SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF

THE BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

3085 STONE ROAD

BETHEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

DATE: MAY 17, 2023

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District met in a special 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: Bruce Smith, Anthony Berzinas, Tom Knorr, Jr., Lisa Kirk and Vignesh Rama. Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri from GEI, Attorney Dave Larsen and District Manager Regina Espinoza were also in attendance.

BOARD DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL APPEARANCES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Directors Smith and Berzinas stated they would recuse themselves if there was a vote on the Taylor Road Drainage Project under Item 6A. Directors Knorr, Jr., Kirk and Rama had no conflicts.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Kirk stated she wanted the April 13, 2023 minutes to reflect that there was no mention of an ad-hoc committee in the February 9th meeting or the minutes.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas to correct the April 13, 2023 and correct the February 9th minutes and bring back to the Board at the June 8th Regular Meeting. There was no second; motion died.

A motion was made by Director Kirk to amend the April 13th minutes to reflect that there was mention of an ad-hoc committee in the February 9th minutes. There was no second; motion died.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Kirk to correct the April 13, 2023 and correct the February 9th minutes and bring back to the Board at the June 8th Regular Meeting. The vote showed three directors in favor (Director Kirk and Knorr, Jr. voted nay). Motion carried.

Director Berzinas stated the recording should be reviewed because his recollection of the February meeting was that Directors Kirk and Rama were appointed to the committee.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Rama to authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to Sign BAC $300,000 Line of Credit/Loan Documents. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The presentation for Lawrence Martins’ 30 Years of Service was moved to the June meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mel Bolton asked who maintains the ditch and weeds on Stone Road across the street from BIMID and Boyd’s Real Estate.

Ms. Bethi Carver Gibb commented on flood fight and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and request for California Conservation Corps. Crews. She asked for a backup plan for stormwater flooding of properties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UPDATE ON BETHEL ISLAND CULVERT/DRAINAGE/STANDING WATER ISSUES

District Manager Espinoza stated she didn’t have any further updates after the BIMAC/BIMID Community Meeting on May 16, 2023.

Director Berzinas stated based on the conversation that happened at last night’s meeting, he would like District Manager Espinoza to talk to the managers at Reclamation District 799 and Ironhouse Sanitary District to ask about a collaborative statement to support our District’s efforts to get the County to move on everything that was discussed at the Community Meeting last night.

Director Kirk stated there should be a category under the drainage reports.

District Manager Espinoza stated the reason Ironhouse Sanitary District is under 6A is for any updates that Ironhouse Sanitary District would like to make under drainage.

Director Berzinas stated there should be another item (F) Collaborative Flood Control Efforts and to list Reclamation District 799, Ironhouse Sanitary District and BIMID under that heading.

Director Kirk stated she would like to have Contra Costa County on the agenda also.

District Manager Espinoza asked for clarification on what is to be added onto the agenda.

There will be another Unfinished Business Item: (G) Contra Costa County Drainage and Flood Control.

Ms. Lori Castillo asked what property owners can do to support BIMID in their efforts with the County.

Director Berzinas stated that residents can attend the Board of Supervisors meetings and keep talking to Supervisor Diane Burgis’ office.

Director Kirk asked if BIMID was going to ask Delta Coves if they are willing to put in additional DI’s.

District Manager Espinoza stated what she got from the Community Meeting last night, was that the County needs to do a study of the area on Stone Road and that Supervisor Diane Burgis stated they were going to go back and brainstorm how the study will be done in that area and come back and tell BIMID what the alternatives are. When they come back with the alternatives, then it can be decided who needs to collaborate. There were multiple agencies that would like to move forward with alternatives, including inlets. She believes the alternatives will come. Alicia Nuchols is the contact with the Supervisor’s office and will be collecting the information to give to Public Works.

Director Kirk asked if BIMID was going to ask Delta Coves if they will be installing any DI’s or should we wait until we hear back from the County.

District Manager Espinoza stated we are waiting to hear back from the County.

Director Rama stated DMB (Delta Coves) is willing to have a discussion and work with BIMID with a proposal for installing DI’s.

