>\$1,646.38</b> 13:24	<b>13</b> 5:4 10:12	<b>31st</b> 4:4 13:5,9,21 14:3,	14:3
<b>\$1,919,735</b> 14:10	13-month 23:2,19	7 22:13	accounting 12:15
<b>\$1.2</b> 10:15	<b>15</b> 3:3 4:7,24 14:16 15:15	35-month 23:21 3rd 5:24 6:2	<b>accounts</b> 4:15 6:6 14:10 15:14 24:7
<b>\$2,020,142.37</b> 14:13	<b>15-acre</b> 35:1		<b>ACOM</b> 10:25
<b>\$2,697.03</b> 14:5	<b>16</b> 32:16	4	ACOM's 5:1
<b>\$2,807,846.71</b> 14:4	<b>18</b> 12:4	<b>4</b> 14:8	acquiring 11:12
<b>\$212,225.79</b> 13:20 14:1	18th 4:2	5	Act 4:21 6:7 8:8 9:22 26:18
<b>\$27</b> 7:19 9:14	<b>1st</b> 13:7,23		action 5:11,12,14
<b>\$273.23</b> 13:16		<b>5:07</b> 3:4	active 36:16
<b>\$3,589,624.90</b> 18:1	2		activities 7:5
<b>\$3,992,407.94</b> 13:8	<b>2</b> 12:22 23:2,19	6	activity 13:12
<b>\$382,700</b> 5:23	<b>2.1</b> 23:20	<b>608</b> 4:15	add 19:23,24
<b>\$398,338.19</b> 13:3,19 22:15	<b>2.35</b> 23:21	<b>616</b> 4:15	Adding 14:10
<b>\$4,137,189.64</b> 22:14	<b>2012</b> 16:15 17:24	7	additional 5:13 6:25
<b>\$4,400,791.21</b> 13:10	<b>2015</b> 31:21		adjustments 23:18
<b>\$4,616.64</b> 13:1	<b>2016</b> 32:7	<b>7</b> 6:13	adjusts 17:18
<b>\$427,471.10</b> 13:5	<b>2020</b> 5:5 10:13		advantage 23:12
14:15	<b>2022</b> 3:3 4:4,14,20 5:4,	8	affects 29:9
\$428,521.10 13:17	8,9,23 10:10,12 12:21, 25 13:9,13 14:9,12,14,	<b>8</b> 4:22	affiliated 8:6 25:6
<b>\$43,849.37</b> 14:17	16,17 15:15 19:18	<b>80</b> 35:7	agencies 28:22 37:13
<b>\$432,899.54</b> 13:2,25	22:14	<b>83</b> 5:23	agenda 3:25 5:11
<b>\$50,000</b> 14:12	<b>2022-2</b> 4:12 5:17 19:1		agree 22:8 35:10
<b>\$50,407.37</b> 14:11	<b>2023</b> 5:18 19:15,19 20:22 21:1 35:14	9	agreed 10:10
<b>\$6</b> 8:23	<b>2024</b> 6:18,23	<b>90</b> 6:9	agreement 4:9 5:15
<b>\$71</b> 16:25 <b>\$835,854.37</b> 13:4	<b>25-month</b> 23:20		7:17 8:1,7,16,22 9:13, 23 10:3 11:11 16:9,16 25 17:9,14,20,23,24 18:7 27:25 29:7

Index: agre..chec

С

]	District Board of 09/1
agreements 8:25 9:3 10:5 38:25	area 24:20 27:14 31:2 34:16,17 37:15
alarm 20:14	areas 34:5,7
Albert 5:4	Army 4:10,23 7:4 8:20
allocation 27:15	9:6 16:8,16 17:1 39:13
allowed 19:7	assess 19:5
Alonzo 22:7,8 24:12 26:6,16	assessed 19:14 assessments 20:22
amend 17:13	asset 23:15
amending 8:25	assuming 20:17
amendment 4:9 5:15	assure 8:18
8:11,14,16,20,23 14:12 16:9,12 17:8,17 18:8	attendance 12:9
28:13,19 amendments 8:7 9:16	Attorney 4:24 9:4 11:5 14,20
23	, audio 3:16 22:9
<b>amount</b> 17:4,10,18,19, 21 18:6 23:21 33:11	August 4:2,4,14,17,19 20 5:8,24,25 8:12 12:4
annual 5:5	21,25 13:5,9,13,17,21, 24 14:3,7,14 22:13,22
anticipate 27:9	39:21
anticipation 22:24 24:3	Avenue 30:8,20 32:24 34:11
appeal 19:5 20:2	<b>aye</b> 12:10,11
applauds 26:3	
applicant 28:14 29:8	B
application 27:10	back 14:10 16:15 24:12
applications 7:14 11:1	
28:16	bad 19:17 22:17
applied 26:21 27:6,10	Bakota 3:6,7 12:5 15:20,21 18:14,15
apply 19:18 20:1	21:12,16,17 29:12,22
appropriation 14:13	30:14,25 31:6,12,15,24 32:15,22,25 33:6,12
approval 8:17 12:3 15:14	36:10,23 37:4
approve 15:16,17 21:10,12	<b>balance</b> 13:8,9,14,21, 23 14:3,5,7
approved 6:1 8:21 10:14 12:14 16:6 20:25	<b>bank</b> 4:14 24:19,22,23 36:20
26:11 27:9 approximately 5:22	<b>banks</b> 22:19 23:11 24:17,18 25:2,8 30:12
7:19 9:14	36:17
<b>AR/BP</b> 6:10	<b>based</b> 17:1 19:5,12 23:2

