



Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 (2:00 p.m. Eastern)
Massena, N.Y.; Washington, D.C.

The Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) convened on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern) via teleconference. Representatives from both the SLSDC's Washington, D.C. and Massena, N.Y. offices participated.

The following individuals were in attendance during the meeting on behalf of the SLSDC:

- Betty Sutton, SLSDC Administrator
- David McMillan, SLSDC Advisory Board Chairperson
- William Mielke, SLSDC Advisory Board Member
- Wenona Singel, SLSDC Advisory Board Member
- Dr. Arthur Sulzer, SLSDC Advisory Board Member
- Nancy Alcalde, SLSDC Director of Congressional and Public Relations
- Lori Curran, Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services
- Tom Lavigne, SLSDC Associate Administrator
- Carrie Mann Lavigne, SLSDC Chief Counsel
- Craig Middlebrook, SLSDC Deputy Administrator
- Kevin O'Malley, SLSDC Director of Budget and Economic Development
- Adam Schlicht, SLSDC Great Lakes Regional Representative
- Nancy Scott, SLSDC Director of Financial Management and Administration
- Charles Wipperfurth, SLSDC Deputy Chief of Staff

I. Call to Order

In his capacity as Board Chairperson, David McMillan welcomed all participants to the Advisory Board meeting and, noting the presence of quorum, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the September 2015 meeting was motioned by SLSDC Advisory Board Member William Mielke and was seconded by Member Wenona Singel. Without objection, the motion passed unanimously, and the September 2015 meeting minutes of the SLSDC Advisory Board were approved as written.

III. Quarterly Updates

SLSDC Administrator Betty Sutton provided a quarterly update to the Advisory Board membership, including a general overview of SLSDC activities since the previous Advisory Board meeting. The Administrator noted that commercial trade on the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway (GLSLS) system is down approximately 10 percent through November 2015 when compared to the previous year, noting that significant reductions in iron ore, coal, and steel products reflect steep declines in global consumption and pricing. An overview of U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx' visit to the SLSDC's operational

headquarters in Massena, N.Y. on October 20 was also discussed. In particular, the Administrator joined the Secretary at the Seaway Recognition and Appreciation Ceremony, honoring Seaway employees and other local emergency responders who assisted during the cruise ship *St. Laurent* incident at Eisenhower Lock. Budgetary highlights were offered by the Administrator, including an acknowledgment that the SLSDC had recently received its 52nd consecutive clean audit for Fiscal Year 2015.

The SLSDC's outreach across the System was also discussed by the Administrator, who noted that the Great Lakes Seaway Partnership hosted its first state capitol day in Indianapolis in November 2015. The SLSDC remains extensively engaged in working with the International Joint Commission (IJC) on the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Plan 2014 proposal. Administrator Sutton noted that SLSDC staff is heavily invested in the interagency process and have expressed support for tying Plan 2014 to the Order of Approval, ultimately requiring the IJC to coordinate with both the U.S. and Canadian governments on future changes.

As part of the SLSDC's nearly year-long Great Lakes Regional Initiative, the Administrator continues to promote the system, the Great Lakes region, and the SLSDC. Actions taken include presentation of Robert J. Lewis Pacesetter Awards in conjunction with community and/or maritime press/media events. The SLSDC also co-sponsored the 11th annual Highway H₂O Conference in Toronto in November, which was attended by over 150 attendees and remains one of the premier events for GLSLS stakeholders to network and understand global maritime trade dynamics. Administrator Sutton's update concluded by noting several personnel updates, including the retirement of Sal Pisani as Associate Administrator, the selection of Tom Lavigne as the new Associate Administrator in Massena, and the selection of Chuck Wipperfurth as the SLSDC's Deputy Chief of Staff.

SLSDC Director of Lock Operations and Marine Services Lori Curran provided the next quarterly update, noting that the Seaway's 2015 shipping season is expected to close the evening of December 30. No significant ice has been reported to-date, and the Seaway is optimistic about closing-related activities, including buoy decommissioning. Chairperson McMillan inquired about the *Cornelia*, a vessel currently anchored near the Port of Duluth in Lake Superior, and Mr. Middlebrook responded that the vessel was under ongoing investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard.

