

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the April 17, 2013 Board meeting

Held in Washington, DC

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM April 17th in a conference room of the International Joint Commission. Those in attendance were:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
BG M. Burcham, Chair Mr. J. Bernier Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar		Mr. P. Morel Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Frain Mr. P. Yeomans
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC O. Beaudoin Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. J. Bruxer (phone)
	Associates	
Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. B. Whitcomb Mr. J. Oyler (phone) Ms. C. Fisher (phone)		Mr. S. Robert Ms. P. Clavet Mr. S. Villeneuve(phone) Mr. M. Gagnon (phone)

1 Approval of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of one item under other business (attached).

2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

Mr. Yu presented a report on current conditions as of April 15 that included:

- ▶ Lake Erie was 18 cm (7 in) below its long-term average and 27 cm (10.6 in) below last year at this time.
- ▶ Lake Ontario was at elevation 74.74 m (245.21 ft). This was 15 cm (6 in) below average and 18 cm (10.6 in) below last year. Precipitation in March was very low; however, a lot of rain had been received in the past week.
- ▶ There is not much snow on the Lake Ontario basin. The upper portion of the Ottawa River basin was reported to have well above average snow cover.
- ▶ There are no deviations from the regulation plan's prescribed level.
- ▶ Montreal Harbour levels were about 59 cm (23 in) below average, 38 cm (15 in) above last year, and 122 cm (48 in) above chart datum.
- ▶ The Ottawa River freshet is starting, with a peak flow of about 6,000 cms (212,000 cfs) expected. Flow reductions from Lake Ontario are not expected to be needed in order to keep Lac St-Louis below the flood alert level.
- ▶ The risk of violating the high level criterion for Lake Ontario through December is about 1%; the risk of going below the Criterion (j) level is less than 1%.

The Board agreed to continue efforts to store up to 5 cm (2 in) of water on Lake Ontario for possible use in supplementing plan-prescribed outflows in the summer/fall, should conditions be dry over the coming months. The Board agreed to store water during the freshet once the level at Pointe Claire reaches 21.8 m and continue until the level drops below 21.6 m. The Board agreed to only store more than 5 cm (2 in) of water during the freshet if the level at Pointe Claire exceeds 22.1 m, the flood alert level. The Board noted that this would have environmental and recreational boating benefits in the upper St. Lawrence River and on Lake Ontario.

3 Review of March meeting minutes

The Board reviewed, amended and approved the meeting minutes. The approved minutes will be forwarded to the IJC for translation and posting on the Board web site.

4 Appearance preparation

- a) Sign progress report** The Board signed the Progress Report to the Commission.
- b) Review presentation** BG Burcham presented the draft slides and speaker notes for the Board Appearance. Board Members provided comments and corrections.

5 Other Business

a) Adaptive management response Mr. Kangas noted that the Secretaries had received comments from several Board Members on the draft Adaptive Management Plan developed by the IJC's Task Force. Comments were forwarded to the Task Team on April 12.

b) March 26 teleconference The Board discussed the recent public teleconference and noted there were several serious issues, particularly with the Dorval meeting site. There were problems with the audio connections, translation capability, and meeting setup. Also, the translated slides contained errors. The Board asked that the Communications Committee consider these issues and seek a resolution. The Board also discussed, and supported, obtaining permission from the IJC to have the flexibility to use webinars in lieu of some face-to-face meetings. It was also suggested that the opening presentation might be done in English and French simultaneously.

6. Next Board events

The Board noted its schedule of monthly conference calls. The Board agreed to target the week of September 16 – 20 for its next meeting, possibly in the Toronto-Burlington-Niagara Falls area.

Board Member Andre Carpentier noted that this might be his last Board meeting. A nomination for his replacement has been sent to the IJC. The Board noted the impending retirements of Mr. Luc Lefebvre from the Seaway and Dr. Larry Cao from the Coast Guard, expressed their appreciation for many years of dedicated service, and wished them well in their retirement.

There being no other business, the Board meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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Board Meeting held on April 17, 2013

Washington, DC

APPROVED AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda
2. Current conditions & regulation strategy
3. Review of March meeting minutes
4. Appearance preparation
 - a. Sign Progress Report
 - b. Review presentation
5. Other Business
 - a. Adaptive management response
 - b. March 26 public meeting
6. Next Board events