

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

2
3 Minutes of the March 31, 2016 Meeting
4 Detroit, MI

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6 BG Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the US Army Corps of Engineers
7 Detroit District office located at 477 Michigan Avenue, 6th floor, Detroit, MI 48226.

8 Those in attendance were:

9

UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

BG R. Kaiser, Chair
Mr. W. Allerton

Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair
Ms. J. Keyes

10

SECRETARIES

Mr. A. Heer

Mr. D. Beach

11
12 **WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES**

13 LTC K. Jansen
14 Mr. K. Koralewski
15 Mr. M. Asklar
16 Mr. J. Oyler (WebEx)
17 Mr. E. Tauriainen
18 Mr. J. Allis
19 Mr. J. Spain

Dr. F. Seglenieks
Ms. J. Frain
Mr. J. Staples
Ms. S. Rodriguez (WebEx)
Ms. J. Fooks
Mr. H. Ahmad (WebEx)

20
21 **OTHERS**

22 Ms. C. Fisher, USACE
23 Ms. S. Runyon, IJC
24 Mr. K. McCune, USACE

Mr. G. Walker, IJC
Mr. D. Fay, IJC (WebEx)

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26
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28 **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

29 The Board approved the agenda as distributed (Encl 1).

30
31 **Item 2. Membership Changes, Roles, and Responsibilities**

32 Changes to the Working Committee included: Ms. Jeanette Fooks replaced Mr. Herman
33 Goertz on November 4th, 2015, Mr. Mike Asklar replaced Ms. Lori Gale on January 1st
34 2016, and John Spain replaced Mr. Gerald Cross on December 31st, 2015.
35
36

37 **Item 3. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River Conditions**

38 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies
39 for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Within the reported period, Lake Erie basin
40 received approximately 36.5 cm (14.4 in) of precipitation, which was below average for
41 this time of year. The monthly net basins supplies (NBS) were above average for
42 September and February, below average in October, and average for the remainder of
43 the months. Net total supply to Lake Erie was 13.0% above average for the period
44 September 2015 through February 2016. Lake Michigan-Huron's level also increased
45 over the reporting period resulting in above-average inflows from Lake Michigan-Huron
46 into Lake Erie for the reporting period.

47 Niagara River outflow was close to average from March to May and then the higher lake
48 levels from June to August resulted in outflow well above average for those months.
49

50 **Item 4. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom**

51 **a) Review of 2015-16 Ice season**

52 The Board was provided an update on the 2015-16 ice season. Installation of the ice
53 boom was completed on December 28, 2015 and was fully removed by March 8, 2016.
54 Due to generally above average temperatures, ice cover on the Great Lakes was well
55 below average and no solid ice cover was formed on Lake Erie. All components of the
56 ice boom were put in storage by April 1.
57

58 **b) Status of 2015-16 Ice Boom Report**

59 The draft final version of the 2015-16 Ice Boom report is expected to be complete by
60 September 2016.
61

62 **c) Procedural Document**

63 An update was provided on the progress of the update of the Ice Boom procedural
64 document. Key areas needing update were identified. It was noted that safety
65 concerns for crew working on the boom need to be covered in the new document.
66

67 **d) Public Information Web postings of Boom Removal**
68

69 Information regarding the installation and removal of the ice boom during the 2015/2016
70 ice season were posted to the Board's Ice Boom Information website.
71

72 **Item 5. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

73 The Board was provided a summary of the operation and maintenance of the
74 Chippawa-Grass Island Pool (CGIP) and International Niagara Control Works (INCW).

75 **a) Compliance to directive**

76 During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within the criteria indicated in the
77 1993 Directive. All tolerances were in compliance throughout the reporting period.
78

79 **b) Operations during reporting period**

80 The Board was provided update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,
81 International Control Dam (ICD) outages, ICD environmental issues, and ICD Bridge

82 Repair Project. Operations of the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting
83 period. The board discussed the possibility of developing criteria for reporting gauge
84 outages.

85

86 **c) Review of Directive**

87 The review of the Board's Directive for operation of the CGIP is ongoing by the Working
88 Committee.

89

90 **Item 6. Falls Flow Violations**

91 No Falls flow violations occurred during the reporting period.

92

93 **Item 7. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing**

94 a) OPG – Upgrade on unit G3 and rehabilitation on unit G7 are complete. Unit G10
95 remains out of service.

96 b) NYPA – NYPA plans to interrupt flow in their intakes to inspect tunnels in 2019.

97

98

99 **Item 8. Review discharge measurement programs**

100 **a) Welland Canal**

101 Measurements in the canal were taken in April 2015. Preliminary results confirmed the
102 rating of the newer ADVN and the 2007-2012 index velocity rating. Final results are
103 expected during the summer of 2016.

