

From: Chip Whiting
Subject: **attn.: Secretary Intl. Joint Comm.**
Date: September 6, 2006 8:37:55 PM EDT
To: commission@washington.ijc.org

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INTL JOINT COMMISSION
2006 SEP 12 PM 12:51



Dear IJC:

I am a St. Lawrence River Rat for 41 years who is a businessman, recreational boater and conservative environmentalist.

This may be one of the most important letters expressing input over water level regulation along the St. Lawrence River. Here's why:

Item #1:

I wish to advocate for a greatly enhanced monitoring and regulation system which is more anticipative, proactive and sophisticated. I am not about the actual plans but what support for regulating the levels for any such plan has behind it. A forecastive computer model supported program that would take into effect meteorological conditions, surface run-off evaporation to better forecast water levels. With all of the data and resources available there should be an even more precise method. This system should take into account all Great lakes drainage factors and so on. Work to develop such a system should be initiated.

Item #2:

All the various plans seem to gear themselves towards a certain element. The Board needs to be sure not ignore the historical development and uses of the Seaway when considering any plan. Businesses such as tourism and recreation have developed along the Seaway. The environmental plans address the environment. Serious question should be asked about mans ability to accurately predict nature. Could these plans to boost ecology be guaranteed with any level of future accuracy and reliability. Some say nature has too many variables. Even more say invasive species is a farther reaching issue. Another issue is various parties at different locals have different expectations of water levels. How do you begin to settle this? Who gets their way? Wealthy waterfront property owners who may have built too close or at low datum or a person who wants to have enough water on the River to take his kids fishing.

One thing is for sure..... The current 1958DD Plan needs tweaking but maybe the new plan also needs a solid new forecasting plan behind it.

I would like to advocate for Plan A+ since it accounts for tourism and recreational boating interests while balancing other factors with an enhanced prediction and regulating system behind it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chip Whiting

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International Joint Commission

ACTION: BU
INFORMATION: LB, JC, FB, RT, CMES
FILE: