

## MINUTES

### International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Annual Board Meeting

Prestige Lakeside Resort  
Robson Room  
Nelson, BC

Thursday, September 12, 2013  
2:00-4:30 PM

#### Attendance

	<b>United States</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Chairs	Col. Bruce Estok (host)	Bruno Tassone
Members	Michael Lewis	Glen Davidson
Secretary	Amy Reese	Gwyn Graham
Guests	Commissioner, Rich Moy (U.S.), Dr. Mark Colosimo (IJC, U.S.), Ted Yuzyk (IJC, Can.), Kelvin Ketchum (BCHydro), Peter Brooks (USACE), Marko Aaltomaa (FortisBC),	

#### Minutes

##### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Bruno Tassone welcomed and led a round-table introduction of the Board members and guests.

##### 2. **Review of the Agenda**

Added to the agenda: discussion of next year's meeting scheduling and information on the Board website.

##### 3. **Business From Previous Meeting**

###### 3.1 Board Response to CRTOC (Feb 27/13)

Re. report on Libby Flood Risk Management Operations - Updated, no comments.

###### 3.2 Update on Grohman Narrows Improvement

BC Hydro provided an update on Grohman Narrows dredging feasibility study (see presentation attached). Additional notes as follow:

- Dredging could provide flood risk management benefits and power benefits.
  - Castlegar / Trail generally will be no worse off with potentially higher flows, because of the timing of the peak of flows on the mainstem Columbia.
  - Next 2-year study phase would likely start in fall, include permitting and engineering
  - BC Hydro plans to will determine if some other entity may take over the study from here (Possibly Columbia Power or Fortis B.C?)
  - No change in the dam or appurtenances, but increase of 50 – 80 GW / year (\$3 - \$4 million – capitalized to about \$30 million in current dollars)
  - They have heard public comment / concern about how low they can operate Kootenay Lake. Possible need for a minimum water level criteria with respect to this.
  - BC Hydro does not believe they will hit bedrock (as far as their geologic investigation shows).
  - Cost estimate ~\$15 – 50 million (spoiling is the biggest unknown)
  - BC Hydro considers potential dredging as either as part of the works of an old license, or as a stand-alone and not link it to a project but rather as a channel improvement - Section 9 (BC Water Act). There would be a public process. Riparian impacts, water user impacts, etc.
  - Kelvin Ketchum (BCHydro) – Grohman Narrows public meeting (June 2013) was very well attended with some voicing support and others were against the potential dredging.
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- The Board had questions on the geomorphological changes that may result from this work – what type of studies/modeling might be considered , would the change in channel induce erosion on the banks from the increased flow energy? Would the other islands/areas fill in?
  - Kelvin mentioned there would need to be some discussions with the US with respect to potential impacts or benefits to the Kootenai River white sturgeon population and other interests.
  - Interested in further discussion with USACE and BPA re. potential mitigation for VARQ flood control. More thorough engineering study and discussion at CRTOC would be likely initial steps.
  - The Board questioned the impact of lake levels below 1739.32 feet (which the Order identifies as the low-water maximum on or about Apr.1<sup>st</sup>). There may be an impact to Kokanee (on-going fish studies looking at shoal spawning Kokanee survival). FortisBC receives complaints at low elevation re. boat access issues.
  - BCHydro asked if Board had a regulatory role in this process. IJC indicated that the Commission would look to the Board for advice on whether the changes would impact the Order, and if so what the impact would be. They'd be looking for a report, and assess any impact, and give recommendations on next steps. BCHydro doesn't see an impact to the Order (easier to meet requirements). FortisBC indicated that some of the hydraulic equations related to the Order might need revising if channel capacity is increased.
  - The Board also pointed to Condition 11 in the Order as a potentially relevant consideration, re. FortisBC cooperation.

#### 4. New Business

##### 4.1 Review of FortisBC Operations 2013

FortisBC (Corra Linn Operations) - Last year, lake elevation was kept lower in September in support of a Kokanee shoal spawning study. Less redds dewatering/exposure with this operation (35% 2012 vs. 83% dewatered redds in previous years; estimated 12% dewatered prior to Corra Linn/IJC 1938). In bigger spawning years they will likely want to try this operation again. There were some complaints / concerns from the public on the lake because of boating, sandbars, etc. associated with low water levels.

