

EAST CHICAGO WATER MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
CITY OF EAST CHICAGO, ENGINEERING/ANNEX BUILDING
4444 RAILROAD AVENUE
EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA
APRIL 16, 2026
THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
above-entitled matter on the 16th day of April, 2026 at
5:00 p.m., held at the City of East Chicago
Engineering/Annex Building, 4444 Railroad Avenue, East
Chicago, Indiana.

A P P E A R A N C E

MR. JOHN FEKETE, PRESIDENT (VIA ZOOM)

MR. JAYLAN ROBINSON, VICE PRESIDENT

MR. JOHN BAKOTA, BOARD MEMBER

MR. HENRY RODRIGUEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. RAY LOPEZ, BOARD MEMBER

MR. KEVIN GUADALUPE, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVIÑO, FMT CONSULTING, INC.

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. VANESSA VARGAS, CLA (VIA ZOOM)

MR. BOB SANTORE, BMO (VIA ZOOM)

MS. CAROL NISSEN, TETRA TECH (VIA ZOOM)

MR. VAUGHN COOLMAN, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
(VIA ZOOM)

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

2 MR. ROBINSON: I'd like to call to order the East
3 Chicago Waterway Management District Board of Directors
4 regular public board meeting. Today is April 16, 2026.
5 We will start off with a roll call: John Fekete?

6 MR. FEKETE: Here.

7 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

8 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

9 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

11 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

12 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

13 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

14 MR. GUADALUPE: Here.

15 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I am here.

16 MS. GREGORY: And Vaughn Coolman just joined.

17 MR. ROBINSON: Next, we have the executive director's
18 report, Mr. Treviño?

19 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes, Fernando Treviño with FMT
20 Consulting.

21 First, I'd like to start off by welcoming
22 our newest member of our Board of Directors,
23 Mr. Kevin Guadalupe. Welcome, Kevin.

24 MR. GUADALUPE: Thank you.

25 MR. TREVIÑO: I'm looking forward to working with you

1 and our mission to advance economic and recreational uses
2 of our waterway. I'd like to thank Mayor Copeland and
3 Sandra Favela for their support and our efforts in their
4 appointment of Mr. Guadalupe. It certainly helps us
5 manage our efforts when we get closer and closer
6 maximizing our Board member of seven, max; so right now we
7 have six.

8 So getting to my Board report regarding
9 action items on today's agenda, we have the two routine
10 items: The Board minutes for March 19th and the claim
11 docket. And then we have three additional action items:
12 The Section 41 Water Quality Certification, Board
13 Resolution 2026-1; the Amendment to our Electronic Meeting
14 Policy, Board Resolution 2026-2; Amendment to our bylaws,
15 I have the first reading.

16 Regarding the District finances, um, there
17 was an unexpected charge of \$408.94. On our First
18 Merchant's March statements I brought the charge to the
19 attention of our First Merchant's rep, and she looked into
20 it. And she thought at first glance it may be affiliated
21 with the big transfer that we had with BMO. But she was
22 able to have the charge reversed and -- which I confirmed.
23 I went online and confirmed that the amount had been
24 credited back. So I want to thank Vanessa Vargas for
25 bringing that to our attention. And thanks to First

1 Merchants for their review and reversal of the fee.

2 Regarding user fees, nothing new to report
3 on the 2025 user fees, as reported last month we are at
4 100% collected. Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act
5 Projects, the South Tank Farm, and Lake George East and
6 Middle Projects, design for the South Tank Farm Barrier
7 wall, ground water management system is ongoing. ARBP has
8 reported that design is at 60%.

9 Regarding the Lake George Canal East
10 section, the Corp managing, that part of the project, the
11 dredging design is ongoing. Phase 2 of the Lake George
12 Canal dredging schedule is now pushed into 2027, that's
13 the current forecast.

14 As reported in the past, the project
15 currently plans to use the local CDF to dispose of
16 sediments that are dredged from the area. And the
17 Cleveland Cliff SEP dredging is currently forecasted to be
18 done in 2028.

