

EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
CITY OF EAST CHICAGO, ENGINEERING/ANNEX BUILDING
4444 RAILROAD AVENUE
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
March 19, 2026
THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
above-entitled matter on the 19th day of March, 2026 at
5:00 p.m. held at the City of East Chicago
Engineering/Annex Building, 444 Railroad Avenue, East
Chicago, Indiana.

A P P E A R A N C E

MR. JOHN BAKOTA, BOARD MEMBER

MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. RAY LOPEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT CONSULTING

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. BOB SANTORI, CLA

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. TREVINO: All right. So this is Fernando
3 Trevino, Executive Director of the East Chicago
4 Waterway Management District. We will not be able to
5 have a regular board meeting of the Waterway Management
6 District due to not having enough Board members
7 present. But we will continue to have a session today
8 that will include updates on various items.

9 So I would like to start off by going over my
10 report regarding the District's finances. We had
11 planned to have a 2026 Budget amendment and a Tetra
12 Tech Change Order Number 4 related to that Budget
13 Amendment. So, you know, because we don't have enough
14 Board members, we also won't be able to take action on
15 any of the -- the action items that are on the agenda
16 that are up for approval. But we'll still report on
17 some of these.

18 Regarding User Fees, the 2025 User Fees, the
19 Board may recall that we've had one unpaid User Fee
20 which triggered us to get Attorney Weiser involved in
21 our collection process. Since then, that last User Fee
22 has been paid. So we are now at 100% collections for
23 2025 User Fees.

24 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project,
25 the design for the South Tank Farm barrier wall

1 groundwater management system is ongoing. ARBP reports
2 that the design is at 60%.

3 Regarding the Lake George Canal East section,
4 the Corps is managing the Lake George Canal East
5 dredging project. The Corps is working on the dredging
6 design. The Phase II of the Lake George Canal East
7 dredging schedule may be pushed into 2027. The project
8 is currently planning to use the local CDF to dispose
9 of materials dredged from that project.

10 The Cleveland Cliff SEP dredging is
11 forecasted to be done in 2027, but may be delayed into
12 2028.

13 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle Cap
14 Project, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing that
15 section of the canal. The CAP construction has been
16 completed. ECO Construction activities and adaptive
17 management plan activities are ongoing.

18 Regarding the Lake George Canal West
19 Remediation Project, that work is between BP and EPA.
20 Based on the latest site characterization data, BP is
21 recommending no further action is necessary for that
22 section of the canal. The Corps and EPA continue to
23 assess BP's no further action recommendation, which is
24 currently expected to include additional sampling.

25 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction

1 Reaches Remedial Design, Tetra Tech Remedial Design
2 work is ongoing. Tetra Tech recently transmitted the
3 95% design to the Project Team for review. Ongoing
4 project activities include remedial design completion,
5 junction marsh coordination, coordination with the City
6 dump site, and the Marquette Trail Project. Also
7 having discussions on community engagement and property
8 access coordination including various construction
9 permits. Project Manager Carol Neeson is in attendance
10 and will provide additional updates.

11 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act work in
12 kind reporting, yesterday I submitted the District's
13 2025 year-end Work in Kind Report. I continue to work
14 on the City CSO Work In Kind Report. And EPA continues
15 to review the 2024 and prior year Work in Kind Reports.

16 Regarding the schedule for the Grand Cal
17 River Junction Reaches, we're forecasting completing
18 the remedial design contractor procurement activities
19 in the first three quarters of this year and
20 mobilization in the fourth quarter. The Corps Report
21 is in your board packet.

22 Attorney Ellen will give update an update on
23 various legal matters. That concludes my report.
24 Again, we won't be taking any actions on the agenda
25 items that require action. So we'll just be doing

1 reports.

2 Next on the agenda for the report is the
3 Grand Cal River Junction reaches. Carol Neeson, would
4 you mind giving a brief update?

5 MS. NEESON: Sure. Hi, everybody. As
6 Fernando said, we did submit the 95% design in February
7 and we also completed a cost update, cost estimate
8 update for the remediation. We are currently working
9 on providing a construction schedule and also are
10 currently working on permit applications for the
11 project and coordinating access agreements, reviewing
12 property access issues in coordination with the
13 Marquette Greenway Trail personnel.

