

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the 15 October 2012 Board meeting Held in Ottawa, ON

- 1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM EDT, 15 October in the Business Continuity Conference rooms of 200 Kent St., courtesy of the Canadian Coast Guard.

Those in attendance were:

UNITED STATES		CANADA
	Board Members	
BG Margaret Burcham, Chair COL R. Peterson, Alt Chair Mr. J. Bernier Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar Dr. F. Sciremammano, Jr.		Mr. P. Morel, Chair 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. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt)
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. J. Oyler Mr. B. Whitcomb		Ms. P. Clavet Mr. L. Cao Mr. L. Lefebvre Mr. M. McNiven Mr. B. Morton Mr. S. Villeneuve

- 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA - The draft agenda was amended before adoption (attached).
- 3) CURRENT CONDITIONS AND REGULATION STRATEGY - Mr. Caldwell provided the Regulation Representatives' assessment of current conditions. The Board considered the following factors (among others) in determining its strategy:
- the below average and declining levels of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and continued below average levels of the upper lakes, especially Lakes Michigan-Huron,
 - the very low 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 uncertainty regarding the Lake Ontario basin supplies and the Ottawa River outflows over the next few months,

- the +1770 m³/s-weeks of accumulated discharge deviations from Plan 1958-D (or 5.5 cm of water removed from the lake), as of 5 October, and
- the risk of violating any of the regulation criteria in the next several months.

Action: The Regulation Representatives recommended, and the Board agreed, to over-discharge until the conditions downstream permit restoring water to Lake Ontario relative to Plan 1958-D. As levels on Lake Ontario approach 74.20 m, the chart datum level on the lake, the Seaway may need to reduce draft, and as a result, the Board may reconsider the minimum level to maintain on Lake St Louis.

4) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) FAQs – the Communications Committee is incorporating additional questions and answers, based on the Facebook questions and those from our 18 September public meeting, to those currently on our website. The additional FAQs will be circulated prior to our March meeting for approval at that meeting.
- b) IWI Animation Update – another draft was presented to the Board, which incorporated all comments received to date. Future animations need to address water levels on Lake Ontario and in Montreal.

Action: Members and associates are to provide comments on the animation modules by 13 November to the Secretary.

- c) Board’s communication role in new approach – the Board awaits the clarification of the role once the new approach is finalized.

5) DRAFT SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – The draft minutes were approved and the Canadian secretary will submit them to the IJC for translation and posting.

6) REVIEW OF SLIDE PRESENTATION – Ms. Faveri revised the presentation for the Appearance the next morning according to the suggestions of the Board Members and Associates. Issues for the Commissioners’ attention were identified, including the possible need for their guidance should low water conditions continue and the need for communications to address low water conditions.

7) OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Gauging Committee – Mr. McNiven advised that the 2011 Gauging Committee report will soon be finalized once NOAA and EC approves the audit. The 2012 inspection is underway.
- b) Summary of September Public Teleconference – the Board approved the summary prepared by Mr. Kangas which will be translated and posted on our website.
- c) Addendum to the Operating Guide for Plan 1958D – Mr. Yu explained that a 1971 addendum to the operating guide provides guidance on the application of the L limit under positive deviations. This provision provides a means to restore water back to Lake Ontario. The last time this occurred was back in March 2007, when downstream navigation was not an issue. Since 1971, the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system

has not seen such low water events as are occurring now. With navigational needs being critical, the Regulation Representatives would like to investigate whether this provision is applicable during these critical periods.

Action: The Regulation Representatives are to draft a brief report explaining the issue and recommending possible revisions to the addendum for the Board and IJC's approval.

8) UP-COMING BOARD EVENTS

- a) Appearance - Tuesday 16 October 8:30 am – IJC, 234 Laurier Ave. W., Ottawa.
- b) IJC Reception - Tuesday 16 October 6:30 pm – DFAIT, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa
- c) Regularly scheduled conference calls for the second Wednesday of each month, 14 Nov., and 12 Dec. 2012 and 9 Jan. and 13 Feb. 2013.
- d) March Teleconference – Tuesday, 19 March 2013 in Montreal area and Rochester.
- e) Board Meeting 20-21 March 2013 in Chicago, U.S. secretary to confirm date and location.

ADJOURNMENT at 5:25 PM EDT.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Board Meeting

**2:00 PM, 15 October 2012
BCC-1 – BCC-3
DFO – MPO Building
200 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario**

D-R-A-F-T AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions – MOREL
2. Approval of agenda - MOREL
3. Current conditions and regulation strategy - CALDWELL
4. Communications Committee report
 - a. FAQs – YEOMANS
 - b. Update on IWI animation project – CALDWELL
 - e. Board's communication role in new approach – YEOMANS
5. Draft September minutes
 - a. Approval - FAVERI
 - b. Review of action items - MOREL
6. Review of slide presentation - FAVERI
7. Other business
 - a. Gauging Committee – MCNIVEN
 - b. Approval of 18 September Teleconference Summary – KANGAS
 - c. Addendum to Operating Guide for PLAN 1958D – YU
8. Semi-Annual Appearances and up-coming Board Events - FAVERI
 - a. Appearance - Tuesday 16 October 8:30 am IJC 234 Laurier Ave. W.
 - b. IJC Reception - Tuesday 16 October 6:30 pm 125 Sussex Drive
 - c. March Meeting - Chicago

ADJOURNMENT