

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 DECEMBER 18, 2025  
7 THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

8  
9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the  
10 above-entitled matter on the 18th day of December, 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. JAYLAN ROBINSON

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. BOB SANTORI, CLA

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

2 MR. FEKETE: I'd like to call to order the  
3 East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of  
4 Directors meeting. Today's date is December 18, 2025.  
5 The roll call.

6 MR. FEKETE: Jaylan 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? Here. We have a  
15 quorum. First order of business is the Executive  
16 Director's Report. Mr. Trevino?

17 MR. TREVINO: Yes. I'd like to go over the  
18 contents of your Board packet. Since the packet was  
19 emailed yesterday, there were a couple items added.  
20 Now I'll resend it with the entire packet, but I'll  
21 read the contents, including the items that have been  
22 added.

23 You have a copy of today's agenda. You have  
24 a copy of the Public Meeting posting for today's

1 meeting. You have a copy of the Board Minutes for  
2 November 20, 2025 Board meeting.

3 You have a copy of the CLA Financial Report  
4 dated November 30, 2025 for the month of November.

5 You have a copy of the FMT Consulting  
6 additional hours approval memo dated December 18, 2025.

7 You have a copy of today's claim docket dated  
8 December 20, 2025, along with copies of the purchase  
9 orders and the check register.

10 You have a copy of the BMO Non-Trust Report  
11 summarizing seven CDs.

12 You have a copy of the BMO Trust Report dated  
13 November 30, 2025.

14 You have a copy of the First Merchants Bank  
15 statements for the month of November 2025 for accounts  
16 ending in 616 and 608, along with copies of checks that  
17 were processed during the month of November and copies  
18 of two User Fee deposits that were made in November.

19 You have a copy of a letter from IDEM dated  
20 December 9, 2025 approving our 2026 trust budget.

21 You have a copy of Tetra Tech's Monthly  
22 Progress Report, invoice and budget summary for the  
23 month of November dated December 9, 2025.

24 You have a copy of the Army Corps report to

1 the Board dated December 18, 2025.

2 Attorney Ellen Gregory's monthly report to  
3 the Board with the revision date of December 15, 2025.

4 You have a copy of an article in the Times  
5 from Susan Mihailo dated December 14th, and it was  
6 titled "Revitalization and Quality of Life Improvements  
7 Influenced by GLRI Funding."

8 So that concludes the items that were in your  
9 Board packet. Going over a couple items to report on.  
10 Regarding our action items for today's agenda, we have  
11 the two routine monthly action items on today's agenda,  
12 the Board minutes and the Regular Board meeting. I'm  
13 sorry, the regular monthly claim docket with today's  
14 date and the Board minutes, as I mentioned were for the  
15 November 20th Board meeting.

16 A We have four additional action items. One is  
17 the Executive Director's Performance Evaluation Report.

18 You have approval consideration of the  
19 additional hours for FMT Consulting.

20 You have the 2025 User Fee invoices due  
21 date extension to January 30th. And you have approval  
22 consideration of the INPRS authorized agent  
23 appointment.

24 To go over a few things, I continue to

1 work with AECOM and Marino from the City's Planning  
2 Department on finalizing an economic and recreational  
3 development presentation. We have reached out to the  
4 City to schedule a presentation to the Mayor.

5 Regarding the District's finances, we  
6 received approval from IDEM on our 2026 Trust Budget  
7 Proposal.

8 A copy of that letter is in your packet.  
9 And there's a letter -- there's a letter in your packet  
10 for the Board's approval of additional 50 hours for FMT  
11 Consulting, Inc.

12 And also there's an INPRS authorized  
13 agent appointment regarding User Fees. The 2025 User  
14 Fee collections is ongoing. We've deposited  
15 approximately \$302,000 to date, which is around 71% of  
16 the total. We're forecasting to collect 100% again  
17 this year. And on today's agenda is to extend the due  
18 date to January 30th of 2026.

19 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act  
20 project designed for the South Tank Farm barrier wall  
21 system, groundwater management is ongoing. ARBP has  
22 reported the design is at 60%.

23 The Corps is managing the Lake George  
24 Canal east dredging project and they continue to work

1 on the design. Phase II of the Lake George Canal east  
2 dredging is scheduled to be done in 2026. And the  
3 Cleveland Cliffs SEP dredging, that SEP is now  
4 forecasted to be done in 2027.

