

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 JULY 16, 2026
7 THURSDAY 5:00 P.M.

8
9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
10 above-entitled matter on the 16th day of July, 2026 at
11 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. JALAN ROBINSON, BOARD MEMBER

MR. KEVIN GUADALUPE, BOARD MEMBER

MR. FERNANDO TREVINO, FMT CONSULTING

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, ELLEN GREGORY LAW

ALSO PRESENT:

MS. VANESSA VARGAS, CLA

MR. VAUGHAN COOLMAN, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MS. ELLEN GREGORY, GENERAL COUNSEL

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

2 MR. FEKETE: Well, might as well start the
3 meeting. I'd like to call to order the East Chicago
4 Waterway Management District Board of Directors regular
5 public board meeting. Today's date is July 16th and the
6 time is 5:02. First order of business is roll call.
7 Jalan Robinson?

8 MR. ROBINSON: Here.

9 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

11 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

13 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

15 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. I'm here. We have
16 a full Board meeting. Next order of business is the
17 Executive Director's report. Mr. Trevino.

18 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Let me just get this to
19 Kevin. Yes.

20 MS. GREGORY: Carol Neeson Is on?

21 MR. TREVINO: Who?

22 MS. GREGORY: Carol Neeson.

23 MR. TREVINO: Okay. Yes. Fernando Trevino
24 with FMT Consulting. Look, I'd like to start off by
25 going over the contents of your Board packet.

1 You have a copy of today's Board meeting
2 agenda, the Public Meeting posting for today's meeting,
3 the Board minutes for June 18, 2026. The Clifton Larson
4 Allen Financial Report dated June 30, 2026 for the month
5 of June.

6 You have a copy of the Claim Docket dated
7 July 16, 2026, along with copies of the purchase orders
8 and check register.

9 You have First Merchants bank statements for
10 the month of June 2026 for accounts ending in 608 and
11 616, along with copies of the checks that were processed
12 during the month of June for the account ending in 608.

13 You have a copy of the BMO Trust and NonTrust
14 Reports summarizing our accounts dated June 30, 2026.

15 You have a copy of the Letter of Authorization
16 from the District to BMO dated June 22, 2026 that was
17 approved at last month's monthly Board meeting.

18 You have a copy of Board Resolution 2026-3
19 delegating authority of certain financial actions to the
20 Board's Finance Committee.

21 You have a copy of Tetra Tech's Monthly
22 Progress Report, invoice and budget summary for the
23 month of June dated June -- I mean July 1, 2026.

24 You have a copy of an updated project schedule
25 for the Grand Cal River Remediation Project.

1 You have a copy of the Grand Cal River
2 Remediation Project abstract that we submitted to the
3 Battelle Conference for their consideration. The same
4 abstract basically was also submitted for consideration
5 to the State of Lake Michigan Conference organized by
6 Purdue University and the Illinois Indiana Sea Grant.

7 You have a copy of Army Corps Report to the
8 Board dated July 16, 2026.

9 You have a copy of Attorney Ellen Gregory's
10 report to the Board with the revision date of July 13,
11 2026.

12 You have a copy of a red line of the District
13 bylaws summarizing the changes in the bylaws that the
14 Board recently approved. At the last Board meeting the
15 Board asked a summary of the changes. So I thought it
16 would be a good idea to include in your packet as a
17 refresher. You've seen this before, but that I had
18 thought it would be a good idea to include it to remind
19 you of the changes.

20 And finally you have a copy of emails
21 regarding the appointment of a new Board member. And
22 also I handed out a summary of the State of Lake
23 Michigan Call for Abstracts, which is a conference that
24 is being held by Purdue University. And on November 4th
25 through the 6th of this year at the Great Hall on Purdue

1 Northwest Westville campus.

2 So those are the items in your Board packet.
3 Go over a couple items. Regarding the action items on
4 today's agenda, we have the two routine monthly action
5 items, the Board minutes for the regular Board meeting
6 of June 18th and you have the Claim Docket with today's
7 date.

8 There's one additional action item on the
9 agenda, the Board Resolution 2026-3 delegating authority
10 of certain financial actions to the Board's Finance
11 Committee.

12 Regarding the District's finances the review
13 of the West Short Pipeline check that the District
14 received in the amount of \$23,527.50 that is ongoing.

