

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

## Minutes of the 19 October 2010 Board meeting Held in Gatineau, QC

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM 19 October 2010 and chaired by Mr. Jim Vollmershausen, Canadian Chair. Those in attendance were:

United States*		Canada
	Board Members	
COL J. Drolet Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar Dr. F. Sciremammano, Jr		Mr. J. Vollmershausen Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Frain Mr. P. Yeomans
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. D. Fay Mr. R. Caldwell (Alt.)
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher Mr. Z. Jeffries Mr. J. Oyler Mr. B. Whitcomb		Dr. L. Cao Mr. R. Carson Ms. S. Farrell-Zeran Mr. L. Lefebvre Mr. S. Robert
	Others	
Mr. G. Cotroneo Ms. D. Lee		Ms. P. Clavet

\* Board Member J. Bernier was in Ottawa but unable to attend the Board meeting due to a health issue. He attended the Appearances the following day.

### 1 Approval of agenda

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

### 2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

Mr. Fay presented the current conditions. Basin supplies and Lake Erie outflows were both below average in September, resulting in below average Lake Ontario net total supplies. Lake Ontario water levels remained near average, and well within the range specified by the Orders of Approval. There are currently no outflow deviations on Lake Ontario. Ottawa River outflows rose substantially in the past month after having been at record lows for several months. Levels near Montreal have also risen sharply due to these increased Ottawa River flows and local heavy rainfall. There is very little risk of exceeding either the upper or lower water level criteria for Lake Ontario over the next six months. However, since water levels on the upper lakes are low, there is somewhat more risk that supplies to Lake Ontario will be low leading to lower lake

levels and outflows and in turn more risk that levels will be critically low on Lake St. Louis and in Montreal Harbour.

The Regulation Representatives reported that the water level conditions this fall were sufficient for recreational boaters on Lake St. Louis and most of those on Lake St. Lawrence to allow for boat haul-out without any need for deviations from Plan-prescribed outflows.

**Action:** The Board directed that flows generally follow the regulation plan, while providing for critical needs.

### **3 Review and approve minutes of previous meeting**

The Board approved the 9 September 2010 meeting minutes with a few minor editorial changes. The following action items were reviewed:

On-going: The Regulation Representatives will still conduct a survey of marinas and yacht clubs on Lake St. Lawrence and Lake St. Louis for the March meeting to determine the conditions for which deviations are required to assist with boat haul-outs.

Completed: Ms. Faveri advised Ms. Trowbridge of the Board's decision and how it affects her database.

Completed: Mr. Abdo archived old presentations on the website.

On-going: Communications Committee to use Media Events when conditions are generating significant public concerns.

Completed with handout by Mr. Kangas at 19 October meeting: Mr. Abdo to resend url of the St Clair Hot Issues page and prepare sample for next meeting.

On-going: The secretaries will ensure that subsequent invitations will not lead readers to expect that they need to submit questions to the secretaries before the Public Meeting/teleconference.

Completed: Mr. Kangas submitted report on second environmental workshop to IJC.

Completed: Ms. Faveri submitted the 114<sup>th</sup> semi-annual report and appendix to the IJC.

### **4 Communications Committee Update**

**a) FAQs** Mr. Hullar led a discussion on the overall philosophy of the frequently asked questions section of the website. The Board decided to start with an overview of hydrology and governance, complete with text, diagrams and short presentations before entering the detailed questions and answers. The Board would refer to others' websites after a brief explanation of other bodies. The Board would seek the approval of the IJC for all content of the FAQs.

**Action:** Mr. Hullar to continue to lead the Communication Committee with the revision of the FAQs.

**b) Website Updates** Mr. Kangas announced that website updates have now been completed, but that members and associates are asked to notify Mr. Abdo of any abnormalities they encounter. The IJC has hired a new webmaster who is working closely with Mr. Abdo.

