



## Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024

Meeting Held at SLSMC Offices, St. Lambert, Quebec

---

### 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), Kevin O'Malley (Strategic Advisor), 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), Jazmine Jurkiewicz (International Trade Specialist) and Cmdr. Paul Mangini (OST Senior Advisor to Deputy Secretary)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

GLS Advisory Board Chair, David McMillan, called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS) Advisory Board quarterly meeting, noting the presence of quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern).

### 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 August 7, 2024, meeting were approved as drafted.

### III. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht welcomed the Advisory Board to the meeting and thanked the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) for hosting the meeting. He reported on the new four-year GLS Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFGE Local 1968. He noted that the GLS's retired tugboat *ROBINSON BAY* has been donated to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy for use as a training vessel. Administrator Tindall-Schlicht also reported on the completion of more than 50 GLS policy updates/revisions. He concluded his report by acknowledging the pending retirement of Rebecca Yackley, with more than 40 years of federal service. All Board members acknowledged her efforts and wished her well in retirement.

### IV. QUARTERLY UPDATES

- GLS Deputy Administrator Tony Fisher provided updates to the Board on recent organizational activities including the successful negotiation of the new GLS CBA, which was completed in record time and resulted in an agreement that did not require outside federal intervention. Additionally, Mr. Fisher highlighted his recent trip to Spain where he spoke on the advantages of shipping on the Great Lakes Seaway System.



## Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024

Meeting Held at SLSMC Offices, St. Lambert, Quebec

---

- GLS Associate Administrator Jeffrey Scharf provided an update for the Office of Lock Operations and Marine Services and reported more than 1,500 commercial vessel transits during the 2024 navigation season. He noted that the GLS is meeting its operational performance targets for system reliability and ballast water examinations and safety inspections. He also highlighted the work of the Marine Services group in completing the planned 2025 all-season buoy project below Snell Lock.
- Tony Curley, Director of Engineering and Maintenance, reported that the design for the new GLS Administration Building is 95 percent complete. Mr. Curley also highlighted planned winter work at the locks following the end of the navigation season and the completion of several employee-proposed infrastructure projects at GLS facilities.
- Kevin O'Malley, Strategic Advisor, reported on the successful completion of the GLS's FY 2024 financial statements audit, which resulted in the GLS's 61<sup>st</sup> unmodified (clean) audit. He noted three GLS reports were recently approved by the Secretary and provided to Congress – the GLS's FY 2023 SIP annual report, areas of collaboration with the Great Lakes Authority, and a biennial report on GLS trade and economic development activities.
- Jennifer Wilk, Director of Congressional and Public Relations, reported on recent meetings with Senate Commerce Committee staff. She also reported on internal and external communications, including GLS's two newsletters.
- Rebecca Yackley, Director of Trade and Economic Development, reported on cargo outreach, cruising, trade shows, and the recent Seaway Trade Mission to Rotterdam where her team raised awareness of U.S. agriculture exports to foreign markets. She also noted that GLS international trade specialist Jazmine Jurkiewicz was named a "40 Under 40" honoree at the Antwerp XL conference. Ms. Yackley concluded by thanking the Board for its support and wishing Board members and her GLS peers the very best in 2025 and beyond.

### **V. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

The next GLS Advisory Board quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2025, in Washington, D.C., from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Eastern).

### **VI. CLOSING DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m. (Eastern), with a motion to adjourn from Mr. McMillan and seconded by Board member Mr. Mielke.

#####