15 There is one action item on today's agenda to
16 approve Board Resolution 2026-3 for approval
17 consideration and that's related to delegating authority
18 of certain financial actions to the Board's Finance
19 Committee. The intent of this process is to more
20 efficiently manage the District's financial affairs.
21 I'll be asking BMO to start working on opening a Money
22 Market fund at BMO in the event that we transfer and
23 hold funds from future expired CDs. Per the BMO
24 non-Trust report, a CD will be expiring on July 23,
25 which is next week. I will review the rates with BMO

1 and the Finance Committee then and if the Board approves
2 today's resolution, we'll make determination how to best
3 manage those funds from the matured CDC and execute the
4 next -- the necessary documents and report back to the
5 Board.

6 Vanessa Vargas of Clifton Larson Allen will be
7 presenting the District's monthly financial report.

8 Regarding the 2026 user fees, I will have
9 Attorney, Ellen Gregory, start reviewing whether there
10 are any changes to property owners along the waterway.

11 The following is an update on the Great Lakes
12 Legacy act projects regarding the Lake George Canal East
13 project. The design for the South Tank Farm Barrier
14 Wall Groundwater Management system is ongoing. ARBP has
15 reported that the design is at 60%.

16 The Corps is managing the Lake George Canal
17 East dredging project. The Corps' work on Phase II of
18 the Lake George Canal east dredging design is ongoing.
19 The Corps is working on finalizing design and is
20 currently reviewing and incorporating stakeholder
21 comments to the 90% design. Phase II of the Lake George
22 Canal east dredging is scheduled to be bid and awarded
23 this year. However, the start of the dredging will be
24 dependent on the contractor's schedule, but most likely
25 will start in 2027.

1 As reported in the past, the project currently
2 plans to use the local CDF to dispose of sediments
3 dredged from this project and the Cleveland Cliff Sep
4 dredging is currently forecasted to be done in 2028.

5 Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle CAP
6 project, the Army Corps is also managing that section of
7 the waterway. The CAP construction has been completed.
8 However, Eco Construction activities and adaptive
9 management plan activities are ongoing. The Army Corps
10 is currently coordinating field activities related to
11 the adaptive management plan.

12 Regarding the Lake George Canal West
13 Remediation Project, that work is ongoing and that
14 project is between EPA and BP. Based on the latest site
15 characterization data of the Lake George Canal West, BP
16 recommended no further action was necessary. The Corps
17 and EPA continued to assess BP's no further action
18 recommendation, which is currently expected to include
19 additional sampling. The Corps is currently reviewing
20 preliminary lab data from the sediment sampling.

21 Regarding the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches
22 Remediation project, the remedial design is ongoing.
23 Tetra Tech recently transmitted the 100% design package
24 to the project team. Ongoing projects activities
25 include junction marsh coordination, coordination with

1 the former city dump site, coordination with the
2 Marquette Trail project, the property access planning
3 and coordination, including pursuing various agreements
4 with certain property owners, community engagement. The
5 project team is tentatively scheduled to hold a public
6 meeting after our October 15th public meeting. The
7 project team continues to work on various permits
8 necessary for construction. A Grand Cal River
9 Remediation Project abstract was submitted to the
10 Battelle Conference as approved by the Board at our last
11 Board meeting for their consideration.

12 Since our last board meeting, another
13 opportunity came up to showcase our project at the State
14 of Lake Michigan Conference which is being organized by
15 Purdue University and the Illinois Indiana SEA Grant.
16 We received the request to submit a project abstract on
17 Friday and the abstract was due this past Monday.
18 Because of the short notice, I asked Carol Neeson,
19 Project Manager from Tetra Tech, to go ahead and submit
20 the abstract. And now that -- it happened prior to the
21 Board meeting. So because of the short time frame we
22 didn't get a chance to come to the Board first. So now
23 I'm asking the Board to ratify its submission to the
24 conference and if not we could withdraw the project
25 submission.

1 Tetra Tech Project Manager, Carol Neeson, is
2 in attendance. She'll be presenting a project update
3 regarding the Grand Cal River Junction Reaches schedule.
4 We're forecasting to complete the remedial design this
5 year. Contractor procurement process through the fourth
6 quarter of this year with contractor award in early
7 2027.

