

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

DATE: MARCH 13, 2025

The Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District met in 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: Tom Knorr, Jr., Anthony Berzinas, Bruce Smith and Lisa Kirk. District Manager Regina Espinoza and Attorney Dave Larsen were also in attendance. Director Rama was absent.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This item was continued until later in the meeting.

3. 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 Bethel Island Flooding and Remediation Mitigation Project under Item 9A(i)(a) because of the project being within 500 feet of their homes. Directors Knorr, Jr. and Kirk had no conflicts. Director Rama was absent.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Smith to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2025. The vote showed four directors in favor (Director Rama was absent). Motion carried.

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

President Knorr, Jr. stated on page 4 at the bottom of the page, it stated that he had seconded a motion, which he didn't think he did. He is fine with leaving it as is in the minutes.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lori Castillo stated she was confused because of all the time and effort that had been put into creating the Ordinance, signs, and agreements with towing companies to deal with the illegal parking on Ranch Lane. There is

still no authority to have the RV's removed from the street at the park. The Sheriff's Office should be called to notify the owner of the vehicle to move for the night. She would like to see something be done.

District Manager Espinoza stated there are different situations that need to be dealt with. One is the abandoned RV, which has been ticketed, but a certain amount of time has to pass before the RV can be towed away. The second vehicle can't be towed because someone is living in the vehicle. That is the next item on the list where the Sheriff or the CHP will need to be contacted. The third item is located adjacent to the Delta Coves property.

Director Rama arrived at 6:36 pm.

The Board agreed that there needs to be an item on the agenda for further discussion of the towing and contacting the Sheriff and Highway Patrol.

A resident of Delta Coves asked if there was any ordinance or other documentation that requires pedestrian access.

District Manager Espinoza stated there is documentation that needs to be researched. There would also be documentation from the Contra Costa County that would show more detailed information concerning walking paths, etc. BIMID has documentation for what BIMID is responsible for at Delta Coves.

Director Berzinas stated he would like Delta Coves pedestrian access, security and parking on Ranch Lane on the next agenda.

Director Kirk stated there should be a general discussion regarding pedestrian access on the levee.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Director Berzinas stated he feels that the officers should stay the same. Tom Knorr, Jr. is the Board President, Tony Berzinas is the Board Vice President, Lisa Kirk is the Board Secretary and Vignesh Rama is the Board Treasurer. Bruce Smith is a Boardmember.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Smith to keep the officers the same with Tom Knorr, Jr. as Board President; Tony Berzinas as Vice President; Lisa Kirk as Board Secretary; Vignesh Rama as Treasurer and Bruce Smith as Boardmember. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Smith to keep the Directors for the Director Reports the same: Project Approval Applications, Director Smith, Director Berzinas; Bethel Island Park (Standing Committee) Director Smith and President Knorr, Jr.; BIMAC/Fire Station Update, Director Kirk and Director Berzinas.

Director Kirk wanted clarification for all of the committees that are under the Director Reports. She would like to see the Drainage Ad-Hoc Committee progress for the drainage. She feels there is a conflict of interest with some of the projects. She asked Director Berzinas if she could be on the Drainage Committee with President Knorr, Jr.

Director Berzinas stated he doesn't have a problem with that, but does have concerns over jurisdictional boundaries and using BIMID resources over things that BIMID doesn't have any control over or should resolve. He knows the drainage issue is important, but if we don't come up with a joint committee with BIMAC to put pressure on the County to solve some of the drainage issues, then the drainage issue will not get solved. There needs to be a drainage committee, it just can't be only BIMID on the committee.

A motion was made by Director Berzinas and seconded by Director Smith to add Director Kirk to the Drainage Committee (Ad-hoc). The Ad-hoc committee members will be President Knorr, Jr. and Director Kirk. The vote showed five directors in favor. Motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS (CONSULTANT PRESENTATIONS)

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON BETHEL ISLAND

CULVERT/DRAINAGE/SEEPAGE/STANDING WATER ISSUES

District Manager Espinoza stated the District is still waiting on FEMA in regards to the Taylor Road Project. Staff is waiting to hear what the environmental needs will be and what will be taking place during Phases 1, 2 and 3.

