

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

Board Meeting/Teleconference

01 March 2017

1:00 pm to 5:30 pm

US Army Corps of Engineers – Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

550 Main Street, 10th Floor, Main Conference Room

Cincinnati OH 45202

The meeting began at 1:00 pm (ET) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Mr. A. David Dr. F. Sciremammano		Dr. G. Béchard, Chair (ph) Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri (ph)
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC A. Czekanski Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell (ph) Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.) (ph)
	Commissioners	
		Mr. G. Walker Mr. B. Bouchard
	IJC Staff	
Ms. S. Runyon		Mr. D. Fay
	Associates	
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. B. Carmichael Ms. C. Fisher (ph) Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. G. Kiaer (ph)		Ms. J. Dickhout (ph) Mr. M. McNiven

	GLAM Committee	
Mr. K. McCune Mr. D. Zelazny (ph)		Ms. W. Leger (ph) Mr. M. Shantz (ph)
	<u>Others</u>	
Mr. W. Pearsall (ph) Mr. T. Haley (ph) Ms. M. Janis (ph) Ms. R. Parsons (ph) Mr. R. Breen (ph) Mr. B. Pendergrass (ph) Ms. C. LaBarbier (ph) Mr. F. Bonn		

1 Welcome and introductions

U.S. Alt. Chair, Mr. Durrett, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks. The Board extended a warm welcome to Mr. A. David, the new American Board member. Canadian Chair, Dr. B  chard thanked the Board for holding a video conference to accommodate travel restrictions at ECCC.

2 Approval of agenda and October 2016 Minutes

The agenda was adopted (attached) with changes. An item to discuss the ‘‘IJC Guidance on Consensus’’ was added under ‘‘Other Business’’. Additionally, item 6 was changed to ‘‘Hydrologic Update and Regulation Overview. The October 2016 Minutes required more edits to the version as circulated prior to today’s meeting.

Action item: Members will coordinate with the American Secretary to coordinate a final version for circulation and Board approval by email.

Action item: The U.S. Secretary will send the approved minutes to the IJC for translation before posting on the website.

3 Status of Previous Action Items

All action items from the October 2016 meeting were marked complete, aside from actions related to the transition of gauging activities from NOAA to USACE Buffalo District. Mr.

Durrett expressed the Buffalo District should complete this transition of this information ASAP.

4 IJC Plan 2014 Presentation

Mr. D. Fay, Canadian IJC advisor to the Board, presented slides outlining the differences between Plan 1958-DD and Plan 2014 and the new roles and responsibilities of the Board. A main difference in roles is that the Boards discretionary deviations during ice formation and the Ottawa freshet are included in the rules and limits of Plan 2014 as operational adjustments. The Board still maintains the authority to make minor deviations for activities such as boat haul-outs, assisting ships into the Port of Montreal, and to accommodate maintenance at hydropower plants; however, if these deviations result in a cumulative change of more than 2 cm in the level of Lake Ontario, the Board must request permission from the IJC. The Board may also make emergency deviations when a risk of loss of life or of the ability to control releases is imminent. Finally, the Board may increase/decrease the outflow when the levels of Lake Ontario are at or outside the high or low threshold levels of Criteria H14. These are major deviations required to provide relief to riparians when water levels are extremely high or to municipal water intakes, navigation and power when water levels are extremely low. Criteria H14 heightens the responsibility of the Board, although under certain water supply conditions, releasing the maximum or more above what is called on by Plan 2014, may still not lower levels on Lake Ontario below the trigger levels. These trigger levels are below maximum levels which occurred on Lake Ontario under Plan 1958-D.

5 Regulation Representatives Plan 2014 Presentation

Mr. R. Caldwell, Canadian Regulation Representative, presented slides on the in-depth operation and how lake levels might have differed from 2001-2016 under Plan 2014. Extreme low and high levels will still occur as they did with Plan 1958-D. A discussion on when and by how much the Board would have deviated under these historic conditions under Plan 2014 clarified the discretionary role and the advisory role and responsibility of the Board.

