

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the March 26, 2014 Board meeting Held in Detroit, MI

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM March 26th in the Lake Superior room on the 6th floor of the McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue. Those in attendance were:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
COL. R. Peterson Mr. J. Bernier Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar (ph.)		Mr. P. Morel, Chair Mr. A. Carpentier (alternate) Ms. J. Frain Mr. P. Yeomans (ph.)
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representations	
LTC O. Beaudoin Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	Commissioners	
Ms. Lana Pollack Ms. Dereth Glance (ph.)		Mr. G. Walker Mr. B. Bouchard (ph.)
	IJC Staff	
Mr. J. Babb Dr. M. Colosimo		Mr. J.F. Cantin Mr. D. Fay
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher Mr. B. Whitcomb Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. J. Oyler		Ms. S. Farrell-Zeran Ms. S. Grady Mr. M. McNiven (ph.) Mr. P. M. Rondeau
	Other	
Mr. K. McCune, Corps Ms. D. Lee, Corps Mr. Kevin. R. Grode, Corps		Ms. W. Leger, EC

COL Peterson started the meeting at 0835 hrs. with roundtable introductions.

1 Approval of agenda

The agenda was amended and adopted (attached). Several items were added to the agenda under Other Business: A Quebec Workshop on forecasting, Oil Shipments from the Port of Montreal, and the schedule of upcoming monthly Board teleconferences. The discussion of the December minutes was deferred to the April meeting.

2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

Mr. Yu presented a report on current conditions as of March 24 that included:

- ▶ Lake Superior mean water levels have reached the long-term average for the month of March while Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie, and Ontario were below their respective long-term average for the month.
- ▶ Lake Michigan-Huron is up one foot compared to this time last year, but is forecast to remain below average.
- ▶ The Board deviated to assist in ice management. By February 21, 2014, Lake Ontario level was back to Plan level. However, over discharges were again made to assist ships in the Port of Montreal, resulting in the Lake Ontario level 3 mm (0.1 in) lower than they would have been under continuous Plan flows.
- ▶ The Ontario portion of the Ottawa River basin currently has above-normal snowpack

The Board agreed that:

- the outflows continue to follow the Plan 1958-D prescribed values, adjust flows as necessary to meet critical needs
- the 3 mm of water removed from Lake Ontario will be restored as soon as possible.

3 Discussion of March 18 teleconference with public

Colonel Peterson reported on the March 18 teleconference, when 18 people called into the meeting. This was the first webinar-only teleconference replacing on-site meeting options. A dry run was conducted ahead on March 12. With this new format, the presentation and audio were to be in both English and French. However, there were some technical difficulties. Most significant of these was the loss of our French translators prior to starting the meeting, resulting in the French slides being shown to an English narrative on the French webinar. After the presentation, participants asked two questions, both in English. The first question was from a citizen who was concerned about potential shoreline damage from vessel speed that could cause ice pushing onto the shore due to the severe ice conditions and navigation traffic. After a question, Mr. Yu mentioned he followed up with this issue. In regards to vessel speed, it was noted that Seaway tracks vessel speed.

A number of recommendations came out of this meeting:

- In the future, the Board will test the technical translation aspects of the webinar one hour prior to each webinar to avoid this issue.

- The IJC is working on the technology issues that resulted in the loss of the French translators prior to conference initiation.
- In the future the Board will request that participants identify if they represent any organization in order to get a better feel for public representation on each line.
- It was also suggested that the public teleconference be reduced from twice a year to once a year. Colonel Peterson proposed that a once a year public teleconference should be discussed with the public on the next public teleconference to gain feedback.
- LTC Beaudoin suggested that we post all questions and answers from the public teleconference online (via Facebook and/or ISLBR website) to create more transparency with the Board's dissemination of information.

The Board will discuss any other changes and implement them before the next public webinar.

4 Adaptive Management Task Team update

Ms. Leger reported on the Adaptive Management Task Team for the meeting. Ms. Leger briefly summarized the activities of the team over the past few months and gave a presentation on the Adaptive Management Committee (AM Committee). The AM Task team developed a draft of the work plan and terms of reference which were submitted to the IJC on January 31, 2014. The purposes of developing an AM Committee were to evaluate regulation plan performance over-time on an on-going basis in order to better understand the impacts of a given regulation plan or operation, identify uncertainties in our decision making process, and maintain evaluation tools and data already developed.