:16,17 37:15 as 34:5,7 **1y** 4:10,23 7:4 8:20 16:8,16 17:1 39:13 ess 19:5 essed 19:14 essments 20:22 et 23:15 uming 20:17 ure 8:18 ndance 12:9 orney 4:24 9:4 11:5, .20 io 3:16 22:9 **ust** 4:2,4,14,17,19, 5:8,24,25 8:12 12:4, ,25 13:5,9,13,17,21, 14:3,7,14 22:13,22 :21 enue 30:8,20 32:24 :11 12:10,11 В **k** 14:10 16:15 24:12 :23 27:6 19:17 22:17 ota 3:6,7 12:5 20.21 18:14.15 :12,16,17 29:12,22 :14,25 31:6,12,15,24 :15,22,25 33:6,12 :10,23 37:4 ance 13:8,9,14,21, 14:3,5,7 **k** 4:14 24:19,22,23 :20 ks 22:19 23:11 :17,18 25:2,8 30:12 ·17 ed 17:1 19:5,12

basically 19:16 25:25 35:11 37:1 38:20

basis 12:22

began 13:7,13,22 14:4, 9

**begin** 11:10 12:23 19:15

behalf 6:24

big 22:25 23:1 37:18 38:15

biological 33:11

**bird** 5:7

bit 22:11 25:13,24

BMO 4:19 22:6

**board** 3:2,23,24 4:1,2, 6,11,23,25 5:12,14,25 6:1 8:3,12,14,17 9:19 10:16 11:16,20 12:4,8 14:21 22:19

### **boom** 39:25

boundary 25:24

**BP** 6:12,13 10:19 11:11, 12 branch 7:21,22 29:18 30:2,5

bridge 5:3 10:24 37:12

bringing 13:20 14:6,12

brings 14:2,17

Broker 24:16

brokerage 24:13,14,20 25:4

Buckeye 35:3,6,16 37:14 38:14

budget 5:2 11:2 13:19 14:1,9,12,18 23:24

building 27:12

**business** 3:5 9:18 12:15 15:14 16:7 18:25 22:6 businesses 35:19

**busy** 35:18

Cal' 4:21 7:8,18,21 8:9 9:15 10:1,22 26:18 29:16,19 30:1,2 31:20

36:18 37:2,3

calculations 8:6

calendar 20:25

call 3:1,5 15:20 16:11 18:13 21:15

called 16:22 25:4

calls 34:4

Calumet 27:6

canal 5:2 6:19,25 7:3, 22 10:17.24 16:19 29:17 32:16

cap 7:3,7 17:10

capped 30:6

capping 30:1

card 24:22

Care 33:21

carrot 36:2

cash 12:21,23,24 13:3, 6,8,9,12,14,16,21,22 14:14

cat 39:3

catch 30:24 32:20

**CD** 14:2,4,6 23:2,10 24:13,22

CDARS 25:4

CDF 16:24 18:3 39:17, 24

CDS 23:11,25 24:14,16, 20 25:4,21

change 28:10 changed 28:1

charge 16:22 17:5 28:6

charged 16:25

Chase 24:18

check 4:8 13:18

Index: chec..disa

	09/15	/2022	Index: checdisa
checks 4:16	10,17	continuing 35:5	Dave 26:14
Chicago 3:2 29:21	company 6:15 20:3	contract 39:19	David 26:12
34:23	complete 27:20 30:3	contractor 6:14 11:6,7	day 32:16
<b>city</b> 35:5	completed 6:9,18,21	27:24	days 25:24
city's 6:12	8:12,14 39:18	contracts 37:16	deadline 6:1 10:10
<b>CLA</b> 12:17 15:3	completion 7:13,20	contributed 18:2	deal 25:2
<b>claim</b> 4:7 5:13 14:15	component 36:15	convert 36:7	debate 9:1
<b>clean</b> 27:5 34:8 35:8 39:19	conceptual 34:25	cooperation 8:1 10:3 17:8	decided 17:5
<b>cleaned</b> 34:5,7 36:6	<b>concern</b> 30:18 31:3,18 34:8,10 37:18	cooperative 27:24	decision 24:2 26:4
37:19	concerned 34:13	29:7	declines 23:15
<b>clear</b> 28:15	confidence 9:25	coordinating 6:25	deeper 31:17
cleared 4:16	<b>confine</b> 17:15	coordination 7:13,15	default 19:16
