

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

## Minutes of the March 9, 2010 Board meeting Held in Detroit

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM March 9<sup>th</sup> and chaired by COL Jack Drolet, Alternate U.S. Chair. Those in attendance were:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
COL J. Drolet Mr. J. Bernier Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar		Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Frain Mr. P. Yeomans
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC D. Snead Mr. G. Cotroneo (Alt.)		Mr. D. Fay Mr. R. Caldwell (Alt.)
	Associates	
Mr. T. Lavigne Ms. C. Fisher Mr. Z. Jeffries Mr. J. Oyler Mr. R. Thomas Mr. B. Whitcomb		Mr. J. Lapierre Mr. R. Carson
	Others	
Ms. S. Daniel, IJC LTC Stephen H. Bales		Mr. T. McAuley, IJC

### **1 Approval of agenda**

The agenda was adopted with the addition of items under other business (attached).

### **2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy**

Mr. Cotroneo presented the current conditions. Total and basin supplies were below average in February. Lake Ontario levels have also been below average, but well within the range specified by the orders of approval. Lake levels are about 40 cm (16 in) lower than they would have been pre-project conditions. There are about 0.4 cm (1.6 in) of deviations on Lake Ontario as a result of under-discharges for ice management; this is expected to be eliminated by the end of the week. The snowpack was reported to be below average across the basin. There is very little risk of exceeding either the upper or lower water level criteria for Lake Ontario over the next six months. The Board agreed to follow the regulation plan, while providing for critical needs. Any positive deviations (storage) accumulated will be held until the Board meets in April; any overdischarge deviations will be reduced as the opportunities arise. The Board noted that

Montreal levels had fallen recently due to the breakup of the ice cover downstream.

### **3 Review/approval of:**

#### **a) January teleconference summary; and, b) February meeting minutes**

The Board reviewed the conference call summary and meeting minutes and approved both, subject to the incorporation of edits. The final versions of each will be forwarded to the IJC for translation and posting on the Board web site.

### **4 Preparation for March 16 teleconference with public**

Mr. Kangas updated the Board on preparations for the public meetings at Rochester and Dorval, with a teleconference option available to the public. Several FAQs developed by the IJC with regard to the Working Group will be sent to all Board Members. Dr. Sciremammano will chair the call and refer questions on the Working Group to the IJC.

### **5 Discussion of deviations for the environment:**

#### **a) Summary of Feb 2010 workshop; and, b) Next steps**

The Board discussed workshop and the draft summary. The Board requested that each of the presenters provide their concurrence with the summary before it is distributed and posted to the Board web site. The Board tasked the Regulation Representatives with forming an ad hoc group of scientists to accomplish several goals:

1. Help scientists better understand how the Board and regulation plan operate in general, and understand the meaning and impact of deviating from the regulation plan.
2. Help the Board to better understand environmental criteria, and define improvements to the existing criteria.
3. Define a work plan to improve environmental criteria, note any funding that may be requested of the IJC for the work of the ad hoc group and studies to improve the criteria, and consider an adaptive management program.

The Board requested that the ad hoc group be formed and begin working as soon as possible, considering that some members may have existing teaching or other work commitments.

### **6 Communications Committee report**

Dr. Hullar provided an update on the Committee's activities. Board Members were requested to provide broad theme comments on the current FAQs to Dr. Hullar by April 1. A draft communications strategy statement for 2010-2011 was provided to Board Members shortly before the meeting; the Board agreed to discuss it in April. The Board discussed the concept of a speaker's bureau to actively reach out to interest groups, NGOs, and others. The Board agreed to discuss this further at its April meeting to come to an agreement on the proper mix of proactive and reactive efforts. Board Members agreed to inform each other of speaking opportunities and to document them in the progress reports.

### **7 Other Business**

#### **a) Gauging Committee report and membership**

The Board accepted the annual report for 2008 that it had received in January. It was reported that the precision survey conducted in late 2008 had been accepted by Canada Geodetic Survey. The audit for the 2009 annual report is expected to be completed in March. The Board also confirmed Mr. Brent Whitcomb as a member of the Gauging Committee.

**b) OPG/NYPA presentation on dam safety/emergency preparedness**

Mr. Whitcomb presented, on behalf of both Power Entities, an overview of their dam safety and emergency preparedness programs. Among other items of interest to the Board, the Power Entities conduct black start tests every year and regularly test the generator at Long Sault Dam that would be used in gate lifting operations.

**c) “Protecting and Restoring Aquatic Systems” conference**

Mr. Caldwell informed the Board that some of the recent analyses of discretionary deviations, presented at the environmental workshop, will form the basis for a presentation at the subject workshop. The workshop will be on May 5-6 in Cornwall.

**d) Update on Working Group**

Mr. McAuley provided an update on the activities of the U.S.-Canada “Working Group (WG).” The WG is comprised of senior representatives of the U.S. and Canadian federal governments, the State of New York, the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the IJC. Its mandate is to provide advice to the IJC on any proposed Orders of Approval and/or regulation plan. The WG met in Montreal after the environmental workshop, was briefed on the workshop, and agreed to set up a technical work group. The next WG meeting is tentatively scheduled for early May. No milestones have been set.

**e) Port of Montreal CEO**

The Board noted that the Port of Montreal has a new CEO. The Board agreed that the Canadian Chair of the Board would send a congratulatory note to Mme. Sylvie Vachon. It was also noted that Ms. Lana Pollock had been nominated to the U.S. Section of the IJC, but no confirmation hearing date had been set. Mr. Joe Comuzzi has replaced Mr. Herb Gray as Chair of the Canadian Section of the IJC, effective January 21, 2010.

**8 Semi-annual progress report**

Mr. Kangas noted that he had prepared the usual version of the progress report and a shorter version. The Board agreed to use the shorter (“update”) approach, instead of the longer (“self standing”) approach. The Board then reviewed and approved the draft progress report, subject to the incorporation of comments. Advance copies will be forwarded to the IJC by March 26.

**9 Appearance and upcoming Board events**

The Board will meet the afternoon of Tuesday, April 20 at the Melrose Hotel in Washington, DC. The Reception will be that evening. The Board will appear before the IJC on the morning of Wednesday, April 21.

The Board has scheduled conference calls for May 12, June 9, July 14, and August 11.

The Board will meet on September 9 (all day) at a venue in the Kingston area. The next meeting with the public and teleconference will be the evening of September 21. Meeting rooms will be arranged at Oswego and Cornwall.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

# **INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**

## **Board Meeting of March 9, 2010**

### **Detroit, Michigan**

#### **Approved Agenda**

1. Approval of agenda
2. Current conditions & regulation strategy
3. Review/approval of:
  - a) January teleconference summary
  - b) February meeting minutes
4. Preparation for March 16 teleconference with public
5. Discussion of deviations for the environment
  - a) Summary of Feb 2010 workshop
  - b) Next steps
6. Communications Committee report
7. Other Business
  - a. Gauging Committee report and membership
  - b. OPG/NYPA presentation on dam safety/emergency preparedness
  - c. Protecting and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems conference
  - d. Update on Working Group
  - e. Port of Montreal CEO
8. Semi-annual progress report
9. Appearance and upcoming Board events