

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL PORT DISTRICT

Summary Record of Proceedings of the REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois International Port District was held on Friday, August 21, 2026, at the offices of the IIPD, at 3600 E. 95th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Roll was called at approximately 9:10 am. The following Directors were present:

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

Also present: Erik Varela, Executive Director; Ma Cherry Trivedi, IIPD COO 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 Rodriguez and Director Sriraj to attend the meeting via teleconference. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Solis reported the recent passing of former Director Chuck Bowen and took a moment to remember all he has done for the IIPD over the years and his long commitment to bettering the City and County.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Leases and Agreements Committee Report. – Items requiring action

Adoption of July 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Solis reported the Leases and Agreements Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the July 24, 2026 meeting minutes. A Motion to approve was made by Ms. Edwards, seconded by Ms. Cassel, 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 July 24, 2026 minutes and requested a Motion for approval. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Financial Reports

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee postponed the approval of the July Financial Reports.

REPORTS ON STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

IIPD 2025 Audit Report

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee postponed the approval of the IIPD 2025 Audit Report.

Engineering Services Agreement – Ameresco, Inc.

Chairman Solis reported that this Engineering Services Agreement relates to the Clean Ports Grant, IIPD Solar Project at Lake Calumet. Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Ameresco, Inc, subject to an addition to the agreement stating that Ameresco is obligated to comply with grant reporting and that the work is done consistent with the grant.

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to approve the Engineering Service Agreement with Ameresco Inc, subject to the above noted addition. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously.

RFP Award – Phase I Design Lake Calumet Multi-Use Trail

Chairman Solis reported the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the Phase I Design Lake Calumet Multi-Use Trail consulting agreement with HNTB and requested a Motion to approve. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, the Motion was seconded by Ms. Sanchez, and the Motion passed unanimously

ADOPTION OF BOARD MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Solis requested a Motion to approve the Board of Directors' July 24, 2026 meeting minutes. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel, seconded by Ms. Sanchez and the Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Solis reported there was no Old Business to be addressed.

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. Edwards, and the Motion passed unanimously. See page 3 for Public Comment summary.

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.

Ms. McClendon made a Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss property lease matters pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Cassel, and the Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Solis reported he has appointed Director Jordan to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Varela reported on several items including:

- The updated Tariff Schedule is under review.
- The Vessel Status policy and Stevedore licensing framework are under review.
- IIPD vendors and associated operating costs are being reviewed and updating and changes are being made to ensure efficiency.
- Community engagement initiatives to support the PIDP and Clean Port Grant have started.
- The shed roof project is on track, with completion expected by the end of the year.

Capital Improvement Plan

Mark Wagstaff provided an update on the ongoing development of the IIPD Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Wagstaff discussed a number of items including: nearly 60 capital projects across a wide range of needs have been identified; work to prioritize projects has been completed; costs and potential funding sources have been identified; and, additional sources of funding are being explored. Mr. Wagstaff indicated the first draft of the Capital Improvement Plan is being worked on and once completed, feedback will be solicited. The goal is to have a 2027 Capital Improvement plan approved by the end of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wilfred Quinn, Associate General Counsel, Local 150. Mr. Quinn stated Mr. Becerra was correct in stating two of the charges against QSL have been resolved, however, he failed to mention the six charges that the NLRB has investigated and found merit to Local 150 and the worker's allegations. He stated that now the NLRB will hold a hearing.

Mr. Quinn stated that five of the six charges are for termination. He stated that QSL fired workers for federally protected rights. He referred to Carlos Saldana, who had worked for QSL for a few years. Mr. Quinn stated that on May 21, 2025, Mr. Saldana got the flu, called QSL to inform them he is sick, and that QSL told Mr. Saldana that he had sick time, and to stay home. Mr. Quinn stated the next day (May 22), the strike began. He stated that Mr. Saldana called QSL on May 22, told them he was still sick, that he was not going to come to work and QSL said okay. Mr. Quinn stated that QSL then thinks Mr. Saldana is on the picket line and fires him. Mr. Quinn stated that QSL is not the company that respects workers' rights, its obligations under the law, or anything they have been fighting for.

