

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

2
3 Minutes of the March 02, 2017 Meeting
4 Cincinnati, OH

5
6 Mr. Durrett called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in offices of the US Army Corps of
7 Engineers at 550 Main Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America. Due to an
8 administrative ban on travel for some Canadian Members and Associates, several
9 attendees participated by video conference call, these attendees are notated by a (VTC)
10 after their names. Those in attendance were:

11

UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Stephen Durrett, Alt. Chair

Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair
(VTC)

12

SECRETARIES

Mr. B. Carmichael

Mr. D. Beach (VTC)

13
14 **WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES**

15 LTC A. Czekanski

Dr. F. Seglenieks (VTC)

16 Mr. K. Koralewski

Ms. J. Frain

17 Mr. M. Asklar

Mr. P. Kowalski (VTC)

18 Mr. J. Allis

Mr. J. Staples (VTC)

19 Mr. E. Tauriainen

20 **OTHER**

21 Ms. S. Runyon, IJC

Mr. G. Walker, IJC

22 Mr. Kyle McCune, USACE

Mr. D. Fay, IJC

23 Ms. C. Fisher, USACE (VTC)

Mr. M. McNiven, OPG

24
25 **Item 1. Introductions and Membership changes**

26 Changes to the Board included: Appointment of Mr. Bryce Carmichael as US Section
27 Secretary and the retirement of US Member Mr. Bill Allerton. Mr. Allerton's position
28 remains Vacant.

29 No changes to the Working Committee.

30
31 **Item 2. Approval of Agenda**

32 The draft agenda was approved by the board with the addition of one Item: "Action Item
33 Review" to be carried out after "Other Business".

34

35 **Item 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.**

36 Recommended changes to Line 91, and Line 8. There was discussion on the policy of
37 redacting member's names and associations from the finalized published minutes. It
38 was decided that the policy would continue and the names of specific members and
39 associates would continue to be removed from the final version of the minutes prior to
40 publication.

41

42 **Item 4. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River Conditions**

43 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies
44 for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Precipitation for the reporting period was above
45 average in September and January but below average the rest of the reporting period.
46 Lake Erie began the reporting period with a September level of 174.41 meters (572.2 feet)
47 approximately 25 cm above its average level for September. Between September and
48 February, the lake level fell 12 cm (4.7 inches), which is 7 cm (2.7 inches) less than the
49 typical reduction during that period. However during December and January the lake
50 received above average net basin supplies, resulting in the lake level rising from
51 December to February, where it ended approximately 30 cm (11.8 inches) above the
52 average. Flows in the Niagara River were above average for the entire reporting period.

53

54 **Item 5. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom**

55 **a) 2016-2017 Installation and Maintenance update**

56 The Board was provided a review of the 2016-17 installation season ice boom activities.
57 Installation of the ice boom was completed on December 23, 2016. On 17 January,
58 2017 Span L of the boom was observed to be open and trailing. An Unmanned Aerial
59 Vehicle (UAV) inspection conducted by OPG, NYPA, and the NRCC on 19 January
60 confirmed that span L was open and on 20 January, 2017 ice boom crews were
61 dispatched to repair the span and reconnect one trailing pontoon at span E. On 10
62 February, 2017, span E was reported open and trailing. On 17 February, 2017 repairs to
63 span E were completed, with one pontoon removed from the span.

64 On 28 February, 2017, members of the working committee conducted a conference call
65 to discuss early removal of the ice boom. As a result, removal of the ice boom is
66 scheduled to begin on 6 March, 2017. During the ice boom removal UAV video is
67 proposed to be collected to prepare an educational safety video for future ice boom
68 crews.

69

70 **b) Status of 2016-17 Ice Boom Report**

71 The draft version of the 2016-17 Ice Boom report is expected to be complete by

72 September 2017.

73

74 **c) Media Advisories for Boom**

75 The media advisory for the installation of the Ice Boom was released and posted the
76 website on December 16th, 2016.

77 The media advisory for the removal of the Ice Boom will be released and posted on the
78 website on March 6th, 2017.

79

80 **Item 6. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

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

83 **a) Compliance to directive**

84 The water level in the CGIP is regulated in accordance with the Board's 1993 Directive.
85 During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within all criteria indicated in the
86 1993 Directive.

