

MINUTES

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Annual Meeting

Best Western Baker Street Inn
153 Baker Street
Nelson, BC

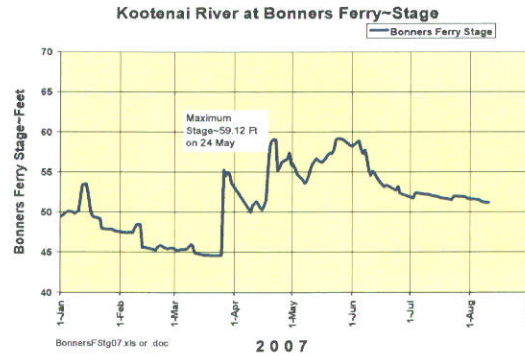
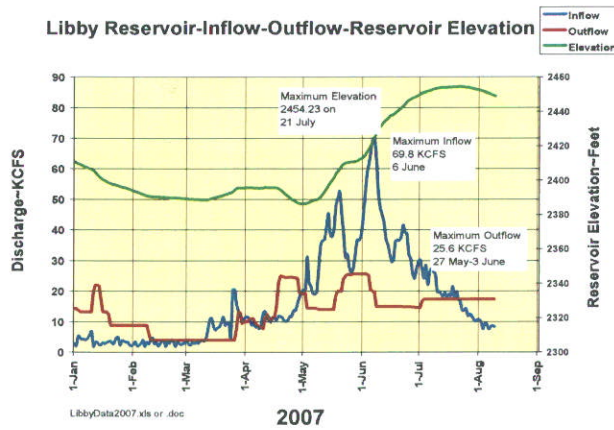
Thursday September 20, 2007
2:30 – 4:30 PM

Attendance

	United States	Canada
Chair	Col. Mike McCormick	Kirk Johnstone (absent)
Members	Kathy Peter	Glen Davidson (host)
Secretary	Larry Merkle	Daniel Millar
Guests	Commissioners: Jack Blaney (Canada) & Irene Brooks (USA) Dr. Mark Colosimo (IJC), Tom McAuley (IJC), Ed Zapel (USACE), Dan Egolf (FortisBC), Doug Ruse (FortisBC), Kevin Bradshaw (FortisBC), Jim Barton (USACE), Kelvin Ketchum (BC Hydro), Eric Weiss (BC Hydro)	

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions Glen Davidson
Glen Davidson welcomed meeting participants and led a round of introductions.
2. Review of the agenda Glen Davidson
The agenda was adopted without change except items 4.2 through 4.5 preceded items 3.1 through 4.1 to accommodate the schedules of our guests.
3. Business from previous meeting
- 3.1 Status of EIS to change Libby project operation (VARQ) Col McCormick
Col. McCormick reminded members that the final Environmental Impact Statement for the VarQ operation of Libby Dam was released in April 2006. VarQ was implemented on an interim basis in Water Year 2003 and final adoption is pending.
A new US Fish and Wildlife Service biological opinion (biop) for sturgeon was adopted in May 2006.
Physical efforts to aid endangered sturgeon take two tacks: 1) adjust the channel substrate for better suitability; and, 2) adjust flows to entice the fish to move to better habitat. Various procedures to enhance river stage and discharge conditions and enhance substrate are being considered.
- 3.2 Libby and Bonners Ferry hydrographs Larry Merkle
The peak inflow to Lake Koocanusa was 69,800 cfs, on 6 June. Maximum reservoir discharge was 25,600 cfs during the period 27 May-3 June. At Bonners Ferry, maximum river stage was 1759.12 on 24 May. Kootenay Lake inflow peaked at 99,400 cfs on 5 June.



3.3

Kootenay Lake Water level-public concerns

Col McCormick

Col McCormick reminded the group that several Canadian citizens attended the public meeting in Bonners Ferry last year and expressed serious concern that the “Corps of Engineers planned to have Kootenay Lake raised to elevation 1755.” This was apparently a rumor or was based on a misunderstanding because there is no plan to regulate the lake to that elevation. The Board consensus was to be prepared to address the issue in the public meeting if it was raised again by the public.

3.4

Development of new generation/discharge curves for lake outlet projects

Kevin Bradshaw

FortisBC has observed that calculated discharge from Corra Linn dam when added to the discharge from the Kootenay Canal Plant and Slokan River do not equal the discharge calculated from Brilliant dam. FortisBC has engaged consultants to make generation versus discharge measurements and spillway gate ratings for Corra Linn dam. This is a complex study requiring on site discharge and generation measurements and detailed hydraulic calculations with consideration of the complex combination of dams and flow conditions in the reach between the lake outlet and Brilliant project. FortisBC will furnish the Board detailed information on the process and conclusions. The study is expected to be completed in 2007.

4.

New Business

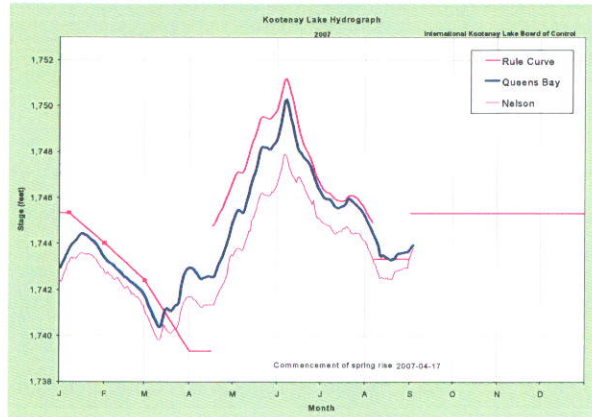
4.1

Compliance with the Kootenay Lake Order in 2006

Daniel Millar

Dan Millar reported that the Applicant, FortisBC, managed water levels in the lake during 2007 in compliance with the orders of approval. The lake was

drawn down in accordance with the rule curve until 14 March. Between 15 March and 17 April when “commencement of the spring rise” was declared, lake elevations were above the rule curve. This exceedence was not an Order violation because the high lake levels were attributable to extraordinary high inflows and FortisBC regulated to pass lake discharge control to Grohman Narrows assuring maximum possible discharge from the lake. Lake operation so far in 2007 is illustrated on the following hydrograph:



4.2

Fortis BC operations in 2007

Dan Egolf

Mr. Egolf indicated his concurrence with the presentation by Daniel Millar indicating that there have been no Order violations in 2007 and that operation has been relatively uneventful with the exception of the extraordinary high inflow in March-April period.

4.3

Spring rise declaration process

Daniel Millar

Daniel Millar stated that spring rise declaration has historically been a subjective determination made by monitoring lake inflow, tributary flow patterns, snowpack and, observed and forecast weather. He mentioned that the Order does not provide criteria for the declaration and that the determination is difficult in some years like 2007 when it is not clear whether an increase in runoff is temporary rise or sustained snowmelt runoff. Mr. Millar recommended that the Board secretaries review the issue during the coming year to see if more a more objective procedure is available and advisable. The Board concurred.

ACTION: Board Secretaries to confer with relevant agencies and individual Board Members to propose, if warranted, a more objective method for determining the commencement of spring rise. Any proposal will be presented to the Board for decision at the next annual meeting.

4.4

Operation of Duncan Relative to the Kootenay Lake IJC Order

Larry Merkle introduced this topic with an explanation of the issue and invited meeting attendees to offer input to supplement or correct his explanation. This issue surfaced because during the period 15 March through 16 April 2007, Kootenay Lake was above the rule curve specified by the Order. During that period, Libby project restricted operation to passing inflow while Duncan project discharge generally exceeded