



## SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

THOMAS BUCKINGHAM SR., CHAIR  
LINDA HOATH, MEMBER  
SCOTT SHACKLETON, MEMBER  
NICHOLAS WHITE, MEMBER

NATALIE KINLOCH, VICE CHAIR  
THYE LEE, MEMBER  
RÉMI PAQUETTE, MEMBER  
KAREN RICHARDS, MEMBER

### Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority

#### Minutes

August 15, 2024

James McIntyre Board Room

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

**Present:** Thomas Buckingham, Sr., Chair  
Natalie Kinloch, Vice Chair  
Linda Hoath, Member  
Scott Shackleton, Member  
Nicholas White, Member  
Thye Lee, Member (via Teams from Ottawa Canada)  
Rémi Paquette, Member (via Teams from New Brunswick Canada)  
Karen Richards, Member

**Also Present:** Peter Petäinen, Bridge Director, IBA  
Laura Mester, Chief Administrative Officer, MDOT  
Michael Dittenber, Attorney General's Office, MDOT  
Emily Jacques, Chief Financial Officer, IBA  
Karl Hansen, Bridge Engineer, IBA  
Cheryn Sanford, Departmental Analyst, IBA  
Marcus Eidenier, Bridge Facilities and Asset Manager, IBA  
Dan Weingarten, MDOT Communications Representative (via Teams)

Chair Buckingham called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Kinloch to approve the May 16, 2024, Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority regular meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Hoath. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

#### II. Bridge Director's Comments

- As previously reported, the 2024 Bridge Walk was cancelled due to the poor weather; the next bridge walk is scheduled for the last Saturday of June in 2025.
- As discussed with the audit committee yesterday, the IBA is in discussion with a Canadian reality TV production who wish to film on the bridge this fall. Peter stated he will keep the board updated as more information becomes available.

REPLY TO: PETER M. PETAINEN, BRIDGE DIRECTOR

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- The draft 2025-2029 business plan was provided to members for their review and comment. Draft language to update the mission statement and vision within the business plan was provided in the letter to the board for review. Discussion took place for alternate language; the revised suggested language will be included in the final draft of the business plan which will be presented to the board in November for approval consideration.

### III. **Finance and Operations**

#### A. Traffic and Revenue

CFO Emily Jacques reported there has been 490,736 year-to-date crossings which is a 19.3% increase from the same period in 2023.

#### B. Second Quarter Financial Report

Emily reported total balance sheet assets were at \$8.7M as of June 30, 2024, and total liabilities were at \$896K. Total fund balances were at \$5.3M, total revenue was \$2.8M, and total expenditures were at \$3.1M.

### IV. **Bridge Engineering and Maintenance**

#### A. 2024 Underwater Inspection

Bridge Engineer Karl Hansen reported Great Lakes Engineering Group began the 2024 Underwater Inspection in mid-June with the inspection of 10 of the 15 piers completed. The five remaining piers located within the Canadian power canal (41, 42, 43, 44, and 45) have not been inspected due to Evolugen declining to reduce flows within the canal to a rate safe for diving during the June time frame. Evolugen has indicated they believe they will be able to reduce flows in the canal sometime in October to allow for the inspection of these remaining piers.

The preliminary findings of the piers inspected to date show no significant findings with minimal change from the inspection in 2019. The final report will be presented to the board at the November meeting.

#### B. 2024 Fracture Critical Member Inspection

Karl reported Hardesty and Hanover completed the hands-on portion of the inspection during the week of August 5, 2024, with no significant findings. Hardesty and Hanover will present the final report at the November meeting.

Discussion took place on the Termarust Paint system which was applied to the Canadian arch in 2017; it is performing well with the only issue being that the paint appears to attract dirt which has changed the color of the paint.

#### C. U.S. Storm Sewer Main Cleaning and Inspection

As previously reported, the sewer main north of the Cloverland power canal has been cleaned and the obstruction has been cleared. Karl stated he now has the video of the inside of the main which shows the main is in fairly good condition though there were cracks noted in several locations. Karl stated he is optimistic that no further remediation will be needed and that he is working with staff from MDOT Superior Region to further evaluate the overall condition of the main.

IBA staff will be performing an inspection of the main south of the Cloverland canal next week to determine if that main also requires cleaning.

**D. Maintenance Projects and Activity**

Marcus reported labor and benefits are up 16.5% compared to June 2023. This increase is the result of one extra pay period in the reporting period this year as well as pre-negotiated bonuses all staff received during the first quarter and one new Bridge Worker added to staff.

**E. Maintenance Projects**

Marcus stated maintenance staff are currently working on routine maintenance items identified in the 2022 Fracture Critical Inspection and the 2023 Routine Detailed Inspection. The average completion rate for these items is at 72% and staff are striving to complete these items this year to the 85% goal. Staff are also working on painting and repairs to the green pedestrian rail.

The MDOT Field Services group committed staff and material resources to perform an epoxy seal and friction surface coating to the bridge deck on the Canadian approach spans during the week of July 22, 2024. This application will keep moisture out and provide a better traction surface and is expected to last for approximately 20 years. This was done at no cost to the IBA, aside from IBA staff labor, and will allow the deep overlay and deck replacement to be delayed up to 10 years, this will be further evaluated when the next bridge deck study is performed in 2028. A report on total project costs will be provided to the board at the November meeting.

**F. Equipment Acquisition/Refurbishment Update**

Marcus reported the repairs for the IBA's Peterbilt truck which were approved in May will no longer occur. Once Northern Powertrain removed the dump box to expose the composite frame, it was determined there was heavy corrosion which was beyond repair and deemed unsafe. A cost to replace the frame has been requested and will be reviewed upon receiving the estimate.

Aaron Porter with the MDOT Statewide crew was aware we were looking to replace a tandem axle truck and contacted us to advise there was a 2006 tandem axle truck that MDOT was preparing to retire from its fleet. Staff from the IBA went to inspect the truck and made the decision to bring it back and it has been temporarily added to the IBA's fleet, helping to further reduce operational risk for the upcoming winter.

**V. Public Comment**

Member Richards expressed her appreciation to the IBA team for their efforts in hosting the Border Transportation Working Group in May. Karen stated the team did an excellent job and she received a lot of positive comments and feedback from the group.

**VI. Adjournment**

Member Hoath made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The motion was seconded by Member Richards. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
International Bridge Administration

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by several horizontal strokes.

Peter M. Petäinen  
Bridge Director

PP:cs