5 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle  
6 Cap, the Army Corps of Engineer is managing that  
7 portion of the project. The CAP construction has been  
8 completed. ECO Construction activities are  
9 periodically ongoing. The Project Team is working on  
10 an Adaptive Management Plan to address oil sheens  
11 observed in the Lake George Canal Middle section.

12 Regarding the Lake George Canal West  
13 Remediation Project, that work is ongoing and that work  
14 is between BP and EPA. Based on the latest site  
15 characterization data, BP is recommending that no  
16 further action is necessary and the Corps and EPA are  
17 working on assessing BP's recommendation and they've  
18 got additional sampling planned in the near future.

19 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction  
20 Reaches Remedial Design, Tetra Tech design work is  
21 ongoing. The Project Team continues to meet weekly.  
22 Some of the activities that we work on include  
23 completing the remedial design, property access  
24 coordination, coordination on restoration of the

1 junction marsh, coordination with the City's former  
2 City Dump site, the City Marquette Trail Project.

3 We also work on community engagement,  
4 various permits and cost share strategies.

5 Project Manager from Tetra Tech, Carol  
6 Neeson is in attendance today. Will provide additional  
7 updates later on in the agenda.

8 Regarding Work In kind reporting, on  
9 August 29th of this year I submitted the District's  
10 Work in Kind Report for the first half of this year and  
11 we have not heard any feedback on that semiannual  
12 report.

13 We also haven't received feedback on the  
14 District's 2024 annual Work in Kind Report which was  
15 submitted March 31st of this year.

16 I continue to work on gathering scope  
17 and cost documentation for the City's combined sewer  
18 overflow project and a cost share proposal report for  
19 the City Dump project was submitted a few weeks ago to  
20 EPA for their consideration.

21 At the November Board meeting, the Board  
22 approved and subsequently signed a fifth Modification  
23 Project Agreement which is sometimes referred to as the  
24 Omnibus Project Agreement. That includes remediation

1 work for the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches and  
2 certain sections of the Lake George Canal. That  
3 project agreement has since been approved and signed by  
4 Atlantic Ritchfield and BP and is now going through EPA  
5 management approval and signature process. If approved  
6 by EPA, the project will include approximately 124  
7 million in federal funds and approximately 200 million  
8 when you include the cost share contributions. If all  
9 goes well, we're expecting the contractor solicitation  
10 process for the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches to  
11 start in 2026 along with the start of construction.  
12 And then construction is forecasted to go for two  
13 years. So that's the update on the Great Lakes Legacy  
14 Act.

15                   Regarding the Canal Street Bridge  
16 project, no new updates to report. Old Cline Avenue  
17 Bridge, no new updates to report. The Army Corps  
18 report is in your Board packet. Project Manager,  
19 Vaughn Coolman is in attendance today to provide an  
20 update, answer any questions you may have. And  
21 Attorney Ellen Gregory will give an update on various  
22 legal matters and answer any questions you may ask.  
23 And that concludes my report.

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

1 Okay, hearing none, the next item of business is the  
2 FMT Consulting Performance Evaluation Report for 2025.

3 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So as part of my  
4 contract, the Board provides a Performance Evaluation  
5 of my performance in this case for 2025. I've taken  
6 your feedback and put it into this report. The actual  
7 raw scores are in the attachment along with all the  
8 categories that you scored on. And then my report  
9 summarizes all of the work that we've done, well, the  
10 major work that we've done in 2020.

11 Does the Board want me to give a quick  
12 summary of that for the record? Do you want me to give  
13 a quick summary for the record?

14 So our most notable achievement came through  
15 the partnership with USEPA and ARBP on the fifth  
16 modification of the Great Lakes Legacy Act project  
17 agreement. That includes sections of the Lake George  
18 Canal and the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches. The  
19 process required extensive negotiations with ARBP and  
20 the resulting of all that work was the District and  
21 ARBP has approved that fifth modification and it's now  
22 in EPA's hands for final approval. And once approved,  
23 the project will secure approximately \$124 million in  
24 federal funding and 200 million when you include cost

1 share contributions.

2 Throughout the year, the District advanced  
3 key pre-construction activities on the Grand Cal River,  
4 including design coordination, access negotiations,  
5 cost share documentation and community outreach, to  
6 name a few. These efforts continue despite challenges  
7 associated with the government shutdown and the  
8 transition to a new presidential administration.  
9 Construction on the junction reaches is anticipated to  
10 begin next year and extend through 2027.

