

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT

**Summary Record of Proceedings
of the
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

April 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois International Port District was held on Friday, April 17, 2026, at the offices of the IIPD, at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Roll was called at approximately 8:45 am. The following Directors were present:

Mr. Solis	Present	Ms. McClendon	Present	Ms. Rodriguez	Present
Mr. Wisniewski	Present	Ms. Sanchez	Present	Dr. Sriraj	Present
Ms. Cassel	Present	Ms. Edwards	Present		

Also present: Erik Varela, Executive Director; Maria Limonciello, IIPD; Ma Cherry Trivedi, IIPD LaKeshia Lundy, Treasurer; and Counsel Brad Smith, Neal and Leroy, LLC.

General Public Present: See attached list of members of the public present.

Chairman Solis made the following statement:

The Illinois International Port District (IIPD) is a government entity that owns port facilities at Iroquois Landing Terminal and Lake Calumet Terminal and leases land under the terms of applicable law and existing lease agreements. The IIPD's duties, established by Illinois statute, include fostering, stimulating and promoting the shipment of cargoes and commerce through its ports. The IIPD Board of Directors, the governing and administrative body of the IIPD, is obligated to abide by its statutory authorities and applicable lease agreements and cannot take action that conflicts with the District's legal responsibilities or the terms of valid and effective lease agreements, many of which pre-date current events by several years. While the IIPD always encourages its tenants to comply with applicable law, it does not mediate labor disputes between operators and their employees and defers to the applicable federal regulatory agencies with jurisdiction. Should a legal dispute or official ruling require action by the District, IIPD will act in accordance with the law and its lease agreements.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to take the meeting agenda out of order to allow public comment. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously. See page 5 for Public Comment summary.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to take the meeting agenda out of order to allow the Arcadis Presentation relating to the IIPD Climate Action Plan. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously. See page 3 for summary of presentation.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Leases and Agreements Committee Report – Items requiring action.

Adoption of Committee Minutes

Chairman Solis reported the Leases and Agreements Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Committee's March 20, 2026 meeting minutes and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Leases and Agreements Committee Report – Items requiring action - continued

FTZ Operating Agreement – Progressive Components International Corporation

Chairwoman Solis reported the Leases and Agreement Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve an FTZ Operating Agreement with Progressive Components International Corporation, with the stipulation that the agreement reflects the standard IIPD FTZ Operating Agreement and that it is prepared by counsel and is in accordance with the summary sheet presented.

Chairwoman Solis requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

FTZ Operating Agreement Amendment – FNS, Inc

Chairwoman Solis reported the Leases and Agreement Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve an amendment to the FNS FTZ Operating Agreement, as prepared by legal counsel and in accordance with the summary sheet presented.

Chairwoman Solis requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report – Items requiring action

Adoption of Committee Minutes

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Committee's March 20, 2026 meeting minutes and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Financial Reports

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the March 2026 Financial Reports and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed

Professional Service Agreement - Accounting Services

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the engagement with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP for IIPD accounting services. The final contract terms are to be negotiated by Executive Director Varela and Counsel Smith, and consistent with the Lauterbach & Amen proposal.

Ms. Cassel made a Motion to approve, the Motion was seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of Committee Minutes

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to approve the Board of Directors' March 20, 2026 meeting minutes. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez and the Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Director McClendon had questions regarding recent public comments relating to the labor strike. Ms. McClendon asked if Local 150 has provided a written request for a meeting. Executive Director indicated he could not recall receiving a written request.

Ms. McClendon noted Mr. Sundine has invited Board members to visit Local 150's facility. Ms. McClendon reported she has sent him two requests, with no response. She indicated that she would follow up with a third request.

Ms. McClendon asked if the Port has received written correspondence from NASCO/QSL regarding the status of any OSHA violations. Executive Director reported he has received correspondence from QSL regarding the violations as well as documentation from the OSHA website showing status of each violation.

