



Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (GLS)

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

Meeting Held via Teleconference

PRESENT

David McMillan (Chair, GLS Advisory Board), William Mielke (Advisory Board Member), Adam Tindall-Schlicht (Administrator), Anthony Fisher (Deputy Administrator), Jeffrey Scharf (Associate Administrator), Carrie Lavigne (Chief Counsel), Sylvonica Madlock (Executive Officer), 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), and Rebecca Yackley (Director of Trade and Economic Development).

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 meeting, noting the presence of quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.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 March 6, 2024, meeting were approved as drafted.

III. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht welcomed the Advisory Board to the meeting where he announced the successful grand opening of the new Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, which included DOT Deputy Secretary Polly Trottenberg. He noted that the Visitor Center is the first of the GLS's facility improvements in Massena, as part of its Facility Master Plan. The next significant improvement will be the construction of a new Administration Building on the south side of Eisenhower Lock. The new facility is in the design phase and is 30-50 percent completed.

Administrator Tindall-Schlicht also highlighted two new GLS contracts – a new workplace organizational culture assessment and transformation initiative contract as well as the award of a new contract to provide outreach support for the GLS's offices of Congressional and Public Relations and Trade and Economic Development. He concluded his report by reporting on GLS initiatives to increase traffic through the Seaway locks, which include a series of new international trade agreements in partnership with the Canadian SLSMC under the Highway H₂O marketing umbrella.



IV. QUARTERLY UPDATES

- Anthony Fisher, Deputy Administrator, noted his plans to discuss military supply chains and issues with moving military cargoes to the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway with U.S. Navy leadership. He reported that no U.S. flag service currently transits the Seaway. Mr. Fisher also spoke of future investments and finding ways to compel carriers to put their vessels into the Great Lakes Seaway System.
- Jeffrey Scharf, Associate Administrator, reported on recent news related to the GLS's ownership stake in the Seaway International Bridge. He noted that an asset management and life cycle cost analysis for the South Channel Bridge was recently delivered to the GLS. Mr. Scharf reminded the group that the GLS own 68 percent of the South Channel Bridge and also spoke of maintenance and capital expenditures that will be needed.
- Jennifer Wilk, Director of Congressional and Public Relations, reported on the various activities in her office related to the Visitor Center's grand opening and working on GLS leadership speeches and event amplification through social media. She also reported on working with the GLS's new outreach contractor on evaluating the GLS's social media outreach and some of the metrics that should be captured. She also spoke of plans to host congressional staffers from the House Appropriations Committee on a site visit to Massena in late May.
- Anthony Curley, Director of Engineering and Maintenance, provided updates on upcoming Seaway Infrastructure Program (SIP) project solicitation packages, which included backup power electrical distribution upgrades, the refurbishment of stoplogs at both locks, and the next phase for the gate lifter life extension are completed. He also discussed the Department's priority to create opportunities for employee-led decision making. Feedback was solicited from GLS employees for facility improvements that could be implemented to improve work life balance and efficiency on the job. The GLS has committed more than \$1 million to implement these recommendations.
- Paul Braden, Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services, reported that the first ocean vessel transited and cleared Eisenhower Lock for the 2024 navigation season on March 22. Through the first two months of the season, there have been no significant problems and the GLS is meeting its performance metrics related to system reliability and lock availability. He ended his report by discussing the GLS's plans to deploy its current inventory of all-season navigation aids.
- Carrie Rogers, Director of Administrative Services, briefly spoke about the GLS's financials in FY 2024 and an update on the start of the FY 2024 financial statements audit. She noted that the GLS is working to address the FY 2023 recommendations, which are expected to be closed out during the FY 2024 audit review. She added that the GLS's FY 2026 budget request to the Secretary will be submitted in late May.



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- Rebecca Yackley, Director of Trade and Economic Development, reported that her trade team members over the past eight weeks have conducted outreach to 14 U.S. Great Lakes/Seaway ports. She discussed new U.S. opportunities for agricultural and container movements on the Great Lakes. She also reported on the GLS's presence and efforts at the SeaTrade cruise exhibition, TradeWinds trade mission event, and the annual Great Lakes Governors and Premiers annual conference.

V. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The next GLS Advisory Board quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024, in Chicago, Ill., from 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Central) / 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Eastern). The hybrid meeting will include a virtual option.

VI. CLOSING DISCUSSION AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. (Eastern), with a motion to adjourn from Mr. McMillan and seconded by Board member Mr. Mielke.

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