11 The District also worked with the Corps and  
12 stakeholders to develop an adaptive management plan  
13 addressing ongoing oil sheens conditions in the Lake  
14 George Canal and ensuring continued effectiveness of  
15 prior remediation and monitoring efforts.

16 In collaboration with the Corps, federal  
17 navigation activities within the Indiana Harbor Ship  
18 Canal resumed with the next phase of dredging scheduled  
19 to be bid in late 2025 and implementation in 2026.

20 Further collaboration with IDEM and EPA  
21 continued on orphan area investigations within the  
22 Indiana Harbor Canal as well as coordination with the  
23 Corps and other stakeholders to ensure only East  
24 Chicago sediments are disposed within the local CDF.

1           The District also participated in the Corps  
2 CDF Emergency Action Plan exercise to enhance emergency  
3 preparedness and interagency coordination.

4           In collaboration with ACOM and the City of  
5 East Chicago, the District developed a draft Economic  
6 and Recreational Development Study Plan designed to  
7 leverage post remediation waterway improvements for  
8 long term community and economic benefits.

9           The District also worked closely with the  
10 Corps and other stakeholders to address infrastructure  
11 concerns near the former Canal Street Bridge, including  
12 the removal of an underwater obstruction and addressing  
13 a nearby sinkhole adjacent to the Canadian National  
14 Railroad Crossing.

15           Planning discussions also advance regarding  
16 the potential demolition of the Old Cline Avenue  
17 Bridge. Financially, the District maintained its  
18 strong performance on track to achieve its 16th  
19 consecutive year of 100% User Fee collections and  
20 enhancing financial management through the  
21 establishment of a new investment portfolio. After  
22 evaluation of proposals from BMO and First Merchants.

23           The District also completed the transfer of  
24 the south of South Tank Farm parcel to the City. After

1 IDEM issued, no further action was necessary on the  
2 parcel, marking another successful transition of  
3 property position for potential local use.

4 Governance and organizational stability  
5 remained hallmarks of the year, underscored by the  
6 reappointment of all Board members ensuring consistent  
7 leadership and oversight. Together, these  
8 accomplishments reflect the District's continued  
9 commitment to responsible environmental stewardship,  
10 financial prudence and effective interagency  
11 collaboration.

12 I extend my appreciation to the Board for its  
13 guidance and support throughout this productive year.  
14 And my score with all category scores are averaged, the  
15 firm achieved an overall score of 4.6 out of 5,  
16 continuing to exceed expectations on several key  
17 performance areas.

18 So that's a summary of the 2025 Performance  
19 Evaluation Report.

20 MR. FEKETE: Any comments or observations?

21 MR. LOPEZ: No. You're doing a good job.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FEKETE: Yeah, I agree with that. My  
24 only comment is on the one that's 4.2 is management of

1 Great Lakes Legacy Act projects. I don't think we  
2 really have a clear understanding of what is the Great  
3 Lakes Legacy Act projects. If you can give us kind of  
4 like a one page spreadsheet of saying this is a GLA  
5 project or this is, you know, okay? It's Just a matter  
6 of identification. That's all.

7 MR. TREVINO: All right. I'll do that.

8 MR. FEKETE: But other than that, everything  
9 is great. Good job.

10 MR. TREVINO: Thank you.

11 MR. FEKETE: Next item. For approval  
12 consideration is the additional hours for FMT  
13 Consulting for the remainder of 2025. Entertain a  
14 motion?

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve. Motion to  
16 approve.

17 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

18 MR. FEKETE: And a second from the back wall.  
19 We'll have a roll call vote.

20 MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?

21 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

22 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

23 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

24 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

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

5 That motion is approved. Next order of business and

6 approval, Consideration of Board Meeting Notes for

7 November 20, 2025. Entertain a motion to approve?

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

10 MR. FEKETE: We have a second? Okay, we'll

11 have a voice vote since all members are present. All

12 those in favor, signify by saying "aye".

