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2	EAST CHICAGO WATERWAY MANAGEMENT
3	DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
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5	City of East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building
6	4444 Railroad Avenue
7	East Chicago, Indiana
8	
9	May 16, 2024
10	5:00 p.m.
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13	The second secon
14	Transcript of the East Chicago Waterway Management
15	District Board of Directors' Meeting had in the
ТЭ	above-entitled matter on the 16th day of May,
1 ~	2024, commencing at 5:00 p.m., taken at City of
16	East Chicago, Engineering/Annex Building, 4444
1 17	Railroad Avenue, East Chicago, Indiana, and via
17	Zoom Video/Telephone conference, before Dawn M.
1 0	Iseminger, RPR, and Notary Public, within and for
18	the County of Porter, State of Indiana.
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	Page 3
1	MR. FEKETE: Okay. I'd like to call to order
2	the East Chicago Waterway Management District
3	Board of Director's regular public board meeting.
4	Today's date is May 16, 2024, and the time is
5	5:03.
6	The first order of business is a roll
7	call. Jaylan Robinson?
8	MR. ROBINSON: Here.
9	MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?
10	(No response.)
11	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?
12	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.
13	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?
14	MR. LOPEZ: Here.
15	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, here. We have a
16	quorum.
17	The executive director's report is the
18	next item. Mr. Trevino?
19	MR. TREVINO: Yes. Fernando Trevino. with

MR. TREVINO: Yes. Fernando Trevino, with FMT Consulting. I'd like to start off by going over the contents of your board packet. You have a copy of today's meeting agenda. You have a copy of the public meeting posting for today's meeting. You have the board minutes for April 18, 2024, board meeting. You have today's claim docket

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dated May 16, 2024, along with copies of purchase orders and the check register. You have a copy of the CliftonLarsenAllen financial report dated April 30, 2024, for the month of April. That was emailed earlier today and hard copies provided at today's board meeting.

You have a copy of First Merchant Bank statements for the month of April, 2024, for accounts ending in 608 and 616. Also included are two CD reports for accounts ending in 063 and 321 with run dates of May 13th, 2024.

You have a copy of the BMO trust report dated April 30, 2024. You have a letter dated May 2, 2024, from the Army Corps of Engineers, Colonel Kenneth Rockwell, related to the underwater obstruction near the former Canal Street bridge. You have a copy of Tetra Tech's monthly progress report and invoice dated May 10, 2024, for the month of April. And that's related to the Grand Cal' River remedial design and remediation project.

You have a copy of Jacob's sheet pile wall construction project monthly progress report for the month of April, dated April 29, 2024.

You have a copy of the Army Corps report to the

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board dated May 16, 2024. You have a copy of Attorney Ellen Gregory's report to the board with the revision date of May 14, 2024. You have a copy of the fully executed MOU between the district and the City of East Chicago related to the underwater obstruction near the former Canal Street bridge. You have a copy of the district's Great Lakes Legacy Act Grand Cal' River remediation project proposal to EPA with an amendment date of May 8, 2024. And you have an email from me to the State Board of Accounts dated May 14, 2024, inquiring about their invoice for their audit services. And a copy of the State Board of Account's invoice and their invoice transmittal letter is also attached.

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A few things to report on. Regarding the action items on today's meeting agenda, we only have two items on today's agenda. The April 18, 2024, board minutes and today's claim docket.

An update on our finances. As the board is aware, the State Board of Accounts has concluded their audit for the East Chicago Waterway Management District for the period of

2019 through 2023, and it was concluded without any reportable instances of noncompliance. We received an invoice for their services, which was \$10,486 and some change, which is more than double than we had originally anticipated. I sent them an email just to make sure there weren't any errors and to see if their invoicing process for the district has changed from prior years. As I mentioned, a copy of the invoice on the email inquiry is included in your packet. We will need a budget amendment to pay for the invoice, and I expect the inquiry to be resolved in the next couple weeks, so we'll have the budget amendment proposal ready at the June board meeting.

