

East Chicago Waterway Management District  
Board of Directors Regular Public Board Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2025

5:08 p.m.

City of East Chicago, Engineering Annex Building  
4444 Railroad Avenue  
East Chicago, IN 46312

Reported by: Vanessa Gonzalez

JOB NO: 7113217

A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Fernando M. Trevino, Executive Director

John Fekete, Board President

Carol Nissen, Tetra Tech

Bob Santore, BMO Harris

Monica Johnson, CliftonLarsonAllen

Vanessa Vargas, CliftonLarsonAllen

Vaughn Coolman, Army Corp of Engineers

Project Manager

Ellen Gregory, Ellen Gregory Law

Mark Mathley, First Merchants

John Bakota, Board Member

Ray Lopez, Board Member

Henry Rodriguez, Board Member

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

2 MR. FEKETE: Let's get started. The  
3 East Chicago Waterway Management District Board of  
4 Directors Regular Public Board Meeting. Today's date  
5 is January 16th, and the time is 5:08.

6 I'll call the meeting to order.  
7 Jaylan Robinson? Henry Rodriguez?

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.

9 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

10 MR. BAKOTA: Here.

11 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

12 MR. LOPEZ: Here.

13 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? Here.

14 We have a quorum.

15 Executive Director's Report,  
16 Mr. Trevino?

17 MR. TREVINO: Yes. I'd like to go --  
18 start off by going over the contents of your board  
19 packet. You have a copy of today's agenda. You have  
20 a copy of the public meeting posting for today's  
21 meeting. You have The Board minutes for December 19,  
22 2024. You have today's claim docket dated January 16,  
23 2025, along with copies of the purchase orders and  
24 check register.

25 You have a copy of the

1 CliftonLarsonAllen financial report dated December 31,  
2 2024, for the month of December, which was emailed to  
3 you earlier today, and hard copies provided at today's  
4 board meeting. You have a copy of the 2025 iPad  
5 Purchase Options Summary dated January 16, 2025. You  
6 have a Verizon iPad Equipment Options and Affiliated  
7 Costs.

8 You have Tetra Tech's Monthly Progress  
9 Report, Invoice, and Budget Summary for December, and  
10 that's dated January 8, 2025. You have a copy of  
11 Tetra Tech's 2025 Contract and Scope Of Work Proposal  
12 and that's for Board approval consideration. You have  
13 a letter from IDEM dated December 9th approving the  
14 District's 2025 Trust Budget and an EPA letter dated  
15 January 13th approving the District's 2025 Trust  
16 Budget.

17 You have First Merchants Bank  
18 statements for the month of December 2024 for accounts  
19 ending in 608 and 616. Also included is copies of two  
20 user-free deposits, both dated December 11th of 2024.  
21 And you have a letter from attorney Ellen Gregory to  
22 First Merchants dated December 26, 2024, requesting  
23 First Merchants waive financial penalties for early  
24 withdrawal of two CDs that we had requested to be  
25 transferred into the District's money market accounts.

1                   You have a copy of the letter of  
2                   authorization dated December 26th from board member  
3                   Ray Lopez to First Merchants requesting a transfer of  
4                   the two CDs into the District's money market account.  
5                   And an email from Debbie Milne of First Merchants  
6                   dated December 30, 2024, confirming the transfer of  
7                   the two CDs into the money market and also confirming  
8                   First Merchant's decision to waive penalties.

9                   You have a copy of the BMO Trust  
10                  Reports dated December 31, 2024. You have a copy of  
11                  the Army Corps Report to The Board dated January 16,  
12                  2025, and you have a copy of the Attorney  
13                  Ellen Gregory Report to The Board with a revision date  
14                  of January 15, 2025.

15                 Go over a couple items. Regarding the  
16                 action items on today's agenda, we have two  
17                 traditional action items of The Board, which are the  
18                 board minutes and the monthly claim docket. And you  
19                 have five additional items as we do at the beginning  
20                 of the year. We have the election of officers. We  
21                 have the appointment of the finance committee, members  
22                 and chairman of the finance committee as well.

23                 You have approval consideration of the  
24                 purchase of iPads, approval consideration of a no  
25                 objection letter for use of the CDF, and approval

1 consideration of the Tetra Tech contract regarding the  
2 Grand Cal River Junction Reaches.

3           Regarding the District's finances for  
4 funds held at First Merchants, at the last board  
5 meeting, The Board approved transferring the  
6 District's two CDs, which had low interest rates, into  
7 the money market. And we also requested First  
8 Merchants to waive the penalties for the early  
9 withdrawals. The two CDs have since been closed,  
10 funds transferred into the District's money market  
11 account, and First Merchant has agreed to waive the  
12 penalties. So I want to thank First Merchants and  
13 Debbie Milne for waiving those penalties.