13 (A chorus of ayes)

14 MR. FEKETE: Any opposition? Objections?

15 Hearing none the motion is approved.

16 Next order of business is Accounting

17 Consultant Report.

18 MR. TREVINO: Vanessa?

19 MS. VARGAS: Good evening, everyone. Can you  
20 hear me okay?

21 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

22 MS. VARGAS: All right. Vanessa Vargas with  
23 CLA. In front of you, you have a copy of the financial  
24 statements on a cash basis dated November 30, 2025. If

1 you turn to Page 2, we will begin with the statement of  
2 cash receipts and cash disbursements for the eleven  
3 months ended November 30, 2025. You've earned interest  
4 income totaling \$490,177.33.

5 You collected User Fees in the amount of  
6 \$245,422.77, as well as had a trust transfer in the  
7 amount of \$7,437.30, which brings your total receipts  
8 to \$743,037.40.

9 Cash disbursements have totaled \$656,999.72.  
10 This brings you to an increase in cash in the amount of  
11 \$86,037.68.

12 If you turn to Page 3, we will continue with  
13 the schedule of cash account activity for the eleven  
14 month ended November 30, 2025. Your operating account  
15 began the year with a cash balance on January 1, 2025  
16 in the amount of \$892,511.65. You've had total  
17 interest earned of \$41,732.92 as well as a voided check  
18 in the amount of \$300.10. A trust transfer in the  
19 amount of \$7,437.30 and a budget transfer in the amount  
20 of \$1,053,643.53.

21 You've had cash disbursements totaling  
22 \$657,249.82, which brings your operating cash balance  
23 as of November 30, 2025 to \$1,338,375.68.

24 Your User Fee account began the year with a

1 cash balance on January 1st in the amount of  
2 \$13,867,977.17. You've earned interest in the amount  
3 of \$205,151.67. Deposited User Fees in the amount of  
4 \$245,422.77. You've had cash disbursements totaling  
5 \$12,553,693.53. Your User Fee account balance as of  
6 November 30, 2025 is \$1,764,858.08.

7 You began the year with no CDs, but purchased  
8 one in the amount of \$11,500,000. You've earned  
9 interest in the amount of \$243,292.74, which brings  
10 your CD balance as of November 30, 2025 to  
11 \$11,743,292.74.

12 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue with  
13 the schedule of 2025 available budget as of  
14 December 18, 2025. Your 2025 budget appropriation  
15 totaled \$1,718,525. Adding back in accounts payable  
16 dated 12/31/2024, in the amount of \$61,067.48, as well  
17 as your 2025 budget amendments totaling \$174,000 brings  
18 your 2025 total appropriation to \$1,953,592.48.

19 Cash disbursements for the eleven months  
20 ended November 2025 totaled \$656,949.72.

21 In front of you, you have a claims docket  
22 dated December 18, 2025, totaling \$33,524.92. This  
23 brings your unused budget for 2025 to \$1,263,117.84.

24 Are there any questions?

1 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you so much.

2 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. The next order of  
3 business is the account payable voucher register dated  
4 December 18, 2025. Entertain a motion to approve?

5 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

6 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

8 MR. FEKETE: We have a second. Have a roll  
9 call vote.

10 MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson? Not here.  
11 John Bakota?

12 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

13 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

15 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

16 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

17 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes. That  
18 motion is approved.

19 Next order of business is the 2025 User  
20 Fee invoices due date extension to 1/30/2026.

21 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. So consistent with what  
22 we've done in prior years, we usually give the  
23 companies an extended amount of time before we start  
24 exercising legal collection efforts and that's proven

1 to be effective. As I mentioned, we've had 100%  
2 collection year, you know, to date. So the  
3 recommendation --

4 MR. FEKETE: No indication that they're  
5 deliberately stalling or anything, or it's just a  
6 matter of organizational understanding?

7 MR. TREVINO: Sometimes whoever in prior  
8 years who handled the payment quit or retired or was  
9 moved. Sometimes the Department that used to handle  
10 it, you know, moved to a whole different area of the  
11 company. Sometimes it's -- the Department no longer  
12 exist. So there's things that happen. But everyone  
13 that I spoke to have indicated a good faith effort to  
14 pay.

15 MR. FEKETE: And you have sent a copy of the  
16 Communicator to all these people that you're talking  
17 to?

18 MR. TREVINO: Yes. And some came back  
19 because, for whatever reason, it was -- like in one  
20 situation the packet was sent to the attention of a  
21 certain individual and that individual is no longer  
22 with the company. I don't know if he transferred or  
23 retired. So it came back to us. So then I had to  
24 locate the right department, that kind of thing.