87 **b) Operations and maintenance**

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

92

93 **c) Proposed Update to 1993 Directive/ Move for Approval**

94 A draft version of the 1993 Directive was presented to the Board by the INWC. The
95 proposed revisions to the Directive are meant clear up some ambiguities in the current
96 version. The Directive has been rearranged with sections clearly defining tolerances,
97 conditions for suspension of tolerances and conditions for calculation of monthly
98 deviation. The INWC proposed approval of the revised directive and the Board agreed
99 with some minor changes. After the minor revisions are made the document will be re-
100 distributed for signature by the Board.

101

102 **Item 7. Falls Flow Violations**

103 Niagara Falls flow met or exceeded minimum Treaty requirements at all times during the
104 reporting period.

105

106 **Item 8. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing**

107 a) OPG – Review of the test report and proposed new unit rating table for G3 has
108 completed, and proposed implementation is March 8th, 2017. G10 went out of
109 service on September 13, 2015 for rehabilitation (new runner and generator
110 rewind) and is expected to return to service in summer of 2017. DeCew Falls 2 –
111 G2 overhaul started in November 2016 and is expected to be returned to service

112 in February 2018. The PGS reservoir rehabilitation work continued during the
113 reporting period and was refilled between January 18th and February 4th, 2017.
114 b) NYPA – Life generation modernization of PG3 is expected to be completed by
115 2020 and brought on-line by May 2020. Inspection of the river intake conduits is
116 planned for 2018.

117

118 **Item 9. Review discharge measurement programs**

119 a) **Welland Canal** – scheduled every 3 years, last measured in May, 2015 to be
120 revisited in April 2018.

121 b) **Niagara River** – Report complete, however the low flows were not captured,
122 they will be attempted to be re-captured in 2018. American Falls scheduled to
123 be measured May 6- May 9.

124 c) **Fort Erie Rating Equation** - Water level data received from OPG and is
125 currently being updated. The next set will be done in April 2018.

126

127 **Item 10. 2017 Meeting with the Public**

128 The 2017 public meeting will be held in Buffalo at the Erie County Fair via an exhibition
129 booth that will be staffed by USACE Buffalo District Personnel during the most heavily
130 trafficked times of the Fair. The Fair is open for 10 days in August, 2017. A Q&A board
131 and submission box will be placed at the booth to accept questions and comments from
132 the public when the booth is not being staffed.

133

134 **Item 11. Review 128th Semi-Annual Progress Report**

135 The draft will be distributed to the Board by 8 March and comments should be submitted
136 by 15 March. Clean-up and finalization of report will be completed by 29 March prior to
137 submission to the IJC ahead of the May 2 Appearances. The signature page for this
138 report needs to be updated to reflect BG Mark Toy's signature.

139

140 **Item 12. Other Business**

141 a. **GLAM's 1st report to the IJC**

142 Progress on the GLAM's 1st report to the IJC was presented to the Board. GLAM
143 intends to send the final report to the IJC by 1 April to ensure the IJC has a month to
144 review it before the Appearances. Therefore the Board should submit any comments to
145 GLAM for incorporation in the final version prior to 17 March, 2017 and the final version
146 will be re-distributed for Board approval by 24 March and should be approved by the
147 Board no later than 31 March.

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. This item should be struck
153 from future agendas until the project becomes active again.

154

155 **c. Falls Recession**

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

158

159 **d. Ashland Avenue Gauge intake refurbishment**

160 The remediation plan was finalized from NYPA's 2016 Geotechnical Engineer contractor's
161 recommendations. The design will include a 6 foot extension to the measurement pipe
162 and a Gabion-style mattress to stabilize the pipe. Final plans will be completed soon and
163 distributed to the INWC for final comment. Construction is expected to be done in
164 November 2017 at which point there may be flow accommodations requested from the
165 Board.

166

167 **e. Ashland Avenue back-up gauge options**

168 No update.

169

170 **f. Summary overview of power entities gauge O&M procedures**

171 NYPA has a written procedure including a 6 month work order for a 19 step process.
172 OPG has a similar very rigorous process. NYPA and OPG will look into the potential for
173 sharing their procedures with the Board. Seaways will be followed up with to verify their
174 process.

175

176 **g. New IJC Guidance on Board Consensus**

177 Guidance released by the IJC for decision making through consensus was presented to
178 the Board and agreed upon with no comment.