14           For our funds held at BMO, the Board  
15 approved transferring funds from the expired CD into a  
16 new CD, and that transfer has been completed. We have  
17 received letters from EPA and IDEM approving our  
18 proposed 2025 trust budget and as mentioned, copies of  
19 those two letters are in your board packet.

20           And at the February board meeting, I  
21 plan to have the 2024 year-end cash balance  
22 calculations and transfer requests affiliated with  
23 funding the 2025 budget.

24           Regarding the Great Lakes Legacy Act  
25 Project, the Lake George Canal East and Middle

1 Projects, the South Tank Sheet Pile Wall Construction  
2 has been completed. However, the design for the  
3 groundwater management system affiliated with  
4 repairing the wall system is ongoing. BP has  
5 submitted the Sheet Pile Wall Post-Construction Report  
6 to the project team to review.

7           Regarding the Lake George Canal East  
8 section, the Corps is managing that part of the  
9 project and, of course, working on the dredging  
10 designs for the Phase II of the Lake George Canal  
11 East. And that is scheduled to happen in 2025.

12           Also, the Cleveland-Cliffs sep dredging  
13 is back on schedule, and that's to be done in 2025.  
14 The court has requested a letter from the District  
15 that we do not object to material dredged from this  
16 project area to be disposed into the local CDF. A  
17 copy of this no-objection letter is in your board  
18 packet and on today's agenda for approval  
19 consideration.

20           Regarding the Lake George Canal Middle  
21 Cap Project, the Army Corps of Engineers is managing  
22 this project as well. The Cap Project has been  
23 completed, and the eco-construction activities are  
24 periodically ongoing. The Corps is evaluating  
25 corrective measures in a couple areas of the caps that

1 appear to have oil streams penetrating the cap.

2 Regarding the Lake George Canal West  
3 project, that work is ongoing, and that project is  
4 between BP and EPA.

5 Regarding the Grand Canal River  
6 Junction Reaches Project, Tetra Tech continues to work  
7 on the remedial design. The project team continues to  
8 have biweekly project team meetings to discuss various  
9 action items and activities, including completing the  
10 remedial design, property access, coordination, permit  
11 applications, coordination with the junction marsh,  
12 coordination with the former city dump site, and  
13 community engagements, to name a few.

14 In 2025, we're expected to finalize the  
15 remedial design and then also the Omnibus Project  
16 agreement, which it will include the Grand Cal River  
17 Junction Marsh and certain areas of the Lake George  
18 Canal.

19 The latest Omnibus project agreement  
20 forecast is that we'll be leveraging approximately 175  
21 to 190 million in federal funds to remediate our  
22 waterways. Contractor procurement with the remediation  
23 construction is expected to begin in 2025 and continue  
24 through 2026.

25 Regarding community outreach for the



1 Grand Cal River Junction Reaches, the project team  
2 continues to meet periodically to discuss public  
3 outreach planning for the Grand Cal River Junction  
4 Reaches, remediation, and the Lake George Canal East  
5 Dredging Project, which both projects currently has  
6 construction activities forecast to begin in 2025.

7 Currently, our public outreach meeting  
8 is scheduled to be held after our March 20th board  
9 meeting at 6:30 in this conference room.

10 Regarding cost share, I've been working  
11 with EPA to have the EPA formally approve updated  
12 costs affiliated with the Cleveland-Cliffs Sep  
13 Project, which will be used to help finance the  
14 Omnibus Project agreement. The request letter was  
15 sent to the Board EPA in December.

16 Carol Nissen of Tetra Tech is on  
17 today's call to give an update on the Grand Cal River  
18 Project later on today's agenda.

19 Regarding the Canal Street Bridge  
20 underwater obstruction, a reminder that the Corps'  
21 contractor, Roen Salvage, removed that obstruction in  
22 early November. We're waiting the Corps' assessment  
23 of the obstruction as to its source. And Vaughn can  
24 let us know if there's an update on this matter during  
25 his report.

1                   Regarding the Old Cline Avenue Bridge  
2 Project, the demolition assessment of the bridge is  
3 ongoing. We continue to meet with various  
4 stakeholders, including the Lake County, IDEM, EPA,  
5 and NIPSCO.

6                   Major tasks that we've been working on  
7 include the relocation of the NIPSCO gas line that  
8 runs along the bridge. NIPSCO recently discovered a  
9 small leak in the line, which has caused NIPSCO to  
10 expedite their relocation schedule. We're also  
11 reviewing the funding for the engineering and the  
12 demolition of the bridge.

13                  Regarding the Atlantic Richfield  
14 Settlement Agreement between the District, the City of  
15 East Chicago, and Atlantic Richfield, the project team  
16 continues to work on various ancillary action items  
17 affiliated with the settlement agreement.