1 MR. FEKETE: The department for paying User  
2 Fees?

3 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. And sometimes it's their  
4 Tax Department. Sometimes it's their Real Estate  
5 Department. Sometimes it's their local facility  
6 department. So it varies. So, you know, it's company  
7 to company.

8 MR. FEKETE: We appreciate your diligence in  
9 tracking this down.

10 MR. TREVINO: I think we still need to make a  
11 motion.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: To approve.

13 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

14 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

15 MR. FEKETE: Okay. All in favor? Let's see.  
16 Let's go. Roll call vote. Jaylan Robinson? Not here.

17 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

18 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

19 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

21 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

22 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

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

24 Approval consideration for our authorized agent

1 appointment.

2 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So I'll turn this one  
3 over to Ellen and I'll chime in.

4 MS. GREGORY: So, several years ago we had  
5 looked into terminating our involvement with the  
6 Indiana INPRS Public Retirement System. And because we  
7 don't have employees, we had tried to terminate our  
8 involvement with that, but terminating it involved a  
9 fee which we decided we didn't want to pay. So at the  
10 time, the only thing required of continuing our  
11 involvement was to have an authorized agent. At that  
12 time, we had Tim Anderson from CLA serve as our  
13 authorized agent. He's no longer with CLA and we're no  
14 longer using him. So I had looked into what needed to  
15 be done to have a new authorized agent appointed. We  
16 talked to CLA about that and CLA indicated that they  
17 would no longer be serving in that role.

18 So it was determined that we need to have  
19 an authorized agent among somebody here, whether it's a  
20 Board member or Fernando as the Executive Director step  
21 in to be an authorized agent. There won't be anything  
22 active involved in being the authorized agent.  
23 Basically we just need to submit the form to the State  
24 with a new person and the new contact information.

1                   So I guess the Board, the Board needs to  
2                   make a determination who that authorized agent person  
3                   is going to be. It could be Fernando. It could be  
4                   John as the President or it could be Ray.

5                   MR. TREVINO: As another -- something to  
6                   think about, it's not a pressing issue. If the Board  
7                   wishes, you know, traditionally in January is when we  
8                   do the reappointment of the Board and the officers,  
9                   including the Investment Officer. We also appoint the  
10                  Fiscal Officer and the Treasurer, which is usually Ray.  
11                  So if we could decide it today or if you want we can,  
12                  you know, talk about it in January when we make those  
13                  appointments.

14                 MR. FEKETE: What does it entail? Just a  
15                 name on a check?

16                 MS. GREGORY: The name on a form that we need  
17                 to submit to the State because they need to have  
18                 somebody, an authorized agent who's actually involved  
19                 in the Lottery Management District.

20                 MR. FEKETE: Well, that just leaves people in  
21                 this room, if CLA is not going to do it.

22                 MS. GREGORY: Yeah. So that's what I mean.  
23                 It should probably be Fernando or Ray or John.

24                 MR. LOPEZ: Well, I said Fernando because

1 he's here all the time and he handles all the  
2 paperwork. So, right. I mean, just once a year,  
3 right?

4 MR. TREVINO: If I could serve in that  
5 capacity, I'm okay to, you know, to serve in that, you  
6 know.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Okay. I'll make the motion that  
8 we authorize Fernando.

9 MR. FEKETE: Here a second?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

11 MR. FEKETE: Okay. We'll have a roll call  
12 vote. Jaylan Robinson? Not here.

13 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

14 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

15 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

17 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

18 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

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

20 MR. LOPEZ: There's no pay rate there.

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 MR. FEKETE: So we've covered that. So the  
23 next order of business is the BMO Trust and Non-Trust  
24 reports.

1 MR. SANTORI: Good evening, everybody.

2 MR. FEKETE: Good evening.

3 MR. SANTORI: I'll go over the trust reports  
4 first. So you'll have the Money Market CD holdings.  
5 This page shows the two accounts. Your Money Market in  
6 particular deposit. November 30, 2025. That ending  
7 balance combined was \$4,179,188.23. The Money Market  
8 account in November earned \$533.39 in interest. The CD  
9 did not earn any interest. The next interest earning  
10 date is actually today, December 18th. So you'll see  
11 interest earned on the next monthly report.

12 The second page of the Trust Report is  
13 the historical distributions. So for the year 2025  
14 year to date. Distribution has been \$7,437.30.