FortisBC was able to comply with the April 1<sup>st</sup> low level target this year. Corra Linn was put into free fall on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Due to natural inflows the lake level rose shortly after this date and freshet (Spring Rise) was declared by the Board on April 9<sup>th</sup>. There was a subsequent lake level recession due to a drop in temperatures. There were two Lake level peaks this Spring, the second, larger peak was June 26<sup>th</sup>. August 15<sup>th</sup> went to control at the Nelson gage. Fewer calls from the public this year compared to last few years.

Regarding public communication, FortisBC runs an automated website with information updates and posts local newspaper and radio station announcements and alerts, as well as a listserv through their operations contact center.

A project request has been submitted by FortisBC to the BCUC with detailed engineering for the access, isolation and seismic stability upgrade of the entire spillway. Right now there is almost \$1million to do that study, possibility a \$25million project in 2017 / 2018.

Corra Linn Unit 2 failed on July 13<sup>th</sup>, due to a fault at the generator leads and remains out of service at this time - Forecasted to be back on line in December.

There is a Union Labour dispute at Corra Linn Dam which was ongoing at the time of Board meeting.

Gage maintenance at QBYB done twice annually. Preventative maintenance completed in November 2012 and May 2013. Ongoing negotiations with land owner on the access to platform for gage house (access required for upgrades to the platform, maintenance for the gages is not affected as they can be accessed by the water. Platform is preferred access). There is some uncertainty over similarity of measurement frequency between the FortisBC Queen's Bay gage and the Water Survey of Canada Queen's Bay gage.

FortisBC Idaho farmer payment in April was \$30k USD

**Action Item 1:** Canadian Board Secretary to discuss Queen's Bay gage measurement frequency with FortisBC and ensure consistency.

#### **4.2 Columbia River Hydromet Committee potential**

The CRTHC evaluates that we have the right gages in the right place at right time to assist in operations. PEB asked if stations / gages still in the right (useful) locations. CRTHC undertook a one year study with NRCS and recommended 12 – 15 stations (primary consideration was spatial distribution, followed by access issues and elevation of locations, etc). 4 – 6 station locations were recommended. BC Hydro and BPA have been working on an MOU to move money to Canada to build and support these proposed stations.

Proposed Station Locations:

- Bobby Burns in the Duncan Basin, close to an existing snow course. One more recon trip and then will proceed with permitting and FN consultation.
- Keystone creek installed in Revelstoke basin and started receiving data August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Mt. Fidelity in Glacier Rogers pass National Park. This is harder to permit due to protected area status (e.g. some clearing required to make space for station); Koch Creek is a possible alternate.
- Bush River in North Kinbasket watershed but considered an avalanche hazard area.

#### 5. IJC Strategic Initiative

IJC and IKLBOC Web page: The webpage maintenance has been delegated to secretaries: updated content consistent with IJC webpage standard image. There is currently a problem with organization of reports and documents. It is not easy to find annual reports and minutes of past meetings, etc. – Secretaries to discuss with IJC web content personnel.

Project proposals: Board discussed BC regional climate analysis (Dr. Francis Zwiers - Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium). Suggestions for IWI strategic initiatives should be reflected in Board workplans.

Annual Workplans: It's a general expectation of IJC that all IJC Boards develop work plans (some Boards have IJC Directives, some don't – IKLBC doesn't). The Commissioners are moving toward the idea of updating directives and making sure all boards have current directives.

Board discussed developing a work plan for 2014.

Action Item: Target a draft work plan January 1<sup>st</sup> for years 2014 – 2015. Strategize on potential projects/initiatives for recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Moy suggested looking at Red River, Lake of the Woods Boards as examples. Commissioner Moy has not heard much public interest or need for public participation re. IKLBC. Board could strategize over ways to improve public input, etc.

**Action Item 2** – Secretaries to discuss possible link to Fortis website listserve with FortisBC Corra Linn rep. and/or how better to use this for advertising Board announcements, etc.

Scheduling for 2014 Board Meeting. This early September period avoids conflict for UBCM. Try to set a suggested date – this week next year.

**Action Item 3:** Board Secretaries to schedule 2014 meeting for same time as this year.

## **Adjourn**

Bruno Tassone thanked Board members and guests for attending and participating and declared the official Board Meeting adjourned.