

1 EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
2 DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
3 CITY OF EAST CHICAGO, ENGINEERING/ANNEX BUILDING
4 4444 RAILROAD AVENUE
5 EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
6 October 16, 2025
7 THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

8
9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
10 above-entitled matter on the 16th day of October, 2025
11 at 5:00 p.m. held at the City of East Chicago
12 Engineering/Annex Building, 444 Railroad Avenue, East
13 Chicago, Indiana.

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A P P E A R A N C E

MR. JOHN FEKETE, PRESIDENT

MR. JOHN BAKOTA, BOARD MEMBER

MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. RAY LOPEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. JALAN ROBINSON, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT CONSULTING

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. VANESSA VARGAS, CLA

MR. VAUGHAN COOLMAN, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MR. TODD RELUE

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

2 MR. FEKETE: I would like to call to order
3 the East Chicago Waterway Management Director's
4 meeting. The date is October 16th, and the time is
5 5:15. First order of business is the roll call.

6 Jalan Robinson?

7 MR. ROBINSON: Here.

8 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

9 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

10 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

12 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

13 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

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

16 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Fernando Trevino, FMT
17 Consulting. I would like to start off by going over
18 the contents of your Board packet. You have a copy of
19 today's meeting agenda. You have a copy of the public
20 meeting posting for today's meeting. Board minutes for
21 September 18th Board meeting. The Clifton Larson Allen
22 Financial Report dated September 30, 2025 for the month
23 of September.

24 You have today's claim docket dated

1 October 15, 2025, along with copies of the purchase
2 orders and the check register.

3 You have a copy of the First Merchant's Bank
4 statement for the month of September 2025 for accounts
5 ending in 616 and 608, along with copies of checks
6 processed during the month of September.

7 You have a copy of the BMO Non-Trust report
8 summarizing the seven CDs that we opened earlier this
9 year. You have a copy of the BMO Trust reports dated
10 September 30, 2025.

11 You have a copy of Tetra Tech's Monthly
12 Progress Report, invoice and budget summary for the
13 month of September dated October 7, 2025.

14 You have a copy of the Grand Cal River
15 Junction Reaches Remediation Project Agreement summary
16 dated October 16, 2025.

17 You have the omnibus or the Fifth Amended
18 Project Agreement summary dated October 16, 2025.

19 You have a copy of Attorney Ellen Gregory's
20 report to the Board with the revision date of
21 October 13, 2025.

22 You have a copy of the well, I provided that
23 separately a copy of the Army Corps report, which I
24 received today. So I handed that to you, but that's

1 part of your Board packet.

2 You have a copy of the ECI Facility 1041
3 Income Tax Return along with the IT41. And those are
4 for 2024 and the affiliated documents.

5 You have a copy of a letter from MECHA CEO
6 Tiacoli dated July 1, 2025, which I received a couple
7 months ago regarding our rent increase. So I'll be
8 working with Attorney Ellen Gregory to update our lease
9 agreement with MECHA.

10 And I also provided a copy of my Performance
11 Evaluation Report that the Board filled out. So I
12 appreciate your feedback. And that was for a
13 Performance Evaluation for 2025.

14 Go over a couple of items regarding action
15 items on today's agenda. You have the two traditional
16 items of the Board minutes, as I mentioned, the
17 September 18th Board meeting and the monthly claim
18 docket and two additional action items.

19 You have the Great Lakes Legacy Act, Grand
20 Cal River Project Agreement, Conceptual Approval, and
21 the Fifth Amended Project Agreement, also for
22 conceptual approval.

23 A couple other items to report on. I'm still
24 working with AECOM and Marino from the City's Planning

1 Department on finalizing an economic and recreational
2 development presentation regarding finances. I'm still
3 working on the 2026 proposed Operating Budget. I
4 thought maybe it'd be ready by today's meeting, but
5 that work is ongoing and I expect to have that at
6 November's Board meeting.

7 Also on finances, I met with Board member,
8 Ray Lopez, and CliftonLarsonAllen's, Vanessa Vargas on
9 filing of the ECI 2024 tax return. As I mentioned,
10 copies are in your Board packet and I'm going to ask
11 the Board to ratify the filing later on in the meeting.

