ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT
Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting

August 15, 2025

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Members Present:
Ivan Solis, Committee Chairman
PS Sriraj
Henry Wisniewski
Danielle Cassel
Erika Rodriguez
Betty Sanchez

Others Present:
Averil Edwards, Director
Michelle McClendon, Director (via teleconference)
Erik Varela, Executive Director
Maria Limonciello, IIPD
Brad Smith, Neal & Leroy
LaKesha Lundy, Treasurer

Committee Chairman Solis opened the meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee at approximately 8:50 am. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

General Public Present: Mark Wagstaff, Smith Group; John Yonan, Collins Engineers; Ma Cherry Trivedi; Wilfred Quinn, Associate General Counsel Local 150-International Union of Operating Engineers; Jake Berent, Director of Communications for the Chicago Federation of Labor; Martin Durkan, Local 150; Freddy Alvarez, Local 150; Glenn Minyard, IUOE Local 150 Safety Coordinator; Alejandro Munoz, Local 150; Omar Luna, Local 150; and Osvaldo Garcia, Local 150.

Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion to allow Director McClendon to attend the meeting via teleconference. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously. Director McClendon arrived at the meeting, in person, at approximately 9:10 am.

APROVAL OF MINUTES

After review, Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion recommending the Board of Directors approve the July 18, 2025 minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, was seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The July 2025 Financial Reports were presented. Treasurer Lundy noted the $1 million entry under July - Other Port Revenue and reported this reflects the recent insurance claim payment related to the fire in the Shed. Treasurer Lundy also noted an open payment reflected in Land Leases, which the Executive Director is looking into. Treasurer Lundy reported the Repairs and Maintenance expense is over budget due to the lingering expenses related to the fire and flood earlier this year.

Treasurer Lundy reported investment income to-date has exceeded expectations and noted that the Treasury Bills currently held will be expiring and she will be reviewing reinvestment options. Treasurer Lundy held a quarterly meeting with Marquette Associates to review the IIPD pension investments. Treasurer Lundy reported that investment performance is on track and aligned with expectations and goals. Treasurer Lundy noted that when considering the volatility in the market over the past months, a 6% growth rate is a strong result.

FINANCIAL REPORTS (CONTINUED)

After discussion, Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion recommending the Board of Directors approve the July 2025 Financial Reports. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel and was seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion to take the Agenda out of order, to allow the presentation of the PIDP Grant Schedule by Smith Group and public comment. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel and was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

PIDP Grant Schedule – Smith Group
Mark Wagstaff of the Smith Group provided an update on the dock wall project. Mr. Wagstaff reported that to date, the project is on schedule, with completion expected in 2029. There are pre-agreement actions that need to be completed before MARAD signs the final funding agreement. The pre-agreement activity is expected to be completed by mid-2026. Construction procurement is projected for 2027, leaving a two-year construction period.

Mr. Wagstaff reported that the Environmental Assessment is the most significant task to be completed in the pre-agreement period. Final design and permitting will also be underway during the pre-agreement period. Mr. Wagstaff stated the pre-agreement tasks are on schedule.

Mr. Wagstaff also discussed the critical and immediate task of completing the IDOT Grant Agreement which is on the Agenda. This agreement will make funds available for essential activities during the MARAD pre-approval agreement phase, including field investigation work and environmental assessment work. Looking forward, Mr. Wagstaff stated that a public review of the environmental assessment is scheduled for the Spring of 2026 and the approval and execution of the MARAD agreement is scheduled for June of 2026.

Executive Director Varela noted once the MARAD agreement is executed there are 5 years to complete the project. He indicated there are no time constraints at this point.

Mr. Yonan reported that the engineering team meets with MARAD monthly and MARAD is supportive of the project. In addition, the engineering team meets with the Executive Director and Counsel every two weeks. Mr. Yonan indicated the current focus is to execute the IDOT Grant Agreement.

Director Sanchez indicated that the IIPD should be prepared to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act.

OLD BUSINESS

IDOT Grant Agreement – Iroquois Landing Dock Wall

Counsel Smith reported that the IDOT Grant Agreement reflects the standard intergovernmental grant agreement, similar in form to recent IDOT Grant Agreements the IIPD has executed relating to Rebuild Illinois funding. This Agreement is specific to the front end funds relating to the project's preliminary Phase 1 engineering. The budget sets forth a $1.5 million cost for the Phase 1 engineering, with IDOT providing $1.2 million, and the IIPD having $300k match.

Counsel Smith reported there is an additional requirement. This reqirement is IDOT's standard Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement (sub-agreement) which sub-alloactes scope responsbilities. Counsel Smith noted that IDOT has accepted the IIPD's procurement of engaging the engineering firms.

The Committee is asked to recommend the Board of Directors approve execution of the IDOT Grant Agreement and the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement (sub-agreement), subject to legal counsel review.

Executive Director Varela will work with the Treasurer to allocate IIPD match funds.