18                  The Corps' report is in your board  
19 packet. Project manager Vaughn Coolman will be  
20 providing an update to The Board during that part of  
21 the agenda, and attorney Ellen Gregory will give an  
22 update on various legal matters.

23                  And that concludes my report.

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

1 Thank you very much.

2 Next order of business is the election  
3 of officers.

4 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So currently the  
5 officers are as follows: the president of The Board is  
6 John Fekete. The vice president is Jaylan Robinson.  
7 Secretary, Henry Rodriguez. Treasurer and fiscal  
8 officer is Raymond Lopez, and the investment officer  
9 is John Fekete. If it's the pleasure of The Board to  
10 maintain the same slate, then --

11 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. I'd like to make a  
12 motion that we keep the same board members by --

13 MR. LOPEZ: I second it.

14 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Jaylan's not here.

15 MR. TREVINO: Jaylan's not here, but I  
16 did talk with them, and he was okay with continue to  
17 serve.

18 MR. FEKETE: Okay. I'll just -- we can  
19 do it by voice vote?

20 MR. BAKOTA: Really?

21 MR. FEKETE: Oh, yeah.

22 All in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

24 MR. FEKETE: Any oppositions or  
25 objections?

1 Well, hearing none, we have the same  
2 cast of characters.

3 MR. TREVINO: And then, for the  
4 appointment of the finance committee and the  
5 chairperson, last year the committee included  
6 John Fekete, Ray Lopez and Jaylan Robinson, and  
7 John Fekete as chairman.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I think a motion came.

9 MR. TREVINO: Ray, Henry made a motion  
10 to --

11 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah. Keep it the same --

12 MR. BAKOTA: I'll second it.

13 MR. FEKETE: Yeah, I'll make a motion  
14 that we maintain the same group.

15 All in favor signify by saying aye.

16 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MR. FEKETE: No opposition or  
18 objections?

19 Motion is approved.

20 Approval consideration of The Board  
21 meeting notes for the December 19, 2024, board  
22 minutes. Entertain a motion to approve?

23 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.

24 MR. FEKETE: I have a second?

25 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

1 MR. FEKETE: I have a second.

2 All in favor signify by saying aye.

3 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

4 MR. FEKETE: That motion is approved.

5 County Consultant Report?

6 MS. VARGAS: Good evening. Good  
7 evening, everyone. Vanessa Vargas with CLA. Can  
8 everyone hear me okay?

9 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Yes.

10 MS. VARGAS: All right.

11 In front of you, you have a copy of the  
12 financial statements on a cash basis dated December  
13 31, 2024. If you turn to page 2 we will begin with  
14 the statement of cash receipts and cash disbursements  
15 for the 12 months ended December 31, 2024.

16 You've received interest income  
17 totaling \$498,373.60. You've collected user fees  
18 totaling \$428,655.36. You received a trust transfer  
19 totaling \$280,283.25. You received a PCA of Tipping  
20 Fee Agreement net of a City MOU of \$5,676,833.43.  
21 This brings your total receipts to \$6,884,145.64.

22 You've had total cash disbursements of  
23 \$833,340.95. This brings you to an increase in cash  
24 of \$6,050,804.69. Your cash balance as of January 1,  
25 2024, was \$8,709,684.13. Your cash balance as of

1 December 31, 2024, is \$14,760,488.82

2 If you turn to page 3, we will continue  
3 with the schedule of cash account activity for the 12  
4 months ended December 31, 2024.

5 Your operating account began the year  
6 with a cash balance on January 1st of \$1,121,983.80.  
7 You collected interest totaling \$42,393.39. You had  
8 cash disbursements totaling \$833,278.95. You received  
9 a trust transfer in the amount of \$280,283.25, as well  
10 as a budget transfer totaling \$281,130.16. Your  
11 operating cash balance as of December 31, 2024, was  
12 \$892,511.65.

13 Your user fee account began the year  
14 with a cash balance as of January 1st of  
15 \$5,224,499.34. You collected interest totaling  
16 \$358,064.30. You had cash disbursements along with a  
17 budget transfer totaling \$4,031,192.16.

18 You closed CDs and -- oops, sorry. You  
19 redeemed the CDARS for \$506,208.33. You closed CDs  
20 totaling \$3,454,908.57. You collected user fees  
21 totaling \$428,655.36, as well as had a PCA of Tipping  
22 Fee Agreement totaling \$7,926,833.43. This brings  
23 your user fee account balance as of December 31st to  
24 \$13,867,977.17.