8 Mobilization and construction to begin in the
9 spring of 2027 and construction is anticipated to
10 continue for approximately two and a half years per the
11 latest project schedule which is in your Board packet.
12 The project is forecasted to be completed in the fourth
13 quarter of 2029.

14 Regarding Work in Kind reporting for the Great
15 Lakes Legacy Act Project in March of this year I
16 submitted the District 2020 five year end Work in Kind
17 report for EPA review and Consideration in the fourth
18 quarter of last year I submitted a proposed Work in Kind
19 report affiliated with the City Dump Project. EPA has
20 since submitted a response that they intend to approve
21 our proposal.

22 I continue to work on the City CSO Work in
23 Kind report to submit to EPA for their consideration.
24 EPA's review of our 2024 and prior year Work in Kind
25 report is ongoing and I've started working on the

1 District's Work in Kind report for the first half of
2 this year 2026.

3 Regarding the Canal Street Bridge, we received
4 an email update yesterday that CN is proposing to use a
5 60 x 60 foot rail barge bridge to allow periodic rail
6 traffic and it's forecasted to begin at the end of this
7 month. The way I understood the email is two days out
8 of the week they were going to use this floating barge
9 railway to continue railroad traffic across the canal.
10 So that'll be interesting to see.

11 MR. FEKETE: Is there a tugboat pushing into
12 position or is it self-propelled?

13 MR. TREVINO: Those details weren't on there.
14 But when it starts, I'll plan to go out there to take a
15 look at it. I'll share some pictures, too.

16 The Army Corps report to the Board dated
17 July 16, 2026 is in your packet. I believe Vaughn
18 Coolman from the Corps is in attendance today to
19 present an update to the Board.

20 Attorney Ellen Gregory will be providing an
21 update on various legal matters. And that's my update
22 to the Board.

23 MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Trevino?
24 Hearing none, we'll move on.

25 The next item is the approval consideration of

1 the Board meeting notes for our last meeting, which was
2 June 18, 2026.

3 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Approve.

4 MR. FEKETE: A second?

5 MR. ROBINSON: Second.

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

8 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

9 MR. FEKETE: Any objections? Abstention?
10 Hearing none. The motion is approved.

11 The next order is the approval consideration
12 for the accounts payable voucher dated July 16, 2026.

13 MR. ROBINSON: Motion to Approve.

14 MR. FEKETE: Do I have a second?

15 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

16 MR. FEKETE: Okay. We'll have a roll call
17 vote. Jalan Robinson?

18 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

19 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

21 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

23 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Guadalupe?

24 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

25 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

1 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

2 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete. Yeah. I vote yes.
3 That motion is approved. BMO trust and Nontrust
4 reports.

5 MR. TREVINO: We skipped over Vanessa.
6 Accounting consulting report.

7 MR. FEKETE: Accounting consultant report.
8 Yeah, let's back up and do that.

9 MR. TREVINO: Vanessa, you with us?

10 MS. VARGAS: Hi, everyone. Can you hear me
11 okay?

12 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

13 MS. VARGAS: All right. Vanessa Vargas with
14 BLA. In front of you, you have a copy of the financial
15 statement on a cash basis dated June 30, 2026. If you
16 turn to Page 2, we will begin with the Statement of Cash
17 Receipts and Cash Disbursements for the six months ended
18 June 30, 2026. You've earned interest income in the
19 amount of \$287,324.45. You've collected User Fees in
20 the amount of \$130,436.44. You had a trust transfer in
21 the amount of \$38,490.77 which brings your total receipt
22 to \$456,251.66.

23 Your total disbursements made up of the
24 various line items has totaled \$389,240.01. This brings
25 you to an increase in cash in the amount of \$67,011.65.

1 Your cash balance as of June or January 1st was
2 \$14,951,631.66. Your cash balance as of June 30th is
3 \$15,018,643.31.

4 If you turn to Page 3, we will continue with
5 the schedule of cash account activity for the six months
6 ended June 30, 2026. Your operating account began the
7 year with a cash balance on January 1st in the amount of
8 \$1,308,102.21. Your total interest earned was
9 \$18,675.35. You had a return bank service charge in the
10 amount of \$408.94. You had a trust transfer in the
11 amount of \$38,490.77, as well as a budget transfer in
12 the amount of \$437,191.52, which brings you to a total
13 deposit in the amount of \$494,766.58. Cash
14 disbursements has totaled \$389,648.95. This brings your
15 operating cash balance as of June 30, 2026 to
16 \$1,413,219.84.