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Last month the \$2.25 million was successfully transferred to the City of East Chicago, and that was consistent with the district's MOU with the City and the letter of authorization both approved by the board. The CDARS the district had with First Merchants expired this month, and the balance was transferred to our money market account at First Merchants. There were a couple additional deposits that we had in the month of

March to our First Merchants money market account and from Peoples Bank; and that was affiliated with the closing of the tipping fee and dredging escrow accounts. Vanessa Vargas will be providing her financial report later on the agenda.

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Regarding user fees, the work on the 2024 user fees is ongoing. Regarding the PCA amendment, as a reminder we received \$2.698 million from the Corps related to the PCA amendment.

Regarding the tipping fee agreement amendment, we did receive a payment from Cleveland-Cliffs. However, based on our calculation, it appears they're short approximately \$316,000 and some change. We've sent Cleveland-Cliffs a letter and a couple emails informing them of the shortfall. I talked to Tom Barnett earlier today from Cleveland-Cliffs, and he thought they had responded and he's looking into their response, so hopefully we'll have a response soon.

Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act project, the south tank farm sheet pile wall construction is basically completed. As I mentioned, Jacob's

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monthly progress report for the month of April is in your packet. Although the physical construction of the wall is completed, groundwater management system will continue to be fine-tuned for some time.

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Regarding the Lake George canal east section, the Corps is managing the dredging project on EPA's behalf. The Corps has received and is reviewing the data from additional environmental sediment samples that were collected last year, and they're planning to collect additional geotechnical samples sometime this spring.

Phase two dredging of the Lake George canal east and the balance of the Cleveland-Cliffs' SEP dredging along with the orphan areas are forecasted to be done in 2025. The project team has started discussions regarding the modification of the project agreement and cost share strategies. Regarding the Lake George canal middle cap project, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing this area on EPA's behalf. The main part of the cap project is now completed, and eco construction activities were performed earlier this year.

Regarding the Lake George canal west remedial project, that work is between BP and EPA and that work is ongoing.

Regarding the Grand Cal' River junction reaches remedial design and remediation planning, the district officially submitted a Great Lakes Legacy Act project proposal for the remediation of the Grand Cal' River junction reaches, and the proposal is to remediate that area in one phase versus two phases, which was how the project was originally proposed a couple of years ago.

The district gave a project presentation to EPA's technical review committee on May 2nd. The presentation was given by myself and Jim Wescott, from Tetra Tech, and our Board President, John Fekete, was able to attend.

I want to thank EPA and their stakeholders for the opportunity to present our project, and Tetra Tech's project manager, Jim Wescott, who did a great job on the presentation.

The board might recall at the last board meeting, the board approved an outline of the project proposal, which was finalized and submitted, and a copy of that proposal is in

your board packet. The proposal is for approximately \$48 million in federal dollars for the remediation of our waterway and \$26 million in local cost share.

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We are now waiting for questions from EPA's technical review committee, and we'll respond as soon as we get those. And then EPA will go through their internal review process; so we should hear back from them within two months or so. If the project is given a green light, then we'll start drafting and negotiating a project agreement.

In the meantime, Tetra Tech continues to work on the remedial design. The project team continues to have biweekly project team meetings to discuss various project topics, including coordination of the additional site investigation plan, remedial design completion, property access coordination, permit applications, junction marsh coordination, coordination with the former city dump, and community engagement.

Regarding the Grand Cal' River junction reaches, remediation schedule in 2024, we're forecasting to complete the remedial design, to complete the project agreement. And in 2025,

would be the start of construction.

Regarding our cost sharing reporting, I've submitted our work-in-kind annual report for 2023, and we are waiting to hear any comments they may have. A meeting was held with EPA on April 23rd to assess the district's available cost share. Jim Wescott of Tetra Tech is present today and can provide additional updates and answer any questions. On April 30th, we had the Grand Calumet stewardship day. And that was held at the Seidner Dune and Swale Nature Preserve. And that was held with students from three classes from East Chicago's Mckinley elementary school. And the event went quite well and the weather was really great, so it was a nice event.

