

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 November 20, 2025
7 THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

8
9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
10 above-entitled matter on the 20th day of November, 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.

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. JAYLAN ROBINSON, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT CONSULTING

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. VANESSA VARGAS, CLA

MR. VAUGHN COOLMAN, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MR. TODD RELUE

MS. CAROL NISSEN

MR. BOB SANTORE

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

2 MR. FEKETE: Ready? Okay. I'd like to call
3 to order the East Chicago Waterway Management District
4 Board of Directors, our regular Public Board meeting.
5 Today's date is November 20th and the time is 5:13.
6 First order of business is the roll call.

7 MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson.

8 MR. ROBINSON: Here.

9 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

11 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

12 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

13 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

14 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

15 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? Here. We have a
16 quorum, a full agenda. Thank you. For order of
17 business --

18 MS. GREGORY: Would you like me to announce
19 the people on Zoom?

20 MR. FEKETE: Pardon?

21 MS. GREGORY: Should I announce the people on
22 Zoom?

23 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

24 MS. GREGORY: We have Vanessa Vargas, Todd

1 Relue. That's R-E-L-U-E. Carol Nissen, N-I-S-S-E-N.
2 Adam Mittermaier. That's M-I-T-T-E-R-M-A-I-E-R. And
3 then the person with the 312 number is that Bob
4 Santore?

5 MR. SANTORI: Yes, that's correct.

6 MS. GREGORY: And then Bob Santore,
7 S-A-N-T-O-R-E.

8 MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Fernando? Next order
9 of business is the Executive Director's Report,
10 Mr. Trevino?

11 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Fernando Trevino with FMT
12 Consulting. I'd like to start by going over the
13 contents of your Board packet. You have a copy of
14 today's agenda.

15 You have a copy of today's public
16 meeting posting as well as the posting for today's
17 executive meeting.

18 You have a copy of the Board minutes for
19 the October 16th Board meeting.

20 You have Tetra Tech's Change Order
21 Number 3 dated November 17th, 2025.

22 You have the 2025 budget amendment dated
23 November 20th, 2025, and that's affiliated with the
24 Change Order.

1 You also have Tetra Tech's monthly
2 progress report and invoice for the month of October
3 dated November 7, 2025.

4 You have a Letter of Authorization to
5 First Merchants regarding the transfer of \$79,000,
6 dated today's date. And that's also affiliated with
7 today's 2025 budget amendment request. You have a copy
8 of the CliftonLarsonAllen financial statement dated
9 October 31, 2025.

10 You have today's claim docket dated
11 November 20, 2025, along with copies of the purchase
12 orders and check register.

13 You have two spreadsheets. They're both
14 regarding the 2026 Operating Budget and they both have
15 today's date. One, it compares the 2026 budget with
16 this year's 2025 budget. And one is just a standalone
17 2026 Operating Budget.

18 You have a copy of First Merchants Bank
19 statements for the month of October, both dated October
20 31st for accounts ending in 608 and 616 and a copy of
21 the checks that were cleared in October. And you also
22 have a copy of the one User Fee deposit that was made
23 in October and that was October 27, 2025.

24 You have a one-page summary of the Fifth

1 Modified Project Agreement dated today's date,
2 November 20, 2025.

3 You have a copy of a Lease Agreement
4 Amendment regarding our rent for our facilities here.

5 You have a copy of the BMO Trust and
6 Non-Trust reports and those are dated October 31, 2025.

7 You have a copy of Attorney Ellen
8 Gregory's Report to the Board dated November 17, 2025.

9 You have a copy of the core report to
10 the Board dated November 20, 2025.

11 You have a copy of today's Finance
12 Committee meeting that we had the agenda for that. And
13 last but not least, you have a copy of an article in
14 the "Times" regarding grants available through the
15 Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

16 And then also I sent you a copy. It's
17 also part of your Claim Docket, but I sent it under a
18 separate email because I didn't think it would -- it
19 was going to be too voluminous to be attached to the
20 packet itself. And that was a copy of the Fifth
21 Modification to the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project
22 Agreement and it included the Statement of Work and
23 also the one-page summary.