Director Kirk suggested an agenda item for the next meeting, “Discussion of Submitting a Proposal to DMB (Delta Coves) for additional DI’s”.

Director Berzinas stated we should wait for a response from the County before approaching Delta Coves.

A motion was made by Director Rama and seconded by Director Kirk to add an agenda item “Discussion of Public/Private Partnerships with Stormwater Issues” under New Business. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

Director Kirk stated she would like an update on the project at the beginning of Taylor Road,

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri explained the progress of the funding for the project; including the District is still waiting for an update from FEMA. He is working with FEMA through CalOES. He is still waiting for the construction funding before the project can begin. The project will detail what BIMID will be responsible for. As a general rule, he has met with Public Works several times on site, if the ditch is in their right-of-way, then it is their responsibility; and if not, it would be BIMID’s responsibility. When the project starts, then right-of-way maps would have to be pulled.

Director Kirk asked if there was any money in the Subventions Program or any funding from DWR for toe ditches that would cover the project.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaherie stated DWR only covers levee work through the Subventions Program and there isn’t any funding for toe ditches.

There was a discussion on funding programs with FEMA.

Ms. Bethi Carver Gibb asked if other areas on the island can be funded by FEMA.

Director Berzinas asked for a target list so that the Board can look at all of the disaster declarations.

District Manager Espinoza stated BIMID is always looking for grants that come from disaster declarations and if there is a project that can fit that. If there was funding for the storms of 2022-23 it would probably come up next year. It takes time for the money to trickle down and staff is always looking for grants based on emergencies.

Director Berzinas stated BIMID can only ask for grant money that is in BIMID’s actual jurisdiction. That is why it is so important to have the collaboration with the County.

UPDATE ON ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

No update.

SHEETPILE PROJECT – FIVE YEAR PLAN

No update.

EMERGENCY PLANNING REVIEW

Nothing to report.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF PARK SAFETY ISSUES

Director Knorr, Jr., asked when the sign (that is faded and in disrepair) will be taken down.

District Manager Espinoza stated they will be removed next week or the week following.

Director Kirk stated she was notified by members of the public that the barbeque pits had been removed.

Director Knorr, Jr. asked how they were removed as they were in concrete.

President Smith stated they cut off the top part and left the pole sticking up.

Director Knorr, Jr. stated it was unacceptable because of the safety issues.

There will be a cone placed on each pole that is exposed.

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 23-05-17A “INTENTION TO CONTINUE ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24, PRELIMINARILY APPROVING THE ENGINEER’S REPORT, AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE BETHEL ISLAND MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT LEVEE AND FLOOD CONTROL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR ASSESSMENT DISTRICT”

District Manager Espinoza stated this the annual procedure for continuing with the assessments for the Assessment District. This is to approve the Notice of Hearing and to preliminarily approve the Engineer’s Report. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, Single Family Equivalent (SFE) will be $139.34 which is a 3% increase. This represents a $4.06 increase per SFE from last year’s assessment rate.

Director Kirk wanted to discuss the projects that are listed in the Engineer’s Report.

District Manager Espinoza stated the projects weren’t funded by DWR. The Assessment District funds are to fund BIMID’s cost share of the projects. The funds are tied up for this Assessment District and BIMID can’t do any further major capital projects unless there is another new Assessment District.

There was a discussion on how much money of the assessments BIMID gets from Delta Coves and the assessment tool that DWR uses for disadvantaged communities. It might raise BIMID’s cost share from 6 to 7% to 10 to 25% for cost share of projects.

**A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Knorr, Jr. to adopt Resolution No. 23-05-17A, “Intention to Continue Assessments for Fiscal Year 2023-24, Preliminarily Approving Engineer’s Report, and Providing for Notice of Hearing for the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District Levee and Flood Control Facilities Maintenance and Repair Assessment District”. The vote showed five directors were in favor. Motion carried.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 23-05-17B “AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE BETHEL ISLAND URBAN AREA LEVEE REHABILITATION PROJECT” UNDER THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES’ DELTA LEVEES SPECIAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS PROGRAM

District Manager Espinoza stated with the approval of this resolution, the District would start moving forward with the submission of an application for the Multi-Benefit Project.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated that GEI reviewed a draft Project Solicitation Package (PSP) about a year ago and made comments. DWR made changes to the application process in two steps. Step 1 is the concept of the project and what the cost would be. The District’s concept was accepted. As a result, BIMID has been invited to submit an application. The deadline for the application is June 23, 2023. BIMID is one of six agencies that was selected to submit an application. The total dollar amount is fifty million dollars. District staff and engineers are hoping the District’s cost share will be low enough to complete the project.