Regarding the Canal Street bridge project, as you're aware the dolphin project has been completed. However, at last month's board meeting I reported that there was an underwater obstruction identified near the former bridge. There have been various meetings with stakeholders on the matter, including a site visit that was held on April 18th with representatives from the Corps and BP. The City asked the District to manage this situation on their behalf. And

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because the bridge belongs to the City and the last MOU was specific to the dolphin project, we entered into a new MOU related to the underwater obstruction, and that MOU has been observed by both parties. And as I mentioned, a fully executed MOU is in your board packet.

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Since our last board meeting, the Corps sent the City a letter dated May 2, 2024 -- that's in your board packet -- asking the city to remove the obstruction. Attorney Ellen Gregory and I have been working on a response. We've asked AECOM to review our draft letter, and we anticipate finalizing and sending the Corps our response letter no later than next week.

Regarding the old Cline Avenue bridge, we are in the early assessment of the prospect of removing the old Cline Avenue bridge. We've had a couple meetings and calls on the matter with various stakeholders, including IDEM,

Lake County, and NIPSCO. Some of the questions we are pursuing include, "Are there any live utilities on or near the bridge? And are there any objections from removing the bridge by any of the three cities that the bridge is located

within, " which is East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond.

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Regarding the Atlantic Richfield settlement agreement, the property affiliated with that agreement was transferred in January of this year. The \$4.5 million affiliated with the settlement agreement has been received. As part of our MOU with the City, we were to send them \$2.25 million that was affiliated with that settlement agreement, and that has been successfully transferred and received by the City, and the project team continues to work on completing various ancillary action items that are affiliated with the settlement agreement.

Regarding the Corps' report, that's in your packet. Project manager, Mike Nguyen, is in attendance in person and will be providing an update to the board later on the agenda.

We've been trying to schedule a CDF tour date with the board and the last few dates have been unsuccessful. I was trying to get the full board to attend and maybe we can try to schedule something during today's meeting.

Attorney Ellen Gregory will be giving an update on various legal matters. And then the

last update, the City of East Chicago held a team up/clean up community day on April 19th.

A few of our fellow board members and myself were able to attend. Our assignment was painting the various street and sidewalk curbs, which was a lot of fun and it created some team building and some special bonding. So I want to thank the board members that were able to attend, and Jaylan Robinson for his efforts in coordinating the community event.

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That concludes my report.

MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Trevino?

(No response.)

MR. FEKETE: Thank you for your report. The next order of business is the approval consideration of the board meeting notes for last month's meeting, which was April 18, 2024. I will entertain a motion to approve.

MR. LOPEZ: Motion to approve.

MR. FEKETE: Do I have a second?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

MR. FEKETE: Roll call vote, because we have a board member that's with us with Zoom. Jaylan Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

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MR. FEKETE: It says "4" on the sheet.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: She said "4."

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MS. VARGAS: Yes. It was \$4,913.996.81, and that is net of the MOU mentioned by Fernando earlier.

You had total disbursements in the amount of \$453,865.48. This brings you to an increase in cash totaling \$4,897,283.16. You began the year with a cash balance on January 1st in the amount of \$8,709,684.13. Your cash balance as of April 30th, 2024, is \$13,606,967.29.

If you turn to Page 3, we will continue with the schedule of cash account activities for the four-month ended April 30, 2024. Your operating account began the year with a cash balance on January 1 in the amount of \$1,121,983.80.

You've earned interest totaling \$14,891.52. You've had cash disbursements totaling \$453,848.48. You received a trust transfer in the amount of \$251,083.25, as well as a budget transfer in the amount of \$278,830.16. This brings your operating cash balance as of April 30th to \$1,212,940.25. Your user fee account began the year with a

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cash balance on January 1 in the amount of \$5,224,499.34. You've earned interest totaling \$116,383.22. You've had cash disbursements and a budget transfer totaling \$4,028,847.16, as well as received user fees in the amount of \$3,760.85, and other income transfer totaling \$7,163,996.81. This brings your user fee account balance as of April 30th to \$8,479,793.06. You began the year with CDs totaling \$2,363,200.99. You've earned interest totaling \$51,032.99. You purchased a new CD in the amount of \$1 million, and purchased CDARS in the amount of \$500,000. Bringing your CD balance as of April 30th to \$3,914,233.98.

