

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

2  
3 Minutes of the September 15, 2016 Meeting  
4 Quebec City, QC  
5

6 Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in the Ministère du  
7 Développement durable, de l'environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements  
8 climatiques office located at Édifice Marie Guyart – Tour, 675, boul. René Lévesque  
9 Est, 1er étage 111A, Québec City, QC, Canada. Those in attendance were:  
10

---

**UNITED STATES**

**CANADA**

---

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Stephen Durrett, Alt Co-Chair

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

---

**SECRETARIES**

Mr. A. Heer

Mr. D. Beach

**WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES**

LTC A. Czekanski

Dr. F. Seglenieks

Mr. K. Koralewski

Ms. J. Frain

Mr. M. Asklar

Dr. S. Rodrigues (WebEx)

Mr. J. Allis

Mr. J. Staples (WebEx)

Mr. J. Oyler (WebEx)

**OTHERS**

Mr. B. Carmichael, USACE

Mr. D. Fay, IJC

Ms. C. Fisher, USACE (WebEx)

Ms. P. Clavet, QC

Mr. M. McNiven (OPG)

23  
24 **Item 1. Approval of Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes**

25 The Board approved the agenda as distributed (Encl 1). Past meeting minutes have  
26 been distributed and Board members and Associates are to provide comment.  
27

28 **Item 2. Membership Changes, Roles, and Responsibilities**

29 Changes to the Working Committee included: Lieutenant Colonel Adam J. Czekanski  
30 became the US Chair of the Board's Working Committee on June 7, 2016 when he  
31 succeeded LTC Karl D. Jansen to become Commander of the US Army Corps of  
32 Engineers Buffalo District.

33 Changes to the Board included: Brigadier General Mark R. Toy was appointed by the  
34 IJC as the US Co-Chair to the International Niagara Board of Control for a three year  
35 term beginning August 31, 2016 as he took command of the US Army Corps of  
36 Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division from the departing Brigadier General  
37 Richard G. Kaiser

38

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

40 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies  
41 for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Lake Erie began the reporting period with a March  
42 mean level 34 cm (13.4 inches) above its 1918–2015 period-of-record, long-term average  
43 level for the month. Between March and May, the monthly average lake level rose 34 cm  
44 (13.4 inches), which is 1.5 times greater than the average 23 cm (9.0 inches) rise for that  
45 period. However for the remainder of the reporting period, the lake received below  
46 average water supplies, resulting in the lake level declining from June to August, where it  
47 ended the reporting period 21 cm (8.3 inches) above the monthly average.

48

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

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

51 The Board was provided a review of the 2015-16 season ice boom activities. Due to  
52 warm temperatures, the ice boom had been completely removed from Lake Erie on  
53 March 14, 2016, and placed into storage by April 1, 2016. The Board asked for a  
54 definition of "thin ice" for use in ice boom activities and the Board was provided the  
55 definition that thin ice is ice formed for short duration and thin thickness.

56 The Board was informed that NYPA plans to put into service a new tug boat for the  
57 coming 2016-17 ice season to replace an existing boat. The second boat is up for  
58 repair and once completed all boats will be up to date to current US Coast Guard  
59 standard.

60

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

62 The Board was provided an update on the status of the INWC 2015-16 Operation of the  
63 Lake Erie-Niagara River Ice Boom report. The Board was asked to provide final  
64 comment on the report. Comments are to be provided to Buffalo USACE to finalize for

65 the report before the IJC Appearance.

66

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

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

70 **a) Compliance to directive**

71 The water level in the CGIP is regulated in accordance with the Board's 1993 Directive.  
72 During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within the criteria indicated in the  
73 1993 Directive except in relation to the following occasions during the reporting period.  
74 Tolerances for regulation of the CGIP were suspended on May 24-27 to accomplish the  
75 Ashland Avenue flow measurement program at prescribed flow levels at the Ashland  
76 Avenue Rating section, and on July 17-18, 2016 for life-saving/emergency operations.  
77 No further action was required.

78 **b) Operations and maintenance**

79 The Board was provided update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,  
80 International Control Dam (ICD) outages, ICD environmental issues, and ICD Bridge  
81 Repair Project. Operations of the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting  
82 period.

83

84 **c) Review of Directive**

85 A draft version of the 1993 Directive was presented to the Board by the INWC. The  
86 proposed revisions to the Directive are meant clear up some ambiguities in the current  
87 version. The Directive has been rearranged with sections clearly defining tolerances,  
88 conditions for suspension of tolerances and conditions for calculation of monthly  
89 deviation. It was suggested that some language could also be updated such as the use  
90 of word "ameliorate". It was noted that the Power Entities and the tour boat operators  
91 were continuing communication. It was noted that the Power Entities provide sufficient  
92 lead time to changes of flow in the Niagara River so that the tour boat operators can  
93 adapt their operations. Comments on the draft Directive to be provided by September  
94 23, 2016.

95

96 **Item 6. Falls Flow Violations**

97 Falls flow met or exceeded minimum Treaty requirements at all times during the reporting  
98 period with the exception of May 24-25, 2016. These violations were the result of actions  
99 taken to accomplish the objectives of the Ashland Avenue flow measurement program,  
100 undertaken by the USACE and ECCC staff on behalf of INWC, to verify the Ashland  
101 Avenue gauge rating.