25 You began the year with a CD with a

1 balance of \$2,363,200.99. You earned interest  
2 totaling \$97,915.91. You purchased a CD in the amount  
3 of \$1 million and a CDARS in the amount of \$500,000.  
4 We redeemed the CDAR for \$506,208.33. And you closed  
5 the CDs totaling \$3,454,908.57, bringing your CD  
6 balance as of December 31st to zero.

7 If you turn to page 4, we will continue  
8 with the schedule of 2024 available budget as of  
9 January 16, 2025.

10 Your 2024 budget appropriation totaled  
11 \$1,306,000. Adding back in accounts payable dated  
12 12/31/2023 in the amount of \$345,897.21, as well as  
13 budget amendments netting to \$31,500, brought your  
14 2024 total appropriation to \$1,730,776.86. You had  
15 cash disbursements for the 12 months ended December  
16 2024, totaling \$833,340.95.

17 In front of you, you have a claims  
18 docket, which totals \$62,117.48. But of that amount,  
19 the amount that is going to be applied to your 2024  
20 budget as 2024 accounts payable totals \$61,067.48.  
21 This brings your unused budget for 2024 to  
22 \$836,368.43.

23 If you turn to page 5, we have an  
24 additional schedule this time, which is the schedule  
25 of 2024 -- or 2025, available budget as of January 16,

1 2025.

2 Your approved 2025 budget totaled  
3 \$1,718,525. Adding back in your 12/31/2024 payables  
4 in the amount of \$61,067.48 brings your 2025  
5 appropriation to \$1,779,592.48. As part of the claims  
6 docket, you do have one payable going against a 2025  
7 budget totaling \$1050. This brings your unused budget  
8 for 2025 to \$1,778,542.48.

9 Are there any questions?

10 MR. FEKETE: Thank you.

11 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. I just wanted to  
12 clarify that -- in today's financial report, you'll --  
13 budget sheet, one is for 2024 and one's for 2025. So  
14 if you look at the 2025 budget summary, there's one  
15 item in the claim docket area that's against the 2025  
16 budget that's on that -- that's in today's claim  
17 docket. And that's for the rent, which is for the  
18 month of February. So \$1050.

19 MR. FEKETE: Thank you, Vanessa.

20 MS. VARGAS: Thank you.

21 MR. FEKETE: Next up is the approval  
22 consideration for the accounts payable voucher  
23 register dated today's date, January 16, 2025.  
24 Entertain a motion to approve?

25 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to approve.



1 MR. FEKETE: I have a second?

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

3 MR. FEKETE: And a second.

4 Roll call vote. Jaylan Robinson?

5 Henry Rodriguez?

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

7 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

8 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

9 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

10 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

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

12 Did we do The Board meeting notes? No?

13 MR. TREVINO: Yeah.

14 MR. FEKETE: We did do Board meeting --  
15 okay.

16 Next up is the approval consideration  
17 for the purpose of the iPads.

18 MR. TREVINO: Yes. You may recall the  
19 Board had asked me to look into replacing our existing  
20 iPads, which are around three years old. I did reach  
21 out to a Verizon representative. He provided some  
22 options and some pricing. I summarized in your packet  
23 what I suggest we purchase, which is similar specs to  
24 what the iPads we purchased last time.

25 So if The Board would approve, it

1 would -- you know, I could follow up with the Verizon  
2 representative to get that order in. And the purchase  
3 of the iPads would go towards -- I got to look for  
4 the --

5 MR. FEKETE: What do you --

6 MR. TREVINO: I'm looking for the  
7 budget line item that -- it would be under other  
8 office expenses and supplies that currently has 7500  
9 in it.

10 And if -- the purchase doesn't include  
11 accessories, the keyboard, or the cover that comes  
12 with it. It's not clear whether the keyboards that we  
13 have now will be compatible with the new iPad. So if  
14 they are compatible, we won't, you know, we'll save  
15 the cost of the -- purchasing new keyboards.

16 MR. FEKETE: So all it would be, in  
17 that scenario, all it would be is just this part?

18 MR. TREVINO: It's just the iPad  
19 itself. And then, if the keyboards don't work, then  
20 in -- I mean, at the February board meeting, I'll put  
21 a summary together on the accessories that may be  
22 needed for the new iPads.

23 MR. BAKOTA: Okay. I make the motion,  
24 then.

25 MR. FEKETE: All right. Entertain a

1 motion to approve?

2 MR. TREVINO: Can we also -- with the  
3 motion, can it also include that delegating, giving me  
4 the authority or John Fekete authority to sign any  
5 purchase agreements or anything that's necessary for  
6 Verizon to execute the order?