14 So yes, I submitted a Change Order request.
15 We had substantial comments on the 90% design package.
16 That took us a bit of additional effort including more
17 design effort, more modeling. We had to conduct a few
18 new models to address the comments.

19 For solicitation support, We did request
20 additional money under that for the -- under the Change
21 Order due to -- there seems to be a lot of competition
22 among the contractors who will want to work on this
23 project. So we anticipate a number of questions and
24 comments during the solicitation period. Any
25 questions? All right. Thank you.

1 MR. TREVINO: Thanks, Carol. Okay, since
2 Juan's not on, any updates from BMO. Bob Santori?

3 MR. SANTORI: Hi, good afternoon everybody.
4 Let's see. So the first page of your report is showing
5 the Trust Money Market and CD holdings. Showing the
6 combined balance between the two accounts on February
7 28th of \$4,180,487.58. In the month of February, there
8 was a withdrawal for the distribution in the amount of
9 \$38,490.77. The Money Market earned interest of
10 \$495.29, resulting in a loss between -- from month to
11 month of \$37,995.48 in balances. There was no interest
12 earned in the CD in February.

13 The second page of the report is showing the
14 historical values from the Trust account and
15 withdrawals. So far in the year 2026, there's been a
16 withdrawal of \$38,490.77.

17 The third page of the report is showing the
18 District's CD accounts with BMO. The value of those
19 has gone up from the last month. So the total value on
20 2/28/26 was \$11,866,863.18. There was an interest
21 distribution in the month of February for those
22 accounts. The total interest earned on those six CDs,
23 I believe, or seven CDs, sorry, was \$123,570.44.

24 I believe that covers all the activity in
25 those accounts in the month of February. If you have

1 any questions, happy to answer those for you.

2 MR. TREVINO: Any questions, anyone? Okay.
3 Attorney Ellen Gregory, anything to report on?

4 MS. GREGORY: Just related -- mostly related
5 to things that Carol has just reported on. I've been
6 working with Fernando on the access agreement with IBA
7 for the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project as well as the
8 Corps right of entry for the Corps to access the CDF,
9 the Tetra Tech Change Order. And then for next month,
10 we're hoping to have a draft of the MOU with the City
11 regarding the EPA Brownfield's Grant.

12 MR. TREVINO: Okay. Any questions for
13 Attorney Gregory?

14 Also, I wanted to report that in case I
15 didn't mention it earlier, we decided not to have a
16 report from our accounting consultant because the
17 report, the financial report may be modified when we
18 have the next Board meeting or the Special Board
19 meeting. Since we weren't able to have -- we didn't
20 have the quorum to pass action items. So we decided
21 not to have the accounting consultant reports so we
22 wouldn't confuse things in the event that the
23 financials and claim docket was modified.

24 Any comments from the public?

25 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, Raymond Lopez, the

1 Treasurer. I want to thank everybody for being here.
2 And this is very unusual for us. I can't remember the
3 last time we canceled a meeting, but I would thank
4 everybody for coming and our apologies. Thank you.

5 MR. TREVINO: Okay. Any other questions or
6 comments?

7 MR. GUADALUPE: Just wanted to know if he was
8 on the phone, but if he's not on --

9 MR. TREVINO: He did submit an update so I
10 could share that with you.

11 MR. GUADALUPE: Okay.

12 MR. TREVINO: All right. If there isn't
13 anything else, that concludes our session. So once
14 we -- I'll have Olga contact all the Board members,
15 Ellen and our accounting consultant and some of the
16 others that participate in our projects to see what
17 their availability is for a Special Board meeting. So
18 once we get that information, We'll properly post it
19 and see everyone then. Thank you.

20 MR. LOPEZ: Good meeting.

21

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23 (WHEREUPON the meeting was
24 adjourned at 5:30 p.m.)

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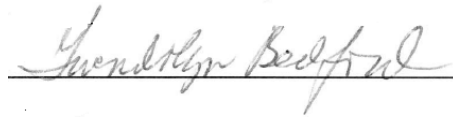
1 STATE OF INDIANA)
2)
3 COUNTY OF LAKE)
4

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 9th day of April, 2026.

16 
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18 GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

19 No. 084-003700
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