

# INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

## Board Meeting/Teleconference

24 October 2016

1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Édifice LaSalle – Collaboration Boardroom

373, chemin Sussex Drive

Ottawa ON

The meeting began at 1:30 pm (ET) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
BG. R.M. Toy Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Dr. F. Sciremammano		Dr. G. Béchard Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer
	Associates	
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. B. Carmichael Ms. C. Fisher ILT D. Kraemer Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. K. McCune		Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Dickhout (ph) Mr. D. Ferko Ms. W. Leger Mr. M. McNiven (ph) Mr. B. Morton Mr. P-M. Rondeau Mr. M. Shantz

### **1 Welcome and introductions**

Canadian Chair, Dr. Béchard, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks.

### **2 Approval of agenda**

The agenda was adopted with the omission of one item (attached).

### **3 Approval of 14 September 2016 Minutes**

The September minutes were adopted as circulated prior to today's meeting.

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

19 **4 Status of Prior Action Items**

20 Most action items from the April 2016 meeting were marked complete, aside from actions  
21 related to the transition of gauging activities from NOAA to USACE Buffalo District and an  
22 item on the approved agenda.

23 **5 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy**

24 The Canadian Regulation Representative presented a report on current conditions as of Sunday,  
25 23 October 2016 that included:

- 26 ▶ Recent heavy rainfalls to the local drainage basins of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence  
27 River,
- 28 ▶ the above average levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, Erie and slightly below  
29 average levels of Lake Ontario,
- 30 ▶ the still below-average Ottawa River flows and levels of the St. Lawrence River in the  
31 Montreal area,
- 32 ▶ the expected Plan 1958-D flows and levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River,
- 33 ▶ the higher than average temperatures for the Laurentian - Great Lakes basin and equal  
34 chance of high, low or average precipitation in official forecasts, and
- 35 ▶ the current general aim to maintain Plan-prescribed outflows as much as possible.

36 The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended:

- 37 • to allow under-discharges if Plan flows are higher than turbine capacities during  
38 maintenance activities at the hydroelectric plants at Cornwall and Massena for the next  
39 week (latest 3 November 2016), so long as those under-discharges do not conflict with  
40 critical needs elsewhere in the system,
- 41 • to continue to release outflows following those specified in the Regulation Plan 1958-D,
- 42 • Flows be transitioned smoothly, if necessary, in December, prior to ice formation, as  
43 conditions permit and necessitate, and
- 44 • to continue to permit under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address critical  
45 conditions,

46 The Board agreed to the regulation strategy.

47 **6 Communications Committee Activities**

48 Since the September Board meeting, the Association pour la Sauvegarde du lac Saint Francois  
49 held a public meeting on 2 October. Due to the short notice, no one from the Board was able to  
50 attend; however, we supplied some slides and information. The Committee will have a meeting  
51 on 25 October at the IJC offices and a new member from the U.S. section of the Board, Rob  
52 Campany will join. The first video should be ready by end of calendar year 2016.

53 **7 St. Lawrence Great Lakes Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee**

54 The Canadian Co-lead of the GLAM committee presented an oversight of the committee's semi-  
55 annual report to the IJC, before a discussion of the mid-term strategy and the role and interaction  
56 of the Board and the GLAM committee. The GLAM committee will report to the Board on  
57 progress of its workplan and future items for consideration so the Board may provide input to its  
58 draft in June and approve the annual work plans in September. The Committee will provide  
59 sufficient opportunity for Board members to provide comments on draft documents before they  
60 become final. The Board understands the funding limitations for items on the GLAM work  
61 plans. As well, the Board wishes to fully understand and contribute to the GLAM mid-term  
62 strategy and communications plan.

63

64 **Action item:** Secretaries to redistribute the mid-term strategy to all board

65 members prior to a conference call in mid-November.  
66 **Action item:** Add discussion of GLAM – Board interaction process to our  
67 Appearance slides.  
68

## 69 **8 Gaging Committee Activities**

### 70 **a. 2015 Gaging Committee Report**

71 The 2015 St. Lawrence Committee on River Gaging Report is undergoing audit before its  
72 submission to the Board.

### 73 **b. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Water Level Gauge Project**

74 OPG is conducting gauge replacement at the nine gauges they operate, scheduled from 25  
75 October 2016 to 11 April 2017 in three stages:

- 76 1. Dive work
- 77 2. Building replacement
- 78 3. Gauge equipment installation.