7 MR. BAKOTA: So okay, so I -- add that  
8 to the motion.

9 MR. FEKETE: You have the motion. You  
10 made the motion?

11 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

12 MR. FEKETE: I have a second?

13 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

14 MR. FEKETE: And a second. Oh, okay.  
15 It's a roll call vote. Jaylan Robinson?

16 Henry Rodriguez?

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

18 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

19 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

20 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

21 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

22 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.  
23 That motion is approved.

24 Next item up is the approval  
25 consideration for the no-objection letter for use of

1 the CDF.

2 MR. TREVINO: Yes. So  
3 Mr. Vaughn Coolman of the Army Corps of Engineers sent  
4 us an email requesting a letter from the District that  
5 we do not -- that -- a no objection letter of placing  
6 material dredged from the Cleveland-Cliffs Sep Project  
7 into the local CDF.

8 So we were asked by the Corps a few  
9 years ago to submit a similar letter. I think it was  
10 to place Great Lakes Legacy Act material into the CDF.  
11 So the big litmus test for placing material into the  
12 local CDF is that it comes from within the city of  
13 East Chicago. And Vaughn has mentioned that it does.  
14 And so, to be consistent with what we've -- our  
15 practice in the past, you know, we're okay with --  
16 because it improves the waterway in East Chicago.

17 So, Vaughn, I don't know if -- did you  
18 want to add anything to that?

19 MR. COOLMAN: No, I think you covered  
20 it. I think they'll be dredging in the larger turning  
21 basin. I think that's where they're --

22 MR. FEKETE: And this dredging will be  
23 where?

24 MR. COOLMAN: In the -- it's by  
25 Cleveland-Cliffs dock areas; right?

1 MR. TREVINO: Yes.

2 MR. COOLMAN: It's the --

3 MR. FEKETE: Oh, okay.

4 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah. Yeah.

5 MR. FEKETE: So it's the -- outside the  
6 navigation component?

7 MR. COOLMAN: I think it'll be inside.

8 MR. FEKETE: So it's along their docks?

9 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah. But I think  
10 it's --

11 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. Number 6 dock and  
12 then, you know, Plant 2 dock, I suppose. It's in the  
13 turning basin --

14 MR. BAKOTA: Is that -- do they -- is  
15 there a docking area there where they unload taconite,  
16 or is that out of Lake Michigan?

17 MR. FEKETE: Pardon?

18 MR. BAKOTA: Where they unload their  
19 taconite from ships? Is that --

20 MR. FEKETE: Yeah?

21 MR. BAKOTA: Is that within the canal,  
22 or is that off of the lake?

23 MR. FEKETE: Oh, they basically do it  
24 as the 6 dock, which is in the turning basin.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Because I just wonder,

1 dockside, there's got to be a lot of taconite down in  
2 there.

3 MR. TREVINO: I think they have run  
4 into some taconite; right?

5 MR. FEKETE: Well, you know, they shut  
6 down a blast furnace that was there.

7 MR. BAKOTA: -- they do last time?

8 MR. FEKETE: Yeah. But I mean, that  
9 hasn't been dredged. Taconite is probably piling up  
10 there.

11 MR. TREVINO: It was in 1996.

12 MR. BAKOTA: Okay. '96. Oh.

13 MR. FEKETE: I think in 1996, they  
14 dredged it, and it was a -- the reason for doing it  
15 was -- and it was called a Taconite Recovery Project.

16 MR. BAKOTA: Oh, yeah? I imagine that  
17 probably saved a lot of money.

18 MR. FEKETE: And went all along that  
19 site.

20 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Like I say now, I  
21 imagine dockside; a lot of the dredging would be  
22 taconite.

23 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. I think Vaughn  
24 said that they have run into taconite during there.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

1 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah.

2 MR. FEKETE: So that side was cleaned  
3 out. Then --

4 MR. BAKOTA: Do they want to recover  
5 that, or do they want to put it into CDF?

6 MR. TREVINO: No, they didn't at the  
7 time. At that time, they did recover a lot of  
8 taconite.

9 MR. BAKOTA: I mean now.

10 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. What are they  
11 doing now, Vaughn? They put it in the CDF?

12 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah.

13 MR. TREVINO: It's going in the CDF.

14 MR. FEKETE: Don't forget that dock  
15 used overhead cranes --

16 MR. BAKOTA: Different. Yeah,  
17 different loading.

18 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Unloading --

20 MR. FEKETE: The 6 dock uses a self-  
21 unloader.

22 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

23 MR. FEKETE: So there's very little --  
24 there's not a lot of spillage.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Now. Yeah.

1                   MR. FEKETE: Yeah. You know, with the  
2 self-unloaders. It was when you had the overhead  
3 cranes, interestingly enough, come to find out on the  
4 other side, the ISG side, there was very little left  
5 from the overhead cranes.