Director Kirk asked if the project will still be funded by FEMA.

District Manager Espinoza stated FEMA is still funding the project. The District is far enough into the process that it will be funded, unless FEMA funds become frozen, but we don't know at this point. The longer it takes

for FEMA to clarify the environmental compliance requirements, the longer it will take for the project to start.

Director Kirk stated there had been Taylor Road property owners at the last board meeting. One property owner had a clogged culvert.

District Manager Espinoza stated there were a few residents on Taylor Road that were at the meeting. One property owner discussed his progress and status of his ditch and some of the neighbors.

Director Kirk stated she was uncomfortable with the Taylor Road project being disjointed. If some of the property owners don't clean their ditch and culvert, the stormwater will still back up. She recommended in the preseason to make sure all the BIMID ditches have been cleaned.

District Manager Espinoza stated that is already being done. BIMID sends out letters to the property owners to clean their ditches, and also to trim the trees back on the levee.

B. FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Director Kirk asked if BIMID needed a five year plan for the new assessment.

District Manager Espinoza stated the five year plan is still viable, just waiting for funding.

C. DISCUSSION OF SECURITY NEEDS AND ENFORCEMENT

Director Berzinas stated the concern for security at the pump stations, Delta Coves, and the park. He has been looking for costs and any other information from Contra Costa Water District for their canal enforcement officers.

District Manager Espinoza stated she is looking into their policies and procedures. The costs and how staffing is structured have been already presented. Salary costs start at \$99,000 with three shifts and patrols are completed 24/7. Contra Costa Water District is the only one in the County that has these patrols. She was not sure BIMID would have to go through the same process because BIMID already has the powers to create a policing force through the BIMID Act.

Director Smith stated if you have four officers at \$99,000 per year that would be \$400,000 per year.

District Manager Espinoza stated the \$99,000 is the base salary which doesn't include other benefits.

Director Berzinas stated we would only need one officer for six hours at night.

Director Ramas stated some of the roads on Bethel Island are privatized. Will they be able to just do those private streets or would it be the whole island.

Director Berzinas stated they would not be able to patrol public streets as they are not police officers. It would be only for BIMID's areas of responsibility.

District Manager Espinoza stated it is not structured yet. At the last Board meeting, it was discussed that it should go to the Security System Ad-Hoc Committee.

President Knorr, Jr. asked if part of the information gathering was going to include a grant from Homeland Security.

District Manager stated she has not found any Homeland Security Grants pertaining to utilities.

There was a discussion on what is needed for security needs. There was a suggestion to bring the security needs to the BIMAC meeting.

Director Berzinas asked staff to contact the Oakley Park District for what the contract costs would be. Ask about if their park ranger could assist.

Ms. Lori Castillo stated Measure X is supposed to be used for fire safety for underserved communities. There needs to be cooperation from BIMAC for the safety and security needs of Bethel Island.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF SCI UPDATED TIMELINE

District Manager Espinoza presented the Assessment District renewal timeline. Locations dates and times have been confirmed for Delta Coves Island Camp and Scout Hall. The dates are April 7, 2025 at 6:00pm – Delta Coves Island Camp and April 15, 2025 at 6:00pm – Scout Hall. The Assessment Ballots will be mailed April 18, 2025. There might be two virtual meetings on April 24, 2025 and May 22, 2025 for the people who couldn't attend the physical meetings. The close of balloting will be on June 12, 2025 at a BIMID Board meeting.

B. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARDMEMBERS WORKSHOP

Attorney Dave Larsen presented the Roles and Responsibilities of Boardmembers. There was a discussion on how the board meetings should be conducted. There were a couple of options on how to conduct board meetings. 1) read agenda item; staff report; public comment; close public comment; board deliberation; board vote. 2) read agenda item; staff report; public comment; close public comment; board deliberation; additional public comment; close public comment; board vote.

