REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF

THE BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

3085 STONE ROAD

BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District met in regular session located at 3085 Stone Road, Bethel Island, CA at 6:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following were found to be present: Directors: Anthony Berzinas, Bruce Smith, Tom Knorr, Jr., and Lisa Kirk. Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri from GEI, District Manager Regina Espinoza, and Attorney Dave Larsen were also in attendance.

Director Rama joined the meeting at 6:04pm.

2. 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 8A(i)(a) because of the project being within 500 feet of their house. Director Knorr Jr., Director Kirk and Director Rama had no conflicts.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal Release per §54957

The Board resumed open session at 6:30pm.

4. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Attorney Dave Larsen stated the Board met with outside counsel and direction was given to staff.

5.CONSENT CALENDAR

A. A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Rama to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

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

None.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lori Castillo stated that when she was at the BIMAC meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, she heard there is a $4.7 million and a $3 million grant that is upcoming for East Contra Costa County for funds for parks. She asked if the Park Ad-Hoc Committee could be revived with additional community members that would like to see some changes in the park.

Direction was given to staff to add an agenda item to discuss reviving the Park Ad-Hoc Committee and adding community members to the committee.

Ms. Bethi Carver recommended it being put on Facebook to advertise for community members.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON BETHEL ISLAND CULVERT/DRAINAGE/STANDING WATER ISSUES

District Manager Espinoza stated she didn’t have anything further to point out in her report.

B. UPDATE ON ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

District Manager Espinoza stated the Board had stated they would like the asset management program target date to be by the end of the fiscal year. She has spoken with CityWorks and Facility Dude (possible name change) and there have been changes to their programs. She will have to find out what it would mean for BIMID; she will bring more information at a future meeting.

Ms. Lori Castillo asked about the Stone Road Seepage Project that was part of the Northwest Levee Project.

District Manager Espinoza stated the project wasn’t supposed to be for any infrastructure work.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated the project was intended for engineering and drainage studies.

Ms. Lori Castillo asked for a copy of the report.

C. FIVE YEAR PLAN

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated DWR has accepted BIMID’s Five Year Plan and the District can anticipate receiving the project retention soon.

Directors Kirk and Rama requested copies of the current 5 Year Plan.

D. COLLABORATIVE FLOOD CONTROL EFFORTS

No update

E. CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

i. DISCUSSION OF FLOOD DRAINAGE PROJECT FOR LACAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR BIMID AND RD799 AND POSSIBLE NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

No update.

ii. DISCUSSION OF DRAINAGE MAPS RELEASED BY THE COUNTY

District Manager Espinoza stated this item was requested by Director Knorr, Jr. The draft maps were included in the Board packet. The County has published DRAFT maps which have not been field verified and BIMID has made comments.

Director Knorr, Jr. asked what GEI’s role is in regard to the maps.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated GEI had shared its GIS maps with the County so the County could add their layer of responsibility on the maps. There are two issues with the maps. One is that the alignment the County is showing is incorrect. The other issue is there are public and private areas that have not been field verified. Hopefully, after the new year, the County and GEI can field verify the issues. As of now, the maps aren’t accurate and BIMID requested there should be a disclaimer noted on the draft plans.

Director Knorr, Jr. asked when a meeting will be set up with the County.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated hopefully after the new year.

District Manager Espinoza stated the County has not responded to the last communication that was sent.

Director Knorr, Jr. asked what is staff’s involvement with the mapping.

District Manager Espinoza stated staff would go with the County to field verify and GEI could update BIMID’s maps.

District Manager Espinoza stated the County has a consultant that is working on the map.

There was further discussion on BIMID and the County parts of the maps.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated this item should stay on the agenda until the matter with the maps has been resolved. He also asked for a ditch cleaning schedule list. He would like it to include the cleaning schedule, status of the ditch, last inspection, or the condition of the ditch. Once the maps are complete, he would like them to be posted on the website.

Director Berzinas stated now that BIMID doesn’t have an agreement with the County for ditch cleaning, he recommended that the County be sent an invoice for cleaning of County ditches.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated the County is not an adversary, BIMID is trying to work with them.

Ms. Bethi Carver asked why there wasn’t a centerline for the roads or a centerline for the levee.

District Manager Espinoza stated the engineer or herself can ask that question as they are field verifying the ditches. She can make sure to note that the comment came from a resident.

Director Rama stated he would like to be part of the field survey.

The discussion continued with the BIMID attorney giving options if BIMID were to do the private ditch cleaning for cost.