19 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle cap
20 project, the Army Corps is also managing that section of
21 the project. The CAP Construction has been completed.
22 However, ECO Construction activities and adaptive medical
23 planned activities are ongoing. The Corp is currently
24 coordinating an effort to take additional CAP samples.

25 Regarding the Lake George Canal west

1 remediation project, that work is ongoing, and that is the
2 project between BP and EPA. Based on the latest site
3 characterization data, BP recommended no further action
4 was necessary for that section of the waterway. The Army
5 Corp of Engineers and EPA continue to assess BPs "no
6 further action recommendation", which is currently
7 expected to include additional samplings.

8 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction
9 Reaches remedial design efforts, um, Tetra Tech remedial
10 design work is ongoing. The project team is currently
11 reviewing and incorporating the stakeholder's comments to
12 the 95% design.

13 Some of the ongoing project activities
14 include the remedial design completion; coordination of
15 the junction marsh (phonetic); coordination with the
16 former City dump site; coordination with the Marquette
17 Trail Project; community engagement; property access;
18 coordination including agreements; pursuing various
19 permits necessary for construction, which includes the
20 TASCA work plant, and also includes the 401 permit that's
21 on today's agenda for approval (phonetic) consideration.

22 Tetra Tech project manager, Carol Nissen,
23 is in attendance today, and will provide additional
24 updates when we get to that on the agenda.

25 Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act work

1 in-kind reporting, last month I submitted the District's
2 2025 year end work in-kind report for EPA review and
3 consideration.

4 In the fourth quarter of last year I
5 submitted a proposed work in-kind report affiliated with
6 the City dump work. EPA has submitted a response that
7 they intend to approve our proposal. And I continue to
8 work on the City CSO work in-kind report to submit to EPA
9 for their review and consideration. EPA's review
10 continues on our 2024 and prior year work in-kind reports.

11 Regarding the schedule for the Grand Cal
12 River Junction Reaches we're forecasting to complete the
13 remedial design and contractor procurement activities in
14 the first three quarters of this year with mobilization
15 either in the fourth quarter of this year or the first
16 quarter of 2027, and construction is anticipated to
17 continue for approximately two years.

18 Regarding the Canal Street Bridge, we
19 received a report a couple of weeks ago that there was an
20 accident between either a tugboat or a barge hitting the
21 Canadian National Railroad drawbridge near the former
22 Canal Street Barrack Bridge. A copy of the Northwest
23 Indiana Time's article is in your packet. We're still
24 waiting on a follow-up report from either the Coastguard
25 or the Corp. And that --

1 A quick review of the Corp report. It
2 seems like, um, the report is concluding that that
3 railroad bridge will have to be completely demolished and
4 replaced.

5 Vaughn, when we get to your report, if you
6 could elaborate on that, we'd appreciate it.

7 And then going over really quick the
8 contents of your work packet. We have a copy of today's
9 agenda which, by the way, there was a typo on it. On
10 Agenda Item No. 15 it says: "Next public meeting April
11 16, 2026", and it should be "May 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m."

12 Also in the work packet is: A public
13 meeting posting for today's meeting; the Board minutes for
14 March 19, 2026; the CliftonLarsonAllen financial report,
15 dated March 31, 2026 for the month of March; the claim
16 docket with today's date, along with copies of the
17 purchase orders and check register.

18 Copies of First Merchant Bank statements
19 for the month of March 2026 for accounts ending in 608,
20 along with a copy of the checks that processed during the
21 month of March in account ending in 616, and one deposit
22 made in March.

23 A copy of the approved budget amendment
24 that was approved at the April 7th special Board meeting;
25 you have a copy of the BMO trust reports, dated March 31,

1 2026; and the BMO non-trust report summarizing our CDs,
2 also dated March 31, 2026.

3 You have a copy of Tetra Tech's monthly
4 progress report, invoice, and budget summary for the month
5 of March, and that's dated April 1, 2026.

