

# **INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**

**Board Meeting/Teleconference/Webinar  
April 29, 2014 13:30 to 16:30  
Kreeger Room, Palomar Hotel  
Washington DC**

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. (ET) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
Col. R. Peterson Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar Dr. F. Sciremammano		Mr. P. Morel, Chair Mr. A. Carpentier (ph), as alternate for Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain (ph) Mr. P. Yeomans (delayed)
	Secretaries	
		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC O. Beaudoin Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell (ph) Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.) (ph)
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher Mr. T. Lavigne Ms. D. Lee Mr. J. Oyler Mr. B. Whitcomb		Ms. S. Farrell-Zeran (ph) Mr. P.M. Rondeau (ph)

## **Welcome and introductions**

Co-Chair Peterson opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks.

### **1 Approval of agenda**

The agenda was adopted (attached).

### **2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy**

The U.S. Alternate Regulation Representative presented a report on current conditions as of April 24, 2014 that included:

- ▶ the near-average levels of lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario, and continued below-average levels of Lake Michigan-Huron,
- ▶ the recent above-average Ottawa River flows and levels of the St. Lawrence River in the Montreal area,
- ▶ the forecasted Plan 1958-D flows and levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River,
- ▶ the likelihood of a significant second freshet in the Ottawa River over the next few weeks,
- ▶ the amount of water stored on Lake Ontario (3.2 cm) as a result of deviations to compensate for the Ottawa freshet, and,
- ▶ the low risk of violating any of the regulation criteria in the next several months.

The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended:

- to continue to adjust outflows accordingly and in a manner such that all stored water be released whenever conditions allowed,
- in accordance with the above, the outflows be set at those specified by Plan 1958-D as soon as possible thereafter,
- the Board continue to permit additional under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address unforeseen critical conditions.

The Board agreed to the recommendations after discussions on whether a maximum over-discharge limit was required.

### **3. Approval of December 13 minutes**

The draft minutes from our December 10, 2013 were approved. The draft March meeting minutes will be ready for circulation to the Board shortly.

**Action item:** The Canadian Secretary will send the approved December minutes to the Commission for translation before posting on the website.

### **4. Adaptive Management Committee**

The Adaptive Management Task team was greatly appreciative of the three Great Lakes regulatory Boards' support for the establishment of an Adaptive Management Committee (AMC) to assist the Boards in the ongoing review of regulation plans and operations. The Adaptive Management Committee will preserve the investment of the two governments in the science of both the International Upper Great Lakes Study and the previous Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study. GLRI and IJC funding has assisted the projects of the Task team and hopefully will continue to support projects of the AMC to lever, influence and collaborate with other funding sources. The AMC will have an exciting opportunity to advertise their needs for research, monitoring and analyses for researchers to cite as justification when they go out to look for funding. This leads to effective partnerships, reporting and studies. The adaptive management process should be kept “fuzzy”, incorporating an adaptive management approach, that is;

establishing a process, seeing how it goes, and then adjusting to make improvements. A “pilot” on something within the Board’s authority should be started to showcase the adaptive management approach.

**Action item:** Secretaries to work with AM Task Team co-leads to develop the AMC’s structure, workplan and process for the Boards by June.

## **5 Communications Committee Report**

a) **Communications Strategy:** The Communications Committee has been updating the communications strategy and workplan to reflect recent developments, such as webinars replacing public meetings and social media, and continuing initiatives such as dual language interaction and tracking and inventorying issues. The strategy will include attendance in-person to local gatherings when requested. The Board noted that it will have to incorporate the AMC.

**Action item:** Communication Committee will submit the strategy for the Board’s discussion by September.

b) **Outreach to interest groups:** The Board should focus on the use of stakeholder lists for notification of information available on FaceBook, the Board’s website, and during the semi-annual webinars. The Department of Environment and Conservation of New York State administers the 1990 Coastal Erosion Management Law and local counties may be contacted through that department. As well, individual Board members shall continue to interact with stakeholder groups but contacts will be tracked. Individual Board members may be tagged to speak to certain topics or certain individuals.

**Action item:** Board members are encouraged to submit more organizations to the secretaries for inclusion on the list.

**Action item:** Secretaries will map the list to ensure organizations represent the basin by interest and geography.

**Action item:** Secretaries to track outreach activities and develop a speakers’ bureau of qualified Board Members to speak to certain topics.

## **6 Other Business**

a) **Report from Port on oil shipments:** The Port of Montreal considers that loading of tankers shuttling oil from the pipeline terminus in Montreal to the Levis refinery across from Quebec City on a daily basis will not result in requests for additional releases from Lake Ontario. If such a request comes, the Board will respond in a written letter that the Port should plan on a full range of water levels that will fluctuate on a daily basis; the Board would be unable to deviate to accommodate the oil shuttling tankers.

**b) Ice Formation:** As explained at the March meeting, the winter of 2013/14 was inordinately cold, inordinately early. The Seaway closure was 31 December after ice had started to form in the river. The power entities were required to install the ice booms in miserable conditions, and fortunately a thaw prevented frazil formation which could have dammed the river before the full installation of the ice booms. The Board decided on a three prong approach to address these rare winter events which occur approximately once every 15 years:

1. the Seaway Authorities, the Coast Guard and the power entities recommend a better process for setting the Seaway closure date that will recognise the power entities ice boom requirements,
2. The process be brought to the Board for its deliberation and approval.
3. The Commission be notified and requested to advise on the authority required to implement the process.

## **7. Review of Slides**

The Board reviewed the slides for the Appearance and incorporated the necessary revisions, including the ice boom installation issue, to the presentation.

## **8. Appearances and Upcoming Events**

The Board will appear in front of the Commissioners the following morning, April, 30 2014 at 8:30 am and the reception is Wednesday evening. The next webinar/teleconference will be Tuesday evening, 16 September 2014. The in-person meeting will be Tuesday, September 23, 2014 in Cornwall. Board members would like a tour of the hydropower plant in conjunction with a half day meeting. The Canadian Appearances are in Ottawa the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For many of the Board members and associates it was their last meeting. BG Burcham is rotating to a new position earlier than expected; Col. Peterson is retiring from active duty, the terms of Mr. J. Bernier, Dr. T. Hullar and Mr. P. Yeomans will not be renewed at the end of May, and LTC Beaudoin is also rotating to a new position. Additionally John Kangas retired with 20 years of service (McCune in as interim until new hire), and Paul Yu will retire in December. On behalf of the Board, both Board Chairs thanked the departing Members and the U.S. Regulation Representative for their many years of service, their knowledge of the basin, and the strong contributions each made to the Board. They will be sorely missed.

There being no other business, the Board meeting adjourned at 5:14 pm.

# **INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**

## **Board Meeting of April 29, 2014**

**1330 – 1630 hours**

Kreeger Room

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Hotel Palomar

Hotel Palomar, 2121 P St NW

Washington, DC 20037

### **Agenda**

Introductions and welcome (COL Peterson)	
1. Approval of agenda (COL Peterson)	1330-1340
2. Current conditions and strategy (Yu)	1340-1410
3. Approval of Dec 13 minutes (Faveri)	1410-1420
4. Adaptive Management Committee (Lee/Leger)	1420-1450
5. Communications Committee report	1450-1530
a) Communications strategy (Hullar)	
b) Outreach to interest groups (Faveri)	
Break	1530-1540
6. Other business	
a) Report from Port on oil shipments (Yeomans)	1540-1550
b) Ice formation (Farrell-Zeran)	1550-1600
7. Slides (McCune)	1600-1620
8. Appearances and upcoming events (COL Peterson)	1620-1630