

AGENDA

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Annual Public Meeting

Prestige Lakeside Resort, Monashee Room
Nelson, British Columbia

Tuesday, 6 October 2015
7:00 – 9:00 PM

IKLBC Annual Meeting **Attendance**

	Canada	United States
Chair	Bruno Tassone (Host)	Col. John Buck
Members	Glen Davidson	Kyle Blasch
Secretariat	Gwyn Graham	Sara Marxen
IJC Commissioners	Gordon Walker	Rich Moy
IJC Advisors	David Fay	Mark Colosimo
Guests	Darren Sherbot (BCHydro), Jamie King (FortisBC)	

Agenda **7:00-9:00 PM**

1. Welcome and introductions Bruno Tassone
2. Review of the agenda Bruno Tassone
3. IJC and the Kootenay Order context
3.1 Kootenay Lake levels 2015 Gwyn Graham
4. Questions and comments from the public Bruno Tassone
5. Adjourn

Welcome, Introductions, Review of the Agenda

Canadian Section Chair, Bruno Tassone, opened meeting with welcoming remarks and introductions of Board members, secretariat, IJC Commissioners and staff and invited guests, on Thursday, October 6th, at 7:00 pm. The attendance list is attached at the end of the document.

Bruno Tassone provided a review of the agenda, followed by a presentation on the International Kootenay Board of Control (IKLBC) and related information of relevance for 2015. The presentation included an overview of the Kootenay(i) basin, an overview of the IJC role and relevance of the Canada-US Boundary Waters Treaty, the IJC Kootenay Lake Order of Approval for Corra Linn Dam and the responsibilities of the IKLBC. Bruno also provided an overview of the IJC Kootenay Lake Order of Approval, the Corra Linn Dam project, the six-foot storage allowance on Kootenay Lake, the backwater effect on the Kootenai River across the international boundary, the compensation payment to Idaho farmers in the Kootenai flood plain (KVRA), Grohman narrows excavation, the factors associated with Grohman Narrows vs. Corra Linn control of Kootenay River discharge, and the maximum water level limits on Kootenay Lake as specified in the IJC Order.

The Canadian Section Secretary, Gwyn Graham, provided an explanation of IJC Rule Curve for Kootenay Lake and explained the distinction between the Nelson and Queen's Bay gauges, and when the Order refers to each. The winter drawdown begins on January 7th at the storage maximum of 1745.32 ft and ends at a low of 1739.32 ft on or about Apr.1 (per Queens Bay gauge). Once the commencement of spring rise is declared by the Board, the maximum lake elevation is then defined by the lowering formula until the Lake level reaches 1743.32 ft at the Nelson gauge on the receding limb of the freshet peak. The maximum lake elevation (Queen's Bay gauge) may remain no higher than this level until August 31st when the maximum lake elevation reverts back to the storage maximum of 1745.32 ft (per Queens Bay gauge) until Jan.7, when the drawdown period starts again.

Gwyn Graham then gave an overview of 2015 Lake level trends in the context of the rule curve and hydrology details, including significant and unusual precipitation events in mid-February and mid-to-late March; both of which caused short-term rule curve exceedances. Mr. Graham also described operations at Libby and Duncan Dams and that those reservoirs had little impact on Kootenay Lake elevations this year given fairly moderate pre-freshet drafting and fairly balanced inflow/outflow relationship outside of the main storage period (during which there was some reduction of the freshet peak on Kootenay Lake). The Spring Rise was declared on April 2nd using the 3-day rise criteria for Kootenay Lake (this protocol had been previously developed by the Board for situations where there was not a clear freshet signal in unregulated tributary stream hydrographs due to low snow melt runoff conditions). IKLBC determined the applicant to the IJC Order (Fortis BC) to be in compliance during 2015 (to date).

The Board then took questions and comments from the audience (as follows):

Comment: Important to clarify that the 1743.32 ft level is a maximum (not minimum) lake level condition under the Order for August period. Also, good to have BC Hydro staff appear in in Creston (BC) at least once per year to provide operations overview (etc.). In warm winter scenarios, reservoir operations may need to be re-thought since less snow equals less forecast certainty. Consider water level effects and the importance of draining agricultural fields.

Q: Would more stations for climate/snow/runoff data help inform better reservoir operations?