6 You have a copy of our Section 401 Water
7 Quality Certification submittal, it's an application for
8 authorization to discharge dredged or fill material to
9 state regulated wetlands or waters of the U.S., and the
10 attachment also includes the backups.

11 You have a copy of Board Resolution 2026
12 regarding the electronic meeting policy amendment, and
13 includes the policy itself, as well as a red line of the
14 proposed changes. When we get to that on the agenda,
15 Ellen and I caught a change that we wanted to include in
16 the final draft, so we will share that additional change
17 when we get to that on the agenda.

18 Board Resolution 2026-2 the District's
19 bylaws amendment, it's the first reading. And also
20 includes a red line of the proposed bylaws changes so you
21 can see what the changes are presented.

22 Um, turning -- Ellen Gregory's monthly
23 report to the Board is in your packet with the revision
24 date of April 13, 2026. And you have a copy of the
25 Northwest Indiana Times' article titled: "Barge Collides

1 with Railroad Bridge", and I believe the date of the
2 article is April 3rd.

3 And last, but not least, you have a copy of
4 the signed Tetra Tech Change Order No. 4, which is dated
5 March 16, 2026; and that concludes my report.

6 MR. ROBINSON: Any questions for Mr. Treviño?

7 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, one question: Do they know what
8 happened to the bridge, a boat hit it, a barge or what?

9 MR. TREVIÑO: The preliminary report is that it did
10 collide with either the bargeboard or the tugboat. But
11 I'd like to hold -- unless you want an answer now, I was
12 going to suggest when we get to the court report Vaughn is
13 on, and he can give us more information on it.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Okay, who is going to pay for it?

15 MR. TREVIÑO: Not us, so -- that's the important
16 part.

17 MR. ROBINSON: Alrighty.

18 Next, we have approval consideration for
19 Board meeting notes for March 19, 2025.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

21 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

22 MR. ROBINSON: All right, there has been a motion and
23 a second. We got a roll call vote: John Fekete?

24 MS. GREGORY: Oh, sorry. I have to unmute him.

25 MR. ROBINSON: John Fekete?

1 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

2 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

3 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

4 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

6 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

7 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

8 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

9 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

10 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robertson, I vote, yes.

11 Next, we have the accounting consulting
12 report.

13 MR. TREVIÑO: Vanessa?

14 MS. VARGAS: Can you hear me?

15 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes.

16 MS. VARGAS: Vanessa Vargas with CLA.

17 In front of you you have a copy of the
18 financial statements on a cash basis, dated March 31,
19 2026. If you turn to Page 2 we will begin with the
20 statement of cash receipts and cash disbursements for the
21 three months ended March 31, 2026.

22 You've collected interest income in the
23 amount of \$145,468.33. You've collected user fees in the
24 amount of \$130,436.44. As well as had a Trust transfer in
25 the amount of \$38,490.77, which brings your total receipts

1 to \$314,395.54.

2 You've had cash disbursements in the amount
3 of \$216,944.94, which does include the bank charge,
4 mentioned by Fernando of \$408.94, which will be reversed
5 in April. This brings you to an increase in cash in the
6 amount of \$97,450.60. You began the year with a cash
7 balance on January 1, 2026 in the amount of
8 \$14,951,631.66. Your cash balance as of March 31st is
9 \$15,049,082.26.

10 If you turn to Page 3, we will continue
11 with the schedule of cash account activity for the three
12 months ended March 31, 2026. Your operating account began
13 the year with a cash balance on January 1st in the amount
14 of \$1,308,102.21. You earned interest in the amount of
15 \$9,111.68. You've had cash disbursements in the amount of
16 \$216,944.94. Had a Trust transfer in the amount of
17 \$38,490.77, as well as a budget transfer in the amount of
18 \$277,191.52, which brings your operating cash balance as
19 of March 31st to \$1,415,951.24.