12 Regarding the 2025 user fees, those packets
13 were sent out at the end of September, which included
14 the communicator that we plan to share with Districts,
15 communicator with various stakeholders including
16 government and agency leadership.

17 Updates on the Great Lakes Legacy Act
18 projects regarding the Lake George Canal East and
19 Middle project. The design of the sheet pile wall
20 groundwater management system is ongoing. AR/BP has
21 reported that the design is at 60%.

22 Regarding the Lake George Canal East
23 dredging, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing that
24 part of the project and the design is ongoing. Phase

1 two of the Lake George Canal East dredging is scheduled
2 to be done in 2026 and the Cleveland Cliff SEP dredging
3 is now forecasted to be done in 2027.

4 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle CAP
5 project, the Army Corps of Engineers is also managing
6 that part of the project. The CAP construction has
7 been completed and ECO construction activities were
8 periodically ongoing. The Project Team is working on
9 an adaptive management plan to address oil sheens
10 observed in the Lake George Canal Middle section.

11 Regarding the Lake George Canal West
12 remediation project that is ongoing and that project is
13 between BP and EPA. Based on the latest site
14 characterization data, BP recommended no further action
15 was necessary. The Army Corps of Engineers and EPA
16 continued to assess BP's no further action
17 recommendation. And I think they were in the process
18 of doing -- adding some sampling to that area, so doing
19 additional sampling.

20 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction
21 Reaches, the Tetra Tech continues to work under
22 remedial design. The project teams continues to meet
23 weekly to advance the design and planning activities
24 for construction. So some of the things we worked on

1 is completing the design, Property Access Coordination,
2 Junction Marsh coordination, coordinating with the
3 former city dump site and the Marquette Trail project.
4 Community engagement working on various permit
5 applications, including the TSCA permit and assessing
6 cost share strategies. EPA informed us that they have
7 a change in their policy for signing permit
8 applications. So they're going to ask us to sign the
9 applications. So I'll be working with Tetra Tech,
10 Attorney Gregory and EPA on how to best manage that
11 change going forward.

12 Tetra Tech Project Manager Carol Neeson has
13 informed me that additional design effort was necessary
14 for the project to assess flood control in the area and
15 that will require a change order and budget amendment.
16 I plan to review Tetra Tech's proposal and have a
17 recommendation at November's Board meeting.

18 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction
19 Reaches schedule in 2025, we're expecting to finalize
20 the remedial design and completing the project
21 agreement. Back in August, the District submitted a
22 proposed draft of the project agreement for the Grand
23 Cal River to EPA for their review. And then just
24 recently, which I believe was last week we submitted a

1 draft of the accompanying Statement of Work for EPA to
2 review as well. As I'll elaborate on the project
3 agreement in a little bit.

4 And also in 2025, we're forecasting to start
5 construction solicitation process with construction
6 starting in 2026. And it's continued and is expected
7 to continue through 2027.

8 Carol Neeson of Tetra Tech is in attendance.
9 Is she in attendance? Okay, so she'll be giving an
10 update.

11 Regarding work in kind reporting, August 29th
12 I submitted districts work in kind report for their
13 first half of this year, which includes a period
14 January 1st through June. AR/BP submitted their 2025
15 semiannual report as well. We've not received feedback
16 on the District's annual work in kind report that was
17 submitted in March 31st of this year.

18 Also I continue to work with the City on
19 gathering scope and cost documentation for a couple of
20 the City's projects that may count towards cost share,
21 which is the combined sewer overflow project and work
22 they did on the City Dump project. So I'll be -- once
23 I get all that together, I'll be submitting it to EPA
24 for their review and consideration.

1 Regarding the Omnibus Project Agreement, the
2 Board might recall that we agreed to pause the
3 mediation process with AR/BP as we pursue the Omnibus
4 Project Agreement. The Omnibus Project scope of work
5 includes a much broader scope of work in the waterway
6 which includes the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches and
7 as well as certain areas of the Lake George Canal. The
8 project team, including EPA, the District and AR/BP
9 continue to make good progress towards the Omnibus
10 Project Agreement. And with that said, the District
11 and AR/BP has agreed to further extend the mediation
12 deadlines to the following:

13 December 1, 2025 deadline for AR and BP to
14 propose additional or alternate mediators and January
15 5th, I'm sorry, January 15, 2026, the deadline for the
16 District AR and BP to complete mediation. As I
17 reported in the past, it's the District's preference to
18 enter into an Omnibus Project Agreement. On today's
19 agenda is to approve the Omnibus or Fifth Mod Project
20 Agreement and statement of work in concept with the
21 game plan for the project team to finalize the project
22 agreement and statement and statement of work in time
23 to present for Board approval consideration and
24 signature at our November 20th Board meeting next

1 month.