24 So that concludes all the items that are

1 part of your Board packet. I'd like to go over a
2 couple things regarding the action items on today's
3 agenda. We have the two routine monthly action items
4 of the regular board meeting minutes, as I mentioned.
5 It was for October 16th. And you also have the monthly
6 claim docket. You have six additional action items.
7 The Tetra Tech Change Order Number 3, the 2025 budget
8 Amendment and Letter of Authorization to fund that
9 Change Order Number 3.

10 You have the 2026 Operating Budget, the
11 fifth modified Great Lakes Legacy Act Project
12 agreement, including the Statement of Work.

13 You have an amendment to our office
14 rental agreement. And last but not least, you have an
15 action item to approve the 2026 Board meeting calendar.

16 Some general items. I'm still working
17 with AECOM and Marino from the City's Planning
18 Department on finalizing an economic and recreational
19 development presentation. We're getting close. I can
20 see that being done in the month of December.

21 Regarding the District's finances, I met
22 with the Board's Finance Committee Members earlier
23 today to review various subject matters. As I
24 mentioned, a copy of the agenda is in your packet. I

1 also mentioned that there's a few financial action
2 items on today's agenda. We're recommending approval
3 of the 2025 Budget Amendment as well as the 2026
4 Operating Budget.

5 There's an invoice in your claim docket
6 from Gateway for the annual maintenance of our copier.
7 We had some funds left in our budget line item for the
8 broadband which includes technology related needs in
9 that line item. So that's where we'll be paid from, if
10 approved today.

11 Also on today's agenda is approval of an
12 amendment to our Lease Agreement. The main crux of the
13 amendment is related to an increase in our monthly rent
14 which is from \$1,050 per month to \$1,103. The last
15 time our monthly rent was increased was in 2020, which
16 is more than five years ago. So I believe the increase
17 is reasonable.

18 Regarding the 2025 User Fees, as I
19 mentioned, the User Fee packets went out at the end of
20 September and are due November 30th. We've deposited
21 approximately \$99,000, which is around 23% of the
22 total. One company, SCP East Chicago LLC, former User
23 ID 46 had informed us that they were incorrectly
24 invoiced this year as their waterway frontage property

1 that they formerly owned was sold to Ozinga. Ellen and
2 I reviewed their claim and agreed with them. Actually
3 that transfer actually occurred last year and we had
4 confirmed that last year as well. So the invoice was
5 an error on our part. So we decided to forego the
6 official appeal procedure since the invoice was an
7 error. But I did want to inform the Board that that
8 was corrected.

9 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act
10 Project, the Lake George Canal East and Middle projects
11 design of the South Tank Farm barrier wall system
12 groundwater management is ongoing. ARBP has reported
13 that design is at 60%.

14 Regarding the Lake George Canal East
15 section Corps managing that part of the project. Work
16 on the dredging design is ongoing. The Phase II of the
17 Lake George East dredging is scheduled to be done in
18 2026. The Cleveland Cliffs SEP dredging is now
19 forecasted to be done in 2027.

20 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle
21 CAP project, the Army Corps of Engineers is also
22 managing that section of the waterway. CAP
23 construction has been completed and ECO construction
24 activities are periodically ongoing. The project team

1 is working on an Adaptive Management Plan to address
2 oil sheens in the Lake George Canal middle section of
3 the waterway.

4 Regarding the Lake George Canal West
5 Remediation Project, that work is ongoing and that
6 project is between BP and EPA. Based on the latest
7 site characterization data, BP is recommending that no
8 further action is necessary. The Corps and EPA
9 continue to assess no further action recommendations.

10 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction
11 Reaches the Tetra Tech remedial design work is ongoing.
12 The project team took a pause from our weekly project
13 Team Meetings due to the government shutdown. We
14 resumed recently our weekly meetings this past Tuesday.
15 Some of the ongoing project activities include
16 completing the remedial design, property access
17 coordination, junction marsh coordination, coordinating
18 with the City Dump and Marquette Trail projects,
19 community engagement, various permits and assessing
20 cost share strategies.