102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136

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

- a) OPG – Review of the test report and proposed new unit rating table for G3 continues. G10 went out of service on September 13, 2015 for rehabilitation (new runner and generator rewind) and is expected to return to service in the fall of 2016. The PGS reservoir is expected to remain out of service (drained) until March 2017 for maintenance work (seepage control).
- b) NYPA – Did not undertake significant upgrades to their power plant during this reporting period

**Item 8. Review discharge measurement programs**

**a) Welland Canal**

A series of measurements were obtained in the Welland Supply Canal in May 2015 to verify the discharge equations for both ADVN systems. Results from this measurement series are still under review. The next measurement series is planned for 2018.

**b) Niagara River**

No measurements were completed at the International Railway Bridge and the next measurements are scheduled for the spring of 2018. Measurements in the Lower Niagara River at the Ashland Avenue gauge rating section were taken between May 24 and May 27, 2016. Analysis of the collected data is ongoing.

**c) Fort Erie Rating Equation**

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

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

The Board held its annual public meeting on August 29, 2016 at the NYPA Niagara Power Vista in Lewiston, NY. Total attendance was 20 people, with 6 of those being members of the public who attended in person. No members of the public participated on-line via WebEx/teleconference. Information on items including current and projected Great Lakes levels, the operation of the Lake Erie–Niagara River Ice Boom, and the recession of Niagara Falls were presented by US Alternate Board Chair Mr. Stephen Durrett at the meeting. Other venues will be explored for future public meetings.

137 **Item 10. Review 127<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Progress Report**

138 A final draft report will be provided to the Commission prior to the spring Appearances.  
139 Board members should submit comments by September 28.

140

141 **Item 11. Other Business**

142 **a. SLSMC Green Energy Plan**

143 The Saint Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation provided information on their  
144 proposed new mini hydro generation project using water passing through the ship canal.  
145 The intent of this project is to use water that is passing through the canal for ship  
146 navigation. The project is in its preliminary design stages. The Board determined that  
147 this project is in compliance in relation to all concerns of the Board.

148

149 **b. American Falls Bridge**

150 The final design of the project is currently on hold with no timeline for when the project will  
151 resume. The Board will continue to review information available for potential impacts to  
152 the Directive thresholds, when and if the project is continued. The Board will draft a letter  
153 to the Commission stating the current status and any preliminary findings.

154

155 **c. Adaptive Management**

156 Board was updated with activities of the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC).  
157 Frank Seglenieks and Keith Koralewski are representing the Niagara Board on the AMC  
158 and have not noted any specific concerns to the Niagara Board.

159

160 **d. Falls Recession**

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

164

165 **e. Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake**

166 An update on the issues with the Ashland Avenue gauge was presented to the Board.  
167 NYPA is in the process of obtaining a consultant to assess blockage and bank erosion,  
168 and develop a design to alleviate the issues. The design is expected later this fall. No  
169 blockages have been noted in this reporting period.  
170 Currently yearly maintenance is required to clear loose river bed material (e.g boulder to  
171 sand size) from the gauge intake that accumulates due to movement along the river  
172 bottom. To date this accumulated material has not impacted on the ability of flow  
173 measurement, however there is concern that it may in the future.

174

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

176 The Board discussed further options and the need for a back-up gauge for Ashland  
177 Avenue. The INWC is to prepare a list of options for further discussion.

178

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

180 The next IJC Appearance is scheduled for Wed October 26, 2016 in Ottawa, Ontario,  
181 Canada. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 2017 in Cincinnati, Ohio,  
182 USA.

183

184 **Item 13. Closing Remarks**

185 The meeting was interrupted by a mandatory building evacuation for emergency  
186 purposes. As a result, the closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at

187 4:15pm

**International Niagara Board of Control**

**September 15, 2016**

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Ministère du Développement durable, de l'environnement et de la Lutte contre les  
changements climatiques**

**Édifice Marie Guyart – Tour**

**675, boul. René Lévesque Est, 1er étage 111A**

**Québec City, QC, Canada**

**Available by Teleconference/WebEx**

1. Approval of Agenda .....1:00-1:05
2. Membership Changes, Roles and Responsibilities .....1:05-1:10
3. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions ..... 1:10-1:15
4. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom ..... 1:15-1:25
  - a) Review of 2015-16 Ice Boom Season
  - b) Status of 2015-16 Ice Boom Report
5. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool ..... 1:25-1:40
  - a. Compliance to Directive
  - b. Operations and maintenance
  - c. Review of Directive
6. Falls flow violations ..... 1:40-1:45
7. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing..... 1:45-1:55
  - a) OPG
  - b) NYPA
8. Review discharge measurements program ..... 1:55-2:10
  - a) Welland Canal
  - b) Niagara River
  - c) Fort Erie rating equation
9. 2016 Meeting with the Public ..... 2:10-2:20
10. Review of 127<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Progress Report .....2:20-2:30
11. Other Business
  - a) SLSMC Green Energy Plan..... 2:30-2:40
  - b) American Falls Bridges .....2:40-2:50
  - c) Adaptive Management Update ..... 2:50-2:55
  - d) Falls Recession ..... 2:55-3:00
  - e) Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake ..... 3:00-3:10
  - f) Ashland Avenue Back-up Gauge Options ..... 3:10-3:20
12. Next Board & INC Meeting and IJC Appearance..... 3:20-3:30
13. Closing Remarks and Adjourn