2 If for whatever reason negotiations break
3 down with AR/BP on the Omnibus Project Agreement, we
4 will be ready with Plan B, which is the Grand Cal River
5 Junction Reaches Project Agreement.

6 So also on today's agenda is the Board's
7 conceptual approval of the project agreement for the
8 Grand Cal River Junction Reaches project.

9 Regarding the Canal Street Bridge project, no
10 updates to report, no updates to report on the Old
11 Cline Avenue Bridge project as well. I mentioned the
12 core report that was provided to you at today's Board
13 Meeting. Project Manager, Vaughn Coolman of the Corps
14 will be providing update report to the Board later on
15 in the agenda. And Attorney Ellen Gregory will give an
16 update on various legal matters. And that concludes my
17 report.

18 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Trevino?
19 I may have missed it. Did you mention the Canal Street
20 Bridge?

21 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Yeah. No updates on that
22 right now.

23 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Thank you. Next order of
24 business is the approval consideration of the Board

1 meeting notes for September 18, 2025. I'll entertain a
2 Motion to Approve?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

4 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

6 MR. FEKETE: All in favor signify by saying
7 "aye".

8 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

9 MR. FEKETE: Any objections? Abstentions?

10 (NO RESPONSE)

11 MR. FEKETE: Hearing None, the motion is
12 approved. The Accountant Consultant's report.

13 MS. VARGAS: Hi, everyone. Vanessa Vargas
14 with CLA. In front of you, you have a copy of the
15 financial statements on a cash basis dated.
16 September 30, 2025. If you turn to Page 2, we will
17 begin with the Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash
18 Disbursements for the nine months ended September 30,
19 2025.

20 Interest income totaled \$352,471.01. You had
21 a trust transfer in the amount of \$7,437.30, bringing
22 your total receipts to \$359,908.31. Your cash
23 disbursements have totaled \$558,478.49. This brings
24 you to an overall decrease in cash in the amount of

1 \$198,570.18.

2 You began the year with a cash balance on
3 January 1st in the amount of \$14,760,488.82. Your cash
4 balance as of September 30, 2025 was \$14,561,918.64.

5 If you turn to Page 3, we will continue with
6 the Schedule of Cash Account Activity for the nine
7 months ended September 30, 2025. Your Operating
8 account began the year with a cash balance on
9 January 1st in the amount of \$892,511.65. You earned
10 interest in the amount of \$34,798.63, as well as had a
11 voided check in the amount of \$300.10, had a trust
12 transfer in the amount of \$7,437.30, in the amount of
13 \$974,643.53. Your total distributions have been
14 \$558,728.59, which brings you to an Operating cash
15 balance on September 30th in the amount of
16 \$1,350,962.62.

17 Your User Fee account began the year with a
18 cash balance on January 1st in the amount of
19 \$13,867,977.17. You've earned interest in the amount
20 of \$196,662.89. Had cash disbursements for a main CD
21 purchase of \$11,500,000 and bank fees of \$50, as well
22 as a budget transfer in the amount of \$974,643.53,
23 bringing your User Fee account balance as of
24 September 30, 2025 to \$1,589,946.53.

1 You began the year with just \$11,500,000
2 worth of CDs and earned interest in the amount of
3 \$121,009.49. Brings your CD balance as of
4 September 30th to \$11,621,009.49.

5 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue with
6 the schedule of 2025 available budget as of October 16,
7 2025. Your 2025 budget appropriation totals
8 \$1,718,525. Adding back in accounts payable dated
9 12/31/2024 in the amount of \$61,067.48 as well as a
10 budget amendment in the amount of \$95,000 brings your
11 2025 total appropriation to \$1,874,592.48. Cash
12 disbursements for the nine months ended September 2025
13 totaled \$558,428.49.