21 Tetra Tech Project Manager, Carol Nissen
22 informed me that additional modeling design efforts
23 were necessary for the project related to the
24 prevention of flood conditions after remediation

1 construction was completed and this additional modeling
2 will require a Change Order and subsequently a budget
3 amendment. Carol presented her Change Order to the
4 Finance Committee and their recommendations to approve
5 the Change Order. And when we get that -- when we get
6 to that on the agenda we can ask Carol for additional
7 comments. She is in attendance today and will provide
8 additional updates.

9 Regarding Work in Kind reporting on
10 August 29th, I submitted the District's Work in Kind
11 Report for the first half of this year which includes
12 the periods of January 1st through the end of June of
13 this year. ARBP also submitted their semiannual report
14 as well. We have not received written feedback on the
15 District's 2024 annual Work In Kind report which was
16 submitted on March 31st of this year.

17 Also, I continue to work with the City
18 on gathering scope and cost documentation for the
19 City's combined sewer overflow project and the City
20 Dump project. I did conclude my work on the City Dump
21 project and that proposal was submitted to EPA for cost
22 share consideration. I believe that was sent on
23 October 31st.

24 We also have been working on the project

1 agreement for the Grand Cal River and certain sections
2 of the Lake George Canal. That project agreement is on
3 today's agenda for approval consideration. When we get
4 to that on the agenda, I'll say a few additional words
5 on that. But, you know, we, you know, great news that
6 we have reached the point in the project where we have
7 a final agreement to present to the Board.

8 No updates on the Cline Avenue Bridge
9 project, on the old Cline Avenue Bridge project.

10 Regarding the dredging project, Army
11 Corps dredging project, that's in your packet. Project
12 Manager, Vaughn Coolman will be providing an update
13 report to the Board.

14 Attorney Allen Gregory will give an
15 update on various legal matters. And that concludes my
16 report.

17 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Trevino?
18 Hearing none, we thank you very much.

19 The next order of business is the
20 consideration of the Board meeting notes for
21 October 16, 2025. I'll entertain a motion to approve?

22 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

23 MR. FEKETE: Do we have a second.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Second.

1 MR. FEKETE: We have a second. Approval by
2 voice vote. All those in favor signify by saying
3 "aye".

4 (A CHORUS of "AYES")

5 MR. FEKETE: Any opposition, objections?

6 (NO RESPONSE)

7 MR. FEKETE: Hearing none, the Board minutes
8 have been approved.

9 Great Lakes Legacy Act GCR Junction
10 Reaches Project update.

11 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

12 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

13 MS. NISSEN: Hi everyone.

14 MR. TREVINO: Go ahead, Carol.

15 MS. NISSEN: Hi. Yes. As Fernando mentioned
16 earlier, Tetra Tech did submit a Change Order request
17 for the Junction Reaches design project. We submitted
18 our 90% design back in September. And at the last
19 minute, we received some new bathymetry from the USEPA
20 that we would like to incorporate into our water egress
21 model. So the Change Order request is to cover costs
22 to add this new bathymetry data to our model to run new
23 updated iterations of the model too, because our
24 initial runs showed a lot of flooding conditions on the

1 Indiana Harbor Canal, which suggests that we need to
2 make some design changes. Those design changes would
3 include additional dredge or changing that camp design.
4 So the Change Order request is for additional money so
5 that we can run additional iterations of the model to
6 try to find the most efficient way to address the
7 flooding conditions. It takes a number of iterations
8 because any change we make upstream is going to have an
9 effect down the street. So we can't quite predict
10 easily. It has to be run numerous times.

11 The Change Order request also included some
12 fees, additional charges for a number of meetings we've
13 been having that our current budget does not cover.

14 We've had weekly meetings with Glenn Pope and
15 then we've also attended IDEM meetings to discuss the
16 City Dump situation. So at this time, we are working
17 on updating the permit applications to include the new
18 design. But we're awaiting the Change Order request
19 approval so that we can amend the design as needed.
20 Any questions?

