

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT

Summary Record of Proceedings of the REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois International Port District was held on Friday, May 15, 2026, at the offices of the IIPD, at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Roll was called at approximately 8:30 am. The following Directors were present:

Mr. Solis	Present	Ms. McClendon	Present	Ms. Rodriguez	Present
Mr. Jordan	Present	Dr. Sriraj	Present	Ms. Sanchez	Absent
Ms. Edwards	Absent	Ms. Cassel	-via teleconference	Mr. Wisniewski	- via teleconference

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

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

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to allow Director Cassel and Director Wisniewski to attend the meeting via teleconference. The Motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. McClendon, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Solis welcomed new Board Director Marcus Jordan.

Chairman Solis reported that the IIPD has received a formal request for a meeting from Local 150. Chairman Solis stated the IIPD has responded and a meeting will be set up in the next few weeks. Chairman Solis indicated that a meeting with ILA will also be scheduled.

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.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Leases and Agreements Committee Report. – Items requiring action

Adoption of April 17, 2026 Committee Minutes

Meeting was not held due to lack of quorum.

Finance and Personnel Committee Report – Items requiring action

Meeting was not held due to lack of quorum.

1. Adoption of April 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
2. Resolution – Authorization of Application for 2026 PIDP Grant - Planning
3. Award of Contract for Dvmt. of Rooftop Solar PV & BESS – Clean Ports Grant
4. Engagement of Special Counsel – Laner Muchin
5. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement – IDOT Doty Ditch Maintenance

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to approve the Board of Directors' April 17, 2026 meeting minutes. The Motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Sriraj and the Motion passed. Director Jordan abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Award of Contract of Rooftop Solar PV & BESS – Clean Ports Grant

Chairman Solis made a Motion for direct introduction and the authorization of the award of the contract relating to the installation of rooftop solar panels on the transit sheds at the Lake Calumet facility to Ameresco. This solar project is part of the IEPA's Clean Ports Grant. The RFP responses were reviewed by an evaluation committee that included consultants selected by the Illinois EPA. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez and the Motion passed. Director Jordan abstained.

Engagement of Special Counsel – Laner Muchin

Chairman Solis made a Motion for direct introduction and approval of the engagement of Special Counsel, Laner Muchin. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Rodriguez, and the Motion passed. Director Jordan abstained.

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement – IDOT Doty Ditch Maintenance

Postponed until June meeting.

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 reported there was no business to be discussed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution – Authorization of Application for 2026 PIDP Grant - Planning

Chairman Solis made a Motion for direct introduction and approval of the Resolution that authorizes the application for the 2026 PIDP Grant relating to planning. The Motion was seconded made by Ms. Rodriguez and the Motion passed. Director Jordan abstained.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Varela reported:

- The success and impact of First Tee at Harborside continues. First Tee has invested over \$300,000 into the youth facility at Harborside which serves as an area hub for youth learning, leadership, and community connection.
- The USDOT PIDP Grant – Iroquois Landing Dock wall grant agreement is under review, and the process continues to track with the proposed project schedule.
- The RFP for Phase 1 design, relating to the Lake Calumet Multi-Use Trail closed on Monday May 11th. Nine responses were received and the evaluation process is starting, and recommendations anticipated to be presented at the July meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hector Valdez, NASCO/QSL. Mr. Valdez stated that he works at QSL and has been on strike for one year. He stated he has lived on the East Side for his entire life, and his family is his mother and sister. He stated he is on strike due to unfair labor practices and unsafe work conditions. He stated that he lost his father due to unsafe work conditions and his death was hard. He stated he is concerned he could be the next one, leaving his mother and sister behind. He stated this is why he is speaking up and why he is on strike. He stated no one has spoken with him or the striking workers. He stated the closest he has gotten was handing a pamphlet to Erik Varela. Mr. Valdez thanked the Board for being respectful and hearing them out. He stated this is unlike Erik Varela, who two weeks ago at a protest at the golf course, was unprofessional, disrespectful, got into his space and acted out. Mr. Valdez stated he found this shocking. He stated the IIPD should do better, be respectful, as he is being respectful and showing professionalism.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Freddy Alvarez, Local 150 Business Agent. Mr. Alvarez presented a banner he stated reflects the time frame of the QSL America timeline. Mr. Alvarez stated they have been on strike for over 300 days and they are not going anywhere.