Cleveland 4:11	<b>confined</b> 16:19 17:11,	39:25	define 16:18
Cleveland-cliff's	20,22 18:5	<b>copies</b> 4:6,17	<b>degree</b> 9:25
17:23	confining 17:6	<b>copy</b> 3:25 4:16 5:1,6 10:16	denying 19:16,18
Cleveland-cliffs 5:16 9:8,12,18,21 16:17,18,	confirm 28:21,23	<b>Corps</b> 4:10 5:16 6:23	depending 31:5
22 17:13,14,21 18:7	conflict 11:18	7:4 8:20 9:6 16:8,16	deposit 4:18
Cleveland-cliffs' 17:6	confluence 29:20	17:2,5,9,13 39:13	derails 29:9
Cleveland-cliffs/us	34:23	<b>Corps'</b> 4:23 11:16	design 4:22 6:9 7:9,11,
16:8	conservancy 38:24 39:1	<b>Correct</b> 15:7 21:4 32:6 38:22	13 10:22,25 34:25
<b>client</b> 24:21	conservation 4:13	<b>cost</b> 7:15 8:5 9:14,22	detail 34:5
Cliffs 4:11	5:18 19:2,6,8,11,13,21,	10:6,7 16:23 17:3,15,16	details 28:5 29:5
Cliftonlarsenallen 4:3	25 20:3 22:3 35:25 36:8	18:5 25:5 35:8	determination 8:2
Cline 32:20,24 38:20	consideration 5:14 12:3	<b>count</b> 9:21	dewatering 27:2
<b>close</b> 25:14	-	counts 10:6	difference 24:24
closeout 39:18	considered 24:13	<b>couple</b> 5:10,25 8:17 19:4 24:5 27:18	<b>dig</b> 35:11
collect 27:3	construct 17:3		digging 25:10
collected 5:22	constructing 27:12	cover 37:22	dike 39:23
<b>Columbus</b> 29:13 30:6,	construction 7:5 11:9 27:11 39:18,24	covered 18:3	diminished 31:20
20,24 31:1,2,8,10,18 36:16,17 37:1	consultant 12:16	credit 24:22	direct 25:18
combined 17:3	Consulting 3:22	crossed 37:11 cubic 16:25 17:7,16,19	direction 8:3 23:6 26:3 31:5
comment 22:2	contact 6:3 15:3,9		
comments 11:4	33:17	D	directly 25:18
committee 6:13 22:21	contents 3:23		director 3:22
24:1 26:9 33:21	<b>continue</b> 7:24 10:2	<b>date</b> 3:3 4:25 5:22,24 22:14	director's 3:18
community 7:15 9:9	34:6,8	<b>dated</b> 4:3,7,22,23 5:4,8	dirty 31:8 35:11
companies 6:3 19:4,	continues 6:10 7:10,12 10:25	10:12 14:16 15:15	disagreeing 35:17

Iseminger & Associates, Inc. 877-337-7379

Index: disb..fran

disbursements 12:24 13:6,16 14:14	26:
discharge 26:22,23,25	dum
27:5 discount 19:20	
	earl
Discover 24:22,23	earl
discuss 7:12	earr
discussed 22:16	eas
discussion 31:22	11,
discussions 35:6	36:
dismissed 31:24	<b>eas</b> 8,2
disposal 16:20 17:3,11	easi
distributed 4:6	30:
distributions 22:15	effe
<b>district</b> 3:2 6:2,5 7:16, 24 8:24 9:1,5,24 11:13	effe
16:15,21 17:5,9,25	effe
18:1,6 19:10 28:16,20 32:15 37:9,18 38:8	effo
district's 10:13 11:3	effo
docket 4:7 5:13 14:16	elim
<b>documentation</b> 7:15 39:25	Elle 11: 28:
dollars 9:2	ema
dolphin 10:25	
domestic 6:15	ema
downstream 36:24	end
Doyle 16:1 18:20 21:22	end
draft 11:4	end
drafting 10:2	eng
drawings 6:11 11:4 27:20	<b>Eng</b> 8:2 39:
dredge 32:13,14	ente
dredged 16:18 30:21 31:3,9 32:12	ente
dredging 6:20,24 7:21	enti enti
29:25 31:22 32:4 39:19	
<b>Drive</b> 29:13	enti
drops 31:15	enti
due 5:24 11:18 15:2	env