Ms. McClendon asked if the fire at the QSL facility at Iroquois Landing was inspected. Executive Director reported staff had investigated the site. He reported the incident involved a fire in a pickup truck. He indicated staff did not note any damage to the property and he has not received any indication of damage from QSL.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to take the meeting agenda out of order to allow the Executive Director Report. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Dr. Sriraj, and the Motion passed unanimously. See page 4 for summary of the report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion of litigation matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
Discussion of property lease matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) of the Ill Open Meetings Act.
Discussion of personnel matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. McClendon and the Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Arcadis Presentation – IIPD Climate Action Plan

LeeAnn Tomas and Nariman Mostafavi (via teleconference) of Arcadis provided a high-level executive summary of the 150-page IIPD Decarbonization and Climate Resilience Plan report. Mr. Mostafavi reported that the IIPD Climate-Ready Master Plan is a decarbonization and climate resilience roadmap for infrastructure development. The Plan's goals include the IIPD serving as a national multimodal freight and logistics hub, facilitate economic development, and enhance quality of life in the area and provide community benefits.

Arcadis Presentation – IIPD Climate Action Plan (continued)

The plan reflects that the IIPD of tomorrow will support the adoption of green technology, low or zero emission vehicles, and renewable power sources for current and future tenants and development plans.

To develop the IIPD decarbonization and climate resilience plan, an integrated process grounded in best-practice standards and community engagement principles were applied. Mr. Mostafavi described how they developed the decarbonization strategy, decarbonization opportunities as well as reduction strategies. A scope and analytical framework were developed, an emission assessment was considered, decarbonization opportunities were identified (including identifying priority decarbonization levers), and climate risks and vulnerabilities were evaluated. The 10-year resilience and decarbonization plans prioritize actions across infrastructure, policy, and tenant/community engagement. Mr. Mostafavi indicated the overall plan is centered on two separate main topics: 1) sustainability and decarbonization, and 2) climate resilience strategy.

The Climate Resilience plan was also briefly summarized. A resilient IIPD is able to respond to climate risks (e.g, flooding, extreme heat), proactively reduce exposure and risk, recover quickly from climate-related events and have the ability to adapt over time to changing environmental conditions. The process included two phases, 1) getting an understanding of the IIPD facilities, and 2) creating an action plan that includes recommendations.

Recommendations were laid out in a 10 Year Action and Priority Plan. Recommendations included: assess and improve capacity of drainage infrastructure, collaborate to improve resiliency of tenant facilities, and assess and improve emergency operations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Varela reported:

- The St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping traffic on March 22. The IIPD received its first Canadian vessels at both Lake Calumet and Iroquois Landing. The first international vessels of the season are expected to arrive next week.
- Chairman Solis and he hosted a team from the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. They discussed ongoing infrastructure projects and highlighted opportunities for new development and cargo growth at the Port.
- He attended the Transportation Go conference, a soybean and agriculture event. Shipping opportunities through the Great Lakes were discussed.
- We Work the Waterways, a not-for-profit maritime workforce development organization, will be holding their 1st Maritime Interaction Day in Chicago next week. The event will host 250 children from neighborhood schools. The IIPD will be participating in the event.
- Responses to the RFP relating to the EPA Clean Ports Grant – Solar and Battery Storage were received on March 20 and are currently under review by an evaluation committee that includes consultants selected by the Illinois EPA.
- Soil borings and site-specific work related to the USDOT PIDP Grant – Iroquois Landing Dock wall are scheduled to begin next week.
- Roof replacement work at Shed 4 is ongoing.
- The RFP for Phase 1 design of the multi-use trail relating to the Lake Calumet Trail project has been published. The proposal period closes on May 11.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Sundine, Local 150 – Director of Organizing. Mr. Sundine inquired how to get on to the agenda. Mr. Sundine stated that April 22 is the one-year anniversary of Darius Clement going missing at the QSL facility at the Port of New Orleans, LA. He stated Mr. Clement has not been found. Mr. Sundine stated that at the same Port, on January 15, a worker was killed by a forklift. Mr. Sundine asserted that there have been near-misses at the Port, with falling steel coils and fires and this is a great concern. Mr. Sundine stated that he gave his business card to all Board members and no one has contacted him. Mr. Sundine stated that he has repeatedly asked Board members to stop and talk to the striking workers about conditions and no one has stopped by. Mr. Sundine stated all workers should be able to go home safely at the end of the day.