Mr. Alvarez referred to the banner and stated:

- 1967: Local 150 represents workers, crane operators and dock workers at all Ports in Chicago.
- 2004: QSL signs a lease and removes the unions. Ceres Terminals loses work at the Chicago Ports after nearly 50 years. At that time, over 20 years ago, Local 150's base wages and benefits at the Ports were over \$48.
- 2006: QSL signs lease and vows non-union. Canadian Company, QSL, acquires NASCO and although signed to the ILA elsewhere, vows to operate in the U.S. non-union.
- 2010: Local 150 begins talks with QSL workers over unsafe work conditions and other mistreatment. Local 150 President Jim Sweeney pretty much states "I want the docks back".
- 2023/2024: QSL and NASCO employees express support for Local 150 and want to be represented by Local 150 Operating Engineers.
- April 22, 2025: Darius Clement disappears while on the job at a port in New Orleans. He is still missing, as the family continues to ask questions, they are pushed away by QSL America.
- May 22, 2025: QSL America workers go on strike at all three Port locations due to unsafe working conditions, mistreatment and unsafe labor practices.
- May 23, 2025: QSL continues to have unfair labor practices ("ULP") against the workers and more ULPs are filed.
- June 2025: Support grows. Railroad workers refuse to cross the picket line.
- June 2, 2025: OSHA investigates QSL, America and finds multiple violations against QSL, America (NASCO).
- June 3-7, 2025: Local 150 goes to New Orleans to show support for the family of Darius Clement. QSL continues to ignore Darius Clement's family.
- June 12, 2025: Workers for QSL, America request OSHA logs and are denied by QSL. QSL hires a union buster, uses union busting tactics against workers along with intimidation.
- June 20, 2025: The Port Board ignores safety concerns Local 150 brought to its attention on June 3. United Nations link QSL investors to war crimes and genocide.
- July 11, 2025: He gets wind of multiple injuries at QSL, workers getting ankles crushed. Unsafety continues to happen at QSL, America
- July 18, 2025: QSL terminates an entire workforce. Fifteen-sixteen workers terminated because they thought they were being infiltrated by Local 150.

Mr. Alvarez stated that he appreciates the Board's time. He asserted that it took the Port Board a year to realize that Local 150 and the workers were here, and it continues to happen. Mr. Alvarez stated that he wants to see the Board step up to the plate and see what is going on.

PUBLIC COMMENT (CONTINUED)

Wilford Quinn, Associate General Counsel, Local 150. Mr. Quinn stated a legal timeline and update.

Mr. Quinn stated:

- On the first day of the strike, Local 150 filed a ULP for unsafe work rules at QSL.
- On the next day, Local 150 filed three additional ULPs because three employees were fired because of the strike.
- September-October 2025, QSL recruits the ILA, as their handpicked union, and Local 150 files charges with the Labor Board asserting this, saying it is not a real union, not a real bargaining relationship and there is collusion. In response, ILA filed three charges against Local 150, two of which were dropped.
- Today, the Labor Board has investigated all of the charges and found merit to Local 150's allegations that QSL and the ILA are working together and that this is not a real relationship, but a company hand picking its union for its workforce. The last charge against Local 150 was found to have no merit.

Mr. Quinn stated that the Federal government moves slowly, but he asserted that there is mounting evidence that everything he has been saying, Mr. Alvarez has been saying, and the workers have been saying, is the truth and everything that QSL has told the IIPD is simply not based in reality. Mr. Quinn stated that they will be here for as long as it takes, they will get the final determination and have the actual ruling that will support it. He asserted that there is no reason to believe anything QSL, or the ILA has told the IIPD.

Mr. Quinn referenced Chairman Solis' statement and stated that Local 150 agrees the Port should grow and be strong. He stated that Local 150 believes that the workers are part of the equation, they cannot be ignored, and if they cannot get the respect and dignity that any working person deserves, that growth will not be possible.

Mr. Quinn stated that it feels like the public is not welcome at the IIPD. He stated that they were told to take their hats off when they entered the building or they would be kicked out. He stated this attitude and arbitrary ruling is ridiculous. Mr. Quinn stated that Mr. Valera's outburst towards Mr. Valdez for peacefully protesting speaks to how the Board feels about public participation.