	,
26:5	EPA 5:37
dumps 32:15	24 10:10, 27:23 28:
E	33:16 35: EPA's 5:
earlier 4:5 8:21 17:9	essential 24:16 25:
early 6:18,23 7:2 25:23	establish
earned 13:15,24 14:5	estate 37
easement 4:13 19:6, 11,13,21 20:4 22:4	evening
36:1,8	execution
easements 5:18 19:2, 8,25	executive
east 3:2 6:19 29:18	existing
30:5 32:22	expectati
effect 20:25 32:8	expenses
effective 21:5	expensiv
effectively 17:17 18:4	explain 3
effort 10:25	explore
efforts 9:6,7,8	expresse
eliminate 31:9	extend 1
<b>Ellen</b> 3:19 4:24 9:4 11:14,20 19:22 20:7 28:25	extending extent 32
emailed 4:5	
emails 28:11	
end 10:11 15:2 30:3,25	facilities
ended 12:24 13:13	facility 1
ending 4:15	fact 20:8,
engagement 7:16	fairly 33:
Engineers 4:10 7:4	fall 7:2 18
8:21 9:7 16:8,17 17:2 39:13	farm 6:8
entered 16:15 17:7	favor 12:
entertain 18:13	<b>FDIC</b> 24:"
entire 28:14	Fed 22:22
entirety 22:5	federal 7
entities 19:25	fee 4:9,12 8:7,13,16
entity 20:2,3	13:1,22,2
environment 22:5	16,23 17: 19:1 20:2

feel 25:12 5:3 7:16,24 9:19, 10:10,11,14,19 fees 5:22,24 6:4 19:5, 23 28:15,20 30:8 12 16 35:5,22 37:19,22 **Fekete** 3:1,8,10,12,14, **'s** 5:5 6:24 17 11:23 12:1,7,12,14, entially 16:23 19 14:21,24 15:13,17, 16 25:5 19,22,24 16:1,3,5 18:9, 12,16,18,20,22,24 20:6, blish 11:5 11,15,24 21:3,7,10,14, te 37:15 18,20,22,24 22:1 24:8 25:23 26:12,15,17 28:8 ning 22:8 26:16,19 29:11 32:2,7,12,21 cution 29:10 33:1,5,8,13,17,20 34:1, 15 36:3,12 38:19 39:9, cutive 3:17,22 11,13 ting 19:7 Fernando 3:21 15:1 16:13 28:24 33:16 34:3 ectation 28:18 35:21 38:15 39:14 enses 13:7 final 8:2 28:5 ensive 39:5,6 finalize 8:15 lain 37:21 finalizing 6:11 7:11 lore 7:24 finally 22:19 ressed 34:10 finance 22:21 23:25 end 10:10 26:8 ending 6:1 financial 4:3 5:19,21 12:21 14:19 36:5 38:7 ent 32:17 fine 28:23 F finish 27:18 firms 37:17 lities 26:24 fish 33:3,10,14 34:9 lity 16:20 17:4,11 flip 28:18 20:8,16 26:4 flooding 27:14 **y** 33:21 floodway 27:11,13 7:2 18:4 flow 30:12 31:19 flowing 31:3 **r** 12:10 flows 31:4 **C** 24:14 25:7 **FMT** 3:21 22:22 23:3,6 24:3 forecasted 6:18 8:13 ral 7:19 11:8,10 4:9,12,18 5:15,17 forever 22:16 13,16,22 9:13,23 1,22,25 14:3 16:9, frame 11:10 25:19 23 17:14,18,20 18:7 frankly 35:25 19:1 20:22

