

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
THE BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA  
3085 STONE ROAD  
BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA**

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District met in regular session located at 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island, CA at 6:30 p.m. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: Directors: Anthony Berzinas, Bruce Smith and Tom Knorr, Jr. Attorney Dave Larsen was in attendance. District Manager Espinoza, Director Lisa Kirk and Director Vignesh Rama were absent. Vice President Berzinas presided the meeting.

**BOARD DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL APPEARANCES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

President Smith and Director Berzinas stated they would recuse themselves if there was a vote on the Bethel Island Flooding and Remediation Mitigation Project under Item 7A(i)(a) because of the project being within 500 feet of their house. Director Knorr, Jr. had no conflicts.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A motion was made by Director Knorr, Jr. and seconded by Director Smith to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2023. The vote showed three directors in favor (Directors Kirk and Rama were absent).**

**A motion was made by Director Knorr, Jr. and seconded by Director Smith to adopt Resolution No. 23-09-14A "Authorizing Signing of Agreements for Participation in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Delta Levee Subventions Program". The vote showed three directors in favor (Directors Kirk and Rama were absent).**

Attorney Dave Larsen stated there should be a change of the third paragraph to eliminate the names of the Boardmembers to just read "Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board President and Vice President to execute and sign the agreement....".

**With the change, the vote showed three directors in favor (Directors Kirk and Rama were absent). Motion carried.**

## SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER(S) REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Berzinas stated winter is coming and the sandbag locations on the island will need to be restocked with sandbags and sand.

There was a Town Hall Meeting with the County (Public Works and Flood Control), Supervisor Diane Burgis and her staff, BIMAC and BIMID on September 12, 2023. After discussion, it was recommended to place an agenda item on the next board meeting agenda to discuss the loss of the Stormwater Agreement that BIMID had with the County and to look for other drainage solutions.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jean Wise stated there was an error on Item 7a that she handed to District Clerk Bixby. She also has public comments regarding agenda Items 8B and 10g.

Mr. Phil Kammerer stated Clean Up Day is coming up on September 16, 2023 and interested residents should call for an appointment.

Ms. Bethi Carver stated that at the Town Hall Meeting the County stated they don't have the direction of the flows on their maps.

Director Rama joined the meeting at 6:47pm.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### UPDATE ON BETHEL ISLAND CULVERT/DRAINAGE/STANDING WATER ISSUES

District Manager Espinoza was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Bethi Carver stated the culvert at 3830 Stone Road has subsided, and the culvert is like a speed bump.

Director Berzinas stated the cross culvert is a County issue and BIMID does not have jurisdiction.

Ms. Bethi Carver stated the subsidence has been increasing over the last few years and will affect Ironhouse Sanitary District.

Ms. Jean Wise stated the District Manager's Report incorrectly states the Ad-Hoc Drainage Committee is creating the flyer; it is being created by the Ad-Hoc Island Evacuation Safety Committee.

#### UPDATE ON ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

No update.

#### FIVE YEAR PLAN

No update.

#### COLLABORATIVE FLOOD CONTROL EFFORTS

No report at this time.

#### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

Director Berzinas stated that pressure needs to be applied to Flood Control and Supervisor Burgis' office to put a committee together to discuss collaboration for the drainage for Bethel Island, BIMID and RD799 issues.

Mr. Todd Northam asked about the stormwater money and why BIMID will not be receiving anymore.

Director Berzinas stated it is really complex and the regulatory agencies are adding further requirements.

Mr. Todd Northam stated it should be researched as to what the money collected from island residents was used for in the last ten years.

Attorney Dave Larsen recommended adding an agenda item because the District is losing a benefit with nothing to replace it.

Director Berzinas asked to add to the October 2023 Regular Meeting agenda under this agenda item as a subcategory as "Loss of the County Stormwater Contract and the Impact on the Island".

Director Berzinas asked staff to find out how much money was collected from island residents from 1993 to present for Clean Water/Stormwater.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ISSUING A BI-ANNUAL LEVEE KEY FOR 3825 WILLOW ROAD

Mr. Russ Maynard stated that his house is located next to Piper Point Marina. He has asked for a bi-annual key so that his severely handicapped son can get to the house and boat dock.

Director Berzinas asked if he will be parking on the levee and if he will be accessing the levee just to get his son to the house and boat dock.

Mr. Maynard stated he will not be parking on the levee; the key will only be used to get his son in and out.

**A motion was made by Director Smith and seconded by Director Rama to issue a bi-annual levee key for Mr. Russ Maynard at 3825 Willow Road. The vote showed four directors in favor (Director Kirk was absent). Motion carried.**

#### DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

Attorney Dave Larsen stated the Sheriff's Office has submitted an updated agreement between BIMID and the Sheriff's Office for the District to review and comment and sign.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated he wanted this item on the agenda as he would like to discuss the agreement so that all the members of the Board have an understanding of the process. He would like the opportunity to make changes to the agreement and possibly make changes to the process.

It will be brought back to the October Regular Meeting agenda to discuss the agreement before it gets approved.

Director Berzinas asked how the sirens are powered if the electricity is off.

Ms. Jean Wise stated there is a back-up battery and a solar panel. The Ad-Hoc Island Evacuation Safety Committee is looking at the warning system to determine what the sirens are used for. Is it for all emergencies or just for a levee breach? When the sirens sound it means to evacuate to high ground and not shelter-in-place. There are questions as to whether the sirens are being heard adequately over the entire island.

Attorney Dave Larsen stated it looks like the Board is looking for a broader discussion and the documents for this meeting are operational.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated he wants a discussion about the loudness of the sirens. The monthly test volume is lower than when there is an emergency. He would like to know if there is a possibility of using the siren in the case of other disasters that may occur and not just a levee breach. If something happened in the middle of the night (fire, chemical, earthquake, etc.) the sirens could be used to wake people up.