A number of concerns were discussed in regards to the AM plan:

- Managing workloads
 - Board Members believed that Regulations Representatives may be too busy for this committee.
- Finding expertise
 - Other than Regulation Representatives., the Board would have to identify technical experts to be on the AM Committee
- Not a new mandate
 - The Board discussed what would be the authority of this committee
- Reporting
 - The Board thinks the AM Committee should report to the Board, not the IJC.
 - The Board thinks there should either be Board Members or Board Secretaries on the AM Committee.
- Work plan
 - The Board believes its current version is too ambitious and needs to be revised
- Letter to IJC
 - One Board member questioned why the IJC doesn't ask the Boards to form the AM committee, the IJC engineering advisor explained that the IJC would have to wait for a reference from the governments to do so, while it is in the Boards' mandates to form a committee to assist them with their operations.
 - Some Board members thought that it would be wise to lay out key tasks for the AM Committee in the letter.

The Board agreed on moving forward with an AM Committee, submitting a letter to the IJC, spending time in the future working out all of the details of the AM Committee. This discussion will resume at the April 29 meeting in Washington, DC, when some of the Members missing today would be present. The Board will discuss activities they think are under their existing mandate or next steps to stand up an AM Committee.

The Board agreed that the AM Committee is an excellent opportunity to retain information from the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River study and the International Upper Great Lakes Study and continue to implement useful information.

5 Communications Committee activities

a.) FAQs

The latest approved FAQ additions have been translated and posted. Ms. Favari suggested adding the Seaway vessel speed question from the March 18th public teleconference, as well as a dredging discussion, to the FAQ list. Board Members proposed adding a “Recent Questions” section to highlight the most recent concerns, then after a month, the recent questions would either be removed or circulate into the FAQ section. A current version of the FAQs is at the website: http://www.ijc.org/en/_islrbc/About_Us

a.) Board Member photos

The Board will have a group photo taken at the April 30 Appearance in Washington, DC.

c.) Web Page Upgrades and Online Outreach

Mr. Bruxer reported on updates to the Board web page, including posting of news/media releases and events using the new "widget" tools, and adding a clickable, HTML version of the FAQs. Mr. Carpentier requested that a printable PDF version of the FAQs be added as well. Mr. Bruxer also introduced a new online geographic information system (GIS) initiative being launched by the IJC, which will allow for the development of geospatial products of interest to the Boards. Two examples discussed were an interactive geospatial narrative of the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence basin, and automated maps of open-licence images that are collected/ plotted based on an established set of keywords. The Board agreed to request access to the IJC's online GIS platform. Some GIS products are already available through the supporting agencies, but Mr. Bruxer also suggested that it might be a good opportunity to submit an IWI proposal to the IJC to help fund the hiring of a student to develop additional GIS products of interest to the Board.

d.) Outreach to Interest Groups

Mr. Yeomans reported on the outreach to interest groups. He has established a permanent draft list for contacts. He keeps the most up-to-date information on each contact. The Washington meeting will see further discussion of the outreach initiative.

e.) Update to Communications Strategy

Mr. Kangas reported on the Communications Strategy for the meeting. An updated ISLRBC Communication Work Plan prepared by Prentiss Haney from the Corps' Cincinnati office was circulated to Committee Members on March 11. New and updated initiatives include telephone outreach to stakeholders, a spreadsheet to track issues of public concern,

formalizing an ISLRBC speakers' bureau, and proactively presenting or providing information at events organized by local stakeholder organizations. The intent is to have an updated communications strategy for the Board to review/approve at its April 29 meeting.

6 Gauging Committee activities

a.) Gauging Committee outstanding item list

Mr. McNiven reported on the Gauging Committee outstanding item list for the meeting. The Gauging Committee submitted its prioritized list of outstanding Gauging Committee items to the Board at the December meeting. The Board agreed to this new approach as it will provide more rigor and continuity to the gauging inspections and the Gauging Committee's recommendations, and provide clear instructions to the power entities as to the steps they must take to ensure all outstanding items are completed in a timely fashion.