15 And then moving on to the East Chicago  
16 Waterway Management District Certificate of Deposit.  
17 In the month of November all these CDs did earn  
18 interest. So the ending balance November 30th for the  
19 seven CDs was \$11,743,292.74. And in that month of  
20 November, total interest earnings for those CDs was  
21 \$122,283.25.

22 The next interest date for those CDs  
23 will be February 23, 2026 as these CDs earned interest  
24 quarterly. I believe that covers everything. If you

1 have any questions, please let me know.

2 MR. LOPEZ: Oh, nice report. Thank you.

3 MR. SANTORI: You're welcome.

4 MR. FEKETE: We got cut off.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, he said thank you.

6 MR. FEKETE: Still there?

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, he's done.

8 MR. FEKETE: Any discussion? Comments?

9 MR. TREVINO: Okay.

10 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Fernando. The Great  
11 Lakes Legacy Act Grand Cal Junction Reaches, a project  
12 update.

13 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Carol, are you with us?

14 MS. NEESON: Yes, I'm here. Hi, everyone.

15 MR. TREVINO: Hello.

16 MS. NEESON: The update on the Grand Cal  
17 Junction Reaches Project. We are continuing to work on  
18 the HEC RAS model for the surface water modeling to try  
19 to alleviate flooding issues along the -- we did  
20 receive comments, review comments from EPA just a few  
21 weeks ago. So we are working to address all those  
22 comments. There were quite a number of comments. So  
23 we are going through each one methodically and  
24 adjusting each one and updating all the documents per

1 the comments we received on EPA. And that's about it.  
2 Any questions?

3 MR. FEKETE: No questions? No comments?

4 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

5 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Have a good holiday.

6 MS. NEESON: Yeah, I'm missing all the treats  
7 over there.

8 MR. TREVINO: Thank you, Carol.

9 MS. NEESON: Thank you.

10 MR. FEKETE: And moving along, we have a US  
11 Army Corps Engineers Report.

12 MR. COOLMAN: Good evening, everyone. Vaughn  
13 Coolman with the Corps. Happy holidays. Happy New  
14 Year. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Everything.

15 MR. FEKETE: Same to you.

16 MR. COOLMAN: We, for the water treatment at  
17 the CDF, it looks like they're pretty much finished  
18 testing but weren't able to start regular operations  
19 due to the colder weather. So they'll start back up in  
20 April is the contractor schedule right now. And I'll  
21 update the Board if there's any changes on that. And  
22 the dike raise, we're still closing out some of those  
23 documents. And for maintenance dredging, we should be  
24 going out on the street with the contract advertisement

1 early next week. It's possible it could be tomorrow,  
2 but not likely. So probably early next week. That  
3 should be awarded if we have awardable bids at the bid  
4 opening in probably the third week, third to fourth  
5 week of January.

6 we will be using -- we have the note  
7 there about the sediment sampling and research. We  
8 will be using some of those results as they get more  
9 refined and analyzed by the University of Florida and  
10 the Engineer Research Development Center for the Corps.  
11 We will use those to work with the contractor to try to  
12 be more efficient and have the best means and methods  
13 in the future in the different reaches because they do  
14 have different sediment makeup layers and things like  
15 that in the different reaches.

16 For the oil boom coordination, the  
17 contractor is still maintaining and cleaning, switching  
18 out the multiple oil booms there in the canal. And as  
19 always we continue to do the ongoing parkway  
20 maintenance to clean and remove any debris that is  
21 found. Any questions?

22 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

23 MR. FEKETE: Hearing none. All right. Thank  
24 you, Vaughn. Thank you. Happy holiday to you.

1 MR. COOLMAN: Yes. Happy holidays. Happy  
2 New Year and I'm going to step off.

3 MR. TREVINO: Merry Christmas, John.

4 MR. COOLMAN: I wish I could have made it  
5 this year.

6 MR. TREVINO: All right. Thank you.

7 MR. FEKETE: And next up is Attorney Ellen  
8 Gregory's Report.

9 MS. GREGORY: Yes, Ellen Gregory with Ellen  
10 Gregory Law. In the past month the legal matters  
11 assisted Fernando, include the finalization of the PA  
12 mod for the Great Lakes Legacy Act project.

13 Also reviewed Fernando's additional  
14 hours memo to make sure it was consistent with the 2022  
15 contract.

16 Also reviewed the requirements for the  
17 INPRS form that we just discussed and various financing  
18 and banking issues, the legal requirements. That's it.