20 The user fees account has a cash balance of
21 1,100,236 --

22 MR. TREVIÑO: Hang on, Vanessa. Vanessa?

23 MS. VARGAS: Yes.

24 MR. TREVIÑO: Hang on a second. All of a sudden we
25 are getting a -- like a --

1 MR. LOPEZ: An echo.

2 MR. TREVIÑO: -- a major echo, and it's hard to --

3 MS. GREGORY: I just muted John.

4 (WHEREUPON, a conversation was
5 had off the record.)

6 MS. VARGAS: Okay, should I start with the user-fee
7 account again?

8 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes, please.

9 MS. VARGAS: The user -- oh, John, just unmuted.

10 MR. FEKETE: Can you hear me now?

11 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes, but we're trying to mute you,
12 John, because we're getting an echo.

13 MS. GREGORY: We are getting lots of feedback, so I
14 muted you. And then when it's time for you to vote, we
15 are going to need to unmute you, okay.

16 So I am going to mute you now so we can
17 hear Vanessa.

18 MS. VARGAS: The user-fee account began the year with
19 a cash balance, on January 1, 2026, in the amount of
20 \$1,900,236.71. You've earned interest in the amount of
21 \$12,786.21.

22 You've collected user fees in the amount of
23 \$130,436.44. And you had a budget transfer in the amount
24 of \$277,191.52. This brings your user-fee account
25 balance, as of March 31st, to \$1,766,267.84.

1 You began the year with a CD balance on
2 January 1st in the amount of \$11,743,292.74. You've
3 earned interest in the amount of \$123,570.44. This brings
4 your CD balance as of March 31st to \$11,866,863.18.

5 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue
6 with a schedule of 2026 available budget as of April 16,
7 2026. Year 2026 budget appropriation totaled \$1,553,089.
8 Adding back in accounts payable, dated 12/31/2025, in the
9 amount of \$70,695.50 brings the year 2026 totaled
10 appropriation to \$1,623,784.50.

11 You had cash disbursements for the three
12 months ended March 2026 in the amount of \$216,536.

13 In front of you you have a claims docket
14 dated April 16, 2026 in the amount of \$60,840.07, which
15 brings your unused budget to \$1,346,408.43.

16 One item I would like to mention is that
17 the budget amendment approved on April 7th is not
18 reflected in these numbers, but will be reflected in next
19 month's numbers.

20 Are there any questions?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

22 MR. ROBINSON: Next we have the approval
23 consideration for the accounts payable voucher registered
24 April 16, 2026.

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

2 MR. ROBINSON: That is a motion and a second.

3 Roll call vote: John Fekete?

4 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

5 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

6 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

7 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

9 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

11 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

12 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

13 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I vote, yes.

14 Next, we have the BMO Trust and Non-trust
15 reports.

16 MR. SANTORE: Good evening, everybody.

17 UNISON: Good evening.

18 MR. SANTORE: So the first report is the
19 facilities-trust report. This one is showing you the
20 March 31st value. The combined money market and
21 certificate of deposit on March 31st amount was
22 \$4,219,246.97.

23 In the month of March the CD earned
24 interest of \$38,296.05. And the money market account
25 earned \$463.34 for a combined interest earning of

1 \$38,759.39 for the month of March.

2 The follow-up page to the Trust report is
3 the historical values of the Trust account starting in
4 1997 to the present day. Currently in the year 2026 there
5 have been distribution from the account totaling
6 \$38,490.77.

7 The next report is the District's CD
8 report. There is no interest earned in the month of
9 March. The next interest earning date will be May 23,
10 2026. The total value on March 31st for all of the CDs
11 was \$11,866,863.18; that covers the reports.

12 Fernando also asked me to give a quick
13 overview of BMO's 1% credit card program.

14 BMO's credit card program, you know,
15 cost -- credit card program it earned an automatic 1% cash
16 rebate on eligible purchases creating a non-tax revenue
17 for the District to offset expenses.