6                   MR. BAKOTA: Oh.

7                   MR. FEKETE: Because what they would do  
8 is on the night shift, they would go down, and they  
9 would --

10                  MR. BAKOTA: Well, now, Cleveland-  
11 Cliffs owns their own taconite, so --

12                  MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

13                  MR. BAKOTA: I don't think they're  
14 worried about this short supply of taconite, but we're  
15 putting a lot -- I don't know if it's a lot, we're  
16 putting taconite in there when it's not a normal  
17 dredge material or you know. Whatever --

18                  MR. TREVINO: Yeah. But there's other,  
19 you know, debris and stuff that's also going into CDF.

20                  MR. BAKOTA: With it.

21                  MR. TREVINO: They're not -- you know,  
22 they're not taking it somewhere -- debris other  
23 places. It's all going into the CDF. Right, Vaughn?

24                  MR. COOLMAN: Yes.

25                  MR. TREVINO: Yeah.



1                   MR. FEKETE: You know, when I first  
2                   hired in, they were just getting into the taconite  
3                   business and that was in the '60s.

4                   MR. BAKOTA: Yeah.

5                   MR. FEKETE: And you know, I'd go on  
6                   the docks because I had, you know, the power  
7                   department you had -- you went everywhere. And there  
8                   was a lot of raw ore and chunks and stuff like that,  
9                   particularly in Plant 3. And -- but when the taconite  
10                  came in, then they told you be very careful 'cause  
11                  it's like walking on marbles.

12                  MR. BAKOTA: That's good slingshot  
13                  material.

14                  MR. FEKETE: Yeah. In fact,  
15                  interestingly enough, not for the record, but a fellow  
16                  I went to grade school with died. He slipped off the  
17                  dock.

18                  MR. TREVINO: Wow.

19                  MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

20                  MR. TREVINO: Because of the --

21                  MR. FEKETE: The -- carpenter.

22                  MR. TREVINO: Yeah. So the  
23                  recommendation is to approve the no objection letter.

24                  MR. FEKETE: Oh, we need approval on  
25                  the no-objection letter.

1 MR. TREVINO: Right -- yes.

2 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. I make a motion.

3 MR. FEKETE: And a second?

4 MR. LOPEZ: I'll second it.

5 MR. FEKETE: Okay. All in favor -- all  
6 in favor signify by saying aye.

7 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

8 MR. FEKETE: Aye. That motion -- no  
9 objections?

10 Okay. That motion is approved.

11 Okay. The Great Lakes Legacy Act,  
12 Grand Cal River Junction Reaches project updates.

13 MR. TREVINO: Okay. Carol, are you on?

14 MS. NISSEN: Yes, I'm here. Hi.

15 Yeah. The update is Tetra Tech has  
16 prepared the scope of work and a cost proposal to  
17 assist you all for the year of 2025. I've been  
18 updating the basis of design and some of the design  
19 documents. We're still waiting for the geotechnical  
20 information from the US CPA investigation. And we  
21 need that data in order to complete the design. And  
22 also, I've been preparing for the public meeting, and  
23 I submitted the TESCO [ph] remediation work plan to  
24 IDEM for review. And that's about it.

25 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Any questions?

1 Okay. Thank you very much.

2 Approval consideration for the Tetra  
3 Tech contract referring basically to the Grand Cal  
4 River Junction Reaches. Have a motion to approve?

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Make a motion to  
6 approve.

7 MR. LOPEZ: Second.

8 MR. FEKETE: We'll have a roll call  
9 vote. Jaylan Robinson? Henry Rodriguez?

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

11 MR. FEKETE: John Bakota?

12 MR. BAKOTA: Yes.

13 MR. FEKETE: Ray Lopez?

14 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah.

15 MR. FEKETE: John Fekete? I vote yes.  
16 Any objections? Hearing none, that motion is  
17 approved.

18 BMO Trust Report, Bob?

19 MR. SANTORE: Yes. Good evening,  
20 everybody.

21 So we have the money market and CD  
22 holdings document there. It shows your combined  
23 balance of the money market account and certificate of  
24 deposit. The value at 12 -- December 31st was  
25 \$4,068,773.36. In the month of December, there were

1 interest credits to your CD of \$10,257.55. And  
2 \$309.29 to the money market account. For total  
3 interest earnings in December of \$10,566.84.

4 Additionally, the CD referenced earlier  
5 matured on December 18th, and as discussed, that CD  
6 was renewed for another 18 months at a rate of 4.351  
7 percent while the CD was reduced to an even 3.4  
8 million. So that'll be the new balance as of 12/18  
9 going forward until interest is earned.