Action item: The Regulation Representatives will send email notifications of all operational adjustments, and minor, major and emergency deviations to the Board, providing the amount, time, and basic reason for each. All flow changes will continue to be posted on Facebook and the website.

6 Current Conditions and Regulation Overview

The American Regulation Representative presented a report on current conditions as of Sunday, 26 February 2017 that included:

- ▶ Recent heavy rainfalls to the local drainage basins of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River,
- ▶ the above-average levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, Erie and Lake Ontario,
- ▶ the still below-average Ottawa River flows and above average levels of the St. Lawrence River in the Montreal area,
- ▶ the expected Plan 2014 flows and levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River,
- ▶ the higher than average temperatures for the Laurentian - Great Lakes basin and equal chance of high, low or average precipitation in official forecasts, and
- ▶ the current general aim to maintain Plan-prescribed outflows, since Plan 2014 considers freshet flows, except under unforeseen, critical circumstances.

The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended:

- Lake Ontario outflows continue to follow Plan 2014
- to continue to permit under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address critical conditions, in accordance with the directive on minor deviations.

The Board agreed to the regulation strategy.

7 **GLAM Committee Update**

a. **1st Triennial Report to IJC – Board Approval**

The Board commented broadly on the Committee's first triennial report to the IJC, which because of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement which last reported in 2014, covers only the first year and a half of the Committee's existence. Board members suggested the Committee's report go into more detail, particularly with regards to the costs of its various proposed areas of study. The September annual report to the Boards will have more details.

Action item: Board Members to submit comments on the report by email to GLAM Committee secretaries by 17 March 2017 for incorporation into a final version for Board approval by 31 March 2017.

Action item: US GLAM secretary to poll Board members on questions they would like answered by the GLAM Committee

b. **Progress/Upcoming Activities**

The US Co-lead of the GLAM Committee presented the progress of its work plan and future items for consideration during its meetings planned for June and September. Again the Board had many comments on the reporting of ongoing work items and on the proposals of future items and their priority.

8 **Communications Committee Activities**

With the announcement of Plan 2014 the communications committee has been busy. The standard presentation has been updated and is posted on the SharePoint site. The SharePoint site loses its functionality when many users are accessing files or the files are large. The Facebook posts are not user friendly.

Action item: Secretaries to email Mr. Fay's (without the notes) and Mr. Caldwell's presentations of today, posting them to the SharePoint Site for archival purposes.

Action item: Secretaries and Regulation Representatives to email future files directly, posting them to the SharePoint Site for archival purposes.

9 Other Business

a. 2015 Gauging Committee Report and 2017 Inspections

The 2015 St. Lawrence Committee on River Gauging Report is undergoing audit before its submission to the Board. 2017 Inspections will occur mid-June 2017. Buffalo inspection staff will possibly go to NOAA offices to retrieve documents in May. The U.S. Alternate Chair urged the Buffalo District to complete the transition of information from NOAA as soon as possible.

b. Potential Future Webinars – GLAM, Communication

As shown by the lively discussion on the GLAM report and its progress, another webinar / teleconference should be scheduled before our next meeting. Similarly the communication of the new Supplementary Orders and Plan 2014 to the public and stakeholders may require direction from Board Members and require another webinar/teleconference.

Action item: Secretaries to schedule supplemental webinar/teleconferences to discuss with GLAM Committee and Communication Committee. Board Members to submit questions for the GLAM Committee and concerns they are hearing for the Communications Committee.

c. IJC Guidance on Consensus decisions

The IJC recently provided guidance documents to all its Board members, which will be provided to all new Board members, to ensure, as the Board has done in the past that all decisions are by consensus.

d. IJC Appearances: Week of 1 May 2017, Washington DC

IJC staff confirmed the appearances will be in Washington the first week of May 2017, tentatively the Board will appear Wednesday morning and the reception will be Wednesday

night. The Board will meet the afternoon before its appearance. A Climate Change Framework workshop will likely occur Thursday morning. The location will be in southwest Washington at the Capitol Skyline hotel.