After discussion, Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion recommending the Board of Directors approve the IDOT Grant Agreement and the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement, subject to final review by legal counsel. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel and was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Ill. Open Meetings Act.
Discussion of litigation matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Ill. Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Solis request a Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel related matter pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Ill. Open Meetings Act. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel and was seconded by Mr. Wisniewski, and the Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Chairman Solis reported there was no New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Omar Luna, Local 150. Mr. Luna stated he has worked at NASCO for 3.5 years as a longshoreman and operator. Mr. Luna stated that he has personally witnessed NASCO put safety rules on paper and asserted that NASCO ignores these rules in practice, putting profit before safety. Mr. Luna asserted safety issues with door sharing, lack of sounding horns and equipment and vehicles without horns. Mr. Luna asked that the IIPD demand that NASCO stop its unsafe work practices and treat their employees with the decency and respect they deserve.

Osvaldo Garcia, Local 150. Mr. Garcia stated he has worked at NASCO for 4 years. Mr. Garcia asserted that since he has worked at NASCO, he has worked on unsafe machines and equipment. He asserted that many of the machines and equipment have broken parking brakes, cracked parts, leaking hydraulic fluid and no fire extinguishers. Mr. Garcia stated that he is worried about his and his coworker's safety. Mr. Garica stated he is a member of NASCO's safety committee which meets monthly. He stated he has brought up safety concerns and asserted NASCO has made little to no changes. Mr. Garcia stated we went on strike to improve working conditions and demands respect and accountability for managing and maintaining the equipment he and his coworkers use daily. Mr. Garcia asked that the IIPD demand that NASCO stop unsafe work practices and treat employees with dignity and respect.

Alejandro Munoz, Local 150. Mr. Munoz stated he has worked at NASCO for 15 years and is currently Superintendent of Operations/Coordinator. Mr. Munoz stated he has worked at three terminals and has witnessed constant safety issues. Mr. Munoz stated that he has brought up the safety issues to NASCO's management, HR representatives and safety advisors. Mr. Munoz asserted that nothing has changed. Mr. Munoz stated he encourages new employees to speak up regarding safety issues, however, he asserted the employees are afraid to talk to management for fear of retaliation. Mr. Munoz stated he joined the strike after two months because he realized enough is enough. Mr. Munoz stated he wants safety and better equipment for workers. Mr. Munoz asked that the IIPD demand that NASCO stop unsafe work practices and treat employees with dignity and respect.

Glenn Minyard, IUOE Local 150 Safety Coordinator. Mr. Minyard stated he has worked with heavy machines, taught industry standards, was an OSHA outreach instructor and has been the IUOE Local 150 Safety Coordinator for five years. Mr. Minyard asserted that NASCO is not addressing safety concerns. Mr. Minyard discussed the industry's 2023 Focus Four Hazards (Fall Hazard, Struck by Hazard, Caught Between Hazard and Electrocution Hazard). Mr. Minyard stated the Four Hazards reflect 61.8% of all injuries. He stated that he has heard the many safety concerns at NASCO and asserted that many of the issues can be easily fixed, especially given NASCO has a safety committee. Mr. Minyard stated that he wonders why NASCO ignores safety issues. Mr. Minyard asked that the safety issues be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Wilfred Quinn, Associate General Counsel Local 150-International Union of Operating Engineers. Mr. Quinn stated that Local 150 has filed seven unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Board. Mr. Quinn asserted that NASCO fired 15 employees a few weeks ago. Mr. Quinn asserted that NASCO has been hiring replacement workers through a personnel agency. Mr. Quinn stated that one of these workers arrived to work wearing a pro local 150 vest, an action that is protected under federal labor law. Mr. Quinn asserted that in response, NASCO fired this employee and the other workers hired from the personnel agency. Mr. Quinn stated these actions do not reflect a company that respects workers or workers rights.

Mr. Quinn asserted that many of the NASCO leases with the IIPD include a labor unrest clause. He stated that Ozzie, Omar and Alex are requesting safety, training, accountability and respect. Mr. Quinn asserted that NASCO is not taking action to resolve disputes or address worker concerns. Mr. Quinn asked that the IIIPD do everything in its power to evict NASCO and not renew any leases. Mr. Quinn stated he believes NASCO has no intent to settle the disputes.

Jake Berent is the Director of Communications for the Chicago Federation of Labor. Mr. Berent stated the IIPD should terminate its lease with QSL/NASCO. Mr. Berent asserted that NASCO fails to meet obligations in its lease, and may violate City ordinances and key labor protections, Mr. Berent stated he believes that QSL/NASCO is in breach of its lease, including provision 39 Mr. Berent called for the IIPD to immediately terminate the lease with QSL/NASCO and not renew any lease with QSL/NASCO. Mr. Berent stated that the IIPD should take steps to adopt a labor ordinance that would apply to contractors and tenants and include compliance standards and worker protections.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Committee Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adjourn. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

Ivan Solis
Committee Chairman

ATTESTED:

Kathleen Dart
Secretary