Bob Reiter, Chicago Federation of Labor. Mr. Reiter asserted that a rule asking people to remove baseball hats is a potential violation of freedom of expression and in this instance, where people are asked to remove their baseball hats, with many having a union insignia, speaks to a suggestion of anti-union animus. He stated that there should be a defensible reason that is stated (safety) to bar entry to a public meeting for wearing a hat.

Mr. Reiter stated that it is significant that the NLRB found merit in the charges filed against QSL and it is significant that the charges filed against Local 150 were either dropped or dismissed. He stated that the NLRB, during the process, becomes the prosecuting agent before an administrative law judge and ultimately, the full Board considers whether the decision is adopted. He stated that this means, at this step, the NLRB will take a position to resolve the dispute because they have acknowledged the dispute and merit to the charge. He stated that the charge in this case is whether there was a company union provision. He stated that the IIPD's lease agreements have a labor unrest provision. He asserted that if the IIPD needed evidence to enforce this provision, they now have it; the IIPD, as landowner, has something to "hang your hat on".

Mr. Reiter stated this has always been about a dispute between the workers and QSL; and he asserted that the aberration of the ILA involving themselves is silly. He stated that the IIPD has been asked to do something that is within its purview, and stepping away from this, saying this is not the IIPD's problem because the dispute is between two unions, is nonsense. He asserted that the IIPD has evidence of this. He stated he is asking the IIPD to recognize that it has a role to play in holding everyone accountable, especially the entity it can hold accountable, the company occupying IIPD land, QSL.

Mr. Reiter stated this has been going on much longer than needed and asserted that, in everyone's eyes, the IIPD has picked a side because of inaction. He stated he is encouraged that a meeting is being scheduled. He stated the intent of the meeting should be to do something and get this behind everyone. He stated that there must be consequences for this behavior. He stated that if the goal is to make the IIPD stronger and grow, it involves a lot of hard work, including figuring out a way to put out better leases and use the tools in the leases to help make things on the southeast side better.

Steve Spicer, QSL. Mr. Spicer stated that at last month's IIPD meeting, workers attending the meeting from QSL were also asked to remove their hats, it is a rule and is not indiscriminate.

Mr. Spicer stated that the NLRB is still investigating this matter. He stated that there has yet to be a final determination on any of the charges filed. He stated that even though the NLRB has provided a preliminary indication that it has found some merit charges filed by Local 150, it only means that the NLRB may issue a complaint and order a hearing to fully analyze these charges. He stated this does not constitute a final decision; it only means that they are not going to reject the charges on the basis of the written evidence submitted to them.

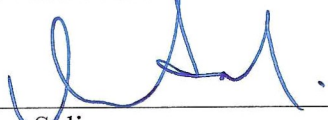
ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adjourn at approximately 9:10 am. The Motion was made by Dr. Sriraj seconded by Ms. McClendon, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

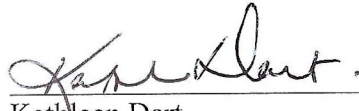
The next Board of Directors meeting, the Leases and Agreements Committee meeting, and the Finance and Personal Committee meeting will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The Leases and Agreements Committee meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Finance 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

May 15, 2026	
Board of Directors Meeting	
Public In Attendance	
Bob Reiter	Chicago Federation of Labor
Wilfred Quinn	Associate General Counsel Local 150
Kristine Kavanagh	QSL
Freddy Alvarez	Local 150
Acy Wartsbaugh	Local 150
Alex Munoz	QSL
Arturo Cortes	QSL
Braulio Partida	QSL
Clemens Gizynski	QSL
DaVonne Taylor	Local 150
Hector Valadez	QSL
Heriberto Gutierrez	QSL
Jesus Vasquez	QSL
Jesus Zair	QSL
Leo Lopez	QSL/150
M. Roa	QSL
Oscar Ornelas	NASCO/Local 150
Richard Betz	QSL
Richard Hernandez	QSL
Steve Spicer	QSL
Spencer Hudson	QSL
John Yonan	Collins Engineers
Paul Sanders	Genesis Factor, LLC
*Please excuse misspellings or typos	