Mr. Quinn stated the NLRB process takes a long time. He stated that nine merit determinations have been found against QSL and the ILA. He stated that the government will push these charges forward. He stated that evidence continues to mount and it supports what the workers have been saying. Mr. Quinn asked the Board to address QSL or face a governmental process that could last one to two years.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Ray Sundine, Local 150-Director of Organizing. Mr. Sundine stated that IIPD Board cannot treat labor dispute as someone else's problem. He stated that the IIPD is a public entity and Iroquois Landing is a public infrastructure. He stated that when a private company is allowed to profit from this infrastructure, the Board has an obligation to make sure this company respects workers, operates safely and must answer to the public.

Mr. Sundine stated that for more than one year, the workers of QSL have been on strike over unfair labor practices. He stated that the NLRB has found merit in nine of eleven charges. He stated that workers have raised concerns about unsafe equipment, inadequate training, retaliation against employees and use of temporary replacement workers in complex Port operations. He stated that these are all critical and not minor workplace complaints. He stated that these are warning signs and that ignoring warning signs put workers, truck drivers, contractors and the surrounding community at risk.

Mr. Sundine stated that these warnings are harder to ignore when looking at OSHA records in New Orleans. He stated that QSL in New Orleans had a fatality on January 15 and OSHA found four serious citations on July 2, 2026, charging QSL \$46,000. He stated that OSHA defines serious violations as hazards involving substantial probability of death or serious physical harm. Mr. Sundine stated that this is the second person to die at the New Orleans Port. He asserted that there was almost a fatality at the IIPD due to a falling coil. He stated that the Board does not need to wait for a tragedy in Chicago before taking these concerns seriously.

Mr. Sundine stated the striking workers have friends working inside at QSL and do not want to see one of their friends die because of inadequate safety conditions at the Port.

Mr. Sundine stated that April 22nd marked the one-year anniversary of Darius Clement's disappearance. He stated that Mr. Clement's family is still waiting for answers and they have gotten none from QSL. Mr. Sundine stated that workers in Chicago are still raising safety concerns and QSL is still allowed to operate under the authority of the Port. He asked the Board to act now. He asked that the Board demand answers about training, equipment inspections, and workers complaints, and ask what steps are being taken to prevent retaliation against employees that speak up.

Mr. Sundine stated that the Board should look at whether QSL has earned the privilege to operate on Port property. He stated that public infrastructure should never be used to shield a company from accountability. He asserted that they have learned, through FOYA requests, that it appears the Board is helping QSL to try to avoid Local 150. He stated he wishes that the Board would have worked hard to be a business partner with them, to make the conditions at the Port better. He stated that they have plenty of good contractors with great safety records that would be happy to come into the Port and take over and give workers a voice.

Mr. Sundine stated that Local 150 is asking the Board to look at the record, listen to the workers and see they are telling the truth. He stated that the Board can insist on safety, transparency, and respect for the workers. He stated that the workers deserve to come home safely at the end of every day. He asked the Board to demand full accountability from QSL and take meaningful action now, before more workers are put in danger.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Glenn Minyard, Local 150, Safety Coordinator. Mr. Minyard stated he would like to speak on safety culture, which can be improved. He stated there were issues with a clam bucket and he noted that changes have been made. He discussed the steel coil drop that everyone is familiar with. He stated there has been testimony from workers regarding forklift problems, cranes not being maintained, brakes not working, and truck horns used for signaling not working.

Mr. Minyard stated there was an OSHA investigation last year (#1828149.015) relating to NASCO that found concerns including forklift damage, missing lug nuts on tires, no backup alarms, equipment not being taken out of service when it should be, cranes not inspected, rigging not certified and using damaged rigging.