17 Your User Fee account began the year with a
18 cash balance on January 1st in the amount of
19 \$1,900,236.71. Interest earned totaled \$24,300.03.
20 User fee collected totals \$130,436.44. For total
21 receipts of \$154,736.47.

22 You had a budget transfer disbursement in the
23 amount of \$437,191.52, bringing your user fee account
24 balance as the June 30th to \$1,617,781.56.

25 You began the year with CDs in the amount of

1 \$11,743,292.74. You earned interest in the amount of
2 \$244,349.07, bringing your CD balance as of June 30th to
3 \$11,987,641.81.

4 If you turn to Page 4, we will continue with
5 the schedule of 2026 available budget as of July 15th,
6 2026. Your 2026 budget appropriation totaled
7 \$1,553,089. Adding back in accounts payable dated
8 12/31/2025 in the amount of \$70,695.50 as well as budget
9 amendments in the amount of \$160,000 brought your 2026
10 total appropriations to \$1,783,784.50.

11 Cash disbursements for the six months ended
12 June 2026 totals \$389,240.01. You have a Claim docket
13 dated July 16, 2026 with the amount of \$89,349.47. This
14 brings your unused budget for 2026 to \$1,305,195.02.

15 Are there any questions?

16 MR. FEKETE: Thank you. Hearing None, thank
17 you. Okay, Now we can go on to the BMO Trust.

18 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So the Bob Santori wasn't
19 able to make it. So I'll give a summary of the trust
20 and the non-trust accounts. So starting with the
21 non-trust accounts, the total of all our accounts is
22 \$11,987,641.81. That total is the same from the end of
23 May and the end of June. So there was no change. So no
24 interest earned for the month. Interest earned year to
25 date \$244,349.07. And as I mentioned during my report,

1 there's one CD maturing on July 23, 2020. So I'll
2 circle back with Mr. Santori and the Finance Committee.

3 For the trust account, the total at the end of
4 May was \$4,220,260.95. And the end of June the total
5 was \$4,260,603.20 with a change of \$40,086.25. So
6 that's the interest that was earned from one month to
7 the other. And we don't have any CDs maturing around
8 the corner on the non-trust accounts. So that's a
9 summary of the BMO accounts?

10 MR. FEKETE: And as mentioned earlier, you're
11 going to check into the --

12 MR. TREVINO: Right. I'll check and confirm
13 that there was no interest earned for that month.

14 MR. FEKETE: It doesn't show any interest for
15 that whole list of prime money market CDs.

16 The next order of business is the approval
17 consideration for the Board Resolution 2026-3 the
18 Delegation of Authority to the Finance Committee.

19 MR. TREVINO: Yes. As I mentioned during my
20 report, with the opening of these various CDs with
21 the -- on the non-trust accounts, we're going to have
22 periodic CDs that mature in between Board meetings. And
23 I just think it makes sense to delegate the authority to
24 the Finance Committee to be able to give direction on
25 what to do with these expired CDs, where to transfer

1 them and sign the paperwork necessary to do it and then
2 report back to the Board. I think that's an efficient
3 way of managing it. So the recommendations to approve
4 this resolution, delegating the authority to the Finance
5 Committee. And Attorney Ellen Gregory obviously helped
6 draft the resolution. Do you have anything to add to
7 anything, Ellen?

8 MS. GREGORY: No.

9 MR. TREVINO: So the recommendations to
10 approve that Delegation Authority.

11 MR. FEKETE: I'll entertain a motion.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Motion accepted as stated.

13 MR. FEKETE: I have a second?

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

15 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Let's have a roll call
16 vote on this. Jalan Robinson?

17 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

18 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

20 MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

22 MR. FEKETE: Kevin Guadalupe?

23 MR. GUADALUPE: Yes.

24 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

25 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

1 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, I vote yes. That
2 motion is approved.

3 The next order of business is the Great Lakes
4 Legacy Act. Grand Cal River Junction Reaches Park
5 Project.

6 MR. TREVINO: Yes. Carol?

7 MS. NEESON: Yeah. Hi everybody. The update
8 for the Grand Cal Junction Reaches design project. We
9 submitted the 100% design on July 6th along with the
10 response to comment section. We also submitted an
11 updated remedial action schedule for the pageant.