18 The card it can simplify your check
19 writing, and your purchasing. So, um, reducing invoices,
20 your check writing volume, your manual reconciliations for
21 faster transactions, approving your spend visibility, and
22 help with -- help reduce your administrative workload.

23 So you can consolidate all of your payments
24 into the credit card, earn a rebate and, you know, make
25 one payment on a monthly basis instead of making multiple

1 payments and sending out multiple checks to vendors.

2 The card includes spending limits, merchant
3 restrictions. You could detail reporting for audit
4 purposes. You could assign multiple cards for users, and
5 you could limit where they may transact.

6 You might want to give someone only the
7 ability to purchase at let's say home improvement places,
8 like Home Depo or Menards. And restrict them from going
9 to a restaurant or a bar and having a good time. So you
10 can certainly set restrictions on everyone's cards and
11 adjust limits on the fly.

12 The card is at a robust security, real-time
13 fragma (inaudible), instant card deactivation, and central
14 administration to reduce your risk. So at a high level
15 that's -- program if you're interested in learning more,
16 you know, I can certainly set up a follow-up appointment
17 with the Board and go over it in more detail. But it's
18 something we would have our government clients take a look
19 at. And, you know, it may help, you know, again, with the
20 rebate to offset some of your costs and, you know, help
21 reduce fraud risk by consolidating payments.

22 If you have any questions, I'd be happy to
23 answer those. If not, I hope you all have a great
24 evening.

25 MR. TREVIÑO: Yeah, Bob, just really quick.

1 Thanks for the presentation. Maybe the
2 first step is for me, you, and Vanessa to have a brief
3 conversation, just to see if that process is allowed by
4 the State Board of Accounts. And exactly how would that
5 look, and how would we document and do the paper trail as
6 we do with the checks.

7 So you did mention that you have some
8 government clients that use it. So, you know, maybe it
9 is. But that would be the first litmus test to pass to
10 see if it's -- you know, the paper trail. And the process
11 for it is allowed by the State Board of Accounts. So we
12 will follow up.

13 MR. SANTORE: Yeah, sounds great. Yeah, we can
14 definitely set up a call. I can bring on one of our
15 female card consultants who certainly can answer more
16 indepth questions as well.

17 MR. TREVIÑO: Okay, thank you.

18 MR. SANTORE: Thanks.

19 MR. ROBINSON: Alrighty.

20 Next, we have our Great Lakes Legacy
21 Act -- I'm sorry, Great Lakes Legacy Act, Grand Cal River
22 Junction Reaches project update.

23 MR. TREVIÑO: Yeah. Carol?

24 MS. NISSEN: Hi, everybody.

25 Yeah, to give you an update on the Junction

1 Reaches Project, Tetra Tech is receiving some comments
2 back on the 95% design from EPA as we go along. And also
3 you have before you the 401 Water Quality Certification to
4 review and approve if that meets with your approval.

5 The water quality certification is required
6 under the Clean Water Act to protect water quality during
7 the dredging process. And we are planning to conduct a
8 site walkthrough on April 29th with EPA and Fernando.

9 Our other activities right now, as Fernando
10 mentioned, we are working on the permit applications, and
11 property access issues. We will finish the remaining
12 permit applications and have them ready for review by the
13 Board for your May meeting.

14 Any questions?

15 MR. TREVIÑO: So as mentioned the permitting EPA is
16 asking for the non-federal partner to apply for the
17 permits. I think in the past, Carol, didn't EPA used to
18 be the applicant, but they had an internal change in
19 policy that -- you know, that --

20 MS. NISSEN: Yes.

21 MR. TREVIÑO: It wasn't -- they didn't think it was
22 proper to get a permit for themselves type of thing.

23 MS. NISSEN: Yes, exactly.

24 Yeah, in the past EPA had been signing all
25 of these permits and they no longer can do that for you.

1 So we have investigated which permit
2 applications that makes sense for East Chicago Water
3 Management District to sign, and then we have a few permit
4 applications that we will set aside for the contractor to
5 complete. But it takes --

6 It's a long process. It may take six
7 months or so for review for some of these permit
8 applications. So that's why we want to move forward and
9 push -- push these -- keep these moving forward.