14 In front of you, you have a Claims Docket
15 dated October 16, 2025 in the amount of \$59,065.70,
16 which brings your unused budget for 2025 to
17 \$1,257,098.29. Are there any questions?

18 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, Vanessa, Ray Lopez. On
19 Page 3, how long do we have to keep that voided check?

20 MS. VARGAS: So that voided check is just to
21 show you that the money associated with the voided
22 check actually went back into your account. As soon as
23 the year rolls through and starting new in 2026, that
24 amount will go in. So it was already voided. It's

1 just showing you that the money that was originally
2 accounted for in the cash disbursements has been put
3 back into that balance.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. Thank you. And thank you
5 for the help on the tax.

6 MS. VARGAS: Thank you.

7 MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Vanessa.

8 Next order of business is the BMO Trust and
9 Non-Trust reports. Are you doing the honors?

10 MR. TREVINO: Yes, I'm doing the honors.
11 Mr. Santori had a family commitment and couldn't make
12 it.

13 So there's three reports or three different
14 pages from BMO in your Board packet. The first one is
15 a summary of the Money Market and CD holdings. And it
16 includes the 14-month, 12-month, 36-month, 18-month,
17 another 48 months, 23 and 60-month CD summaries. And
18 then there's on the far right, the third column from
19 the right, it's a summary of the interest rate for each
20 of the particular CDs. Interest earned year-to-date is
21 \$121,009.49. The difference from last meeting there
22 hasn't been any interest accumulated since the last
23 meeting, but I just gave you the total change in
24 interest collected.

1 The next page is a summary of the dollars
2 that we have in the ECI Facility Trust. And so there's
3 one Certificate of Deposit with the maturity date of
4 June 18, 2026. And that interest rate is 4.351. And
5 then there's the second account we have in the trust is
6 the Prime Money Market. And if you look at the bottom
7 right column and row, it's the difference from last
8 meeting. And that amount is \$38,850.31.

9 And then the third one is just an ECI
10 Facility Trust historical data. And it shows the
11 distributions and the time and the dates when they were
12 distributed. Any questions or comments?

13 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
14 Okay. Great Lakes Legacy Act Grand Cal Junction
15 Reaches Project Update.

16 MR. TREVINO: Carol?

17 MS. NEESON: Yeah. Hi, everyone. As
18 Fernando mentioned, Tetra Tech will be submitting a
19 request for a budget amendment for moving forward on
20 the project. We did submit the 90% design back in
21 September. And in so doing we ran the surface water
22 model and identified several areas that do show
23 flooding potential. And Fernando had shared with me
24 the photos of the IHC that showed several areas of

1 significant flooding. Based on the results of that
2 surface water model, we need to make some design
3 changes and run several iterations of the model again
4 to identify the best way to address the flooding.

5 We did receive some updated bathymetry for
6 the east branch from USCPA, and we would like to
7 incorporate that data into our models so that we have
8 the most updated information.

9 So other than that, Fernando mentioned, we
10 are addressing the permits, the permit applications,
11 and making the changes needed to have East Chicago
12 Water Management District sign off instead of USCPA and
13 looking into property access. Any questions?

14 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Hearing none. Thank you.

15 MS. NEESON: Thank you.

16 MR. FEKETE: The next order of business is
17 the approval consideration for the Accounts Payable
18 voucher dated today's date, October 16, 2025. Motion
19 to approve?

20 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

21 MR. FEKETE: I have a second. Okay. Roll
22 call vote? Jalan Robinson?

23 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

24 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

4 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

5 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

6 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. That
7 motion is approved. I'm guessing we need to go over
8 the often discussed Great Lakes Legacy Act projects.

9 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. So as we mentioned in my
10 report, we've got two project summaries in your packet
11 that we're asking the Board to approve conceptually.

12 Todd, are you still with us?

13 MR. RELUE: I am.

14 MR. TREVINO: All right. You want to give
15 some background context to that?

16 MR. RELUE: Yeah, absolutely. So Fernando
17 gave a good intro to this. So really there's an Option
18 A and a backup Option B. So the first one I'm going to
19 talk about is the Option A. That's the summary of the
20 Fifth Amended Project Agreement that's in the Board
21 packet. This is really related to a Great Lakes Legacy
22 Act Project Agreement that ECWMD entered into with EPA
23 in 2013. And it's been periodically updated over time
24 in order to provide for more work to be done in the

1 area waterways. And the way that the Great Lakes
2 Legacy Act works is that we're able to capture certain
3 work that we've done, certain money that ECWMD has
4 expended and in order to get what are called Great
5 Lakes Legacy act credits, work in kind credits. And we
6 trade those credits in a certain amount of federal
7 work.