12 We are currently preparing the updated cost
13 estimate for the remediation and we are currently
14 responding to permanent application questions.

15 We have been coordinating and attending
16 Marquette Trail meetings and East Chicago City Dump
17 meetings.

18 We did receive the Section 401 Water Solid
19 certification. So that action is complete. We did
20 submit the abstract to the Batelle Conference and we
21 used the same abstract for the Lake Michigan Conference
22 because it came out very quickly.

23 That's about it. Any questions?

24 MR. TREVINO: If there's no questions, Mr.
25 President, I made the recommendation during my report

1 about the abstract that we had to submit for the State
2 of Lake Michigan Conference. And because of the short
3 notice, we didn't have time to bring it before the
4 Board. We had the email inquiry on Friday and the
5 abstract was due on Monday. So I'm asking the Board to
6 ratify the submittal of the Grand Cal River Project
7 abstract to the State of Lake Michigan Conference.

8 MR. FEKETE: Would this be similar to what
9 we're thinking about presenting in January?

10 MR. TREVINO: Yes. It'd be very similar.

11 MR. FEKETE: So like a dress rehearsal?

12 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Probably. Yes. It'll be
13 on a smaller scale probably.

14 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

15 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

16 MR. FEKETE: This is a -- well, that's good.

17 MR. TREVINO: That's good.

18 MR. FEKETE: Because any questions that can
19 come up, you'd be prepared.

20 MR. TREVINO: We could fine tune it for the
21 bigger conference.

22 MR. BAKOTA: What's the location of this,
23 Westville?

24 MR. TREVINO: Yeah, Westville, Indiana.

25 MR. FEKETE: I thought they'd have it more

1 north here. So you were asking --

2 MR. TREVINO: I'm asking for the Board to
3 approve the submittal of this abstract to the State of
4 Lake Michigan Conference.

5 MR. FEKETE: I'll entertain a motion?

6 MR. ROBINSON: Motion to approve as stated.

7 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

8 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

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

11 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

12 MR. FEKETE: Any abstentions, objections?

13 (NO RESPONSE)

14 MR. FEKETE: Hearing none. The motion is
15 approved.

16 MR. TREVINO: Thank you.

17 MS. NEESON: Thank you.

18 MR. FEKETE: Okay. The U.S. Army Corps of
19 Engineers report. You have something?

20 MR. TREVINO: Vaughn, you with us? Can you
21 put that up a little bit, Ellen.

22 MR. FEKETE: Sure.

23 MR. COOLMAN: Good to see everyone. Got a
24 full house tonight out there, huh?

25 MR. TREVINO: Yes.

1 MR. COOLMAN: Before I get to the report, I
2 did want to ask, since we are starting the maintenance
3 dredging in early September and we would like to do a
4 public meeting with the contractor similar to what we
5 did in 2024 when Jack Hanson from Rowan Salvage came out
6 and we did the public meeting with questions and
7 everything after one of the public board meetings.

8 I was wondering if it would be possible if
9 Rowan Salvage is able to make it next month, I believe
10 it's on the 20th, the August public board meeting. If
11 we could hold the public dredging informational meeting
12 immediately after that, either 6 p.m. as we did before?
13 I don't know if you guys need to vote on that or how
14 that works.

15 MR. TREVINO: Yes. We've typically have
16 supported all the public meetings affiliated with the
17 projects and the work going along the waterways. So
18 that's consistent to what we've done. Do you want to
19 ask -- make a motion to -- and Vaughn, you, the Army
20 Corps would be responsible for the proper advertising
21 for the public meeting, correct?

22 MR. COOLMAN: Right. I think so. Yeah, or
23 Rowan.

24 MR. TREVINO: Right. Or whoever. I mean, in
25 other words, you're not asking the District to do any

1 advertising for it?

2 MR. COOLMAN: No.

3 MR. FEKETE: Okay. So I'll entertain a motion
4 to move the Army Corps going ahead and preparing and
5 advertising the public meeting.