10 MR. TREVIÑO: So if there aren't any questions, the
11 recommendations to approve the applications. And it will
12 be submitted and signed by the Board president,
13 John Fekete.

14 MS. NISSEN: That's correct.

15 MR. ROBINSON: Next, we have the approval
16 consideration for the Section 401 Water Quality
17 Recertification; is there a motion for approval?

18 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

20 MR. ROBINSON: There's been a motion and a second.

21 We have a roll call vote. John Fekete?

22 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

23 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

24 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

25 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

4 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

5 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

6 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I vote, yes.

7 Next, we have Board Resolution 2026-1

8 Electronic Meeting Policy, Amendment; Mr. Treviño?

9 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes.

10 So Attorney Ellen Gregory and I reviewed
11 our current electronic meeting policy and noticed that
12 there was some changes that needed to be made and cleared
13 up. And, so, this amended policy does that.

14 We did, also, after the fact, what we
15 sent -- what you have in your Board packet identified
16 another change that we wanted to make, and that is on
17 Page 4 of the red line, which is Page 3 of the clean copy,
18 and it's Section iv, little -- little "iv". And it's
19 basically to -- it would read: "A member of the ECWMD
20 Board intending to participate electronically in a meeting
21 of the ECWMD 4 (phonetic) must provide notice of such
22 intent to the executive director presiding officer (for
23 their designees) before the meeting is scheduled to
24 begin".

25 So with that additional change, the

1 recommendation is to approve the Board resolution and the
2 new meeting policy.

3 MS. GREGORY: I just want to clarify that the section
4 where that last change is was Paragraph 4, little "g",
5 little Roman Numeral "iv".

6 MR. TREVIÑO: Oh, okay.

7 So there was another section of the
8 subsection attached.

9 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

10 MR. ROBINSON: Is there a motion to approve?

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: New motion to approve.

12 MR. BAKOTA: I second.

13 MR. ROBINSON: There has been a motion and a second.

14 Roll call vote: John Fekete?

15 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

16 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

17 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

18 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

20 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

21 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

22 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

23 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

24 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I vote, yes.

25 Next, we have Board Resolution 2026-2, East

1 Chicago Waterway Management District Bylaws Amendment,
2 1st Reading.

3 MR. TREVIÑO: Yeah.

4 So, in order to officially amend the bylaws
5 it requires the Board approve them in two separate
6 meetings and two separate readings. So today's would be
7 the first.

8 So, again, I think the last amendment was
9 2014; is that accurate, Ellen?

10 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

11 MR. TREVIÑO: So it's been a few years since we
12 amended our bylaws. So when we went to adjust the policy
13 on the electronic meetings there were some other stuff
14 that needed to be mopped up, so we included some of those
15 other changes. And in your packet you have a red line of
16 the changes so you know what you're approving. And, of
17 course, there is a clean copy, so the recommendations to
18 approve the bylaw amendments on this 1st reading.

19 MR. ROBINSON: Is there a motion to pass on 1st
20 reading?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Second.

23 MR. ROBINSON: There has been a first and a second.

24 Roll call vote: John Fekete?

25 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

1 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

2 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

3 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

5 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

6 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

7 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

8 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

9 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I vote, yes.

10 Next, we have the U.S. Army Corp Board
11 Report.

12 MR. COOLMAN: Good evening, everyone.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening.

14 MR. COOLMAN: Starting off, the water treatment plan
15 at the CDF should resume treatment either at the end of
16 this month or in early May. They are still assembling and
17 testing -- I think they are done assembling, but they are
18 still testing to make sure that everything is working
19 correctly before going into full operation mode.

20 And the Dyke raise is still going through
21 completion of closeout documents. And for the maintenance
22 dredging we did award the contract to ROEN Salvage on
23 March 19th, and the notice to proceed has already been
24 issued, and as soon as we have a proposed construction
25 schedule from them, we will relay that to you.

