



Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024

Chicago, Illinois

PRESENT

David McMillan (Chair, GLS Advisory Board), William Mielke (Advisory Board Member), Arthur Sulzer (Advisory Board Member), Adam Tindall-Schlicht (Administrator), Anthony Fisher (Deputy Administrator), Jeffrey Scharf (Associate Administrator), Carrie Lavigne (Chief Counsel), Sylvonica Madlock (Executive Officer), Kevin O'Malley (Strategic Advisor), Scott Blackburn (Environmental Protection Specialist), Paul Braden (Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services), Tony Curley (Director of Engineering and Maintenance), Carrie Rogers (Director of Administrative Services), Jennifer Wilk (Director of Congressional and Public Relations), Rebecca Yackley (Director of Trade and Economic Development), and Terrence Brown (member of the public).

I. CALL TO ORDER

GLS Advisory Board Chair, David McMillan, called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants to the GLS Advisory Board meeting, noting the presence of quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. (Central).

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a 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 May 14, 2024, meeting were approved as drafted.

III. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht welcomed the Advisory Board to Chicago and announced that the new President and CEO of the Canadian Seaway Management Corporation, Jim Athanasiou, would be joining the group at the American Great Lakes Ports Association conference. Mr. Athanasiou has been a longtime member of the senior management team at the Canadian Seaway, and this will be an opportunity for him to introduce himself to Seaway stakeholders. Administrator Tindall-Schlicht recently met with Mr. Athanasiou and they have committed to touching base monthly. They also envisioned a formal joint strategic meeting where U.S. and Canadian Seaway senior management would come together to discuss high level priorities.

Administrator Tindall-Schlicht also highlighted the ongoing GLS organizational cultural assessment led by contractors and how the assessment is moving into the transformation phase. He also reported leading a delegation of government officials to the United Kingdom that are interested in expanding the green shipping trade route into the Great Lakes via the Seaway. The United Kingdom Trade Minister is expected to meet with Transportation Secretary Buttigieg soon to further discuss Great Lake Seaway shipping.



IV. QUARTERLY UPDATES

- Anthony Fisher, Deputy Administrator, spoke of adding an apprenticeship program to the GLS workforce as a means for developing careers and career growth. He feels that adding this program will be particularly helpful for blue collar employees since GLS is looking to get approval from the Department and Congress to grow the organizational structure. Finally, he highlighted how productive the new Seaway Visitor Center has been with attracting guests and visitors to the region.
- Jeffrey Scharf, Associate Administrator, followed up on the apprenticeship program. He noted plans to schedule a meeting with GLS union leadership and a representative from the New York State Department of Labor who is involved with the apprenticeship programs in New York. Other highlights mentioned were GLS and SLSMC's data testing of the Voyage Information System (VIS) system, and development of data sharing protocols and engagements with industry stakeholders. Lastly, Mr. Scharf reported that a modified condition survey of the Seaway International Bridge south channel bridge deck was recently performed to define timing for the deck replacement project.
- Paul Braden, Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services, reported on 2024 increased commercial vessel transits and system reliability/lock availability performance metrics. He also reported on the successful onboarding of a new ship inspector and that 100 percent of commercial vessels bound for the Great Lakes/Seaway this navigation season received successful ballast water examinations. Finally, Mr. Braden reported that GLS Marine Services successfully executed over 50 percent of the 2024 plan for deployment of all-season buoys, to date, and plans to complete all 2024 plans by early September.
- Rebecca Yackley, Director of Trade and Economic Development, reported on travel to Turkey, Spain, and the Netherlands where her team provided information regarding opportunities to utilize the Great Lakes Seaway System as a maritime supply chain. She mentioned that GLS has expanded outreach with U.S. Commercial Service as many countries are learning that the Great Lakes is a shipping route that can be utilized to get cargo into North America.
- Jennifer Wilk, Director of Congressional and Public Relations, reported briefly on internal and external communication efforts provided following storm damage to the Seaway Visitor Center. She stated that the center is a big part of the community and so a plan was developed to respond to media inquiries in a timely manner. She added that her office supports the Administrator with a variety of speech writing and talking points as he communicates with different groups and stakeholders. Her division also recently provided background information and data for the Secretary's visit to Great Lakes ports, and completed GLS Port Pacesetter Awards for presentations, *Seaway Compass* quarterly newsletter, and articles for publications.



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- Kevin O'Malley, Strategic Advisor, reported on the House and Senate appropriation subcommittees work for the FY 2025 budget. Both chambers passed appropriations levels for the GLS at the President's Budget level of \$40.6 million. He also reported that he is working with Carrie Lavigne and Tony Fisher on transition documents in preparation for the new incoming leadership.
- Carrie Rogers, Director of Administrative Services, reported that her office has probably completed 80 percent of the deliverables due as part of the FY 2024 financial statements audit. She noted that at this point in the audit, there are no major issues or concerns. She added that the auditors recently performed a physical inventory test of GLS assets and the supply warehouse and all went well.
- Anthony Curley, Director of Engineering and Maintenance, reported that he has completed solicitation packages for major concrete restoration projects for this winter at the Eisenhower and Snell Locks and pavement projects. Mr. Curley briefly spoke of facility improvement projects that are prioritized for completion by Seaway opening March 2025.

V. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The next GLS Advisory Board quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024, in Montreal, Quebec, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Eastern). The meeting will include a virtual option.

VI. CLOSING DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m. (Central), with a motion to adjourn from Mr. McMillan and seconded by Board member Mr. Mielke.

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