This item will be continued until the next agenda in January 2024.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP) VERBAL UPDATE

District Manager Espinoza stated the Contra Costa County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update is done every five years. They have posted the time frame of when the process will begin, including getting public comments. At this time the County has published a public survey and there hasn’t been much of a response. BIMID has made comments as stakeholders to make sure our information is correct as a project partner. This is so that BIMID can possibly get funding for projects under the LHMP.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is meant to identify risks and hazards and to minimize risks within the local area. For Bethel Island, that would be flood and drainage risks, and that would be the focus. This would include risk assessment, mitigation of the hazard, and project for the community. The project must meet County and FEMA regulations and also include climate change. He will submit an outline to BIMID to review and to potentially submit to the County.

B. DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS FOR STORM EVENTS

Attorney Dave Larsen stated BIMID has a Mutual Aid Agreement with Reclamation District 799. BIMID has the authority within the BIMID Act to make contracts that are necessary or proper in the exercise of any powers of the District. BIMID will want to make sure any other interested entities are also authorized to enter into such an agreement and to engage in the work required.

There was a discussion about the legalities and what entities to partner with.

Director Berzinas stated since BIMID has lost its contract with the County for drainage, it would be beneficial if BIMID had an agreement with the County to assist the County with its obligations with the drainage on the island. Ironhouse Sanitary District would be another potential partner for a mutual aid agreement.

Director Kirk stated there needs to be a conversation with Ironhouse to see if they are interested in a Mutual Aid Agreement.

District Manager Espinoza stated the Board needs to decide what will be in the agreement, is equipment in an emergency, equipment as needed, or assistance in high water events.

There needs to be more discussion in order to create a scope of what needs to be in the agreement. There needs to be a discussion with the County first as they are the ones that can make an emergency declaration.

Direction was given that the managers of the districts should have a discussion and come up with a scope for an agreement.

C. DISCUSSION OF SCOUT HALL 70 YEARS CELEBRATION

District Clerk Bixby stated she was contacted by the Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce and that they wanted items to go into goody bags for the 70 Year Celebration of Scout Hall. She asked if there were any particular items that the Board would like to include.

One of the Boardmembers recommended making refrigerator magnets with a QR code linking to the website.

District Clerk Bixby stated she would order the refrigerator magnets.

11. CONSENT ITEMS – STAFF REPORTS

Reports were available to the public.

A. Director Knorr, Jr. asked about the need for more hoses for the mobile pump.

District Manager Espinoza stated there is another round of funding, which will include funding for the hoses.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated the hoses should be ordered as soon as possible as we are going into the winter season.

**A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Kirk to receive and file staff the Staff Reports. The motion showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.**

12. DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. TREASURER REPORT

Nothing was discussed.

**Balances as of 11/30/23:**

Checking Account: $141,429.64

Park Account: $2,771.73

House Number Account: $336.02

Delta Coves First Deposit: $8,626.07

Delta Coves Contingency Funds: $2,235,309.82

Delta Coves O & M Funds: $1,716,735.16

LFCF Repairs and Improvements: $11,540.76

LFCF Maintenance: $10,273.44

**Advance Funding from DWR**

Money Market is $50,065.01 (NWS Project)

Money Market is $23,376.63 (HEHE Project)

Money Market is $11,382.75 (HEHE NW Levee Project)

B. BETHEL ISLAND PARK COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

There was a discussion earlier, that Ms. Castillo would contact the Women’s Club to ask them to be part of the Park Committee.

C. DELTA INTERGOVERNMENTAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Nothing to report.

D. SHEETPILE PROJECTS/NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURES (AD-HOC)

Director Knorr, Jr. stated there will be a committee meeting on January 9, 2024 at 11:00am at the BIMID Hall. Committee members are Director Knorr, Jr., Director Berzinas, District Manager Espinoza and Mr. Mark Fortner from GEI.

E. WEB SITE

Director Rama stated he has been working on refreshing the BIMID website.

F. BIMAC/FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Nothing to report.

G. ISLAND EVACUATION SAFETY COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Director Kirk stated CalOES has said that the evacuation map can state the location sites, which could be considered “Rally Points”. She would like to get a map on the website. Director Kirk stated that Mr. Mark Whitlock and Mr. Rick Kovar will work with Delta Coves.

H. PUBLIC OUTREACH/SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE (AD-HOC)

Nothing was discussed.

I. DRAINAGE COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Nothing was discussed.

11. SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of a Delta Coves sand station on Sandy Lane

Discussion on adding community members to the Park Ad-Hoc Committee

Updates on Community Warning System Agreement

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None was discussed.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Kirk to adjourn the meeting. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Submitted by Denece Bixby, District Clerk