Index: fron..limi

	09/15	/2022	Index: fronlimi
front 12:20 14:15	handed 4:5	income 13:1,16,25	junction 7:8,14,23
fuel 35:20	handle 38:15	increase 27:13	26:18 34:12
full 17:16	happen 35:14 38:16,18	Indiana 7:22 16:19	<b>junior</b> 28:17
fund 9:14	harbor 7:22 16:19 30:5,	25:3,9 30:5	К
funding 8:8 9:25 37:22	19 31:7,19	Indianapolis 29:15,17, 19 34:22 36:19	
funds 7:19	harbors 39:19	industrial 26:24	Kennedy 30:7 34:11 36:18 38:20
future 30:3	hard 4:6	information 17:1	<b>Kevin</b> 16:1 18:20 21:22
	hashing 38:17	inside 25:2	kill 36:21
G	hear 12:18	installation 6:17	kind 5:6 10:8,13,15
gallons 32:16	heavy 38:10	instruments 24:10	17:10 26:3 27:21 28:23
Gary 32:17,21	held 25:8,17	insurance 11:6	29:18 31:11,23 34:8
gave 6:12	helping 22:4	insured 24:14 25:7	L
George 6:19 7:3 10:17	Henry 3:8,9 15:18,22, 23 18:16,17 21:18,19	intake 23:15	<b>L</b>
give 6:2 9:24 10:21	31:16 32:1 33:9 34:3	interest 12:25 13:15,24	laddering 23:24
11:14,21 16:11	high 9:25 30:22	14:6 22:11,16 23:11,13	lake 6:19 7:3 10:17 31:6
<b>good</b> 19:10 20:5 22:8, 24 25:15 26:16,19 28:4	higher 17:4	interested 11:12 24:11	Lakes 4:21 6:7 8:8 9:22 26:17
38:15,19 39:11	hike 22:24,25 24:4	invasive 36:11,14,19	land 35:7 38:25
Grand 4:21 7:8,17,20	historically 23:22	37:24	landscape 37:16
8:9 9:15 10:1,21 26:18 27:6 29:16,19 30:1,2	hold 23:4,17 26:7 27:21	invasives 37:25 38:11	language 20:21
31:19 36:18 37:2,3	hopeful 35:13	invoice 5:2	large 33:2 36:14
grant 19:10,20	hoping 8:2 24:3 28:12	involved 25:6	late 7:1 20:9 39:21,22
granting 4:12	huge 24:24	issue 31:21 34:16	
great 3:20 4:21 6:7 8:8	hurdles 38:13	issues 27:9 29:3	layer 7:7
9:17,22 26:17		item 13:7 14:25	Lead 30:7 34:10,14
<b>Gregory</b> 3:16,20 9:4 11:5,14,20 19:24 20:9	I	items 5:10,11,12,14	ledge 39:5
21:4	<b>idea</b> 19:10	J	legacy 4:21 6:7 8:8 9:22 26:17 32:14
Gregory's 4:24	imagine 29:15		legal 6:5 11:21
grew 17:6	impact 9:16 21:6 23:10	January 13:7,23	lending 23:15
growing 39:7	implement 28:5	Jaylan 3:10 15:24 18:18 21:20	length 31:25
guaranteed 24:15	in-water 36:16	<b>Jim</b> 10:19	letter 5:3 9:20,24 10:12,
guess 26:3	incentive 36:5	John 3:6,14 15:20 16:5,	16
н	incentivize 36:8	14 18:14,24 21:16 22:1	level 24:25 31:6
	include 10:4 20:21 24:18	joining 5:20	levels 30:22
habitat 34:16		July 5:8	leverage 8:8
half 23:22	included 11:7	jump 23:1 26:4	lifting 38:10
hand 25:16	includes 7:20 11:22 13:17	jumped 22:19	limits 11:6

liquid	23:23
--------	-------

local 24:25 27:17

lock 25:13

long-term 38:2

looked 28:13

Lopez 3:12,13 12:6 14:23 15:5,11,16 16:3,4 18:22,23 21:8,24,25 26:14 39:12

lot 29:2,6 30:18 31:7,21 33:14 37:14 38:25 39:2

**low** 35:21 38:3,9

#### М

made 4:18 13:6 maintenance 37:7 38:2 make 11:17 23:18 24:2 26:10 making 23:23 manage 37:20 managed 39:7 management 3:2 35:10 manager 10:19 11:17 manages 34:19 **managing** 6:23 7:4 marsh 7:14,23 34:6,17 35:12,13 36:6 material 11:8 16:19,24 18:5 **materials** 17:6,15 **matter** 9:11 matters 6:5 11:21 maturity 24:16 May/june 11:10 mechanism 37:20 meet 22:22,23 23:5 meeting 3:3,25 4:1,2 5:20,25 8:3,13,15 11:3, 18 12:3,4 22:20,21 23:3,5,8 24:1 26:9,11, 20 28:24

meetings 7:12 33:21

members 12:8

memos 4:18

mention 14:25 28:8

mentioned 6:22 8:4 10:15 11:19 28:9 39:15

Merchant 4:13

Michael 33:18,19

middle 7:3

**Mike** 11:17

million 7:19 8:23 9:2,14 10:15 23:23 32:16

minor 28:1

minutes 4:1 5:12 12:4

mobilization 39:20

modified 28:2

**money** 18:1,2 23:13 30:10

monitoring 5:7

**month** 4:4,14,16,18 5:8 9:19 15:2 22:22 23:6 24:1 39:21,23

monthly 4:20 5:1,7,13

months 10:10 11:9 12:24 13:13 19:4 22:18

mortgage 23:14

motion 12:5,7,14 15:16,17 16:6 21:10,12, 14 move 23:11 moves 26:10 27:22 moving 14:8 22:18