Mr. Minyard stated the OSHA citations issued were categorized as “other serious”. He asserted that NASCO discounted the citations and therefore normalized the risk. He stated that this is a problem. He stated that when there is an incident, the best practice is to communicate the incident to the workers and change the safety program and reemphasize safety.

Mr. Minyard referenced the OSHA inspection of QSL in New Orleans and listed the equipment issues found in New Orleans. He stated these reflect risk being normalized. He stated that the OSHA inspection was done because of a fatality/catastrophic. He stated it was reported to him that it was done because of a fatality.

Mr. Minyard stated that workers are fighting for safe conditions so that what happened in New Orleans does not happen to a worker here. He stated that these things are being brought up because they want to make sure they get addressed and make things better in the workplace.

Freddy Alvarez, Local 150 Business Agent. Mr. Alvarez stated issues have been ignored by the IIPD Board for far too long. He stated it has been 450 days on strike and the workers are still here, with three picket locations where workers continue to fight for federally protected activity; and multiple banner locations keeping public pressure on QSL, its investors, and Port decision makers.

Mr. Alvarez stated there are nine NLRB merit determinations against QSL and the ILA, including five charges for workers being unlawfully fired for federally protected activity and three charges of collusion, out of state workers replacing local workers, and one near miss involving the steel coil drop caught by a drone. Mr. Alvarez asked how many incidents have not been reported by QSL.

Mr. Alvarez listed several concerns, including:

- Dozens of safety concerns caught on video.
- A warehouse fire.
- Improper man cage lift.
- Workers scaling barge lifts without fall protection.
- Overloaded truck coming out of QSL facility spilling spoils on the road.
- Five OSHA citations at QSL’s Chicago operation triggering heavy penalties.
- Four serious pending OSHA citations in New Orleans that relate to a fatality at QSL New Orleans.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- One knife brandished at Scabby the Rat raising further concerns around the conduct surrounding this dispute.
- A union buster hired by QSL at \$400+ an hour instead of addressing the workers' concerns.
- Hundreds of hours lost by truck drivers and the public because of traffic delays and Port disruptions.
- Dozens of bikers seen jumping tracks near delayed trains, waiting for an accident to happen.
- One hundred vehicles, including trucks going to and from QSL, observed going around downed train gates, all putting the public at risk. Mr. Alvarez stated he does not think the Port Board wants that on its table.

Mr. Alvarez asserted two major QSL investors, ICON Infrastructure and CDPQ, are failing to hold QSL accountable. He stated it is not about money but the safety and dignity of the workers. He stated that 400 limited partners have been notified about their investment in QSL.

Mr. Alvarez stated that now that a federal agency has found merit to these charges, QSL cannot bury the truth. Mr. Alvarez stated that Port officials should stop ignoring the problem, hold QSL accountable and act immediately.

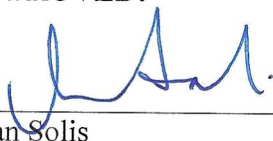
ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Board, Chairman Solis requested a Motion to adjourn at approximately 10:20 am. The Motion was made by Ms. Cassel 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, September 18, 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

August 21, 2026	
Board or Directors Meeting	
Public In Attendance	
Ray Sundine	Local 150 Director of Organizing
Freddy Alvarez	Local 150
Kristine Kavanagh	Local 150
Wilfred Quinn	Associate General Counsel Local 150
Acy Wartsbaugh	Local 150
Andrew Walsh	Local 150
Glenn Minyard	Local 150, Safety Coordinator
Clemens Gizynski	QSL
DaVonne Taylor	Local 150
George Kyriakakis	QSL
Hector Roman	QSL
Heriberto Gutrirz	QSL
Jayla Betz	QSL
Johnathan R	QSL
Manuel Roa	QSL
Oscar Ornelas	QSL/150
Richard Betz	QSL
Uriel Sanchez	QSL
John P	
Mike Staehle	QSL
Gino Becerra	QSL, VP Great Lakes Region
John Yonan	Collins Engineers
Mark Wagstaff	Smith Group
*Please excuse misspellings or typos	