8 And so under this Fifth Amended Project
9 Agreement, we have a significant amount of work that
10 we're proposing to have done. The largest project is
11 the Grand Calumet River Junction Reaches. So we have,
12 under this Fifth amendment Project Agreement, we would
13 do dredging and capping in both the Grand Calumet River
14 and the Indiana Harbor Canal. So there's this
15 extensive area that is being addressed there as well as
16 a marsh restoration project in the Grand Calumet River
17 as well.

18 In the other part of the project that's being
19 done under this Fifth Amendment Project Agreement is in
20 the Lake George Canal. The prior versions of this
21 agreement so that up through the Fourth Amendment have
22 really focused a lot in the Lake George Canal and have
23 provided for a substantial amount of work to be done
24 there.

1 Also with a sort of working relationship with
2 Atlanta Richfield and British Petroleum in that area.
3 So this proposes a further amount of work within Lake
4 George Canal. With regard to an existing cap that's
5 there, evaluating that, figuring out what the next
6 steps are there, and then some additional dredging and
7 disposal and potentially preparing for cap at a
8 different portion of Lake George Canal as well as a
9 sheet pile wall and barrier wall system that have
10 already been installed, sort of oil boom operations
11 management. So there's a substantial amount of work
12 that's captured in the Fifth Amended Project Agreement
13 for Lake George Canal as well.

14 In total, effectively what happened is we've
15 committed about \$76 million in accumulated work in kind
16 credits that come from a combination of ECWMD's work
17 and work done by Atlantic Ritchfield, British
18 Petroleum. And we would effectively trade that in for
19 basically \$113 million, \$114 million worth of federal
20 work in those two areas of the area waterways. And
21 those credits, while they sound like a lot, they don't
22 even approach exactly how many we've already
23 contributed that collect work in kind credits. So that
24 leaves behind about \$30 million in CLA working kind

1 credits that we can use for -- to get future federal
2 money for other projects for further work in Lake
3 George Canal and other things like the orphan areas and
4 things like that that we talked about.

5 So that's the Fifth Amendment Project
6 Agreement. That's Option A. If we can't make that
7 work, Option B is summarized on a separate page.
8 That's the Grand Calumet River Junction Reaches
9 Remediation Project Agreement. That is just the
10 Junction Reaches work. So that would not involve
11 anything in Lake George Canal. So it's less work in
12 the waterway. But it is something that we could
13 effectively enter into with EPA on our own and we would
14 not need AR/BP to be involved with that project.

15 Again, we would have the same scope of work
16 in Junction Reaches, but it would not capture any of
17 the work in Lake George Canal. And we wouldn't be able
18 to bring as many cost share credits to the table
19 because we aren't -- wouldn't be involving any of the
20 cost share work in kind credits that AR and BP are
21 bringing to the table. So there again we would have
22 about \$66 million in federal spending, but the District
23 would have to come up with some additional cash or some
24 additional work in kind credits to fill all of the work

1 in kind credits that are needed for that project.

2 Both are viable options. But, you know, as
3 we talked about Option A, the Fifth Amended Project
4 Agreement is the preferred option with the separate
5 Junction Reaches Project as the backup.

6 And so, as Fernando has outlined, we're
7 asking for conceptual approval today and we'll come
8 back with the fully, you know, finalized agreements for
9 the Board's review and approval at a future meeting.

10 MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Todd. Any questions
11 for Todd? Okay, Good explanation. Appreciate that.

12 MR. TREVINO: So we're asking the Board to
13 approve -- I don't know if you want to approve them
14 both at the same time or individually.

15 MR. FEKETE: I think we can because they're
16 linked. So what we're going to do is we're going to
17 approve the concept of approving going ahead with the
18 development of the large Omnibus Project and lacking
19 any success in doing that, we can fall back on the
20 smaller project that we will be dealing with on our
21 own.