179

180 **Item 13. Action Item Review**

- 181 1. Item 3: Approval of Minutes. Change Line 91 to "assurance of tour boat
182 operators". Change Line 8 to include "Province of Quebec".
- 183 2. Item 5c: Update web page to include ice boom removal media release on
184 6 March when removal commences.
- 185 3. Item 6c: Make recommended changes to the revised 1993 Directive and
186 circulate for final approval and signature.
- 187 4. Item 10: Coordinate staffing days and hours of the public information
188 booth maintained at the Erie County Fair and post the scheduled on the
189 webpages.
- 190 5. Item 11: Circulate comments on 128th Semi-Annual report to the Board
191 and seek final approval by co-chairs prior to 29 March, 2017.

- 192 6. Item 12a: Re-circulate GLAM's 1st annual report to the IJC to the Board
193 members ASAP for comment.
194 7. Item 12b: Strike from agenda until further notice.
195 8. Item 12d: NYPA to share final design of Ashland Avenue Gauge
196 refurbishment with INWC members for comment before construction.
197 9. Item 12f: NYPA and OPG to seek approval for sharing Gauge O&M
198 procedures with the Board. INWC to follow up with St. Lawrence Seaways
199 to see if they can share their O&M procedures with the Board.
200

201 **Item 14. Next Board & INC meetings and IJC Appearance**

202 The next IJC Appearance is scheduled for Wed May 02, 2017 in Washington D.C.,
203 USA, from 09:30-10:00 AM EDT. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September
204 2017 in Queenston, Ontario, Canada.
205

206 **Item 15. Closing Remarks**

207 The closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.
208

209 **International Niagara Board of Control**
210 **March 2, 2017**
211 **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**
212 **Federal Building, US Army Corps of Engineers**
213 **Room 10-524**
214 **550 Main Street**
215 **Cincinnati, OH, United States**

216 **Teleconference: 1-877-336-1839; Access: 5162099; Security: 1111**
217 **Web Meeting: <https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/AWMlogin>;**
218 **No: 8773361839; Access: 5162099**

219 **Agenda**
220

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|-----|-----|---|-----------|
| 221 | 1. | Opening Remarks, Introductions | 1:00-1:05 |
| 222 | 2. | Approval of Agenda | 1:05-1:10 |
| 223 | 3. | Review of Previous Meeting Minutes | 1:10-1:20 |
| 224 | 4. | Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions | 1:20-1:25 |
| 225 | 5. | Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom | 1:25-1:35 |
| 226 | | a) 2016-17 installation and maintenance update | |
| 227 | | b) Status of 2016-17 Ice Boom Report | |
| 228 | | c) Media Advisories for Boom | |
| 229 | | | |
| 230 | 6. | Chippawa-Grass Island Pool | 1:35-1:45 |
| 231 | | a. Compliance to Directive | |
| 232 | | b. Operations and maintenance | |
| 233 | | c. Proposed update to 1993 Directive/ Move for Approval | |
| 234 | 7. | Falls flow violations | 1:45-1:50 |
| 235 | 8. | Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing | 1:50-2:00 |
| 236 | | a) OPG | |
| 237 | | | |
| 238 | 9. | NYPA Review discharge measurements program | 2:00-2:15 |
| 239 | | a) Welland Canal | |
| 240 | | b) Niagara River | |
| 241 | | c) Fort Erie rating equation | |
| 242 | 10. | 2017 Meeting with the Public | 2:15-2:25 |
| 243 | 11. | Review of 128 th Semi-Annual Progress Report Draft | 2:25-2:35 |
| 244 | 12. | Other Business | |
| 245 | | a) GLAM's 1 st report to the IJC | 2:35-2:40 |
| 246 | | b) American Falls Bridge | 2:40-2:45 |
| 247 | | c) Falls Recession | 2:45-2:50 |
| 248 | | d) Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake Refurbishment | 2:50-3:00 |
| 249 | | e) Ashland Avenue Back-up Gauge Options | 3:00-3:10 |
| 250 | | f) Summary Overview of Power Entities Gauge O&M Procedures | 3:10-3:20 |
| 251 | | g) New IJC Guidance on Board consensus – Jan. 17, 2017 | 3:20-3:25 |
| 252 | | | |
| 253 | 13. | Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance | 3:25-3:30 |
| 254 | 14. | Closing Remarks and Adjourn | |