A budgetary and financial update was provided by both SLSDC Director of Budget and Economic Development Kevin O'Malley and Chief Financial Officer Nancy Scott. Mr. O'Malley presented highlights of the SLSDC's expected Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 budgets, which included Asset Renewal Program (ARP) initiatives for Hands-Free Mooring and the replacement of the SLSDC tugboat *Robinson Bay*. Ms. Scott reaffirmed that the SLSDC recently completed its 52nd clean audit and a separate quality control audit in Fiscal Year 2015.

Adam Schlicht, the SLSDC's Great Lakes Regional Representative in Cleveland, Ohio, discussed the SLSDC's ongoing trade and economic development initiatives. Highlights included increasing positive reception from Great Lakes stakeholders and thorough collaboration with the SLSMC. The HwyH₂O Conference held in Toronto in November 2015 was one of the most successful ever, and both Corporations are preparing for Breakbulk Europe (Antwerp, May 2016) and the HwyH₂O Trade Mission (London/Dublin, September/October 2016). In 2016, Mr.



Schlicht concluded, the Initiative will also increase outreach to the U.S. grain industry as well as the freight forwarder industry based in Houston, Texas.

Associate Administrator Tom Lavigne described ARP projects, including upgrading the lighting in the Eisenhower Lock highway tunnel to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology, rehabilitating the Snell Lock miter gate machinery, replacing corroded stairways to the crossover galleries with fiber reinforced polymer units, and cutting slots and installing rails in the lock wall at Eisenhower Lock for installation of the Hands Free Mooring (HFM) units. The SLSDC is also continuing its efforts to resolve issues with the Ice Flushing System at Snell Lock. The SLSDC's maintenance personnel are performing work in the gallery at Eisenhower Lock in preparation for the contractor's work on the HFM slots this winter. Art Sulzer inquired about the SLSDC's plans for the *Robinson Bay* replacement, and Mr. Middlebrook noted that Robert Allen Limited, a contractor, was assisting the SLSDC with the design.

Deputy Administrator Mr. Middlebrook provided an environmental policy update, discussing the potential impact of the recent NRDC, et al. v. EPA decision on ballast water regulation on the Great Lakes. He also provided an update on the latest developments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and whether the Ballast Water Convention will come into effect this year or next. SLSDC Advisory Board Member Wenona Singel asked about the continuance of the Ballast Water Collaborative (BWC), and Mr. Middlebrook signified that the SLSDC is considering hosting another BWC meeting sometime in 2016.

Nancy Alcalde, SLSDC Director of Congressional and Public Relations, provided a quarterly update and overview. Recent congressional proposals of significance include the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, which has not yet been considered by the U.S. House of Representatives. However, new port performance metrics were enacted by Congress, and the SLSDC is expected to participate in a new industry working group created to establish a national, unified process for moving freight. Ms. Alcalde also provided an overview about recent meetings and speaking engagements conducted by the Administrator, most notably U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx' recent visit to Massena, N.Y. to honor Seaway employees and local emergency responders.

The final quarterly report was offered by SLSDC Chief Counsel Carrie Mann Lavigne, who presented the latest update on the International Joint Commission's Water Regulation Plan 2014. Ms. Lavigne noted that the SLSDC's primary concern is with deviations for commercial navigation. Finally, Ms. Lavigne noted that both the SLSDC and SLSMC are expected to publish its annual rule making and tariff rate proposal for 2016 in January.

IV. Old and New Business

Advisory Board member Art Sulzer recommended hosting the next Advisory Board quarterly meeting concurrent to the Great Lakes Waterways Conference in early February in Cleveland. Member Singel agreed, echoing that it is important for the SLSDC Advisory Board to make connections with industry representatives and further understand the operation of Great Lakes ports. Deputy Chief of Staff Chuck Wipperfurth promised to coordinate with the Advisory Board accordingly.



V. Closing Discussion and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. (Eastern), with a motion to close from Mr. Mielke, as seconded by Mr. Sulzer.

#####