21 MR. FEKETE: Hearing none, I do have a
22 question. Mr. Trevino, we have the approval
23 consideration for the 2025 Budget Amendment, and then
24 we have the approval consideration for Tetra Tech

1 Change Order Number 3. Which one should come first?

2 MR. TREVINO: I think the Budget Amendment
3 should come first because that now creates the money
4 for the Change Order.

5 MR. FEKETE: Okay.

6 MR. TREVINO: That's why I put it first on
7 the agenda.

8 MR. FEKETE: Okay. I'll entertain a Motion
9 to Approve the 2025 Budget Amendment and Letter of
10 Authorization referencing the Great Lakes Legacy Act
11 Projects and the Grand Cal Junction Reaches.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Motion to Approve.

13 MR. FEKETE: Do I have a second?

14 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

15 MR. FEKETE: We'll have a voice vote. We
16 have Jaylan Robinson?

17 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

18 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

21 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

22 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

23 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

24 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. I vote yes. That

1 motion is approved.

2 The next item is the Tetra Tech Change
3 Order Number 3 approval consideration. I'll entertain
4 a motion?

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Approve.

6 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

7 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

8 MR. FEKETE: Roll call. Jaylen Robinson?

9 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

10 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

12 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

14 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

16 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. Thank
17 you, Carol.

18 MS. NISSEN: Thank you.

19 MR. FEKETE: Now, on to the Accounting
20 Consultant Report.

21 MS. VARGUS: Good evening, everyone. Vanessa
22 Vargus with CLA. Can you hear me okay?

23 MR. LOPEZ: How you doing, Vanessa?

24 MS. VARGUS: I will just say quickly I came

1 down with a little bit of a bug, so if I mute myself,
2 it's probably because I have to cough. So I apologize
3 in advance.

4 In front of you, you have a copy of the
5 financial statements on a cash basis dated October 31,
6 2025. If you turn to Page 2, we will begin with the
7 Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements for
8 the ten months ended October 31, 2025. You've received
9 interest income in the amount of \$360,688.53. You've
10 collected User Fees of \$43,278.27 and had a trust
11 transfer in the amount of \$7,437.30, bringing your
12 total receipts to \$411,404.10.

13 You've had cash disbursements in the
14 amount of \$617,544.19. This brings you to a decrease
15 in cash in the amount of \$206,140.09. Your cash
16 balance as of January 1, 2025 totaled \$14,760,488.82.
17 Your cash balance as of October 31, 2025, is
18 \$14,554,348.73.

19 If you turn to Page 3, we will continue
20 with the Schedule of Cash Account Activity for the ten
21 months ended October 31, 2025. Your Operating Account
22 began the year with a cash balance on January 1st in
23 the amount of \$892,511.65. You've earned interest in
24 the amount of \$38,543.25. Had a voided check in the

1 amount of \$300.10. Had a trust transfer in the amount
2 of \$7,437.30. And a budget transfer in the amount of
3 \$974,643.53, bringing your total debits to
4 \$1,020,924.18. You've had cash disbursements in the
5 amount of \$617,794.29. This brings your operating cash
6 balance as of October 31, 2025 to \$1,295,641.54.

7 Your User Fee account began the year
8 with a cash balance on January 1st of all
9 \$13,867,977.17. You've earned interest in the amount
10 of \$201,135.79, as well as deposited user fees in the
11 amount of \$43,278.27.

12 You purchased a CD in the amount of
13 \$11,500,000 and paid bank fees in the amount of \$50,
14 plus a budget transfer in the amount of \$974,643.53,
15 which brings your User Fee account balance as of
16 October 31st to \$1,637,697.70.

17 You began the year with no CDs, but
18 purchased one for \$11,500,000. You've earned interest
19 in the amount of \$121,009.49, which brings your CD
20 balance as of October 31st to \$11,621,009.49.