1 For Oil Boom coordination still actively
2 maintaining and operating as needed. Similar with the
3 Parkway cleanup. And on to the most exciting part of the
4 report, the rail bridge allision, which is a new word that
5 I just learned a couple of weeks ago.

6 So when two boats hit each other, it's a
7 collision. When a boat hits a static structure, it's an
8 allision. So I learn something every day.

9 MR. TREVIÑO: We don't do that over here, Vaughn.

10 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

11 MR. COOLMAN: In the report I put early April, that
12 was before I had full information. It was -- actually the
13 incident was on March 31st. So almost April, but it was
14 on March 31st, and a vessel did strike the CN Rail 631
15 drawbridge just east of the forks, and just west of the
16 old Canal Street Bridge above the stair (phonetic).

17 And US Coast Guard is the lead federal
18 agency on this. And from information that they've shared
19 with us it does appear that Canadian National will be
20 demoing or disassembling the rail bridge and replacing it.
21 We don't know much more outside of that information. The
22 Coast Guard would probably be the best people to give you
23 the most detailed information because they currently have
24 the most details and are in communication with Canadian
25 National on any plans for demo or replacement.

1 MR. TREVIÑO: Vaughn, is there --

2 MR. COOLMAN: That's really about all I have, other
3 than we did see some -- there is some pictures and videos
4 on Facebook provided by looks like just members of the
5 community there in East Chicago that were around or heard
6 about it. And you can see from those pictures that the
7 bridge is bent. The rail line on the bridge is bent. So
8 it must have been either a heavy boat or going at enough
9 speed to cause that damage.

10 That's all I have. If you have any
11 questions about that, I'll be happy to attempt to answer
12 them. And if I cannot, I would refer you to the local
13 Coast Guard there. And, um, if you --

14 Fernando, if you don't have a contact for
15 them, I can shoot you an email later with our contact over
16 at the Coast Guard.

17 MR. TREVIÑO: Yes, I do have several Coast Guard
18 contacts. But if you could provide the particular Coast
19 Guard contact that's working on this, that would help
20 streamline, you know, my efforts. Because, you know, who
21 knows who is working on it type of thing, you know.

22 MR. COOLMAN: Right, I can do that.

23 MR. TREVIÑO: Is there a report, Vaughn, a written
24 report that the Coast Guard has provided on the matter?

25 MR. COOLMAN: We do not have a report from the Coast

1 Guard, just more of email communications.

2 MR. TREVIÑO: All right.

3 Is there an email that you're allowed to
4 forward that --

5 MR. COOLMAN: I can ask them that.

6 MR. TREVIÑO: Okay.

7 And Mr. -- Board member Ray Lopez had a
8 question earlier.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, could you sign this one so we know
10 who it is from, your report?

11 MR. COOLMAN: Oh, sign it?

12 MR. LOPEZ: Yes. It gives a report, but who is
13 giving it? Ghondo, Pete, Mike, I don't know.

14 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah, I can do that.

15 MR. TREVIÑO: Yeah, put your name on it or something,
16 Vaughn.

17 MR. COOLMAN: I will sign it at the bottom going
18 forward.

19 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, when you are here we can question
20 you, but during the --

21 MR. COOLMAN: You can question me right now, I'm not
22 running away.

23 MR. LOPEZ: Okay, guy.

24 MR. TREVIÑO: John had a question.

25 MR. BAKOTA: I wonder if we can contact the railroad

1 also to give a comment to us. After all, they are
2 crossing our canal, you know, what their intentions are as
3 far as the bridge replacement.

