

## MINUTES

### International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control Annual Meeting

The Oroville Depot  
1210 Ironwood Street  
Oroville, Washington

Tuesday September 28, 2010  
2:30 PM

#### Attendance

	<b>United States</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Chairs	Dr. Cynthia Barton (host)	Kirk Johnstone
Members	Col. Anthony Wright Kris Kauffman	Glen Davidson Brian Symonds
Secretaries	Robert Kimbrough	Daniel Millar
Guests	Commissioners: Irene Brooks  Tom McAuley (Canadian Section, IJC), Dr. Mark Colosimo (US Section, IJC), Doug Johnson (WA Dept of Ecology), Amy Reese (USACE), Gwyn Graham (Environment Canada)  From Washington State University; Dr. Michael Barber, Lai Tran, Dr. Marc Beutel, and Dr. Cailin Orr	

Note: During their visit to Oroville, several Board members visited the site of the summer dam breach at Testalinden Lake on Mount Kobau and the resultant debris fan near Osoyoos.

#### Minutes

##### **Introductions**

Dr. Cynthia Barton welcomed and led introductions of the Board members and guests.

##### **Review of the Agenda**

Four items were added to the agenda: A review of four emails recently received from the public, a report on the Testalinden Creek Debris Torrent, a status report on Zosel Dam operations from the Department of Ecology, and a discussion of the Shanker's Bend Project.

##### **Business from the Previous Meeting**

###### **Board assistance with milfoil eradication**

Daniel Millar reviewed feedback received from Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Okanagan Basin Water Board regarding milfoil control. Ecology permits the use of defoliant in water bodies but Canada does not allow the use of chemicals in Osoyoos Lake for controlling weeds. In Canada, summer harvesting and winter rototilling are currently used to control milfoil; however, there is concern that these methods can lead to clogging of irrigation pumps and enhance the proliferation of some plants. Another concern is ensuring that lakeside developments leave access for the machines that do the harvesting and tilling. Lowering the level of the lake in winter could be effective in killing milfoil if the roots of the plants are subject to freezing. While this method works well for milfoil, it has less of an effect on other aquatic weeds that reside in Osoyoos Lake.

In a discussion about how best to respond to reoccurring comments from the public (such as milfoil concerns), the Board decided to pursue posting responses to frequently asked questions, or FAQ's, on the Board webpage.

ACTION: Board secretaries will prepare a draft FAQ's for the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control web site.

#### **Status of Plan of Studies underway**

Representatives from Washington State University summarized results from the three draft reports being prepared by the university. Lai Tran summarized Study 1, "An Assessment of the Most Suitable Water Levels for Osoyoos Lake". Marc Beutel presented Study 4, "Effects of Zosel Dam Water Regulation on Osoyoos Lake Water Quality", and Cailin Orr summarized Study 5, "An Investigation of Methods for Including Ecosystem Requirements in Orders of Approval".

ACTION: Board members agreed to provide comments on the latest drafts of studies 1, 4 & 5 to Bob Kimbrough by October 20, for roll up and furtherance to the authors.

#### **New Business**

##### **Status of studies not started (Study 2, drought criteria; 3 lake levels, and 6, impacts of climate change on lake levels)**

After discussing the results of completed studies, the Board concluded that it may be beneficial to re-evaluate the scope and objectives of studies 2 and 3. This would enable the Board to revisit the key unanswered questions and suggest approaches for answering the questions. As an example, the Board discussed using the approach of evaluating the influence of a wide range of surface-water-quantity scenarios on meeting a given set of lake-level targets. There was concurrence that study 6 should proceed this fiscal year.

ACTION: Each Board member will prepare a list of key questions and thoughts regarding opportunities for completing studies 2 and 3 by October 8. Secretaries will circulate the draft terms of reference for study 6 for any final comments prior to commissioning the work.

##### **Recent comments received from the public**

In an email dated September 16, 2010, an individual indicated that several Canadian public officials were not able to attend this year's and last year's Osoyoos Board public meetings because of scheduling conflicts with the Union of BC Municipalities Convention. The individual asked that this be considered when scheduling meetings in the future.

In an email dated September 18, 2010, an individual indicated that their boat was stranded on a lift when lake levels were drawn down in response to the rescindment of drought conditions in July, 2010. The individual suggested that better notification is needed regarding changes in lake level management.

In an email to the Board dated September 21, 2010, an individual indicated that he was unable to attend the September 28, 2010 public meeting. In the letter, the individual discussed their opinions regarding the range in lake levels allowed by the Orders and their preference for lake levels during summer.

In an email dated September 21, 2010, the Board was notified about a meeting between the Oroville Tonasket Irrigation District and representatives from a local homeowners association regarding preferred summer lake levels, problems associated with lowering lake levels in response to drought rescindments, and milfoil.

##### **GIS Data Harmonization for the Greater Columbia Region**

Michael Laitta, IJC staff, U.S. Section, was unable to attend this year's Board meeting to brief participants on IJC GIS data harmonization efforts. However, by email, he indicated that a workshop for coordinating Columbia Basin GIS data harmonization efforts is still planned.

### **Testalinden Creek Debris Torrent**

Brain Symonds presented a summary of a large debris torrent that occurred on June 13, 2010, in Testalinden Creek. The debris torrent resulted from the failure of an earthen dam located in the headwaters of the creek at an elevation of about 1,800 meters. Several homes were destroyed and some vineyards and orchards were inundated. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

### **Compliance with the IJC Orders in 2009-10**

Robert Kimbrough indicated Osoyoos Lake levels were maintained within the authorized ranges during 2010 to date. He indicated that a drought was declared on April 9, 2010, resulting in the level of the lake being raised to around 912.5 ft. On June 21, 2010, the drought was rescinded, and lake levels were to be lowered to 911.5 ft by July 13. Lake levels reached 911.5 ft on July 4, 2010, 9 days earlier than the July 13 target date.

### **Status of Works and Maintenance at Zosel Dam**

Doug Johnson reported that outflows were managed for Sockeye salmon during April-June. He indicated that gate number 3 on Zosel Dam was currently stuck open and Ecology was working on receiving cost estimates for repairing the gate. He indicated a dam safety inspection was completed in 2009 by a contractor and he was expecting a draft of the inspection report by the end of October 2010.

### **Shanker's Bend Project**

Okanogan County PUD is still pursuing a water storage and hydroelectric project located on the Similkameen River in Washington. The Dam and associated facilities would be located upstream of Enloe Dam at approximately river mile 7.3 in what is commonly referred to as Shanker's Bend.

### **Review of the Agenda for the Public Meeting**

Board members reviewed and approved the agenda for the evening's meeting with the public.

### **Adjourn**