21 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue
22 with a schedule of 2025 available budget as of
23 November 20, 2025. Your 2025 budget appropriation
24 totaled \$1,718,525. Adding back in accounts payable

1 dated 12/31/2024, in the amount of \$61,067.48, as well
2 as a budget transfer in the amount of \$95,000, brings
3 your 2025 total appropriation to \$1,874,592.48. Your
4 cash disbursements for the ten months ended
5 October 2025 totaled \$617,494.19.

6 In front of you, you have a Claim Docket
7 dated November 20, 2025 in the amount of \$39,455.53.
8 This brings your unused budget to \$1,217,642.76. Are
9 there any questions?

10 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Thank you, Vanessa.

11 The next order of business is the
12 approval consideration for the accounts payable voucher
13 register dated today, November 20, 2025. Entertain a
14 Motion to Approve.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Approve.

16 MR. FEKETE: Hear a second?

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

18 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Roll call. Jaylan
19 Robinson?

20 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

21 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

24 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

1 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

2 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

3 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. That
4 Motion is Approved.

5 The next order of business is the
6 approval consideration for the 2026 Operating Budget.
7 Mr. Trevino?

8 MR. TREVINO: Yes. In front of you, you have
9 a spreadsheet. Actually, there's two representing the
10 2026 Operating Budget. One is a spreadsheet just with
11 the 2026 budget. And the second spreadsheet compares
12 it against our current year 2025.

13 The 2026 proposed Operating Budget was
14 reviewed with the Finance Committee and recommendation
15 is to approve it.

16 MR. FEKETE: Any questions? Okay. Hearing
17 none, I'll entertain a Motion to Approve the 2026
18 Operating Budget.

19 MR. ROBINSON: Motion to approve?

20 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

21 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Roll call. Jaylan
22 Robinson?

23 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

24 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

4 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

5 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

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

7 The next order of business is the
8 approval consideration for the Great Lakes Legacy Act
9 5th Amended Project Agreement and Statement of Work.

10 MR. TREVINO: Yes. On today's agenda is the
11 approval of the Fifth Modified Project Agreement and
12 Statement of Work, sometimes referred to as the Omnibus
13 Project Agreement, which includes remediation
14 construction and other work in the Grand Cal River
15 Junction Reaches and certain sections of the Lake
16 George Canal and includes approximately 124 million in
17 federal funding. The journey to getting to today's
18 approval consideration of this Fifth Modified Project
19 Agreement has been both tough and rewarding marked by
20 many interesting challenges along the way. If approved
21 today and subsequently fully executed by EPA and ARBP,
22 it would be a monumental success story for the
23 District, EPA and ARBP and our waterways.

24 The project agreement has been reviewed

1 by the Board during today's Executive Session. The
2 project agreement was presented and reviewed by myself,
3 Attorney Ellen Gregory and Attorney Relue. And if all
4 goes well, we're expecting contractor solicitation
5 process to start in 2026 as well as construction
6 starting in 2026. We're forecasting construction to
7 continue for around two years.

8 Todd, would you mind saying a few words
9 as well?

10 MR. RELUE: Yes. Thanks, Fernando. So
11 really as Fernando presented, the agreement, the draft
12 agreement in front of you that's been raised per your
13 approval is really a great advancement for the cleaning
14 of the waterway. This District had the foresight 12
15 years ago to enter into a Great Lakes Legacy Act
16 project agreement with EPA. And because of that,
17 they've been able to generate credits, Work in Kind
18 credits based on the good work that they've done in the
19 waterway already. All of those investments that you've
20 made, many of them have generated cost share credits.
21 And also due to a good partnership with ARBP, who
22 joined the Great Lakes Legacy AG Project Agreement
23 later. They've also generated a bunch of credits. And
24 so, as a result, there's over \$106 million worth of

1 Work in Kind credits.

2 Now those credits are not like money,
3 they need to be applied to projects through an
4 amendment to the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project
5 Agreement. And so in this Fifth Amended Project
6 agreement there are two projects that are being
7 undertaken. One is the Grand Calumet River Junction
8 Reaches Project, which will take that all the way
9 through completion. And then there is also substantial
10 work being done in the Lake George Canal as part of
11 this project.