6 MR. TREVINO: At the August 20th Board
7 meeting, correct?

8 MR. FEKETE: Yeah, correct.

9 MR. TREVINO: So let's -- okay, let's say six
10 o'clock. Vaughn?

11 MR. COOLMAN: That sounds good.

12 MR. TREVINO: Okay.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

14 MR. FEKETE: We have a motion?

15 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

16 MR. FEKETE: We have a second?

17 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

18 MR. FEKETE: All in favor, signify by saying
19 "aye".

20 (A CHORUS OF AYES)

21 MR. FEKETE: That motion is approved.

22 MR. COOLMAN: All right. Thank you. Moving
23 on to the report. The water treatment plant did start
24 full operations about two weeks ago right at the
25 beginning of July. They didn't quite make the June 18th

1 date that they had stated that was in the June Board
2 report. Took them a couple more weeks. But they are up
3 and fully operational and will be operating for around
4 five years.

5 We're still working on closing out all of the
6 document, contract documents with the dyke raise at the
7 CDF. We expect that to be complete by the end of
8 September, if everything goes well. And for dredging,
9 like I said, Rowan Salvage is the contractor for the
10 maintenance dredging and they'll be starting -- their
11 mobilization right now is set for the 8th of September
12 2026. And we're currently working on the plans and
13 specs for the harder to pump material that is found in
14 the canals and the harbor. And we'll be advertising and
15 awarding that later this fall, probably in October or
16 November with an award slated for November. I forgot to
17 put that in the report, but that is the current status
18 of that project.

19 And we are using the sediment sampling, the
20 coring, the penetrometer test, all the data that we got
21 from when ERDC, the Engineer Research & Development
22 Center and the team from the University of Florida when
23 they came up last summer and performed those tests. We
24 were still using that data to target the more difficult
25 to pump areas of sediment.

1 For the oil boom coordination, the contractor
2 is actively maintaining and operating. And I believe
3 there was a question in between Board meetings or maybe
4 it was at the last one about how active they are. And I
5 think, Fernando, you got a reply from Natalie on the
6 scheduling on that?

7 MR. TREVINO: Yes, yes. She did reply. I
8 don't know if -- did you have anything to add?

9 MR. COOLMAN: No. Just put it in there since
10 we have the section here. So, yeah, I just wanted to
11 make sure that we had that reply. And they check weekly
12 or they check on a schedule. So they should be -- but I
13 think if you do notice anything, please feel free to
14 reach out to us because if there has, that might
15 indicate that there's been an event or something like
16 that and we might need to get out there and deal with
17 it.

18 For the parkway, as per usual, inspecting the
19 parkway once a month and cleaning and removing debris
20 and the rail bridge elision. Fernando talked about that
21 earlier and he has more information than I do. The U.S.
22 Coast Guard is the lead federal agency on that. And
23 like Fernando said, they're planning on doing two days a
24 week or two days on and some days off or whatever their
25 schedule is with that rail barge. And then design is

1 ongoing for replacing the bridge. And that's all I
2 have. Are there any questions?

3 MR. BAKOTA: Yes. This is John Bakota. I
4 have a question on the oil boom. It's installation of
5 tide slides for oil booms, what is that?

6 MR. COOLMAN: There was a question a couple
7 meetings ago about the tide slides. And basically I had
8 never heard that phrase or term before. But it's
9 actually, it's really just kind of channels on the side
10 of the canal that allow the oil booms to move up and
11 down freely with the height of the water in the canal.
12 So rather than being like tethered at the top or
13 tethered at the bottom, they're able to move vertically
14 up and down with the depth of the water in the canal.

15 MR. BAKOTA: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. This
16 one. Thank you very much.

17 MR. COOLMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. So the next one is
19 Attorney Ellen Gregory's report.

20 MR. FEKETE: Okay. I just somehow overlooked
21 it. Next order of business is the attorney Ellen
22 Gregory's report.

23 MS. GREGORY: I've been working with
24 Mr. Trevino on the delegation to the Finance Committee
25 regarding Resolution 2026-3, which was just approved.

1 Also coordinating with Tetra Tech on ongoing issues,
2 permit issues with respect to the venture project. And
3 then looking forward, as mentioned, Mr. Trevino
4 mentioned looking into property ownership to make sure
5 that there has been no property ownership changes so
6 that we can move forward.

7 MR. FEKETE: Hey, any questions? Thank you
8 very much. Any other business or new business or
9 announcements?

10 MR. TREVINO: Sounds like we're going to have
11 a public meeting after our August Board meeting when the
12 Corps is going to present their dredging projects. So
13 looking forward to that.

