

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

## Minutes of the March 23, 2011 Board meeting Held in Niagara Falls, New York

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM March 23<sup>rd</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 Dr. F. Sciremammano, Jr.		Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Frain Mr. P. Yeomans
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC S. Bales Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. D. Fay Mr. R. Caldwell (Alt.)
	Associates	
Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. Z. Jeffries Mr. J. Oyler Mr. R. Thomas Mr. B. Whitcomb Mr. P. Cocca		Dr. L. Cao Mr. R. Carson Ms. S. Farrell-Zeran Mr. M. McNiven Ms. P. Clavet
	Others	
Dr. M. Colosimo, IJC		Ms. C. Warwick, 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. Yu presented the current conditions. Total and basin supplies were below average in February. Lake Ontario levels had been below average throughout the winter, but had risen sharply recently due to heavy rains and melting of much of the snow pack. Lake levels are about 22 cm (9 in) lower than they would have been under pre-project conditions. There are no reported deviations on Lake Ontario. Earlier deviations for ice management were restored as of March 11. The snowpack was reported to be mostly gone across the Lake Ontario, but near average snow water equivalent remained on the upper Ottawa River basin. The Ottawa River had also experienced a sharp rise due to the rains and melting snow, but had stayed below flood

levels. 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, and allowing for deviations to manage the ice. Any under-discharge deviations accumulated will be held until the Board meets in April. The Board discussed the opening of the Seaway and requested that the Seaway put Board Members on their distribution list for announcements of Seaway opening and closing. The Board also noted that ice movement due to the ship's wake can damage riparian wetlands.

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

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

The Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes and the conference call summary, 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 Review of March 15 teleconference with public**

The Board discussed the March 15 teleconference that had a video link between Rochester and Dorval, and a call-in option available to the public. 13 people not associated with the Board or IJC attended in person. The Board noted that no questions were received regarding a new regulation plan for Lake Ontario.

Several issues were identified by the Board for addressing by the Communications Committee and refinement at the next teleconference. The video portion of the teleconference worked well, but the audio had some difficulties, particularly the inability of Board Members to answer questions or offer comments. A standard procedure on answering questions was requested, possibly starting with the senior Board Member at each site providing the initial response. Dr. Hullar will present the Board's observations and remarks to the Communications Committee. It was also suggested that the IJC-Governments Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Working Group ("Working Group") be advised of each teleconference for their information. COL Drolet noted that the Corps of Engineers has a public information roll-out procedure for their projects; this may be useful in planning future events.

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

#### **a) Convening of ad-hoc scientists group; and, b) IWI funding request**

The Board was updated on its tasking to the Reg Reps to form an ad-hoc group of environmental scientists. This effort has been overtaken by events in support of the Working Group. It was noted that many of the scientists that would have participated in the Board's ad-hoc group were doing technical analyses for the Working Group, as were the Reg Rep offices. Both the scientists and Reg Reps are extremely busy with agency resources limited. The Board agreed that there was no need to request IWI funding to support this effort.

### **6 Communications Committee activities:**

#### **a) FAQs; and, b) Facebook/social media**

a) Dr. Hullar provided an update on the Committee's activities to update the FAQs. Board Members were requested to provide any comments on the latest draft to Mr. Kangas by April 6 for consolidation. It was noted that a number of questions needed to have answers drafted. The

Board was satisfied with the logic flow of the questions and no major errors or omissions were noted.

b) Mr. Kangas provided an update on the efforts of Mr. Abdo to create a Facebook page. It was noted that Mr. Abdo had recently left the Corps of Engineers and replacing him would be subject to funding. The Board agreed that IWI funding be requested to support implementation. Several expected changes to the draft page were noted and additional comments received.

## **7 Other Business**

### **a) Gauging Committee report**

The Board was advised of the status of the 2010 annual report. The impact, if any, of the precision survey on unit rating tables has yet to be addressed.

### **b) Cornwall canal rating**

Mr. Carson described the work to update the mechanism controlling the movement of the valve that controls the water entering the Cornwall canal. The position of the valve was not changed. The Gauging Committee is to see if historic flows will need correction. The Board accepted the new rating table and interpolation technique as technically correct and approved its use.

### **c) Update on LOSLR Working Group**

Ms. Warwick provided an update on the activities of the IJC.-Governments Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River 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 February in Ottawa and will next meet in Quebec in late April. The WG is considering, among other things, the size and expertise of a new Control Board, the role and support of Adaptive Management, and communications efforts. IJC lead staff will meet with Board Members in Washington, DC in April to discuss LOSLR system governance, and to obtain Board feedback and advice for consideration in the development of proposals for change.

## **8 Semi-annual progress report**

Mr. Kangas discussed the latest draft of the progress report. Board Members provided comments for incorporation into the final draft to be sent to the IJC. Advance copies will be forwarded as soon as possible.

## **9 Appearance and upcoming Board events**

The Board will meet the afternoon of Tuesday, April 12 at the IJC offices in Washington, DC. The Board will appear before the IJC on the morning of Wednesday, April 13. The Reception will be that evening.

The Board has scheduled conference calls for May 9, June 8, July 14, and August 10.

The Board will meet on September 13 (all day) at a venue in the Quebec area. The next meeting with the public and teleconference will be the evening of September 20. Meeting rooms will be arranged at Oswego and Cornwall.

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Board Meeting held on March 23, 2011

Niagara Falls, New York

## APPROVED AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda
2. Current conditions & regulation strategy
3. Review/approval of:
  - a) October meeting minutes
  - b) January teleconference summary
4. Review of March 15 teleconference with public
5. Discussion of deviations for the environment
  - a) Convening of ad-hoc scientists group
  - b) IWI funding request
6. Communications Committee activities
  - a) FAQs
  - b) Facebook/social media
7. Other Business
  - a. Gauging Committee report
  - b. Cornwall canal rating
  - c. Update on LOSLR Working Group
8. Semi-annual progress report
9. Appearance and upcoming Board events