10 The difference from that CD was that  
11 moved into the money market account, and that amount  
12 moved over was \$352,073.03. And that was moved over  
13 into the money market when the CD matured on December  
14 18th. The second page shows the historical data with  
15 distributions. And for the year of 2024, total amount  
16 of distributions was \$280,283.25. I believe that  
17 covers the month of December.

18 If there's any questions, let me know.

19 MR. FEKETE: Thank you.

20 MR. SANTORE: You're welcome.

21 MR. FEKETE: Okay. Thank you.

22 Next order of business is the U.S. Army  
23 Corps of Engineers Board Report. Vaughn?

24 MR. COOLMAN: Vaughn Coolman from the  
25 Army Corps of Engineers. Not too much of an update.

1 The water treatment will resume once the new contract  
2 is awarded. I know they had a meeting earlier today,  
3 but I don't know the results of the deadline for the  
4 proposals, but it sounded like that we would probably  
5 be awarding that contract late at the end of this  
6 month or early February, hopefully.

7 And then water treatment will resume  
8 once all their submittals are approved and everything  
9 like that. I'm not sure exactly how long that process  
10 takes after the contract is awarded.

11 The Phase II Dike Rays is still  
12 ongoing. There's some back and forth between the  
13 contractor and the Corp on completing everything. And  
14 that should be wrapped up as soon as all of those  
15 negotiations are wrapped up, which is outside of my  
16 area.

17 And dredging operations, same as before  
18 with Roen Salvage and the sediment sampling.

19 And there's a small update on the oil  
20 boom coordination. We do expect the transition to be  
21 later this month or early February. They're almost  
22 finished with that transition. And it is the same  
23 contractor that is currently operating the booms and  
24 maintaining them. It'll just be under our supervision  
25 rather than -- I think it's BP right now, but I'm not

1 100 percent sure who it is. I think it's BP, not  
2 sure.

3 And then the parkway, still inspecting  
4 it every month and cleaning and removing debris. And  
5 the obstruction removal, we don't have an update on  
6 the report because I'm not sure that it's 100 percent  
7 finalized. I've seen the roughly final report, and  
8 it's mainly the observations between the obstruction  
9 that was removed from the canal and the existing  
10 structure of the Old Canal Street Bridge there, the  
11 abutments.

12 And the report did point out several  
13 similarities in the structures, such as rebar  
14 orientation and certain, like, scoring on the concrete  
15 that looked very -- that appears to be very similar if  
16 not identical to the remaining -- some of the  
17 remaining concrete structure at the abutments. But we  
18 don't have a final determination.

19 And I'm not sure exactly whether  
20 there's going to be an exact -- a final determination.  
21 I don't think we're trying to blame anybody or  
22 anything like that. Just mainly observations for  
23 future reference, I think.

24 MR. BAKOTA: What was the total cost to  
25 bring the debris up that? Was there ever a estimate

1 on -- that?

2 MR. COOLMAN: There is. I'm not sure.  
3 I don't know if I'm supposed to tell you or not. I  
4 will make sure I can disclose that, and I'll send --  
5 I'll send it to -- I know it. Like, I got it right  
6 here, but --

7 MR. BAKOTA: All right.

8 MR. COOLMAN: It was cheap. They gave  
9 us a good deal. They were already out there.

10 MR. BAKOTA: Oh, yeah?

11 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Did you find John's old  
13 bike over there?

14 MR. BAKOTA: Oh, yes. It's also at the  
15 debris --

16 MR. TREVINO: That's what happened to  
17 it.

18 MR. LOPEZ: He rides it everywhere.

19 MR. BAKOTA: And when you say you clean  
20 up on the --

21 MR. TREVINO: You're going to get a  
22 bill --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah -- charge  
24 you for storage at the debris pad.

25 MR. LOPEZ: We know the parkway's clean

1 because John watches it.

2 MR. TREVINO: Vaughn, there was some  
3 questions about the CDF and the groundwater monitoring  
4 that's being -- I know it was done in the past. I'm  
5 assuming it's ongoing. That groundwater monitoring  
6 inside the CDF versus outside the CDF to make sure  
7 there's a inward gradient, groundwater gradient coming  
8 into the facility.

9 MR. COOLMAN: As far as I know, that is  
10 still ongoing and operational and effective --

11 MR. TREVINO: Okay. Good.

12 MR. FEKETE: Well, the other question  
13 is that for there are water discharges from the CDF  
14 because you have an NDS [ph] permit. And how  
15 frequently is that water tested to make sure you're in  
16 compliance with --

17 MR. COOLMAN: I don't know for sure,  
18 but I do know -- I used to work at the Department of  
19 Environmental Protection in Pennsylvania and where we  
20 would issue some NTEE [ph]. And -- yes. I tried to  
21 call it NPEDS [ph] because that's easier. But that's  
22 not the --

23 MR. TREVINO: -- actual acronyms. Wow.

24 MR. COOLMAN: It's -- yeah. And there  
25 are testing requirements for those permits --



1 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. Whether you know --

2 MR. COOLMAN: -- that are explicit for  
3 once -- depending on how much you're discharging, when  
4 you're discharging, it could be as much as once per  
5 day. I will check to see if we have those logs and  
6 provide them to The Board.