12 So of the \$106 million in Work in Kind
13 credits, the Fifth Amended Project Agreement applies
14 about \$76.5 million of those cost share credits to
15 these projects in order to generate, as Fernando said,
16 about \$124 million worth of federal work in the
17 projects. And that will really transform the waterway.

18 Because we're not applying all of the
19 cost share credits in the Fifth amendment Project
20 Agreement, that leaves a substantial amount of Work in
21 Kind credits, almost \$30 million to be applied to
22 future projects. So future work on the Lake George
23 Canal, that's anticipated work on areas like the orphan
24 areas or other issues that come up. So we really have

1 the best of both worlds here in the sense that we are
2 getting a lot of work done in the waterway now, but we
3 are also saving enough cost share credits to make sure
4 that we are able to continue to do good work in the
5 future. Also, you know, part due to the foresight that
6 Fernando has had, we're continuing to work to generate
7 additional cost share credits that we will hope to
8 capture in future amended project agreements. So
9 again, the 30 million is just the floor. We would hope
10 to continue to contribute more cost share credits
11 beyond that.

12 I also want to give a credit
13 appreciation to EPA. Adam Mittermaier is here from EPA
14 on the call today. They've really done a lot of
15 laboring to get this Fifth Amended Project Agreement
16 and the Statement of Work in the shape that they are
17 now and ready for your approval tonight. Happy to
18 answer any questions you might have.

19 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Todd?

20 MR. LOPEZ: Well, thank you so much.

21 MR. FEKETE: Hearing none. I really
22 appreciate your summation. It's something that I look
23 forward to capturing, having captured it in our -- in
24 the minutes of our meeting so I can reread it at any

1 time. It was well done. So thank you very much.

2 Okay. So the next order of business for
3 us is to approve the Great Lakes Legacy Act Amended --
4 Fifth Amended Project Agreement and Statement of Work.
5 I'll entertain a motion.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Approve.

7 MR. FEKETE: Can I have a second?

8 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

9 MR. FEKETE: Roll call vote, Jaylan Robinson.

10 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

11 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

13 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

14 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

15 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

17 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. That
18 motion is approved. And moving along, the next
19 approval consideration is for the MECCA Office Lease
20 Agreement Amendment. Mr. Trevino?

21 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So you have it in your
22 packet, a Lease Agreement Amendment. There were some
23 minor clarifications, but the main amendment is related
24 to the increase in our monthly rent. And as I

1 mentioned, our current monthly rent is \$1,050 per month
2 and the amended rate is \$1,103 which will take in
3 effect January of next year. And the proposed increase
4 is reasonable. We haven't had an increase in, you
5 know, over five years.

6 MR. FEKETE: I'll entertain a Motion to
7 Approve.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.

9 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

10 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

11 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Roll call vote. Jaylan
12 Robinson?

13 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

14 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

16 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

17 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

18 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

19 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

20 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. And
21 finally, we approve approval consideration for the 2026
22 monthly Public Board Meeting Announcement approval with
23 the dates that are printed here. Basically, it's the
24 same, the third Thursday of the month.

1 MR. TREVINO: At 5 p.m.

2 MR. FEKETE: Any questions or comments?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 MR. FEKETE: Okay. I'll entertain a voice
5 vote on this. Entertain a Motion to Approve.

6 MR. ROBINSON: Motion to approve.

7 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

9 MR. FEKETE: All those in favor, signify by
10 saying "aye".

11 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

12 MR. FEKETE: The motion is approved. Okay.
13 I do have a question. You had mentioned earlier
14 something about a copier agreement?

15 MR. TREVINO: No. I was just mentioning that
16 our annual -- we have a new copier and we entered into
17 a Maintenance Agreement with Gateway that basically
18 maintains it for an annual fee. They submitted their
19 annual fee and I was just saying that where it was
20 being paid through. It was being paid through a
21 certain budget line item.