22 MR. TREVINO: Right.

23 MR. FEKETE: So I guess that's a motion.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve as stated.

1 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

3 MR. FEKETE: Okay, good. Roll call vote.
4 Jalan Robinson?

5 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

6 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

8 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

9 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

10 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

11 MR. LOPEZ: Yes?

12 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. I vote yes.

13 MR. TREVINO: Thanks, Todd.

14 MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Todd. Vaughn, it's
15 time for the Army Corps of Engineers Board Report.

16 MR. COOLMAN: All right. As you can see on
17 the report, water treatment is scheduled to resume at
18 the CDF on or around the 27th of October. So that's
19 the last week of this month. It is fully assembled and
20 stood up. I think they're doing some testing and then
21 we'll start trading water as soon as everything is
22 tight.

23 MR. TREVINO: Okay. So it hasn't started?

24 MR. COOLMAN: Hasn't started.

1 MR. TREVINO: Okay.

2 MR. COOLMAN: But it is fully stood up. And
3 then on the dyke raises, we're still working on closing
4 out some of the contractor claims, maintenance,
5 dredging. Unfortunately, the bid opening on
6 September 29th did not result in any awardable bid
7 proposals. And so we'll be re-soliciting that within
8 the next month or two. We've had some good meetings on
9 how to make it more palatable to the contractors to
10 generate some awardable bids.

11 There's really not much of an update on the
12 sediment sampling and other research. We should have
13 some results from the ERDC, that's the Engineers
14 Research and Development Center of the Corps and the
15 University of Florida. We should have something from
16 them within the next two months. And really that's it.

17 Oil boom coordination, that's just still
18 ongoing. And we are also -- the parkway maintenance is
19 also ongoing. Any questions?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Yes. I don't know if it refers
21 you, but the failure, the CAP at Lake George Branch was
22 a failure of that CAP?

23 MR. TREVINO: I think calling it a "failure"
24 right now is too early. But they are assessing the,

1 you know, where the oil sheen is coming from.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Because there's a heavy -- I go
3 there on my walk. There's a heavy oil sheen, depending
4 on wind direction.

5 MR. TREVINO: Right. And that's part of the
6 assessment. Is it coming from an area that has, you
7 know, has not been remediated, you know, or is it a
8 combination of coming from under the CAP and other
9 sections? You know, so that's what that adaptive
10 management plan is supposed to assess. And, you know,
11 what we use in --

12 MR. BAKOTA: Before to find oil leaks within
13 the oil system, they would dye it, dye that area and
14 then, you know, watch for a progression of that coming
15 in the waterway. I don't know if that's possible.
16 They've done it.

17 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. This makes it a little
18 tough because, you know, what would you be dying?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Well, you dye, I mean --

20 MR. TREVINO: Because it's possible the oil
21 is coming from underneath the sediment.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah, but I mean, like the South
23 Tank Farm, you know, introduced dye on the south end of
24 that wall, you know, and see if you get contamination.

1 I mean that's what we do. It's probably out of the
2 question.

3 MR. TREVINO: I don't know.

4 MR. BAKOTA: It's a large area, you know.

5 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. It's an interesting
6 concept. The Corps, and put together a pretty good
7 comprehensive plan to try to pinpoint, you know, the
8 source of the oil sheen. You know, it's everything
9 from, you know, is it coming from the bank? Is it
10 coming from underneath? Is it coming from an adjacent
11 waterway?

12 MR. BAKOTA: So that water, you know, that
13 water fluctuates as far as depth there a lot.

14 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Depending on wind direction and
16 rain and all. So, you know, you may be getting
17 contamination from banks farther up coming in that
18 area.

19 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. And they -- part of the
20 remediation was capping the banks as well. So I mean,
21 but that could be part, you know, it could be coming
22 from the banks. But that's all part of that adaptive
23 management plan.

24 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. But you really want to

1 investigate to make sure that it is coming from there
2 before you start capping it.

3 MR. TREVINO: Right.

4 MR. FEKETE: Isn't that part of the work that
5 you have the folks from Florida up here?

6 MR. RELUE: Not exactly. They were doing
7 like penetrometer tests, free fall penetrometer, to try
8 to figure out, you know, the different layers of
9 sediment where some of the harder material is because
10 the dredgers have difficulty with some of those harder
11 areas. It's not really hardpan, you know, it's not
12 rock, but it's, you know, really tough clay or just
13 more compact.