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Turn to Page 4. We will continue with the schedule of 2024 available budget as of May 16, 2024. Your 2024 budget appropriation totaled \$1,306,000. Adding back in accounts payable dated 12/31/2022 totaling \$345,897.21, which brings your 2024 total appropriation to \$1,651,897.21. You've had cash disbursements for the four months ended April 2024 totaling \$453,865.48. And in front of you, you have a claims docket dated May 16, 2024, totaling \$39,100.47. This brings your unused budget to

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1	\$1,158,931.26.
2	Are there any questions?
3	(No response.)
4	MR. FEKETE: Hearing none
5	MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.
6	MR. FEKETE: the next order of business is
7	the approval consideration for the accounts
8	payable voucher register dated May 16th, 2024. Do
9	I hear a motion to approve?
10	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Motion to approve.
11	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Do we have a second?
12	MR. LOPEZ: Second.
13	MR. FEKETE: We have a second. Roll call
14	vote. John Bakota?
15	(No response.)
16	MR. FEKETE: Jaylan Robinson?
17	MR. ROBINSON: Yes.
18	MR. FEKETE: Henry Rodriguez?
19	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
20	MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?
21	MR. LOPEZ: Yes.
22	MR. FEKETE: John Fekete, I vote yes. That
23	motion is approved. Thank you.
24	Canal Street bridge project update.
25	MR. TREVINO: Yes. Mr. President, I gave the

update during my executive director's report, so nothing new to add.

MR. FEKETE: Okay. Hearing no questions, the next item is the Great Lakes Legacy Act Grand Cal' River junction reach remedial design project update.

MR. TREVINO: Yeah. Jim?

MR. WESCOTT: Fernando covered a lot of it.

The main things are we're working on permit
applications. As we've talked in the past, we
applied for the permits already but because we're
expanding the project to do both phase one, phase
two, we have to reapply. So we're working on
putting the permit applications together. And
we'll submit those once the project proposal has
been accepted, and probably later in this summer.

We did participate in the technical proposal committee meeting with Fernando. I don't know the feedback that we got, but it went very well. We'll probably get a few questions in the next week or so -- probably after the holiday. And then I'll work with Fernando to address those.

Then it should just be smooth sailing, at least from a project proposal standpoint.

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Are there any questions?

(No response.)

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MR. FEKETE: Hearing none, thank you very much, Jim.

MR. WESCOTT: Thank you.

MR. FEKETE: Sheet pile wall project update?

MR. TREVINO: Yes. That item, too, I provided an update during my executive director's report, so nothing new to add on that project.

MR. FEKETE: BMO trust report?

MR. TREVINO: Yes. Is Bob Santore on the call?

MS. GREGORY: He's not.

MR. TREVINO: He's not. Let me get to that report and I can give a quick summary on it.

So as mentioned, BMOs trust report is in your packet dated April 30th. The certificate of deposit is currently at 3.34 percent, with a maturity date of December 18, 2024, and the amount is \$3.649 million and some change.

Regarding the prime money market account ending in 712, the balance as of April 30th is \$343,200.84. And the difference between the trust account balance at the beginning of the month to the end of the month, the difference

1	is \$393.60. And the total, the grand total of
2	both accounts is \$3,992,618.78. And that
3	concludes the BMO trust report.
4	MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions.
5	(No response.)

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MR. FEKETE: Moving along. The next order of business is the Army Corps of Engineers report.

MR. NGUYEN: Hi. Mike Nguyen, with the Army Corps of Engineers. First of all, I want to introduce Mr. Vaughn Coolman. He will be taking over as project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers.

MR. FEKETE: Where are you going?

MR. NGUYEN: I will be working on the electric fish baiter project. So I'll be with you guys through this month and probably a little next month while we do the transition. And so welcome Mr. Coolman on board.