This question was deferred to FortisBC/BC Hydro because it is not related directly to the IJC Order

A: the optimum coverage is a balance of benefits of additional data with costs of expanding network. The current coverage for Kootenay region is good but the relevant entities are engaged in ongoing work towards possible improvement.

Q: If Grohman Narrows goes ahead with construction are we looking at an Arrow Lakes scenario? Is the demand for the power downstream and the excavation of Grohman Narrows going to result in lower water in Kootenay Lake and a greater dynamic water level range on the lake?

A: No low level impacts but greater frequency of achieving required low levels and shaving the peak off the freshet/flood peak. Also, BC Water Licenses assign storage rights and conditions. FortisBC identified that it's not in their interest to lower the lake beyond their normal operational range. Grohman Narrows has more of an effect on the rate of change to lake levels rather than the upper and lower limits. Bruno Tassone reminded the audience that the IJC focus in on managing the cross-border water issues and encouraged the public to attend BCHydro's upcoming meeting for more information on the Grohman Narrows study.

Comment: Grohman Narrows channel enhancement would be a tool to help manage the system and understands that benefits to hydro generation are intended to offset project costs, but it's important to make sure that an appropriate tool or measure (e.g from BC government) is in place to make sure that low lake levels won't be allowed.

Q: In the 1970s Grohman Creek sent a large amount of material into the Narrows (reduced channel width by around 30%). In this Grohman Narrows project are we talking about cleaning up the channel or dredging/blasting?

A: Deferred to BC Hydro – response was that it could be both depending on the scenario that's adopted. The lower level scenario is more of a clean-up exercise while the higher end scenario would likely involved more excavation/dredging.

Q: While there's a focus on Corra Linn dam, what about dams below Corra Linn and possible impacts to Kootenay Lake?

A: Glen Davidson confirmed that there are no new dams planned for the Kootenay River and expansion projects, such as Brilliant Dam expansion are more about making better use of the available water drop along the river than affected conditions upstream.

Comment: there was a request to make the Board presentation available. Board co-Chairs agreed that it could be placed on the Board website along with other meeting records.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm.

**Kootenay Board of Control Meeting
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Nelson, B.C**

Name NORM NORDQUIST	Home Town Nelson B.C.
Email or phone contact info. STORMN@shaw.ca	Affiliation
Name EMIL SHUMAY	Home Town HARROP B.C.
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation
Name STUART ROSS	Home Town Harrop B.C.
Email or phone contact info. SSORCUTS@YAHOO.COM.	Affiliation
Name Bea Shoma	Home Town Harrop B.C.
Email or phone contact info. bshu@shaw.ca	Affiliation CFW NELSON & DISTRICT
Name Blair West	Home Town Nelson
Email or phone contact info. blair.westm@fortisbc.com	Affiliation FortisBC
Name BOB ADAMS	Home Town Nelson
Email or phone contact info. badams@nelson.ca	Affiliation Councillor
Name Lynn Adams	Home Town Nelson
Email or phone contact info. bladams@telus.net	Affiliation Community First Health Coop

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Name Jamie King	Home Town Castlegar
Email or phone contact info. Jamie.king@fortbc.com	Affiliation BC
Name Gordon Walker	Home Town Ternsb
Email or phone contact info. walker@thelawson.ijc.org	Affiliation ISC.
Name WARREN OSTROM	Home Town BALFOUR
Email or phone contact info. WARREN@TELUS.NET	Affiliation
Name	Home Town
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation
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Name	Home Town
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation

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Name JOHN RZUKOFF	Home Town HARROP BC
Email or phone contact info. AJRZUKOFF@SHAW.CA	Affiliation
Name VIC CORRIE	Home Town HARROP BC
Email or phone contact info. VICCORRIE@GMAIL.COM	Affiliation
Name G. BROWN	Home Town EAST FOU
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation
Name GARRY JACKMAN	Home Town BUSWELL, BC
Email or phone contact info. gjackman@kootenay.com	Affiliation RDCK AREA A DIRECTOR
Name DARREN SHERBOT	Home Town VANCOUVER
Email or phone contact info. clavren.sherbot@bchydro.com	Affiliation BCW
Name David Fay	Home Town
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation IFC
Name KIAN STEELE	Home Town TRAIL
Email or phone contact info.	Affiliation FORTIS BC