104 **b) Niagara River**

105 International Railway Bridge measurements were completed upstream and downstream
106 of the bridge on April 29, 2015 and the next measurements are scheduled for the spring
107 of 2018.

108 **c) Fort Erie Rating Equation**

109 Discussion took place on whether or not there is a need to update the Fort Erie rating
110 equation. The Detroit District will coordinate with the power entities to determine the
111 status of the equation.

112

113 **Item 9. 2016 Meeting with the Public**

114 The Board will hold its annual public meeting in August or September of 2016. The
115 meeting will be held in Niagara Falls, NY area with the meeting location to be
116 determined. The Board also discussed merging the public meeting with an external
117 outreach event in the future.

118

119

120 **Item 10. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report**

121 A final draft report will be provided to the Commission prior to the spring Appearances.
122 Board members should submit comments by April 8.

123
124 **Item 11. Other Business**

125 **a. USGS Niagara River Flow Measurement Improvement**

126 The Board discussed efforts with the USGS to improve flow measurements.

127 **b. Adaptive Management**

128 Board was updated with activities of the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC). The
129 presentation was provided to all other Boards. The purpose of the AMC was provided to
130 the Board. Committee will be preparing annual work plans, semi-annual progress reports
131 and a 15 year assessment. Most of the issues are related to other IJC Boards, and at
132 this time the Niagara Board will keep up to date on activities of the AMC. The Niagara
133 Board to take a look at how the GLAM Committee is getting set up and provide feedback
134 to how our Board may fit in the future.

135 **c. American Falls Bridge**

136 The final design of the project is currently on hold with no timeline for when the project will
137 resume. The Board will continue to review information available for potential impacts to
138 the Directive thresholds. The Board will draft a letter to the Commission stating the
139 current status and any preliminary findings.

140 **d. Falls Recession**

141 The Board was updated on monitoring the Falls crest for rock movement. No
142 significant changes in the crestline of the Falls were noted over the last reporting
143 period.

144 **e. Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake**

145 An update on the issues with the Ashland Avenue gauge was presented to the Board.
146 NYPA is in the process of obtaining a consultant to assess blockage and bank erosion,
147 and develop a design to alleviate the issues. No blockages occurred this winter.

148 **f. Ashland Avenue Back-Up Gauge Options**

149 The Board discussed options for a potential suitable location for a back-up gauge to
150 Ashland Avenue. The Board determined the Maid of the Mist docking station is the
151 most feasible location for a temporary gauge. The Board will draft a letter to the
152 Commission to state the need of this gauge and associated costs.

153 **g. Operation of the CGIP – Directive Limits**

154 The Board discussed the use of the pool to store water to potentially alleviate flooding for
155 tourist boats at the Falls.

156 **h. Social Media Speaking Points**

157 Social media speaking points were requested by the Commission to highlight activities
158 during the reporting period. Bullets have been prepared and will be finalized by the end
159 of the week.

160 **i. April 2016 IWI Workshop**

161 Two Board members or associates will attend the workshop. The IJC's strategic
162 initiatives include Climate Change, and nutrient loading.

163 **Item 12. Next Board & INC meetings and IJC Appearance**

164 The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 2016 in Quebec City. The IJC has
165 stated there will be no IJC Appearance this fall

166 **Item 13. Closing Remarks**

167 Closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

International Niagara Board of Control
March 31, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
US Army Corps of Engineers-Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue 6th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda (All)
2. Membership Changes, Roles and Responsibilities (Keith)
3. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions (Keith)
4. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom
 - a) 2015-16 installation and maintenance update (Keith)
 - b) Status of 2015-16 Ice Boom Report (Keith)
 - c) Procedural document (Derrick)
 - d) Web posting of Boom Removal – Installation updates (Derrick)
5. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool
 - a. Compliance to Directive (Frank/Hafiz/Sandrina)
 - b. Operations and maintenance (Joan)
 - c. Review of Directive (Frank)
6. Falls flow violations (Derrick)
7. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing
 - a) OPG (Joan)
 - b) NYPA (Mike)
8. Review discharge measurements program (Jeanette/Eric/Derrick)
 - a) Welland Canal
 - b) Niagara River
 - c) Fort Erie rating equation
9. 2016 Meeting with the Public (Keith)
10. Review of 126th Semi-Annual Progress Report (Hafiz)
11. Other Business
 - a) USGS/USACE Niagara River Flow Measurement Improvement
 - b) Adaptive Management (McCune/Frank)
 - c) American Falls Bridges (Keith)
 - d) Falls Recession (Frank)
 - e) Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake (Jeff/Mike/Joan)
 - f) Ashland Avenue Back-up Gauge Options (Jeanette)
 - g) Operation of CGIP – Directive Limits
 - h) Social media speaking points
 - i) April 2016 IWI workshop (Thompson/Heer)
12. Next Board & INC Meeting and IJC Appearance

13. Closing Remarks and Adjourn