**Record of Meeting**

**International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control**
**Public Meeting**

**Best Western Sunrise Inn**
**5506 Main Street**
**Osoyoos, British Columbia**

**October 3, 2001**
**7:30 to 9:00 PM**

## Attendance

| | Canada | United States |
|---|---|---|
| Chairs | Kirk Johnstone (host) | Cynthia Barton |
| Members | James Mattison<br>Robin McNeil | Col. Ralph Graves<br>Kris Kauffman |
| Secretaries | Daniel Millar | Robert Kimbrough |
| Guests | Commissioner Nominee Dennis Schornak, Commissioner Robert Gourd, Commissioner Jack Blaney, Murray Clamen (Secretary, Canadian Section, IJC), Gerry Galloway (Secretary, US Section, IJC), Tom McAuley (IJC), Lisa Bourget (IJC), Larry Merkle (Corps), Brian Symonds (BCMWLAP), Ray Newkirk (Washington Ecology), Joe Stor (Washington Ecology), John Stormon (Washington Ecology)<br><br>10 Members of the Public<br><br>Ralph Kenler (Oroville), Miggie Kenler (Oroville), Lionel Dallas (Osoyoos), John Mathews (Osoyoos), Denis Potter (Osoyoos), Bob Hirst (County Commissioner, Oroville), Tom Scott (Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District), Web Hallauer (Oroville), Walker Ullrich (Oroville), DL House (Victoria) | |

## Agenda

**1. Welcome and introductions** — Kirk Johnstone

Kirk Johnstone introduced himself then asked the Board and IJC members, as well as public guests, to introduce themselves.

**2. Review of the agenda** — Kirk Johnstone

The Chair informed guests of the intended agenda for the evening. There were no comments.

**3. IJC and the Osoyoos Lake Orders** — Larry Merkle

Larry Merkle gave a presentation on the International Joint Commission, the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, and an overview and history of Osoyoos Lake and Zosel Dam.

Web Hallauer noted that before dredging by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s, the control for the lake was arguably the sediment deposited by Tonasket Creek, rather than the dam.

**4. 2000 – 2001 Hydrologic Conditions** — Brian Symonds

Brian Symonds described the hydrologic conditions on the lake over the year.

Last summer's (2000) rainfall was average, and September and October were slightly wet.

By November, conditions dried out and the snowpack was observed below normal. A graph of snowpack in the Similkameen headwaters indicated a snowpack almost equivalent to historical lows (about 50% of normal). The headwaters of Okanagan Lake had similar low snowpacks. By April 1, there had been five consecutive months of drier than normal conditions. The low flow forecast on April 1 for the Similkameen River prompted the Board to declare drought conditions. This declaration allowed Washington Department of Ecology to store water on Osoyoos Lake up to 913 feet.

To avoid problems related to the permissible 913-foot level on the lake, the Province of BC and the Washington Department of Ecology agreed to hold the lake no higher than 912.5 feet in exchange for storing the equivalent of a half-foot of Osoyoos water on Okanagan Lake.

Throughout this summer, rainfall has remained low, with the exception of a few events. For example there was a major localized event on Tonasket Creek in July.

**5. Washington Department of Ecology management of Osoyoos Lake levels in 2001** — Ray Newkirk

Ray Newkirk advised guests of Washington Department of Ecology's operation of the Zosel Dam. In spite of the drought conditions, there was plenty of water in the lake and the dam's operation was uneventful. There were no deviations in lake levels as compared to the Orders. There is some concern that next year will again be a low year, and thus the Department may not lower the water level this winter as low as permissible.

**6. Questions and comments from the public**

One guest noted that the low water last winter appeared to be quite effective in destroying excess milfoil.

John Matthews agreed that milfoil levels were indeed down.

Lionel Dallas stated that warming climate trend was leading to more winter precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, and asked how that might affect hydrologic conditions. Brian Symonds responded that this would result in higher winter flows, a lower spring peak, and a faster recession from the peak. This is particularly a problem where there is no storage. However, Okanagan Lake does buffer the basin somewhat.

Mr. Dallas asked whether we could expect the total precipitation to be the same as now. Kirk Johnstone replied that we should not assume this.

Ralph Kenler asked about routine monitoring of water and sediment quality. Kirk Johnstone mentioned the routine monitoring under the Canada BC Water Quality Agreement. There are also some specific studies undertaken. Finally, BC has recently published a water quality trends report. Joe Stohr replied that Washington Ecology undertakes similar routine monitoring.

Lionel Dallas asked if water quality is under the mandate of the Board. Kirk Johnstone replied that the Board has its mandate from the Orders of Approval, which generally only speak to water levels. Mr. Dallas then asked if the Board should, in fact, have water quality within its mandate. Kirk Johnstone replied that such a change would not soon happen, but noted that the Board and IJC would keep such comments for future reference.

Ralph Kenler inquired about water required to be released through the dam for fish flows, and whether this impacted on ability to meet the Order. Ray Newkirk indicated that Washington Ecology targets 100 cfs below the dam, but has never been in the position that required a choice between levels and flows. If the choice became necessary, the Board's advice would be sought. Col. Graves reminded, however, that minimum flows were not a subject of the Order.

Denis Potter inquired about a request last year to store water in Osoyoos Lake rather than Potter Lake. Ray Newkirk advised that there was such an agreement between Washington Ecology and the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District. It does not, however, affect

adherence to the Order.

Kirk Johnstone advised that Mr. Ivo Tyl left a letter with the two Chairs indicating that he could not attend the meeting, but had several concerns. This letter will be forwarded to the IJC for response.

**7. Adjourn**

Kirk Johnstone thanked guests for attending and wished them a safe trip home.