The 2013 audit is underway. OPG has completed a draft of an internal assessment report that is expected to be finalized by May.

b.) Gauging Committee 2012 Report

LTC Beaudoin reported on the Gauging Committee 2012 Report for the meeting. The draft 2012 report was submitted to the Board on March 18. The Board approved the report.

c.) 2014 Gauging Inspection

LTC Beaudoin reported on the 2014 Gauging Inspection for the meeting. The 2013 gauging inspection was postponed due to the U.S. Government shutdown. The next inspection is now planned to start June 9. Power entity surveys will be completed by mid-May. This may become the standard timeframe for the annual inspections. After this year, the support of NOAA for the inspections is uncertain, but two agency representatives are expected to attend the 2014 inspections.

7 Semi-Annual Progress Report

Mr. Kangas provided a brief update on the semi-annual progress report. Comments are to be handled outside of the meeting and the report will be finalized prior to the IJC Spring Semi-Annual Appearances in Washington D.C.

8 Other Business

a.) 2013/2014 Ice Formation review

The power entities are trying to form ice and close the ice booms at the same time that the Seaway is attempting to get the last ships through the system. This can lead to some intense coordination, particularly for closing the two ice booms that cross the navigation channel. This past year's experiences was discussed to make the Board aware of the issues involved.

b.) Plan 2014 update

Commissioner Walker expects that the IJC will likely submit their final report to the governments in late May or early June. He expects that it will be at least mid-June before a public announcement might be made.

c.) Forecast workshop

Mr. Carpentier noted a Canadian Water Resources Association workshop on “Operational Forecasting for Optimization of Dam and Reservoir Management” is to be held in Quebec City from September 17 to 19. The Canadian Regulation Representative agreed to submit an abstract on behalf of the Board.

d.) Oil Shipments from Port of Montreal

Mr. Yeomans discussed a Port of Montreal proposal to ship western crude oil downstream to the Quebec City area where 500,000 barrels a day will be shipped. The Board asked whether this was a year-round operation, and whether the Port would require Board assistance to accommodate these shipments during low water levels. Mr. Caldwell will discuss the matter with Port officials during a meeting they have scheduled later this week, and will report to the Board with his findings.

9 Appearance and upcoming Board events

The Board will meet the afternoon of Tuesday, April 29 from 1:30pm – 4:30pm at the Palomar Hotel in Washington, DC. The Board will appear before the IJC at the Palomar Hotel on the morning of Wednesday, April 30. The Reception will be the evening of April 30 at the State Department, Benjamin Franklin Room on the 8th Floor of the Harry S. Truman Building, 2201 C St. NW, Washington D.C., starting at 6:30. The Board agreed to keep Wednesdays at 2:00 ET for conference calls, but that they would be scheduled on an as needed basis, one week in advance. The next Board meeting will be in the fall of 2014. The Secretaries of the three Great Lakes regulation boards have agreed to the week of September 23 in Cornwall due to the Fall Appearance schedule.

The next public meeting/teleconference is scheduled for September 16, 2014; likely webinar only, unless conditions dictate otherwise.

There being no other business, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL
Board Meeting of March 26, 2014
830 – 1300 hours

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lake Superior Room
6th Floor McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, MI

Draft Agenda

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Approval of agenda (COL Peterson) | 830-840 |
| 2. Current conditions & regulation strategy (Yu) | 840-910 |
| 3. Discussion of March 18 teleconference with public (Kangas) | 910-920 |
| 4. Adaptive Management Task Team update (Leger) | 920-1000 |
| 5. Communications Committee activities (Faveri/Bruxer) | 1000-1120 |
| a) FAQs | |
| b) Board Member photos | |
| Break | 1020-1035 |
| c) Web page upgrades | |
| d) Outreach to interest groups | |
| e) Update to communications strategy | |
| 5. Gauging Committee activities (Yu) | 1120-1145 |
| a) Gauging Committee outstanding item list | |
| b) Gauging Committee 2012 Report | |
| c) 2014 Gauging Inspection | |
| 6. Other Business | 1145-1210 |
| a) 2013/2014 Ice formation review (Farrell-Zeran) | |
| b) Plan 2014 update (Fay) | |
| c) Quebec Workshop on forecasting (Carpentier) | |
| d) Oil Shipments from the Port of Montreal (Huller) | |
| e) Monthly Board Teleconferences (Kangas) | |
| 7. Semi-annual progress report(Kangas) | 1210-1250 |
| 8. Appearance and upcoming Board events (COL Peterson) | 1250-1300 |