



Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2023

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), Anthony Fisher (Deputy Administrator), Jeffrey Scharf (Associate Administrator), Tony Curley (Director, Engineering and Maintenance), Carrie Lavigne (Chief Counsel), Sylvonica Madlock (Executive Officer), Carrie Rogers (Director of Administrative Services), Christopher Guimond (Director of Lock Operations), Rebecca Yackley (Director of Trade and Economic Development), Julie Kuenzler (EEO, Labor Relations, and Employee Development Manager), LaToya James (Public Affairs Specialist), Terence Brown (public attendee), and Julia Ruffin (public attendee).

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 quarterly meeting. Noting the presence of quorum, he called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m. (Central).

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McMillan, which was seconded by Board member William Mielke, the Board approved the draft minutes from the May 2, 2023, meeting as presented.

III. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht welcomed Board members, GLS staff, and public meeting attendees to the meeting in Chicago, commensurate with the American Great Lakes Ports Association's (AGLPA) annual conference. He highlighted several GLS initiatives, including the ongoing facilitation of a Green Shipping Corridor Network (GSCN) on the Great Lakes Seaway System and Seaway operations during the navigation season. Administrator Tindall-Schlicht discussed the ongoing creation of the Great Lakes Authority, which was included in the President's FY 2024 budget request and is currently being debated in Congress.

IV. QUARTERLY UPDATES

- Deputy Administrator Anthony Fisher began by acknowledging Associate Administrator Jeffrey Scharf and his team in Massena for a 99 percent system reliability rate in 2023. Mr. Fisher noted his interest in identifying cargo opportunities to increase trade flow in and out of the Great Lakes Seaway System. He said that maximizing the utilization of the Great Lakes/Seaway would save time and mileage and he hopes to get carriers and shippers to recognize that advantage to maximize trade.



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- Mr. Scharf reported that Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River water levels were stable and continue to follow seasonal expectations. His six-month forecast is that the water levels will trend towards the long-term average. He reported that the Seaway's reliability and lock availability rates exceed 99 percent for the navigation season. He briefly mentioned developments at the Seaway International Bridge, including the recruitment for a new bridge director. He noted that bridge paid toll traffic has increased to nearly 80 percent of pre-COVID levels.
- Christopher Guimond, Director of Lock Operations, reported 112 physical vessel boardings by GLS ship inspectors this year and spoke about plans to revamp the enhanced Seaway inspection program. He noted there have been no accidents or incidents in U.S. waters and the locks this season. The Marine Services division has been busy responding to navigation aid service calls as well as all-season buoy deliveries and deployments. Mr. Guimond reported that the *Seaway Guardian* tugboat repairs contract is being finalized and he hopes the tug can be fixed, returned to Massena, and used for the winter buoy run in December. He concluded by noting that he was retiring at the end of September.
- Tony Curley, Director of Engineering and Maintenance, provided an update on the construction of the new Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, reporting that the interior layout and fabrication for exhibits is in progress. Mr. Curley noted that solicitation for the design of the new GLS Administration Building was released. Finally, Mr. Curley reported that the GLS maintenance crews recently started replacing fendering at the two U.S. Seaway locks with rubber fendering, which has an increased lifespan when compared to wood fendering.
- Rebecca Yackley, Director of Trade and Economic Development, briefed the group on the Seaway Trade Mission to Germany, where she and Administrator Tindall-Schlicht participated in the trade and logistics transportation trade show in Munich. She noted that, while in Munich, she and Administrator Tindall-Schlicht had opportunities to reconnect with foreign port representatives from prior trade missions. Ms. Yackley reported on the GLS's participation at Breakbulk Europe, Canada New England Symposium, and SeaTrade Europe.
- Carrie Rogers, Director of Administrative Services, provided the Board with a budget, performance, and financial management quarterly update. She noted that the FY 2023 financial statements audit is ongoing, and her team has been able to provide the auditors with all requested data and reports. Ms. Rogers also reported that the GLS's FY 2025 budget request was submitted to the Secretary in June and awaiting a response from the Secretary's office before preparing the budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in September.



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- LaToya James, Office of Congressional and Public Relations, reported assisting with the preparation for Administrator Tindall-Schlicht's Congressional hearing before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. She noted that the Administrator's testimony went well and was posted on GLS social platforms. Ms. James highlighted preparations for the Administrator's GLS Pacesetter Award presentations to port winners and recapped the recent Congressional staff visit for the welcoming of the *Seaway Trident* tugboat to Massena. Lastly, she reported on the successful release of the binational Great Lakes Seaway System economic impact study.
- Julie Kuenzler, EEO, Employee Development, and Labor Relations Manager, provided a brief overview of the Department's work on equity and the focus on disability. She also reported on GLS efforts toward employee development, especially with training related to information technology cybersecurity. Ms. Kuenzler concluded by noting that the GLS-AFGE Local 1968 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) expires in September 2024 and the goal is to have a new CBA ratified before the current one expires.

V. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The next GLS Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2023, in person, in Montréal, Québec, in association with annual Great Lakes Seaway System maritime industry events.

VI. CLOSING DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m. (Central), with a motion to adjourn from Mr. McMillan and seconded by Mr. Mielke.

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