Action item: Secretaries to arrange a conference room for the Board meeting prior to the Appearance.

a. GLAM Committee Meeting: June 2017, Chicago (tentative)

The GLAM committee will schedule a work meeting tentatively scheduled for Chicago in June to which all Board members are welcome.

Action item: U.S. Secretary to notify Board Members when date and location of GLAM Committee June Meeting are confirmed.

b. Fall Board Meeting: TBD Queenston, ON

OPG will host the meeting in September, tentative dates are 20 September, or alternatively day after, week before.

Action item: Members are to confirm their availability for 20-21 September dates by email.

10 Action Item Review

- i. Members will coordinate with the U.S. Secretary to coordinate a final version of October 2016 meeting minutes for circulation and Board approval by email.
- ii. The U.S. Secretary will send the approved minutes to the IJC for translation before posting on the website.
- iii. The Regulation Representatives will send email notifications of all operational adjustments, and minor, major and emergency deviations to the Board, providing the amount, time, and basic reason for each. All flow changes will continue to be posted on Facebook and the website.
- iv. Board Members to submit comments on the GLAM 1st Triennial Report by email to GLAM Committee secretaries by 17 March 2017 for incorporation into a final version for Board approval by 31 March 2017.
- v. US GLAM secretary to poll Board members on questions they would like answered by GLAM Committee.
- vi. Secretaries to email Mr. Fay's (without the notes) and Mr. Caldwell's presentation, posting them to the SharePoint Site for archival purposes.
- vii. Secretaries and Regulation Representatives to email future files directly, posting them to the SharePoint Site for archival purposes.
- viii. Secretaries to schedule supplemental webinar/teleconferences to discuss with GLAM Committee and Communication Committee. Board Members to submit questions for the GLAM Committee and concerns they are hearing for the Communications Committee.
- ix. Secretaries to arrange a conference room for the Board meeting prior to the Appearance.
- x. U.S. Secretary to notify Board Members when date and location of GLAM Committee June Meeting are confirmed.
- xi. Members are to confirm their availability for 20-21 September dates by email.

11 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

DRAFT

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Board Meeting held on 1 March 2017
1:00 pm to 5:30 pm
US Army Corps of Engineers – Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
550 Main Street, 10th Floor, Main Conference Room
Cincinnati OH 45202

AGENDA

1. Introductions, Welcome New Member, Opening Remarks [Mr. Durrett] 1:00 pm
2. Approval of Agenda and Oct 2016 Minutes [Mr. Durrett] 1:05 pm
3. Previous Action Items [Heer] 1:10 pm
4. IJC Plan 2014 Presentation [Fay] 1:15 pm
 - a) Why Plan 2014 - Brief History
 - b) Orders and Directives
 - c) Comparison of New and Old Criterion
 - d) Board Member and Associates' New Roles/Responsibility
5. Regulation Representatives Plan 2014 Presentation [Caldwell] 2:15 pm
 - a) Plan 2014, Operational Adjustments and Deviations In-Depth
 - b) Comparison of 1958 D and Plan 2014 using 2001-2016 simulation
- Break (15 min) 3:15 pm
6. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Koralewski] 3:30 pm
7. GLAM Committee Update [McCune] 4:15 pm
 - a) 1st Report to IJC – Board Approval
 - b) Progress/Upcoming Activities
8. Communication Committee Update [Campany] 4:45 pm
9. Other Business [Oyler, Koralewski, Heer] 5:00 pm
 - a) Gauging Committee Report & 2017 Inspections
 - b) Potential Future Webinars - GLAM, Communication
 - c) IJC Guidance on Consensus decisions
 - d) IJC Appearance: Week of May 1, Washington DC
 - e) GLAM Committee Meeting: June 2017, Chicago (tentative)
 - f) Fall Board Meeting: TBD Queenston, ON
10. Action Item Review 5:15 pm
11. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Durrett] 5:30 pm