The Board discussed how agenda items should be managed. It could go to a committee to solve the issues and then bring back to the full board for a final vote regarding the solution. The committees should be goal specific.

The Board concurred with trying to have two public comments during an agenda item. The procedure will be: read agenda item; staff report; public comment; close public comment; board deliberation; additional public comment with a time limit; close public comment; board vote.

11. CONSENT ITEMS – STAFF REPORTS

Reports were available to the public.

A. District Manager Report Update on Goals, Strategies, Problem Areas, Work Completed
Nothing was discussed.

B. Levee Superintendent Monthly Report of Work Performed
Nothing was discussed.

C. District Clerk Monthly Report of Work Performed
District Clerk Bixby stated it is time for Form 700 to be completed and the forms are due by April 1st.

D. Report of Monthly Work to be Performed
Nothing was discussed.

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

12. DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. TREASURER REPORT

Balances as of 2/28/25:

Checking Account: \$395,979.50
Park Account: \$2,404.04
House Number Account: \$336.02
Delta Coves First Deposit: \$642,674.41
Delta Coves Contingency Funds: \$2,726,971.59
Delta Coves O & M Funds: \$1,178,757.53
LFCF Repairs and Improvements: \$594,503.84
LFCF Maintenance: \$194,256.65

Advance Funding from DWR

Money Market is \$85,985.98 (HEHE NW Levee Project)

B. BETHEL ISLAND PARK COMMITTEE (STANDING)

Director Knorr, Jr. stated the February meeting had been cancelled. The next meeting will be on March 18, 2025 at 4:00pm.

C. SECURITY SYSTEM COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Director Smith stated the ad-hoc committee met with Scheer Security to discuss the security of the fence on the north side of the BIMID yard. The cost of the beam for the back fence would be approximately \$4,000. After discussions, a quote came back to add another camera to the rear of the property to view the section between the storage container and the shop. There would also be a gate installed next to the back of the office.

Director Berzinas asked what is the coverage for monitoring with the camera for the \$80 per month monitoring.

Director Smith stated he suggested not having monitoring on the camera.

There was a discussion regarding the monitoring of the cameras.

Director Berzinas stated if there is no monitoring on the camera, the Board is asking BIMID employees to be on call, which would result in them having to be compensated for their time.

Director Rama stated even with the monitoring they would be doing the same thing that the employee would do. Once the notification comes in, the Sheriff's Office would be notified and there is no guarantee that someone would be arrested. The cameras will still be recording and that is what the Sheriff would be asking for.

The consensus of the Board was to accept the quote minus the monitoring of \$80 and for the District Manager to add the additional camera for the north fence.

D. DELTA INTERGOVERNMENTAL WATCHDOG COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Director Kirk stated she attended the Delta Protection Committee Meeting. She met a person that works part-time for GEI and works for FEMA who informed her on the ground water issues in the delta. In Isleton, their sewer system is being impacted by this flooding event.

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

Nothing was discussed.

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

Director Rama stated he has a piece of equipment that he wants to donate to the District.

G. BIMAC/FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE

Nothing was discussed.

H. ISLAND EVACUATION SAFETY COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Director Kirk stated there are evacuation signs located at Anchor Marina that need to be taken down since it is no longer a rally point. Delta Coves doesn't have a rally point and if they complete their evacuation plan, they can contact the Fire Department.

I. DRAINAGE COMMITTEE (AD-HOC)

Nothing was discussed.

13. SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Update on the 2015 BIMID Weak Links points

Discussion of Public Awareness campaign for the Levee (under Website)

Discussion of Pedestrian Access and Security

Discussion of Parking and Security on Ranch Lane

14. 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 9:12pm.

Submitted by Denece Bixby, District Clerk