14 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. I think the, you know,
15 we're talking about the Lake George Canal Middle Cap.
16 What they were doing was for the dredging scope, right.
17 So it was the design of your dredging --

18 MR. RELUE: Lake George East and then reaches
19 1 through 13.

20 MR. TREVINO: So yeah.

21 MR. RELUE: Just East.

22 MR. TREVINO: Right.

23 MR. BAKOTA: That's Lake George. Out of
24 curiosity, that Lake George is important because it

1 feeds that marshland in Hammond?

2 MR. TREVINO: I'm not sure if it does.

3 MR. BAKOTA: I mean it's not a functional
4 waterway. If it doesn't, why not just cover it up fill
5 in the --

6 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. You know, years ago that
7 when they were making, you know, they were coming up
8 with options on remediating it one was filling it in.

9 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. But I thought it -- I
10 thought there was a catch on that because it feeds a
11 marsh at the Hammond --

12 MR. TREVINO: On the west end?

13 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

15 MR. FEKETE: That was back in the days going
16 back more than five years ago when wetlands were highly
17 protected.

18 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Now they're not.

19 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. It's a good point. And I
20 think that was one of the -- the roadblocks was, you
21 know, not getting rid of -- because it's open waters.

22 MR. FEKETE: It's not only that section of
23 George, but it's on the other side.

24 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. In the marshes.

1 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

2 MR. FEKETE: For a fact.

3 MR. BAKOTA: That it does feed it or not, you
4 know, and if it does feed it, it's probably feeding it
5 oil sheen anyway.

6 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

7 MR. BAKOTA: Indiana government now isn't too
8 interested in marshland anyway.

9 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Protecting them like
10 they were before.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Filling them in all over the
12 place.

13 MR. FEKETE: What can we say?

14 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

15 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

16 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Thanks.

18 MR. FEKETE: The last order of business is
19 Attorney Ellen Gregory's report.

20 MS. GREGORY: Ellen Gregory with Ellen
21 Gregory Law. Primarily been working with Mr. Trevino
22 and Todd Relue on the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project
23 agreements and statement of works. Also a couple of
24 miscellaneous User fee issues and financial and banking

1 issues I've been working on with Mr. Trevino. And
 2 going forward, as he mentioned, we'll be looking into
 3 the permitting issues since the EPA has stated that
 4 they want the Water Management District to sign up on
 5 permits going forward for the river project. And also
 6 between now and next month, we'll be looking at
 7 revising or amending the lease for this building. And
 8 that's it for legal matters.

9 MR. FEKETE: Any questions?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Thank you.

11 MR. FEKETE: Any announcements?

12 MR. TREVINO: Before the announcements, as I
 13 mentioned during my report, I would like the Board to
 14 ratify the filing of the ECI facility tax return that
 15 we filed. Ray and I worked with Vanessa on filing.

16 MR. FEKETE: Okay, I hear -- entertain a
 17 motion.

18 MR. LOPEZ: I make the motion?

19 MR. FEKETE: Second.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

21 MR. FEKETE: Roll call. Jalan Robinson?

22 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

23 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

1 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

2 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

3 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

4 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

5 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. I vote yes. That
6 motion is approved. Any other new business
7 announcements, public comments? I hear the crowd
8 roaring.

9 Our next Board meeting is November 20, 2025,
10 5:00 p.m. in this facility. I'll entertain a motion to
11 adjourn.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to adjourn?

13 MR. FEKETE: Have a second.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

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

17 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

18 MR. FEKETE: This motion has been approved
19 and this meeting is concluded.

20

21 (WHEREUPON the hearing was
22 adjourned at 5:45 P.M.)

23

24

1 STATE OF INDIANA)

2)

3 COUNTY OF LAKE)

4

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

6

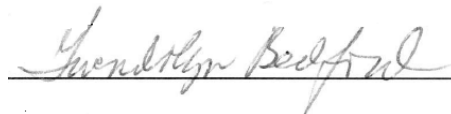
7 The within and foregoing meeting was taken
8 before GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, Certified Shorthand Reporter
9 in the City of Gary, County of Lake and State of
10 Indiana.

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

14 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15 hand this 28th day of October, 2025.

16

17



GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

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No. 084-003700

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