22 MR. FEKETE: Oh, okay. But it's budgeted, so
23 you don't need a special --

24 MR. TREVINO: Right, right.

1 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Just checking. Okay.
2 BMO Trust and Non-trust Reports.

3 MR. SANTORE: Good afternoon, everybody. So
4 you should have in front of you information for the
5 trust and then the District CDs. But go over the trust
6 information first. This page is showing you the
7 combined balance of your trust funding market and
8 Certificate of Deposit. The current value or the value
9 on October 31st was \$4,178,654.84. You had interest
10 earnings of \$562.04 in the Money Market account in
11 October. And the second page of the Trust Report is
12 showing the total disbursements since the trust was
13 opened at BMO in the year 2025. So far, the
14 disbursement has been \$7,437.30.

15 The next page you should have is the CD
16 holdings for the District itself. There was no
17 interest earnings in the month of October. The next
18 interest credit date will be November 23rd. So the
19 next meeting will show some interest earnings. But the
20 value or total value while the deposit are -- sorry,
21 all the CDS are deposited with BMO totaled
22 \$11,621,009.49 on October 31st. I believe that covers
23 all the information. If there's any questions, I'm
24 happy to answer those for you.

1 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Santore?
2 (NO RESPONSE)
3

4 MR. FEKETE: Thank you very much.

5 MR. SANTORE: You're welcome.

6 MR. FEKETE: Army Corps of Engineers Report.
7 Good evening.

8 MR. COOLMAN: Vaughn Coolman from the Army
9 Corps of Engineers. For the CEF construction water
10 treatment should begin the first week of December.
11 They're still testing at the moment and will operate
12 for around five years. The dike raise were still
13 completing some closeout documents going -- yeah, we
14 don't know how long.

15 Dredging -- maintenance dredging will
16 resume in 2026. We are -- should be advertising the
17 contract in December probably around the second week of
18 December. And then the bid opening will be falling mid
19 to late January.

20 Sediment sampling, we did get some
21 initials and preliminary results reports from the team
22 from ERDC and the University of Florida. ERDC is
23 E-R-D-C. And that's about it.

24 The oil boom coronation contractors

1 actively maintaining and operating the oil booms and
2 parkway maintenance. We're inspecting and cleaning and
3 removing debris at least once a month as per usual.

4 MR. FEKETE: Any questions?

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 MR. COOLMAN: You're welcome.

8 MR. FEKETE: Next up is Attorney Ellen
9 Gregory's Report. Yes. Ellen Gregory.

10 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me, Ellen Gregory Law.
11 In terms of the legal matters for the past month
12 obviously the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project Agreement
13 and Statement of Work. Also worked with Mr. Trevino
14 reviewing the proposed lease in case from MECHA. The
15 User Fee issue that Mr. Trevino mentioned where the
16 assessment had been erroneously sent to the previous
17 owner. Worked with him to get that resolved. And then
18 reviewing the Tetra Tech Change Order as well as
19 working with Mr. Trevino on preparing the 2026 budget.
20 That's it.

21 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions?

22 (NO RESPONSE)

23 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Any other business
24 or new business to come before the Board? Any

1 announcements, public comments? Our next Board meeting
2 is December 18, 2025 at 5 p.m. in this facility. I'll
3 entertain a Motion for Adjournment.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Adjourn.

5 MR. FEKETE: Second.

6 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

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

9 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

10 MR. TREVINO: Everybody have a nice Happy
11 Thanksgiving.

12
13
14 (WHEREUPON the meeting was
15 adjourned at 6:00 p.m.)
16
17
18
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24

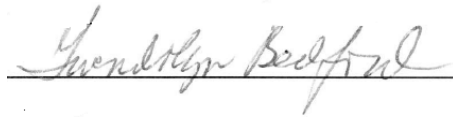
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2)
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)
4)

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 3rd day of December, 2025.

16 
17

18 _____
GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

19 No. 084-003700
20
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22
23
24

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