

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the September 18, 2013 Board meeting

Held in Burlington, ON

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM September 18th in the library conference room of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters. Those in attendance were:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
COL. R. Peterson Mr. J. Bernier Mr. T. Brown Dr. T. Hullar Dr. F. Sciremammano		Mr. P. Morel, Chair Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain
	Secretaries	
Mr. J. Kangas		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC O. Beaudoin Mr. P. Yu (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	Commissioners	
Ms. Dereth Glance		Mr. B. Bouchard Mr. G. Walker
	IJC Staff	
Mr. J. Babb Dr. M. Colosimo		Mr. J.F. Cantin Mr. D. Fay
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher Mr. T. Lavigne (phone) Mr. J. Oyler (phone) Mr. J. Scungio		M. A. Carpentier (phone) Ms. S. Farrell-Zeran Mr. M. Gagnon (phone) Ms. S. Grady Mr. S. Villeneuve(phone)

1 Approval of agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of one item under 5) other business (attached).

2 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

Mr. Caldwell presented a report on current conditions as of 15 September 2013 that included:

- ▶ Lake Erie was 2 cm (0.8 in) below its long-term average and 19 cm (7.5 in) above last year at this time. Lake Michigan-Huron remains well below average, although Lake Superior is 3 cm (1.2 in) below average.
- ▶ Lake Ontario was at elevation 74.79 m (245.37 ft). This was 5 cm (2 in) above average and 27 cm (10.6 in) above last year.
- ▶ Water stored on Lake Ontario compared to the regulation plan's prescribed level, after deviations this spring, is currently 2.7 cm (1.1 in).
- ▶ Montreal Harbour levels were about 29 cm (11.4 in) below average, 87 cm (34.3 in) above last year, and 47 cm (18.5 in) above chart datum.
- ▶ The risk of Lake St. Louis falling below the Seaway alert through December is about 38%; and the risk of levels at the Port of Montreal going Chart Datum is less than 48%.

The regulation representatives therefore recommended that:

- the outflows continue to follow the Plan 1958-D prescribed values,
- the water stored on Lake Ontario as a result of the Board's storage strategy be retained for use later this year, if necessary, to help meet critical needs both upstream on the lake itself and downstream in the lower St. Lawrence River,
- the Board continue to permit additional under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address unforeseen critical conditions in the river.

The Board agreed to the recommendations. The Board asked that the Regulation Representatives prepare a summary of water stored (to meet critical needs) versus the amounts actually used, prior to the next meeting.

3 Review of Progress Report

The Board reviewed, amended and approved the progress report.

4 Multi-city (Oswego/Kingston) Teleconference

- a) Attendance:** Board members and Commissioners confirmed their attendance in person or by telephone.
- b) Review presentation:** Strategy slide will have same wording as recommendations from regulation representatives.
- c) New LOSLR Regulation Q&As:** Board members will defer to Commissioners and staff in attendance

5 Other Business

a) OAG memberships changes: Three members changed due to the retirements of Dr. L. Cao, representing the Canadian Coast Guard; Mr. L. Lefebvre, representing the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation as an alternate for Dr. Cao; and of Mr. S. Robert of Hydro Quebec. The Canadian Coast Guard nominated M. Mathieu Gagnon as its member. The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation nominated Ms. Shari Grady while Hydro Quebec nominated M. Pierre-Marc Rondeau. The Board accepted these nominations and will send letters of confirmation to the Coast Guard, Seaway and Hydro-Quebec and of gratitude to the retiring members and alternates.

b) 2012 Peaking and Ponding Report: The Board accepted the report submitted on behalf of both Power Entities by Ontario Power Generation by email the preceding week.

c) Gauging Committee Report: The Gauging Committee held a teleconference on 4 June 2013 to discuss findings and recommendations from its recent audits and inspections and to obtain an update on the Power Entities' progress and work planning to address these. As requested by the Board, each outstanding item was assigned a priority and a timeline for completion. Another teleconference on 10 July 2013 discussed the draft St. Lawrence River Gauging Standard / Guidelines, which are almost complete but are not ready to be presented to the Board for its approval at this time.

A comprehensive flow audit, completed 26-28 August 2013, by USACE and EC staff included visits to or discussions of the Moses-Saunders generating station, Long Sault Dam, Cornwall Canal, Alcoa Massena Diversion, Cornwall Water Supply, Raisin River Diversion, Massena Water Treatment Plant, and Wiley-Dondero Canal as part of the Seaway. No major problems

were found during the review and such comprehensive reviews were deemed unnecessary on an annual basis in future years. The Board requested in-person inspections at least every five years and sooner should any relevant changes to the procedures, equipment, or staff at each of the entities, or on the inspection team occur.