26:2 MPDS 26:21,23

\_\_\_\_\_N

national 24:19

nature 38:24 39:1 necessitate 32:9 negotiating 8:25 negotiations 9:10 11:13 neighborly 9:11 neighbors 9:18 news 19:17 Nguyen 11:17 39:16 Nguyen's 39:17 nice 35:12 NIPSCO 35:4 north 30:20 31:2,8 notes 12:4

native 37:25

natural 37:16

Ο

numbers 22:10

obligation 38:7 observation 5:7 occurred 31:22 occurring 29:25 October 6:2 8:3 oil 35:19 39:25 ongoing 7:6,10 10:18 11:13 39:24 operating 13:15,20 operation 37:6 opportunity 6:3 opposition 12:12 optimistic 35:22 option 7:22 order 3:1,5 12:15 15:13 16:7 18:25 22:6

original 5:24 9:3 originally 17:24 outstanding 9:9 owe 9:1 owned 35:3,4 owner 38:8 owners 37:11 38:23 owns 38:24

#### Ρ

pack 38:4 package 39:18 packet 3:24 10:16 11:2, 16,20 paid 18:6 parcel 19:6,13 parcels 4:12 5:17 11:12 Parsons' 5:6 part 16:21 17:12 19:14 27:15 32:13 35:4,18 partner 9:9 28:16,17 Partners 35:3,6 38:14 partnership 9:17 parts 37:7,12 pass 20:18,19 passed 21:5 36:1 past 8:4 15:5 34:6 pause 7:6 pay 17:11,15,23 payable 14:11 15:14 paying 6:4 23:19,20 25:19 payment 17:25 **PCA** 8:6,11,20 9:23 **PCB** 27:17 PCBS 30:22

orders 4:8

organizations 34:9

Index: liqu..PCBS

people 34:17 39:4

percent 5:23 6:9 23:2,

20 24:23 25:14 35:7

percentage 19:12

period 37:23 38:9

permit 7:14 11:1 26:22, 24 27:7,11,15,17 28:14,

permits 26:21 27:19

phase 6:20 7:18 8:9

9:15 10:1 29:23 30:3,4 34:20,21 39:23

perfect 22:9

periodic 7:12

15,19 29:8

28:9 29:4

**phases** 34:12

picked 25:13

picture 38:16

pieces 38:14

pile 6:8,17,21

pipeline 34:17 35:19

**place** 19:20 20:17,23

planning 36:25

36:11 39:20

planted 38:1

plants 37:25

plays 28:3

**plenty** 35:14

32:3 35:1 39:4

pointed 26:1

position 28:4

possibility 6:4

possibly 34:11

posted 20:20

point 8:18 20:5 29:20

plan 20:19 27:3,17 32:7

plant 26:23 27:4 29:16

pick 15:4

people's 39:1

Index: peop..resu

09/15	/2022
posting 4:1	
potentially 36:5	Q
prefer 30:9	quality 33:6
present 8:16 10:20	question 20:6,
presentation 6:12	24:8
<b>pretty</b> 22:24 23:1 24:24 28:15 35:22 38:9	questions 11:2 21 18:9 24:6 26
previous 27:8	quick 16:11 26
principle 22:3 24:14,15	<b>quickly</b> 14:25
priority 35:21	<b>quorum</b> 3:15
private 37:11 38:7,23	R
process 17:12 27:8	
37:4	raising 39:23
procurement 6:14 11:8	Rance 5:4
<b>project</b> 4:22 5:3 6:7,8, 10,21,24 7:4,5,6,11,17,	rate 16:25 17:18 25 23:4 24:3 25
25 8:4,10 9:12,16,21 10:1,2,18,19,21,23,24 11:1,17 17:8 27:1,21,22	rates 22:12,16 10,11,13,14,16 25:12,15 26:7
29:7,9,12 30:14 34:12, 20 35:9,15 36:13 37:7, 22 39:23	<b>Ray</b> 3:12 15:5 1 18:22 21:24
projects 27:8	reaches 7:9 26
properties 20:1 39:2	Read 21:8
property 7:13 19:13 20:4 35:2,11 37:11,13,	ready 3:17 15:4 32:20
17,19 38:8,23	real 37:15
proposal 19:9	reason 35:23
proposals 6:16	recall 8:11 19:3
prospectives 9:3	receipts 12:23
provide 5:20 36:4	received 12:25
provided 9:20	recently 10:11
public 3:25	recommence
publicize 20:7,16 purchase 4:8	recommendati 23:3
purchased 25:18	recommendati 26:10
pursuing 6:5	redeemed 14:2
put 16:24 35:12	referring 19:1
	refunded 8:24

regional 24:18 register 4:8 15:15 regularly 33:20,21 reinvest 26:5 11,13,15 related 5:5 9:13 23 14:19, **Relue** 9:5 16:10.13 6:12 1 :19 rer 1 rer 9 rer rer rer rep 8 22:24, rep 5:19 2 23:5,7, 1 24:9 3 rep 16:3 rep rep 6:18 rep rec 4,10 rec rec rec 3 res 9 13:3 20 5 **resolve** 34:15 resolved 30:10 6:20 resource 37:16 tion ions 2,6 rest 30:4