Director Rama stated the committee discussed whether the sirens could be used for any natural disaster. All the procedures are for a levee breach and not natural disasters. As the procedure stands now, if the District Manager is not on the island, a Director must go to the site of the breach and then call the non-emergency number. Director Rama feels the procedures need to be updated.

Ms. Jean Wise briefly explained what is done with the Sheriff's dispatch (from her experience with the Citizen's Academy, which explains different departments). She explained that if the siren is used for one thing specifically, then more than likely it can't be used for other emergencies.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated he wanted it on the agenda so that anything can be discussed regarding the community alert warning system.

Director Berzinas stated he would like the committee to find out if the sirens can be improved on and what is required to do so.

President Smith asked about the emergency alerts that come by cell phone and wouldn't that answer the questions instead of using the siren as the only notification of an emergency.

It was brought up to invite the Sheriff's Office and CWS personnel to come to a meeting to answer any questions the Board has concerning the sirens.

Director Berzinas asked District Clerk Bixby to include training information on the next board meeting agenda.

Director Knorr Jr., stated he would like to review the instruction card and any updates.

#### DISCUSSION ON SCOPE FOR SUBCOMMITTEES

Attorney Dave Larsen stated he had a request from two directors to discuss the scope and the authority of committees. He stated he didn't have anything besides opening it up for public comment and continuing the discussion until the next meeting.

Ms. Jean Wise stated that any emails or documentation being sent out identifies the committee members as volunteers for the committee.

Director Berzinas stated that correspondence should be kept within the committee until reporting to the full Board at a meeting.

This item will be continued until the October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting.

#### DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITY OF CONSERVATION CORPS FOR DITCH CLEANING

Ms. Bethi Carver stated the Contra Costa County Conservation Corps could be of assistance with the ditches on the island.

Director Berzinas stated it would be a good idea for the District Manager to have a liaison with the Conservation Corps. They can help with things that don't require equipment. He would like this item to be on the agenda for the October 12, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Todd Northam stated his company has done it and he feels it is not worth it because you have to supervise the staff and provide equipment.

CONSENT ITEMS – STAFF REPORTS  
Reports were available to the public.

**A motion was made by Director Knorr, Jr. and seconded by Director Rama to receive and file the Staff Reports. The vote showed four directors in favor (Director Kirk was absent). Motion carried.**

#### TREASURER REPORT

**Balances as of 7/31/23:**

Checking Account: \$385,783.55  
Park Account: \$2,685.85  
House Number Account: \$336.02  
Delta Coves First Deposit: \$8,618.87  
Delta Coves Contingency Funds: \$1,728,647.51  
Delta Coves O & M Funds: \$1,023,909.51  
LFCF Repairs and Improvements: \$11,531.12  
LFCF Maintenance: \$10,264.86

**Advance Funding from DWR**

Money Market is \$15,682.27	(NWS Project)
Money Market is \$23,356.88	(HEHE Project)
Money Market is \$11,372.03	(HEHE NW Levee Project)

#### BETHEL ISLAND PARK COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Nothing to report.

#### DELTA INTERGOVERNMENTAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Nothing to report.

#### SHEETPILE PROJECTS/NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURES (AD-HOC)

Nothing to report.

#### WEB SITE

Nothing to report.

#### BIMAC/FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Nothing to report.

#### ISLAND EVACUTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Ms. Jean Wise stated she wanted the approval from the Board regarding the Bethel Island Flood Safety flyer so that it can be distributed at the Bethel Island Health and Safety Fair on October 7, 2023. There still needs to be some minor changes.

Director Rama stated he would edit the document before the Health and Safety Fair. He has issue that this is not a BIMID document. He asked the rest of the Board their thoughts.

Director Berzinas stated his only issue with the document is the jurisdictional one. From pervious boards, they wanted BIMID to be the first point of contact. If it is not a BIMID issue, then staff can assist with who they need to contact. He would like to see the BIMID logo on the flyer.

Attorney Dave Larsen stated it could be changed to "Bethel Island Flood Safety Suggestions".

Ms. Jean Wise stated the committee is still working on evacuation sites. There are verbal agreements with Bethel Harbor, Diablo Boat Works, Emerald Pointe Marina, New Life Marina, Russo's Marina, Sugar Barge Marina and San Joaquin Yacht Club. Delta Coves is working on their end.

Director Rama stated Delta Coves is a corporation and they want to know what is required to become an evacuation site and what the liabilities would be. He recommended that the District Manager reach out to Delta Coves with a community request and list what is needed for an evacuation site.

Director Berzinas stated with the BIMID logo on the flyer, it looks like BIMID is solely responsible. If there was an evacuation from a levee breach, BIMID would be the first contact, then Sheriff's Office and Fire Department would take over when on scene, and BIMID becomes secondary in command.

Ms. Jean Wise stated the CERT Program has no update, it has been difficult to get a sponsor from an organization.

#### PUBLIC OUTREACH/SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE (AD-HOC)

Nothing to report.

#### DRAINAGE COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Director Berzinas stated there will be a community letter that will be brought to the Board. The committee is going to reach out to the County asking when the subcommittee will be formed regarding the drainage on the island.

After discussion on incorporating, Director Berzinas asked Attorney Dave Larsen to reach out to Discovery Bay for information and make a report at the next meeting.

Attorney Dave Larsen stated it will be a long way off because the island doesn't have the tax base.

#### SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Report regarding how Discovery Bay became a township.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None was discussed.

**A motion was made by Director Knorr, Jr. and seconded by Director Smith to adjourn the meeting. The vote showed four directors in favor (Director Kirk was absent). Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by Denece Bixby, District Clerk