Director Kirk stated Supervisor Diane Burgis asked if the recent flooding events were affecting all of the delta. Director Kirk asked how to describe that Bethel Island is in a flood plain and is below sea level.

Mr. Mike Mirmazaheri stated he would be surprised that Supervisor Burgis doesn’t already know that information as she is on the Delta Stewardship Council. Bethel Island is high on the list with Delta Levee Investment Strategy.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Kirk to adopt Resolution No. 23-05-17B “Authorizing Preparation of Necessary Document to Submit an Application for the Bethel Island Urban Area Levee Rehabilitation Project” Under the California Department of Water Resources’ Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects Program. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE BOARD PRESIDENT TO SIGN BALLOT FOR 2023 ELECTION FOR LAFCO SPECIAL DISTRICT (ALTERNATE)

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Rama to authorize the Board President to sign the ballot for the 2023 Election for LAFCO Special District (Alternate) and to vote for Dawn Morrow from Ironhouse Sanitary District. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

SUGGEST AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR PULIC OUTREACH/SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE FOR BIMID EVENTS/NOTICES

A motion was made by Director Kirk and seconded by Director Berzinas to appoint a Public Outreach Ad-Hoc Committee with Director Rama and Ms. Lori Castillo. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT ITEMS – STAFF REPORTS

Reports were available to the public.

District Clerk Bixby stated Director Rama had completed his AB1234.

Director Kirk stated she has been looking at the monthly Work to be Performed reports for the last few months and it seems that work has not been completed. She asked if there was any progress being made with toe ditches.

District Manager Espinoza stated that toe ditch maintenance is continuous and is separated into different segments.

District Manager Espinoza showed the directors a map that shows how much ditch cleaning has been done so far. The District rented a long reach excavator to access areas that could not be done with the District’s current equipment.

There was further discussion on the Work to Be Performed report.

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

TREASURER REPORT

**Balances as of 4/30/23:**

Checking Account: $75,468.18

Park Account: $2,634.70

House Number Account: $336.02

Delta Coves First Deposit: $8,611.67

Delta Coves Contingency Funds: $1,473,305.74

Delta Coves O & M Funds: $1,025,877.22

LFCF Repairs and Improvements: $4,071.89

LFCF Maintenance: $4,636.49

**Advance Funding from DWR**

Money Market is $4,440.18 (NWS Project)

Money Market is $48,419.89 (HEHE Project)

Money Market is $47,618.26 (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)

Director Kirk stated the committee met on May 4th and discussed the Local Agency Flood Safety Plan through the County; which will take eighteen or twenty four months to update through the County. Ms. Jean Wise and she went out to talk to the possible island evacuation points. She will email the people that she talked to and email District Manager Espinoza the information. They are asking the evacuation points to be part of the Local Agency Flood Safety Plan.

District Manager Espinoza stated there was discussion of the Community Warning System and she had spoken to the Sheriff’s Office about the Community Warning System, which had no idea of the plan that was done through their office and OES, so they got copies of the plan. Staff is also trying to update the Community Warning System with current information.

Director Rama stated there are four rally points at this time and he is working on updating the website with the information.

SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Submitting a Proposal to Delta Coves for Public/Private DI’s along Stone Road

Under “Unfinished Business” add (f)Collaborative Flood Control Efforts

Under “Unfinished Business” add (g)Contra Costa County Drainage and Flood Control

Under “Director Reports” add (h)Public Outreach/Social Media Ad-Hoc Committee

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 8:44 pm.

Submitted by Denece Bixby, District Clerk