8:10
<b>medial</b> 4:21 7:9 0:22
mediation 7:5,18 8:9 :15 10:1,17,22
minder 10:18
moved 31:11
moving 27:2
<b>p</b> 33:16
port 3:18 4:3,19,22, 3,25 5:2,6,7 10:9,13 1:16,22 12:2,16 22:7 3:12,24 34:2 39:11,17
ported 8:12 33:20
porting 10:8
ports 24:7
presenting 9:5
<b>quest</b> 6:16
quired 27:19
quirement 27:14
quirements 26:1
solution 4:11 5:16 :11 18:25 19:14,19 0:8,17,20,24 21:4,8,11
SUIVE 34115

**response** 11:25 12:13 14:22 16:2 18:11,21 21:23 26:13

responsible 37:5

restoration 7:23

result 8:23 17:22,25

Index: reta..time

	09/15	J/ZUZZ	Index. retatime
retail 24:25	secured 6:13	<b>skin</b> 39:3	structured 34:20
return 15:1 24:15	sediment 6:25 27:2	<b>slow</b> 33:24	stuck 25:1 26:6
review 5:5 6:13 11:3 19:9 28:20	30:14,17,18,23 31:8,10, 12,17,24 32:19 33:3,9 35:12	small 35:4 sort 25:16 28:17 31:9	<b>stuff</b> 30:12,19,24 31:3, 18 32:20 34:13
reviewing 28:22	seeds 36:21,24	34:11,18 37:20	submitted 20:2 27:16
revision 4:25	seeking 9:10	sounds 3:20 22:9	substantial 9:17
rewarded 24:4	sees 35:16	south 6:8 30:25 31:1,10	summarize 39:16
rise 23:14	sep 9:12,21 10:6	35:2	summary 11:2 16:11
rising 18:5	separate 34:19	species 36:11,14,19	summer 7:2
risk 25:6	September 3:3 4:7,22,	specifications 27:20, 23	superfund 30:8,9
river 4:21 7:8,18,21 8:9	24 5:1,4 6:13 10:11,12	specs 6:11 11:4,7	swamped 35:20
9:15 10:1,22 27:6 29:12	14:16 15:3,15 39:22	spectrum 25:20	switch 28:20 29:8
30:10,13 31:4 34:14,22 35:2 36:23 37:12	Service 33:4	•	switching 29:6
Robinson 3:10,11	services 31:17	<b>spend</b> 30:10	
15:24,25 18:18,19	set 22:23	Spinar 33:18	T
21:13,20,21	sets 17:19	splitting 34:12	takes 36:23
<b>Rodriguez</b> 3:8,9 15:18, 22,23 18:16,17 21:18,	settlement 7:7	spots 38:5	talk 22:11 27:23 33:16
19 31:16 32:1 33:9 34:3	shallow 30:21	<b>spray</b> 36:17 37:17 38:4, 5	talked 22:20 30:16 34:4
<b>roll</b> 3:5 15:20 18:13 21:15	<b>share</b> 7:15 8:5 9:14,22 10:6,7	sprayed 37:3	talking 39:4
room 12:9 29:2 38:17	shared 9:19	spread 36:22	tank 6:8
route 10:5	<b>she'll</b> 5:20	spring 29:5	<b>tax</b> 15:1
routine 32:13	sheet 6:8,17,21 11:11	staff 9:7,8	team 6:10 7:11 8:4
Roxanna 34:6 35:13	short 18:4	start 3:22 39:22	Tech 7:10 10:20
rules 19:7 25:1	shorter 26:7	started 8:24 10:9 22:17	Tech's 4:20
runs 29:17	<b>show</b> 30:14	35:15 39:20	technical 6:12
	side 30:23 31:1,18	starting 5:18	temporary 26:22 27:4
S	32:23,25	starts 6:5	term 11:11
sample 33:6	sides 37:2	state 25:2,3,8 28:12 36:10 37:4,10	terms 38:10
samples 33:4,10 34:2	<b>sign</b> 15:7	stated 26:2	Tetra 4:20 7:10 10:20
sampling 6:25 33:11,	signature 15:4	statement 10:4 12:21,	thing 25:5 32:18 34:21
23 34:1	signed 15:5	23	36:1
sanitary 32:15	significant 33:10	statements 4:14 14:20	things 23:19 27:12 28:22 35:16 39:2
schedule 5:2 11:1,18	significantly 17:4 29:10	status 5:21 11:15 26:20	threat 31:11,23
13:12 14:8 26:8 29:1,2		steel 6:14,15 32:18	tied 25:16
<b>scheduled</b> 6:20,22 7:1	signify 12:10,11	storm 27:17	time 3:4 8:5 11:10
<b>scope</b> 7:20	similar 10:4	Street 5:3 10:24	22:25 25:19 29:4 30:15
section 6:19 30:1	<b>site</b> 30:7,8,9 34:11	stretch 38:19	32:3 35:15

