

October 25, 2002

**RECORD OF THE
INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
PUBLIC MEETING
AT BONNERS FERRY, IDAHO**

**September 26, 2000, 7:30 PM
KOOTENAI RIVER INN**

Attendance	Canada	United States
Chair:	Kirk Johnstone	Col Ralph Graves
Members:	Glen Davidson for James Mattison	Kathy Peter
Secretary:	Daniel Millar	Larry Merkle

Agency Observers: Dennis Schornack, Chair, U.S. Section, IJC. Dr. Murray Clamen, Tom McAuley, staff, Canadian Section, IJC. Dr. Gerry Galloway, Lisa Bourget, staff, U.S. Section, IJC. Marian Valentine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bob Hallock, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wally Koschik, Dan Egolf, Aquila Networks, Canada. Brian Stushnoff, Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority.

Agenda

- 1. Opening Remarks**
Col Graves called the meeting to order.
- 2. Introduction of Board Members**
Board members did self introductions.
- 3. Introduction of Attendees**
IJC Commissioners and staff, agency representatives, and public did self introductions. Approximately 16 people from the public attended. Most were from the Creston, British Columbia area with concerns about Duck Lake.
- 4. Overview of IJC and Kootenay Lake BOC**

Larry Merkle described the IJC, the Board, and the history and current status of the IJC Orders for Kootenay and Duck Lakes.

5. Aquila Networks Management of Kootenay Lake

Dan Egolf described the management of Kootenay Lake for the past year. He commented on the fact that Kootenay Lake is presently almost 3 feet below the maximum allowable level, 1745.32. Mr. Egolf said the relatively low lake level is the result of a combination of factors including relatively low lake inflow and hydropower management issues. He expects the lake to remain low until November.

6. Invitation for Public Discussion

Col Graves invited attendees to provide questions or comments. The following is a summary of questions, answers, and comments.

Q-Mr. Norman Simmons. What would it take to rescind the spring drawdown condition?

A-Graves. The IJC must decide. The Board has written to the IJC on this matter.

Q-Mr. Simmons. Can the pumps keep up with the inflow under any circumstances?

A-Graves. Not sure. CVWMA mentioned a desire to reinstall the old pumps.

Q-Public. What is the significance of Duck Lake water storage?

A-Merkle. The drawdown is to make room for local inflow.

Q-Public. Is there a need to store water in Duck Lake for power generation purposes?

A-Graves. There are questions about use of the water for power generation purposes.

Q-Mr. Simmons. How high does Duck Lake have to be to cause international backwater?

A-Graves. It is the outer dykes that have the potential to cause backwater, not the management of water levels within Duck Lake.

Q-Public. Is the drawdown on Duck Lake meant to benefit farmers?

A-Graves. This is a consideration, but this question should be put to the farmers.

Q-Simmons. Is it Aquila's responsibility to do a study on Duck Lake?

A-Graves. No, but a study of the management of lake levels may be appropriate.

Q-Public. Does CVWMA have any latitude on its decisions in operating the lake? (I.e. Can CVWMA unilaterally manage the lake?)

A-Graves. CVWMA manages the Duck Lake levels within the limits of the Order and under the observation of the Board.

Q-Simmons. Which dykes does CVWMA have responsibility for?

A-Graves. The Order doesn't speak to dyke maintenance.

Comment-Public. Our concern is the fishery in Duck Lake. The Orders are detrimental to the fish in some years under some conditions.

Response-Graves. The Commission and Board understand this concern, but must weigh all interests.

Comment-Schornack. This item will be on the IJC agenda in two weeks. If the Commission decides a review is necessary, comment will be solicited from all interested parties.

Mr. Bob Hallock of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated that Kootenai River sturgeon are listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Bull Trout are listed as threatened. He stated that studies and proposals for action to enhance the habitat for these species are on going.

7. Col Graves Adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM.

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