**c) Hot Issues and Facebook** Mr. Kangas distributed sheets displaying the bulletin board pages of the St Clair Task Force and Facebook pages of the US Army Corps of Engineers as examples of what the Board might have on its website. He also distributed the proposed policy

for posting comments on the bulletin board for Board review and approval. The bulletin board would act as a Hot Issues or blog page where the Board could direct and moderate interactive comments from the public on selected topics. A Facebook page would allow the Board to rapidly communicate to its public issues of urgent concern, such as a deviation. The Facebook page would drive traffic to the Board web site for technical information and discussion. The Board decided the implementation of a Facebook page would have priority over the hot issues.

**Actions:** Mr. Abdo to prepare a mock-up of the Facebook page showing how it would work.

Board Members to provide comments on draft policy statement for posting materials to the web.

**d) 21 September 2010 teleconference** The Board discussed the past public meeting and teleconference held in Oswego, NY and Cornwall, ON with a video-link. The video-link worked well; however, sound quality was poor from some of the microphones over the telephone lines. Mr. Yeomans mentioned that as participants may represent organizations and media, the outreach of the teleconference is farther than simply those on the phone line and in the rooms.

## **5 Update on environmental deviations**

**a) Status of *ad hoc* group** Priorities and activities with the Lake Ontario – Saint Lawrence River Governments’ Working group have delayed the setting of a mutually acceptable meeting date. The Board feels an environmental *ad hoc* group would lead to better understanding of effects of water levels on the environment and what can and cannot be done through flow regulation to achieve environmental benefits.

**Action:** Mr. Fay and Mr. Yu to continue to try again to arrange a meeting with environmental experts.

## **6 Presentation to the IJC**

Board Members and associates provided comments and modifications to the draft presentation that would be delivered by Mr. Vollmershausen the next morning.

## **7 Additional Business**

**a) Membership changes** The Board approved the replacement of Mr. George Cotroneo with Mr. Paul Yu as the U.S. alternate regulation representative.

**b) Gauging Committee Report** Mr. Carson distributed the 2009 report for Board review. The precision survey noted up to a 3 cm elevation change at some benchmarks at Moses-Saunders generating station which requires that gauges be re-zeroed. The Committee will investigate whether recalculation of the flows will be warranted.

**Action:** The Board requests that the Committee report on its findings on the impacts on flow calculations due to the elevation changes at the plant.

**c) Question on the International Upper Great Lakes Study** Mr. Carpentier asked whether the additional investigations on restoring the conveyance capacity of the St Clair River were also considering impacts downstream. Mr. Fay assured that the investigations would model the effects on water levels of Lake Ontario and downstream to Montreal.

**d) IWI Modelling Workshop** Mr. Cotroneo will be attending the second workshop to be held in Chicago in November on behalf of the Board.

## **8 Schedule of upcoming events**

The Board Secretaries noted the upcoming schedule of events. The Board's next teleconference call is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, 2:00 p.m. 10 November 2010, with the subsequent calls scheduled for 8 December 2010, and the second Wednesday of the ensuing months. Board teleconferences will be held only if conditions warrant. The next Public Meeting/teleconference will be Tuesday, 15 March 2011. The Board will meet in Buffalo, Wednesday afternoon, 23 March and Thursday morning, 24 March 2011. Spring IJC appearances are scheduled for the week of 11-15 April in Washington, DC.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

## Board Meeting

Room #6 – 5th Floor  
Terrasses de la Chaudière  
15 Eddy Street

19 October, 2010

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Gatineau, QC, Canada

## AGENDA

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Gail
2. **Current Conditions & Regulation Strategy** – David
3. **Review and approve minutes from previous meeting** - Gail
4. **Communications Committee Update**
  - a) FAQs – Ted
  - b) Website Updates – John
  - c) Hot Issues & Facebook – John
  - d) September 2010 teleconference – Gail
5. **Update on Environmental Deviations**
  - a) Status of *ad hoc* group – David
6. **Presentation to IJC** – Gail
7. **Additional Business**
  - a) Membership changes – Gail
  - b) Gauging Committee report – Rob Carson
  - c) Question on the IUGLS - Andre
  - d) IWI Modelling Workshop - John
8. **Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**