4 MR. TREVIÑO: We can try.

5 MR. COOLMAN: And I do know that the bridge being out
6 of commission does affect multiple harbor users there,
7 multiple businesses from BP Asphalt to Cleveland Cliff
8 Steel, probably Safety-Kleen. I mean there's several.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

11 MR. LOPEZ: Thanks, guy.

12 MR. TREVIÑO: Ray, you had a question earlier.

13 MR. LOPEZ: I already did it.

14 MR. TREVIÑO: You got it?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, thank you.

16 MR. COOLMAN: You're welcome.

17 MR. GUADALUPE: Vaughn, I have a question real quick:
18 it's more concerning the contract that you gave out.

19 MS. GREGORY: This is Kevin speaking, by the way,
20 Vaughn --

21 MR. GUADALUPE: I'm sorry.

22 MS. GREGORY: -- our new board member.

23 MR. COOLMAN: All right, Kevin.

24 MR. GUADALUPE: Any idea when ROEN is going to decide
25 when they are going to start this season?

1 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah, I don't think what -- we have the
2 proposed construction schedule yet. I can double check
3 with the construction office. And I know I have your
4 phone number. I can't remember if I have your email as
5 well. And once I have the proposed construction schedule,
6 I can send that to you, and I'll also send it over to
7 INDOT as well.

8 MR. GUADALUPE: Okay, I would appreciate that.

9 MR. COOLMAN: No problem.

10 MR. GUADALUPE: Thank you.

11 MR. COOLMAN: Thank you.

12 MR. ROBINSON: Any more questions?

13 Next, we have the Attorney Ellen Gregory
14 report.

15 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

16 Ellen Gregory with Ellen Gregory Law. In
17 the last month I spent some time working with Fernando on
18 amending the bylaws and the electronic meetings policy,
19 which you just approved.

20 Also working with Fernando and Carol Nissen
21 at Tetra Tech on access agreements for the Grand Cal River
22 Junction Reaches project, as well as the permitting
23 aspects that the Water Management District would be
24 responsible for signing. And have begun drafting an MOU
25 with the City regarding the Brownfield's assessment, which

1 was submitted in, I want to say late February, and that's
2 it for now.

3 MR. ROBINSON: Any questions? All right.

4 Next, do we have any other business; new
5 building business or announcements? Any public comment?

6 Our next Board meeting will be May 21, 2026
7 at 5:00 p.m. Is there a motion to adjourn?

8 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

9 MR. ROBINSON: Is there a second?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

11 MR. ROBINSON: It's been a motion and a second.

12 Roll call vote. John Fekete?

13 MS. GREGORY: Can you unmute John?

14 MR. TREVIÑO: John, can you unmute?

15 MR. FEKETE: Yes.

16 MS. GREGORY: We are voting to adjourn.

17 MR. FEKETE: I vote, yes.

18 MR. ROBINSON: Ray Lopez?

19 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

20 MR. ROBINSON: Henry Rodriguez?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

22 MR. ROBINSON: John Bakota?

23 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

24 MR. ROBINSON: Kevin Guadalupe?

25 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

1 MR. ROBINSON: Jaylan Robinson. I vote, yes.

2 The meeting is adjourned.

3 MR. TREVIÑO: We are done.

4 (WHEREUPON, at 5:46 p.m., the
5 meeting adjourned.)
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1 STATE OF INDIANA :

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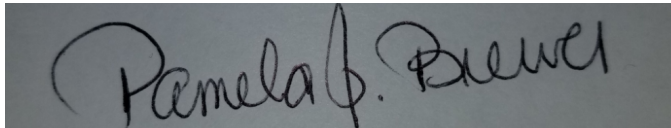
3 COUNTY OF LAKE :

4
5
6 C E R T I F I C A T E
7

8 THE WITHIN and FOREGOING MEETING was taken
9 before PAMELA J. BREWER, Certified Shorthand Reporter in
10 the City of EAST CHICAGO, County of Lake and State of
11 Indiana.
12

13 The undersigned is not interested in the
14 within meeting, nor of kin or counsel to any of the
15 members.
16

17 IN THE TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto
18 set my hand this 30th day of April, 2026.
19
20

21 

22 PAMELA J. BREWER, CSR/RPR

23 NO. 084-004362
24
25