19 MR. FEKETE: Any questions? Any other  
20 business, new business announcements?

21 MR. BAKOTA: Yes, I'd like to bring this up,  
22 make a motion. This was an article in our local paper  
23 The Times, Sunday, December 14th as federal funds  
24 crucial to Great Lakes. It's development of areas

1 around the Great Lakes, including our Lake Michigan  
2 here and hopefully the Grand Calumet River. And it  
3 asks that people respond to this to the co-sponsors of  
4 the bill to continue support, monetary support. I'll  
5 present this to our manager to maybe write a letter or  
6 contact them in all our names, the Board members  
7 included.

8 MR. FEKETE: So it's not on the packet. I  
9 couldn't find it in mine.

10 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, no. That was one of the  
11 items I said that I added. But I'm going to resend it.  
12 You're right. It wasn't included. It wasn't -- it was  
13 meant to be included, but I'll update the packet. But  
14 since I handed it out, I gave a physical copy of it, I  
15 included it as a part of the Board packet.

16 MR. FEKETE: But we don't have it.

17 MR. TREVINO: Right.

18 MR. FEKETE: So you're going to send it  
19 again?

20 MR. TREVINO: Yes, but I physically gave a  
21 copy. I physically gave everyone a copy.

22 MR. LOPEZ: He's passing them out.

23 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Yeah, I handed out a  
24 physical copy because it wasn't emailed. So I gave

1 everyone --

2 MR. FEKETE: You gave me the original back,  
3 right?

4 MR. TREVINO: I gave you the one. Well, you  
5 had the original article, John.

6 MR. FEKETE: You can keep the original for  
7 your records, but this is what you sent?

8 MR. TREVINO: Right.

9 MR. BAKOTA: I made a motion. I don't know  
10 if we have to go on that.

11 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Ellen, do we need Board  
12 action in order for me to write a letter on behalf of  
13 the Waterway Management District supporting --

14 MR. FEKETE: It'll name us all. So I would  
15 think --

16 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Okay. So John made a  
17 motion.

18 MR. FEKETE: I got a motion, a letter of  
19 support for --

20 MR. TREVINO: For that program.

21 MR. FEKETE: For that program.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

23 MR. LOPEZ: All right. All in favor signify  
24 by saying "aye"?

1 (CHORUS OF "AYES" )

2 MR. FEKETE: Any objections, abstentions?  
3 Hearing none. That motion is approved. So that'll be  
4 great. I'll let Susan know. She writes a lot of good  
5 articles periodically about the environment, what's  
6 going on in the environment.

7 MR. TREVINO: She does.

8 MR. FEKETE: And I've known her for a long  
9 time and she's pretty level-headed. And I actually  
10 invited her if she wanted to come to our Board meeting,  
11 but since she lives off in Ogden Dunes someplace, kind  
12 of a trip. Okay.

13 So actually there's no other business to  
14 come before the Board. Our next meeting will be  
15 January 15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at this facility. I'll  
16 entertain a motion to adjourn.

17 MR. LOPEZ: A Point of Order.

18 MR. FEKETE: You have a second? Point of  
19 order.

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Point of order.

21 MR. LOPEZ: I'd like to wish everybody a  
22 Merry Christmas and I hope we have a nice Happy New  
23 Year. Keep on going forward.

24 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, likewise. Merry

1 Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

2 MR. FEKETE: We'll add that to the continued  
3 blessings.

4 MR. LOPEZ: Appreciate that.

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: You're tearing me up.

6 MR. FEKETE: Now I'll entertain a motion for  
7 Board adjournment.

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

10 MR. FEKETE: Okay. All in favor, signify by  
11 saying "aye".

12 (A CHORUS OF "AYES" )

13 MR. FEKETE: This meeting has concluded.

14

15

16 (WHEREUPON the meeting was  
17 adjourned at 5:50 p.m.)

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24

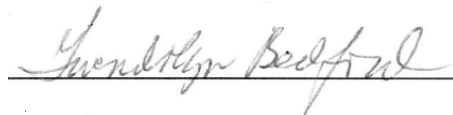
1 STATE OF INDIANA )  
2 )  
3 COUNTY OF LAKE )  
4

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 EAST CHICAGO, County of Lake and State  
10 of 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 23rd of December, 2025.

16   
17

GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

No. 084-003700