times 38:3	
<b>tipping</b> 4:9 5:15 8:7,13, 16,22 9:13,23 16:9,16, 22 17:14,18,20 18:7	U.S
today 4:5 5:20 10:20	Uh
today's 3:3,24 4:1,7	Ult
5:11 8:14 11:18	unj
Todd 9:5 16:10 18:12	un
<b>total</b> 10:14 13:3 14:13, 17	<b>up</b> 11
totaling 14:16	US
tracking 24:11	use
traditional 5:12	6: 19
transfer 13:2,19,20 14:1	US
transmit 20:21	
transmitted 6:10	
<b>trap</b> 30:15,18,19,23 31:12,25 32:19 33:3	<b>Va</b> i 14
traps 31:10	Va
Treasuries 25:17	14
treasury 25:18	voi
treat 27:3 36:20 39:2	voi
treated 32:17	<b>vot</b> 18
treating 39:22	voi
treatment 26:23 27:4 29:16 39:20	
Trevino 3:19,21 11:24	
15:5,9 16:10 19:2,3 20:5,13,19 21:2 39:15	wa
trouble 3:16	wa
true 31:14	<b>wa</b> 19
trust 4:19 13:2,18 22:6,	wa
13	wa
turn 12:22 13:11 20:14	wa
36:9	wa
turned 17:2	wa
two-phase 34:21	33
typically 37:23	wa
	wa

U	wel
<b>S.</b> 24:17 32:18	wee
<b>n-huh</b> 39:10	wee
timately 37:8	28
npaid 6:6	<b>We</b> 19
nused 14:17	30
odate 5:19,21 10:21 1:14,15,19,21 26:20	11 34 38
<b>SDS</b> 33:13	wes
<b>Ser</b> 4:12,17 5:17,21,24 5:4 13:1,22,25 14:3 9:1,5,11 20:22	32 wet
<b>SS</b> 30:7 34:10,14	whi
	wig
V	Wil
anessa 5:19 12:16,17	win
4:24 15:6	win
argas 12:16,17,20	<b>wo</b> i 10
4:25 15:7,12	17
<b>bice</b> 12:8	36
bided 13:18	wo
<b>bte</b> 12:8 15:20 16:5 8:13,24 21:15 22:1	<b>wo</b> i 10
oucher 15:15	wo
	wri
W	wri
ait 8:18 30:9	
aiting 24:5 27:21 28:2	
<b>aiver</b> 19:1,8,11,15,18,	yar
•	yar yea 15
<b>aiver</b> 19:1,8,11,15,18, 9 20:22	<b>yea</b> 15 21
aiver 19:1,8,11,15,18, 9 20:22 aivers 4:12 5:17	<b>yea</b> 15 21 38
aiver 19:1,8,11,15,18, 9 20:22 aivers 4:12 5:17 all 6:8,17,21	<b>yea</b> 15 21
aiver 19:1,8,11,15,18, 9 20:22 aivers 4:12 5:17 all 6:8,17,21 arranty 37:23 38:2,9	yea 15 21 38 yea
aiver 19:1,8,11,15,18, 9 20:22 aivers 4:12 5:17 all 6:8,17,21 arranty 37:23 38:2,9 astewater 26:23 ater 27:3,4,17 29:16	yea 15 21 38 <b>yea</b> 15 38

ays 31:4 39:3

weather 31:5 bsite 20:20 ek 11:3 22:23 eks 5:25 24:5 27:18 8:7 scott 10:20 26:18, 9 28:11 29:14,23 0:16 31:1,7,14 32:6, 1,19,23 33:2,15,19,22 4:18 36:4,13,25 37:6 8:22 39:10 st 7:21 10:17 30:2 2:23,25 tland 35:1 nichever 10:5 ggle 29:2 Idlife 33:3,14 34:9 nd 31:5 nter 11:9 35:14 ork 5:5 6:11 7:10 0:2,8,13,15,18 27:13, 7 28:12,22 29:5 33:14 6:16 orked 28:6 37:8 orking 6:16 7:17 8:5 0:9 11:5 rth 8:19 iting 33:23,25 itten 11:19 Υ **d** 16:25 17:7,16,19 ar 8:21 13:13 14:4

5:8 17:10 19:17 20:25 1:6 22:14 24:24 33:4 8:3 ars 8:17 17:3 25:14,

5 30:17 37:23,24 8:12

sterday 15:1