The Board wrote a letter dated 30 August 2013 to the U.S. National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), requesting continued support for the gauging audits and inspections program of the Board. NOAA has supported the gauging program of the Board since its inception. The Gauging Committee will perform an annual inspection of the water level gauging network starting 15 October 2013, with the participation of Mr. Jeff Oyler and Trevor McKoy of NOAA, working long days to complete the inspection in one week instead of two. As well the Power Entities are conducting pre-inspection level surveys to facilitate the shorter duration. Should funds be available, the next inspection may occur in August 2014 to take advantage of longer daylight hours.

d) Flow verification Measurements: Over the course of three days, 19-21 August 2013, flow measurements were conducted using Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) technology in the St. Lawrence River immediately downstream of the Moses-Saunders power dam. These measurements were conducted on behalf of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data by staff of Environment Canada's Water Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District. The purpose of the flow measurements was to measure the total flow in the St. Lawrence River immediately downstream of Moses-Saunders, in order to compare to estimated total flows through the turbines as reported by the Power Entities. The post-processing of the ADCP measurements has begun and will include results of the analysis in a standard report format which will be made available to the Board.

e) St. Lawrence River bulletin mailings: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District has been mailing the St. Lawrence River bulletin since 1992 to a postal list of up to 500 addresses that has now been pared down to 240. Inadvertently the mailing was overlooked for two months and no member of the public complained. Since the information is now available on the website at

<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Departments/WaterManagement/StLawrenceRiverB>

[ulletin.aspx](#) , the Buffalo District proposes to send a final mailing directing its public to the website for timely and convenient access to the information and save the mailing costs. Should members of the public request, Buffalo District will still mail to those postal addresses. The Board considered this a most sensible approach, and will post the link on its website and Facebook page.

f) Communications Committee Report:

i) FAQs - last year's updates are in the final stages before posting. The process of adding updates requires streamlining and it is proposed that new questions go to the secretaries by the October meeting, Board members will approve the answers by email for content and comprehensibility by our audience. The Commission's Canadian engineering advisor will steer the approved updated and additional FAQs through translation. Francophone board members and staff will review the translated text before posting. A current version of the FAQs is at the website: [http://www.ijc.org/en /islrbc/About Us](http://www.ijc.org/en/islrbc/About_Us)

ii) Facebook page – the Board's English Facebook page garners a lot of interest, mainly from Lake Ontario riparians with 211 likes and a maximum weekly reach to unique individuals of 652, and an average weekly reach of 200. The French page has only 8 likes. Once a week, the Board posts an update on levels and outflows on both pages. Four individuals regularly comment on the English page and the Board's staff respond to inaccurate and misleading comments with graphs and text, pointing to the website when applicable. Staff time takes about an hour a week. The Board members and associates were encouraged to explore the pages at <https://www.facebook.com/ISLRBC> (English) and <https://www.facebook.com/CICFSL> (French).

Action item: Request the Commission to add Regulation Representatives to comment on the page as Board staff and Board members as Board members.

iii) Animations for new website: The board approved posting the seven modules on the Board's website once translated.

Action item: Request the Commission to translate the seven modules.

g) System Emergency Procedures: the Independent Electricity System Operator of Ontario expects that R.H. Saunders will take immediate action to avoid or minimize a power system collapse, if a "Reliability System Emergency Directive" is declared. Ontario Power Generation submitted a letter to the Board 12 August 2013 outlining its procedure in these

rare power situations. The Board requested that the Saunders operator call the regulation representatives directly should neither the FLM-Operating manager nor the Water Manager, be available, since deviations from Plan flow would be the likely outcome. The Board asked to be provided NYPA's procedure as well in the near future.

6. Next Board events

The Board will meet Wednesday morning, 23 October at 9:30 am to be available for the IWI workshop the Commission is hosting that afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. at the Commission boardroom, as noted in an email dated 25 June 2013. The Commission staff will forward more information on the workshop.

All Board members, associates and their guests are invited to the reception on Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30 pm in the Ninth Floor Reception Room, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario. The Board's appearance is October 24th starting at 8:30 am.

The Board noted its schedule of monthly conference calls as noted in the attached agenda. The March meetings need not be as early as in other years since the April Appearances are scheduled for 28 April to 2 May 2014. Date and location will be discussed in the October 2013 meeting.

The next multi-city teleconference will be 18 March 2014.

There being no other business, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Board Meeting held on September 18, 2013

08:30 am to 12:30 pm

L231 – Library Guest Lounge

Burlington, ON

APPROVED AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda - Morel
2. Current conditions & regulation strategy - Caldwell
3. Review of Progress Report - Faveri
4. 24 September 2013 Multi-City (Oswego/Kingston) Teleconference
 - a. Attendance (dial-in 1-877-413-4814, code: 4479980) - Faveri
 - b. Review presentation – Faveri
 - c. New LOSLR Regulation Q&As - Faveri
5. Other Business
 - a. OAG membership changes - Faveri
 - b. 2012 Peaking and Ponding report – Farrell-Zeran
 - c. Gauging Committee Report - McNiven
 - d. Flow verification Field Measurements - Bruxer
 - e. St. Lawrence River bulletin mailings - Yu
 - f. Communications Committee Report
 - i. FAQs – updates for next year – Faveri/Villeneuve
 - ii. Facebook Page – Board/staff participation - Caldwell
 - iii. Approve animations for new Website – Morel
 - g. System Emergency Procedures – Farrell-Zeran
6. Next Board Events - Faveri
 - a. Ottawa Pre-Appearance Meeting: 373 Sussex Drive, block E1, 23 October 2013
Wednesday morning 9:30 am
 - b. IWI workshop: IJC Offices, 22nd Floor, 234 Laurier Ave W, 23 October 2013
Wednesday afternoon 2:30 pm
 - c. Reception: Ninth Floor Reception Room, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125
Sussex Drive, 23 October Wednesday evening 6:30pm
 - d. Appearance: IJC Offices, 22nd Floor, 234 Laurier Ave W, 24 October 2013
Thursday morning 8:30 am
 - e. Conference Calls: Wednesdays, 2:00 pm, when necessary
13 November 2013, 11 December 2013, 8 January 2014, and 12 February 2014
 - f. March meeting: location, date, time to be determined October
 - g. March Multi-city teleconference: locations, 18 March 2014.