7 MR. FEKETE: Well, I know when I was  
8 working, we had 16 outfalls. We used to have daily  
9 monitoring reports.

10 MR. COOLMAN: Exactly.

11 MR. FEKETE: DMRs.

12 MR. COOLMAN: Okay.

13 MR. FEKETE: And those DMRs had to be  
14 actually submitted on a monthly basis, and I had to  
15 sign every one of them. I tried --

16 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah, I seen --

17 MR. FEKETE: I tried to get a blanket  
18 signature to sign once, and they says, no, you got to  
19 sign everyone.

20 MR. LOPEZ: But you have an --

21 MR. FEKETE: Finally, I got somebody  
22 else to be a class D operator, class 4 -- class D  
23 operator for --

24 MR. BAKOTA: They have a water  
25 treatment too. They treat that water prior to

1 discharge; right?

2 MR. COOLMAN: But we're not treating it  
3 at the moment. So I'm not sure if discharging it --

4 MR. BAKOTA: Oh, I thought we had a  
5 water treatment there prior to discharging?

6 MR. COOLMAN: We did. And that's what  
7 the new contract award is for, for a new --

8 MR. BAKOTA: Oh, so you're not treating  
9 it now?

10 MR. COOLMAN: Right. Which I don't  
11 know if that means that we're not just discharging.  
12 This is something I'll have to follow up with  
13 engineering and Mike Wynn [ph] probably knows a little  
14 bit more. And --

15 MR. TREVINO: And if the discharge is  
16 affiliated with dredging activities for just the  
17 standard operation and maintenance of the CDF or both.

18 MR. COOLMAN: Okay.

19 MR. TREVINO: You know what I mean?

20 MR. COOLMAN: Yeah.

21 MR. TREVINO: Yeah. You can follow up  
22 on it.

23 MR. FEKETE: Well, if you're not  
24 putting dredge material in there, you're obviously not  
25 using water.

1 MR. TREVINO: But you have standing  
2 water.

3 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

4 MR. TREVINO: And you go to maintain  
5 certain levels.

6 MR. FEKETE: Yeah, you got to --

7 MR. TREVINO: I think it's  
8 constantly --

9 MR. FEKETE: Rainwater's coming --

10 MR. TREVINO: Rainwater. Yeah.

11 MR. BAKOTA: Yeah. There's always some  
12 been kind of a discharge, so --

13 MR. FEKETE: Yeah.

14 MR. BAKOTA: But if they follow the  
15 permit requirements --

16 MR. TREVINO: Right.

17 MR. BAKOTA: -- I'm sure they do.

18 MR. FEKETE: Okay. It's moving along  
19 nicely.

20 The Attorney Ellen Gregory Report?

21 MS. GREGORY: Yes. Ellen Gregory with  
22 Ellen Gregory Law.

23 Primarily in terms of the legal matters  
24 for the past month has been the Great Lakes Legacy  
25 Act, PA, and statement of work negotiations. We're

1 expecting a new draft to be circulated to the group  
2 tomorrow. We're hoping to get the PA and the SOW  
3 finalized by March in order for the Grand Cal River  
4 Junction Reaches Project to be able to move forward  
5 this year.

6 We also reviewed the Tetra Tech  
7 contract, which is an annual contract. You just  
8 approved that earlier today for the calendar year  
9 2025. And just this morning, we received the  
10 CliftonLarsonAllen contract for calendar year 2025,  
11 which we'll be reviewing, and will be on the agenda  
12 for next month's meeting.

13 And that's all I have.

14 MR. FEKETE: Any questions? Well,  
15 thank you very much.

16 Any other new business to come before  
17 The Board? Any public comments?

18 Next board meeting is February 20,  
19 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

20 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

21 MR. BAKOTA: Motion to adjourn.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Second.

23 MR. FEKETE: I have a second?

24 MR. TREVINO: Henry seconded.

25 MR. FEKETE: Henry --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I second.

2 MR. FEKETE: All in favor, signify by  
3 saying aye.

4 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

5 MR. FEKETE: This meeting is adjourned.  
6 Thank you very much for your attendance  
7 and participation.

8 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at  
9 5:54 p.m.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

I, VANESSA GONZALEZ, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



VANESSA GONZALEZ

Notary Public in and for the  
State of Indiana

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, SIOBHAN MACKEY, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



SIOBHAN MACKEY