14 MR. FEKETE: I have one question. Any updates
15 on the railroad bridge?

16 MR. TREVINO: We had heard it was going to be
17 demolished. So regarding the schedule of its demolition
18 and the construction of the new one, we have not. The
19 only updates we've received was this temporary rail
20 barge that's going to be used to get traffic, you know,
21 across the canal on a temporary basis. But that's the
22 only update we've received.

23 MR. FEKETE: And kind of along the same line,
24 there was that sinkhole issue that was there. Has that
25 been resolved or we just --

1 MR. TREVINO: I haven't seen any updates on
2 there. But I'm assuming since this bridge is going to
3 be demolished, that might be worked into the overall
4 project because there's going to be, you know,
5 significant earth movement.

6 MR. FEKETE: Are they using barges now to move
7 the --

8 MR. TREVINO: That's the --

9 MR. FEKETE: -- to move the oil?

10 MR. TREVINO: No. Are they -- you didn't
11 finish. Are they using barges, you mean to traverse
12 past the -- I think they are. I think the barges are
13 still ongoing. So this -- the way I understand this
14 temporary barge that's going to help get railroad
15 traffic across the canal, it's just gonna, gonna be
16 moved every, you know, gonna be moved into place when
17 they need it and moved out.

18 MR. FEKETE: Have you seen that?

19 MS. GREGORY: No. They're starting to use the
20 barges at the end of July. So we're not out there yet.

21 MR. TREVINO: What's that?

22 MS. GREGORY: Bob just reported that the
23 barges are going to start being used at the end of July.
24 So they're not out there now. So nobody's seen them
25 being used.

1 MR. TREVINO: You mean the rail. The barge to
2 get across. That's the email that I got too, was that
3 the barge, this temporary barge that's going to get
4 railroad traffic across the canal is supposed to be
5 implemented at the end of this month. So we'll, we'll,
6 we'll find out by the next, by the next Board meeting.

7 MR. FEKETE: I'd like to see that.

8 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. That'll be interesting.
9 Yeah, that's going to be interesting. As long as it
10 works, right.

11 MR. FEKETE: You mentioned the alignment of
12 the tracks and everything.

13 MR. TREVINO: See, I was thinking, you know,
14 if they, if they are using the barge that they're
15 probably using, I'm assuming they're going to use spuds
16 that are going to go down into the ground and anchor in.
17 I don't know this, but I was using my, my imagination on
18 how because if not the barge is going to be moving them.
19 You know, we'll find out.

20 MR. FEKETE: How do you stabilize the barges
21 against rail cars?

22 MR. TREVINO: Well, that's what I'm saying.
23 That's why I thought they would use, you know, spuds
24 into the -- to anchor it to be steady. But we'll find
25 out.

1 MR. BAKOTA: Then they would have to move them
2 for traffic.

3 MR. TREVINO: Right. The spuds would come up,
4 but the spuds would come up and then they'd move.
5 That's how I visualized it. We'll find out. We'll find
6 out how.

7 MR. FEKETE: Well, it was just, just a
8 question. Any other, any other items to bring up for
9 discussion or comment?

10 Well, our next meeting is August 20, 2026 at
11 5:00 p.m. at this facility. Entertain a Motion to
12 Adjourn.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to Adjourn.

14 MR. FEKETE: Have a second?

15 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

16 MR. FEKETE: All those in favor say "aye".

17 (A CHORUS OF AYES")

18 MR. FEKETE: Thanks everybody. Have a great
19 night.

20

21 (WHEREUPON the hearing was
22 was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.)

23

24

25

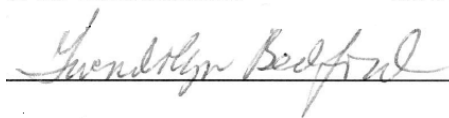
STATE OF INDIANA)
)
COUNTY OF L A K E)

C E R T I F I C A T E

The within and foregoing hearing was taken before GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, Certified Shorthand Reporter in the City of Gary, County of Lake and State of Indiana, and there were present at the interview Counsel as previously set forth.

The undersigned is not interested in the within case, nor of kin or counsel to any of the parties.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of August, 2026.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gwendolyn Bedford", is written over a horizontal line.

GWENDOLYN BEDFORD, C.S.R.

No. 084-003700