MR. FEKETE: And you have his name?

COURT REPORTER: Yes.

MR. NGUYEN: So for the update for the CDF for the facility operation, our contracting is still working to develop the acquisition strategy. We coordinated with the small business. Hopefully we can get the contracts advertised and awarded

within the next month or two. So once it's awarded, treatment will start within the next few months; so we're targeting treatment to start probably later on in the summer.

The dike raise phase two construction is still ongoing. The construction completion date is still scheduled for June. We actually do have a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for 17, June. We will be sending that invite to ECWMD East Chicago, Indiana, One.

For the dredging contract, that contract was awarded to Roen Salvage. They're going to start construction -- or dredging probably after the Labor Day. And right now they proposed a tentative date of June 20th for the dredging public meeting. That's right after the next board meeting. So if there's any issues or anything else, we could reschedule it. That's always been the schedule for these dredging public meetings, just right after the board meeting.

MR. TREVINO: Mike, it's been a while since we had one of those. Will the Corps advertise that?

MR. NGUYEN: We will put a notice out. We've

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coordinated with our public affairs office and Roen Salvage. They're trying to prepare a presentation, so I'll get with our public affairs office and put some kind of notice out for this dredging public meeting.

MR. TREVINO: Okay.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

MR. NGUYEN: And then the oil boom, there's nothing to report. And for the parkway, we're continuing to maintain the parkway. We're inspecting it and cleaning it as needed. That's all I have.

MR. FEKETE: Any questions for Mr. Nguyen?

MR. TREVINO: No questions but I did want to thank Mike for his years of cooperation and service and working with our waterway district.

How long have you been the project manager for us

now?

MR. NGUYEN: I think it was back in probably

2010, or something -- 2011 or before then.

MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

MR. NGUYEN: And then I got off a little bit because they put me on the barrier. I got off the barrier, went back to Indiana Harbor, and now they are pulling me back to the barrier.

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MR. TREVINO: Here is a list of things Mike 1 2 has helped us with. We have successfully done the multi-year dredging and disposal operations of the 3 federal navigation channel, the CDF dike raising 4 5 project. He was the one that took the lead on the 6 Indy Boulevard Parkway improvement and its ongoing 7 cleanup efforts, and then the multi-year very complicated PCA amendment that we finally 8 9 concluded, I don't know, a year or two ago, and 10 then the final accounting. And so, Mike, I want 11 to thank all your efforts with the Waterway 12 Management District over the years. 13 MR. NGUYEN: Thank you. 14 MR. TREVINO: We appreciate it.

MR. NGUYEN: It was a pleasure working with everyone. I know that the agreement took longer. You rotated through several PMs but I was the one who carried it over the finish line.

All right. Thank you.

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MR. LOPEZ: Good luck.

MR. FEKETE: Next up is the Attorney Ellen Gregory report.

MS. GREGORY: Yes. Ellen Gregory with Ellen Gregory Law. A couple of matters that I continue to work with Mr. Trevino on in terms of the legal

MR. FEKETE: All in favor, signify by say

	Page 26
1	"aye."
2	(All signify "aye")
3	MR. FEKETE: Any objections? Abstentions?
4	(No response.)
5	MR. FEKETE: The next board meeting is
6	June 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. This meeting is
7	concluded. Thank you all for your participation.
8	- MEETING ADJOURNED -
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I, Dawn M. Iseminger, Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), and Notary Public within and for the County of Porter, State of Indiana, do hereby certify that I appeared on the aforementioned date, time, and location, for the East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of Directors' Meeting.

I further certify that I then and there reported in machine shorthand the proceedings of said Special Meeting, and that the testimony was then reduced to typewriting from my original shorthand notes, and the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related by blood or marriage to any of the parties, nor am I an employee of any of the parties or of their attorneys or agents, nor am I interested in any way, financially or otherwise, in the outcome of said litigation.

ne, 2024.

Daven M. Sseminger Dawn M. Iseminger, RPR

My Commission expires: 9/22/2025