Wilford Quinn, Associate General Counsel, Local 150. Mr. Quinn asserted that Chairman Solis' statement that the IIPD does not mediate labor disputes is not true. He asserted that it is within the IIPD's role and obligation to safeguard tenants and the workers on the property. He asserted that the idea of abdicating all responsibility and stating you just deal with the tenants, is untrue and morally reprehensible. He stated that when someone has an accident and lax safety standards, that workers have testified to countless times, result in a tragic accident, no one will be able to say, "it was not my responsibility".

Mr. Quinn asserted that the idea that the Board does not mediate any of this dispute is not true. He stated that he has FOIA requests and documents that show Mr. Varela meeting and communicating with ILA and communicating with QSL. He asserted that Mr. Varela has been meddling in this dispute. Mr. Quinn asserted that the FOIA requests have made clear that the Board and Mr. Varela will meet with anyone except the workers outside. He stated that workers were at an event that Mr. Varela attended, and there was no conversation.

Mr. Quinn stated he was told that previous public comments asked if there was a tentative agreement between QSL and ILA. Mr. Quinn asserted that any agreement that exists between ILA and QSL was formed on the basis of collusion between the company and the union. Mr. Quinn asserted the alleged majority support was doctored through collusion, by firing people, demoting people, and hiring back workers to create an illusion of majority support. He stated that this is not a solution and will only make things worse. He asserted this is a half measure by QSL to resolve this matter, and he stated, this will not happen.

Mr. Quinn asked the QSL workers in the room to think about which union they want to represent them, a union brought in by the company and beholden to them for every action they take, or a union that has been fighting for workers every day for over one year.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Freddy Alvarez, Local 150 Business Agent. Mr. Alvarez stated he wanted to reiterate that Local 150 is ready to represent every worker at QSL America, those on strike and those working inside.

Mr. Alvarez stated as shipping season ramps up, it is a moment that demands urgency and accountability for every worker. Mr. Alvarez stated that operations are not strengthening. He stated that CN rail service has been reduced to one train per week, averaging 40 rail cars. He asserted that one year ago, it was common for 4-5- trains per week to service the Port with up to 70 rail cars. He asserted that trains are sitting idle for up to 5 hours at a time.

Mr. Alvarez stated that daily semi-truck traffic has dropped to less than half normal volume. He stated that at the same time, serious safety failures are occurring. He stated that a steel coil was dropped, nearly killing a worker; there was a warehouse fire involving wood, steel and unmarked chemical containers; overloaded dump trucks, spilling as they turn corners, causing danger to the workers and public; and workers placed in danger zones without overhead protection. He asserted this only started happening since QSL began operating at the Port.

Mr. Alvarez stated that all this is happening when QSL workers have been on strike for over 300 days. He stated that there are nine unfair labor practices and on-going OSHA violations still unresolved. He stated broader pressures on the system, global instability, including the Iran War, is driving diesel prices sharply higher. He stated that when fuel costs rise, efficiency becomes critical, every delay, every idle train, every missed load becomes more expensive. He stated that in this environment, Ports that do not operate efficiently cannot compete. He stated how does the Port become a robust competitive hub under these conditions, how do you justify diminished rail service, reduced train traffic and on-going safety failures, while expecting growth. He stated how do you stand by QSL management that dismisses the workforce responsible for keeping the Port moving.

Mr. Alvarez stated accountability has to mean action. He stated while QSL workers have been outside for nearly a year, operations have declined, safety issues persist, economic impact is visible. He stated it is time to terminate QSL America's lease. He stated you cannot ignore what is happening. He stated customers, investors, elected officials and the public are watching and are looking for results. He stated if the IIPD is serious about the future of the Port, they must act to restore safe, efficient and reliable operations and make necessary changes. He stated that without action this Port does not move forward, it falls behind. He asked that the QSL America strike be put on the agenda so that the IIPD, Local 150, and workers can have direct discussions and reach results.

