

**International Kootenay Lake Board of Control
Minutes
Annual Public Meeting**

**Kutaxa Room, Kootenai River Inn and Casino
Bonners Ferry, Idaho**

**Thursday, 30 October 2014
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

Attendance

	United States	Canada
Chair	Col. John Buck (Host)	Bruno Tassone
Members	Michael Lewis	Glen Davidson
Secretary	Amy Reese	Gwyn Graham
Commissioners	Rich Moy	Gordon Walker
Guests	David Fay,(IJC, Can.), Dr. Mark Colosimo (IJC, U.S.), Kelvin Ketchum, BCHydro, Marko Aaltomaa, Network Services Manager, Wayne Gritchlin (FortisBC),	

Welcome, Introductions, Review of the Agenda

US Section Chair Colonel John Buck called the meeting to order Thursday, October 30th, at 7:00 pm.

The Chair did a formal welcome and introductions of Board members, secretariat, IJC staff, IKLBC invitees, other agency attendees, elected officials and members of public. See attendance list (attached).

After the review of the agenda, The Chair went through the presentation slides, attached.

The presentation included an overview of the Kootenay(i) basin, an overview of IJC, Commission, Boundary Waters Treaty and Kootenay Lake Order and creation of IKLBC. The Chair then gave a overview of IJC Order for Kootenay Lake, Corra Linn project, the six-foot allowable storage, the backwater effect on Kootenai River, the payment to Idaho farmers (KVRA), Grohman narrows excavation, Grohman Narrows vs. Corra Linn control, and the maximum water level limits on Kootenay Lake.

The US Section Secretary Amy Reese provided an explanation of IJC Rule Curve for Kootenay Lake. She explained the distinction between the Nelson and Queen's Bay gages, and when the Order refers to each. The winter drawdown period ends at a low of 1739.32 ft on or about Apr.1 at the Queens Bay gage. Once the commencement of spring rise is declared by the Board, the maximum lake elevation is defined by the lowering formula until level recedes to 1743.32 at the Nelson gauge. The maximum lake

elevation remains there until August 31st when the maximum lake elevation reverts back to 1745.32 ft at Queens Bay gage until Jan.7 when drawdown period starts again.

The secretary then gave an overview of 2014 Lake levels w/ rule curve with hydrology details, including rain in mid-late march caused slight increase in water levels; increased inflow from Libby Dam draft caused April 1 low level to be exceeded (by about 3"), then freshet (spring rise declared on April 15th). IKLBC determined applicant to be in compliance during 2014 (to date).

The Board then took questions from the audience:

Garry Jackman: RDCK Area A – should show flat compliance line through April 15th? Why so long before we declared freshet? Natural snowmelt vs. delivered flow? Libby fish flows?

Glen: looking for a natural response in the non-regulated streams.

Amy: Libby was releasing their full flow capability through the powerhouse, solely because the end of April flood risk management requirement for Lake Kootenay changed due to increase in late season snow pack.

Garry: Oops factor in forecasting – this isn't a new issue – VarQ happens leading up to this but then sudden revision in forecast.

Glen: not so much oops factor but response to updated snow station monitoring results.

Amy: drafting the upstream reservoirs like Libby and Duncan Dams would result in better flood risk management overall for Kootenay Lake than not drafting to allow for the Lake to be at 1739.32 feet on April 1st. This is due to the low channel capacity of Grohman Narrows at lower lake levels.

Garry: said this 15 years ago – if last 10 yrs different from last 35 years then hopes that forecasts are relying on the more recent change rather than averaging it out in longer period of record.

Dan Dinning: trend in late snow and rain event – is there a move to revise modeling and forecasting to better account for late season snow/rain effects?

Amy: Corps just completed revision of the Libby Dam water supply forecasts. This water year will be the first year of using new revised water supply forecast. This is separate from Corra Linn Dam – applies to Libby Dam and Duncan. The better Libby and Duncan can forecast then better for Kootenay Lake.

Garry: What's being done with Grohman narrows improvement? What control would apply to Grohman? Chance to revise IJC Order?

Kelvin: BC Hydro has been looking at Grohman Channel excavation. BCH optimized generation from Kootenay Lake. 2012 freshet event was highest since 1974 – lots of interest in improving Grohman Narrows. Most extensive engineering study since 1930s. Project could have marginal net benefits (not a

big money maker) but BC Hydro would want to pay for project through energy benefits of the project – this is the focus of the feasibility study. BC Hydro received many questions on what potential channel improvements would mean for project operations. Would BC Hydro commit to a minimum level on lake level drawdown? Energy benefits will likely still be there even with constraints on minimum lake levels. Project could have reduced 2012 peak water level by ~2 ft, which would be very significant. There has been mixed public support so far, BC Hydro would want to see public support before proceeding. In the interim, Fortis BC and BC Hydro tried an earlier drawdown this year, although affected by rainfall event and Libby draft.

Glen: following up – there is no formal application from BC Hydro yet regarding Grohman Narrows Channel Improvement. There would be a public process for a project of this size. Dredging would also involve IJC in assessing project from the transboundary perspective

The public meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.