## 79 **9 Review of IJC Semi-Annual Appearance Presentation**

80 The Board reviewed the Semi Annual Appearance Presentation to the IJC for 25 October 2016,  
81 which was updated during the 24 October meeting.  
82

## 83 **10 Other Business**

### 84 **a. IWI Workshop**

85 Member Hudon updated the Board on the Climate Change Framework Working Group (CCFWG)  
86 which held a preliminary conference call/webinar on 23 September 2016. An ambitious schedule  
87 is in place to produce a final report to the IJC.

88 **Action item:** All Board members and associates to provide ideas of what would comprise  
89 the “perfect” Climate Change Framework for the Boards of the IJC.  
90

### 91 **10b) NYPA GSU Upgrade and Flow Reduction Request**

92 New York Power Authority (NYPA) is on schedule to have the maintenance work completed by  
93 3 November 2016, if not before. Luckily the outflows specified by the Plan during the outages  
94 required by the maintenance, which started 14 October 2016, were easily handled for the most part  
95 by the remaining units in operation. Four units will undergo maintenance in 2017. The Board  
96 considers that early notification of reduced outflow capacity will help it address the needs of all  
97 interests.  
98

### 99 **10c) IESO meeting update**

100 The Board appreciates the cooperation of the power entities and the Independent Electrical  
101 Security Operators in understanding the constraints on outflow imposed by the IJC’s Orders and  
102 look forward to future cooperation.  
103

### 104 **10d) Kathryn Spirit update**

105 The *Kathryn Spirit* is still listing, tied to the shore of Lake St. Louis downstream of the  
106 Beauharnois dam, and the Canadian Coast Guard is still emptying the PCB contaminated oil from  
107 the ship. During the low water of late September and early October, the Coast Guard wanted  
108 stable water levels to assist in the salvage efforts, despite the call for more water to assist ships  
109 arriving at the Port of Montreal. A discussion was held to clarify the Canadian Transportation Act  
110 authority on regulated flows.  
111



139 **INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**  
140 **Board Meeting 24 October 2016**  
141 **1:30 pm to 5:00 pm**  
142 Collaboration Boardroom, Block C1, LaSalle Academy  
143 65 Guigues Street, Ottawa ON

144 **AGENDA**

- 145 1. Welcome and Introductions [G Béchard] 1:30 pm  
146 2. Approval of Agenda [G Béchard] 1:35 pm  
147 3. Approval of 14 September 2016 Minutes [Faveri] 1:40 pm  
148 4. Status of Prior Action Items [Faveri] 1:50 pm  
149 5. Current conditions & regulation strategy [Caldwell] 2:05 pm  
150 6. Communications Committee activities [Hudon] 2:50 pm  
151  
152 7. St. Lawrence Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee [Leger] 2:55 pm  
153 a) Mid-term strategy  
154 b) Formal Committee – Board relationship  
155 8. Gauging Committee activities [McNiven] 3:40 pm  
156 a) 2015 Gauging Committee Report  
157 b) OPG Water Level Gauge Project [Ferko]  
158 9. Review of IJC Semi-Annual Appearance Presentation [Faveri] 3:45 pm  
159 10. Other Business 4:00 pm  
160 a) IWI Workshop [Hudon]  
161 b) NYPA GSU Upgrade Status [Ahlfeld]  
162 c) IESO meeting update [Morton]  
163 d) Kathryn Spirit [Caldwell]  
164 11. Appearance and upcoming Board events [Faveri] 4:40 pm  
165 a) Fall IJC Reception – 125 Sussex Drive, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6:30 pm 24 October  
166 b) Appearance – 234 Laurier Avenue West, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 8:30-11:30 am 25 October  
167 c) Spring Board Meeting – Cincinnati, OH, afternoon, 1 March 2017  
168 d) Spring IJC Appearances – Washington, DC, April 2017  
169 e) Fall 2017 Board Meeting – Queenston, ON, Sept 2017  
170  
171 12. Action Item Review [Faveri] 4:45 pm  
172 13. Closing remarks and adjourn [G Béchard] 5:00 pm

173  
174 **Teleconference**

175 877-413-4788  
176 Passcode: 412 9525  
177

178 **WebEx:** <https://pwgsc-nh.webex.com/pwgsc-nh/j.php?MTID=mc19bb676a0aeb1323b4088a46fccfc0c>

179 Meeting password: ISLRBC Meeting Number: 552 761 267

180 Add this meeting to your calendar (Cannot add from mobile devices):

181 <https://pwgsc-nh.webex.com/pwgsc-nh/j.php?MTID=m5ed9b2a3d1c9658c73be2f2eec852ab6>