



Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022

Meeting Held in Person and via Teleconference

PRESENT

David McMillan (Advisory Board Chairperson), William Mielke (Advisory Board Member), Dr. Arthur Sulzer (Advisory Board Member), Adam Tindall-Schlicht (Administrator), Jeffrey Scharf (Associate Administrator), Carrie Lavigne (Chief Counsel), Elizabeth Fox (Director of Congressional and Public Relations), Christopher Guimond (Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services), Anthony Curley (Director of Engineering and Maintenance), Kevin O'Malley (Strategic Advisor for Financial and Resource Management), and Rebecca Yackley (Director of Trade and Economic Development).

I. CALL TO ORDER

In his capacity as Board Chairperson, David McMillan welcomed all participants to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) Advisory Board meeting, noting the presence of quorum, he called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern).

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McMillan, which was seconded by Board member William Mielke, the Board approved the minutes without objection, the motion passed, and the minutes from the September 6, 2022, meeting were approved as drafted.

III. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Adam Tindall-Schlicht became the new GLS Administrator on November 7, 2022. He noted that GLS Deputy Administrator Craig H. Middlebrook officially retired on September 30 after 27 years of service at the GLS and a total of 34 years of Federal service.
- Administrator Tindall-Schlicht reported that his first and foremost priority was one-on-one meetings with all GLS staff. He noted openness, transparency, and excellent feedback from the Washington, DC staff and senior staff based in Massena, N.Y.
- He also spoke of attending the annual Highway H₂O Conference in Toronto next week and engaging with Seaway stakeholders. He also spoke of the closing of the 2022 navigation season at the end of December.

III. QUARTERLY UPDATES

- Jeffrey Scharf, Associate Administrator, reported on the September 29 GLS Visitor Center groundbreaking ceremony in Massena with Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and Deputy Secretary Trottenberg. The event went off successfully and the Secretary and Deputy Secretary had an opportunity to meet Massena employees and tour the *SEAWAY GUARDIAN* tugboat and GLS Vessel Traffic Control.



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- Mr. Scharf provided an update on the GLS's Voyage Information System (VIS) project. He reported that the Volpe Center recently presented a graphical interface demonstration for GLS staff. He briefly discussed current water levels and noted they continue to be well below average. He also spoke of draft restrictions and some speed restriction notices.
- Anthony Curley, Director for Engineering and Maintenance, reported that a candidate has been selected to replace him as Chief Engineer. Mr. Curley spoke of plans to end the navigation season while maintaining safety and reliability. He reported that GLS is close to awarding two major contracts for winter work and looking to begin solicitation for the design of the new GLS Administration Building within the next 90 days. Finally, Mr. Curley spoke of the September 29 groundbreaking ceremony and reported that the majority of the foundational work for the new Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock is complete.
- Elizabeth Fox, Director of Congressional and Public Relations, provided an update on the September 29 Visitor Center groundbreaking ceremony, press coverage, and the after-action items that her office has completed. She also noted that the *Seaway Compass* and *Seaway Soundings* newsletters were completed and distributed on schedule. Additionally, Ms. Fox spoke about the GLS's participation in the DOT Climate Challenge and concluded by recapping the 2022 mid-term elections and the impact on Great Lakes districts.
- Rebecca Yackley, Director of Trade and Economic Development, provided an update on recent GLS trade development activity, cruise ships in the Great Lakes Seaway System, and noted that Great Lakes/Seaway was featured in the recent edition of *Cruise Industry News*. She reported hosting an information booth at the Export Exchange Conference and noted opportunities to discuss shipping grain out of the Seaway.
- Christopher Guimond, Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services, reported that the GLS's buoy barge was safely returned to Massena from the shipyard following a retrofit project. He provided an update on foreign flag ship inspections and ballast water exams in 2022.
- Kevin O'Malley, Strategic Advisor for Financial and Resource Management, provided an update on the Great Lakes Seaway System Economic Impact Study. He reported that Martin Associates was recently retained to update the binational impact study and the updated study will include new information on cruise vessel impacts. Additionally, he noted that Martin Associates will update the 2014 Great Lakes/Seaway infrastructure investment survey report as a separate deliverable. Finally, Mr. O'Malley reported that GLS received the results of its FY 2022 financial statements audit, noting the Corporation's 59th consecutive unmodified clean audit with no findings and no recommendations.



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V. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The next GLS Advisory Board meeting is scheduled virtually for January 24, 2023. Mr. O'Malley will coordinate with the Board members to finalize all quarterly meeting dates for calendar year 2023.

VI. CLOSING DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 3:11 p.m. (Eastern), with a motion to adjourn from Mr. McMillan and seconded by Mr. Mielke.

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