Mr. Alvarez directed this statement to QSL employees in attendance. He stated that Local 150 represents over 24,000 members and they have a market share of over 98% of the industry, in the construction industry in their area. He stated that Local 150 represents workers in Indian, Illinois and Iowa, and has an elite training site, training members to get CDLs, operate power cranes and anything in between. He stated they should ask why ILA is here. He asserted it is because of Local 150 standing outside, fighting for workers. He stated why weren't they here five years ago, or three years ago. He asserted that the only reason is because Local 150 is standing outside fighting for every worker.

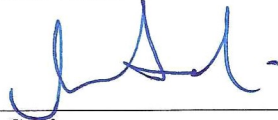
ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adjourn at approximately 10:30 am. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

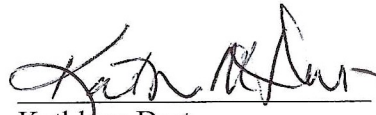
The next Board of Directors meeting, the Leases and Agreements Committee meeting, and the Finance and Personal Committee meeting will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The Leases and Agreements Committee meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Finance and Personnel Committee. The Regular Board Meeting will follow the adjournment of the Finance and Personnel Committee.

APPROVED:



Ivan Solis
Chairman

ATTESTED:



Kathleen Dart
Secretary

April 17, 2026	
Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting	
Public In Attendance	
Wilfred Quinn	Associate General Counsel Local 150
Kristine Kavanagh	Local 150
Freddy Alvarez	Local 150
Ray Sundine	Local 150 Director of Organizing
Alex Munoz	QSL
Arturo Cortes	QSL
Braulio Partida	NASCO
Carlos Saldana	NASCO
Clemens Gizynski	Local 150/QSL/NASCO
DaVonne Taylor	QSL
George Kyriakakis	Local 150/QSL
Hector Valadez	NASCO
Heriberto Gutierrez	Local 150
Jesus Vasquez	NASCO
Jonathon Rodriguez	NASCO
Leo Lopez	NASCO
Manuel Roa	Local 150/NASCO
Oscar Ornelas	NASCO/Local 150
Richard Betz	NASCO
Richard Hernandez	QSL/NASCO
Terrill McWilliams	NASCO/Local 150
Uriel Sanchez	QSL
Alfredo A	NASCO
Alyssa Bonnila	QSL
Andre C	NASCO
Antonio Salinas	QSL
Armando Ocampo	QSL
Armundo Romin	QSL
B Stewart	Arcadis
B. Tipres	NASCO
Cassandra Raye	QSL
Cerashaan Davis	QSL
Darrius Sanders	NASCO
Dominick Sanchez	NASCO
Edwin Orellana	NASCO
Fabiola R	NASCO
Francisco Martinez	QSL

*Please excuse misspellings or typos

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Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting	
Public In Attendance Page 2	
Gino Becerra	NASCO
Isidro Martinez	NASCO
J Cabrales	NASCO
J Resendiz	Local 150
Jaimee Ramiroz	Local 150
Jamariyon Hopkins	QSL
Jessica Soto	QSL
Joaquin Morales	NASCO
Joe Perez	ILA
Josh Wilkinson	QSL
Kellie Tovar	QSL
LeeAnn Tomas	Arcadis
Lucian Viveroz	QSL
Malcom McNeal	QSL
Manny Vela	QSL
Manuel Rea	NASCO
Mark McGregor	QSL
Martin Sanders	QSL
Mike Starble	QSL
Nancy Jaramillo	QSL
Niccie Zabala	QSL
Norberto Ames	QSL
R Cruz	QSL
R Jonas	NASCO
Richard Hyedl	QSL
Robert Gatliff	NASCO
Ruben Ramirez	NASCO
Rudy Luna	NASCO
S Avry	Local 150
S Cray	QSL
Scott Peterson	QSL
Sharon Campos	QSL
Spencer Hudson	QSL
Steve Spicer	QSL
Todd Aldrich	ILA 1969
V Marinez	QSL
Veronica Adorno	NASCO
Wallace Easley	QSL
Marcus Jordan	

*Please excuse misspellings or typos