

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

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3 Minutes of the March 28, 2018 Meeting
4 Buffalo, NY

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6 Mr. Durrett called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM in the Salon meeting room at the
7 Embassy Suites Hotel, 200 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York, United States of
8 America. Those in attendance were:

9

UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Stephen Durrett, Alt. Chair
Mr. David Capka, Member

Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair
Ms. J. Keyes, Member (via
teleconference)

10
SECRETARIES

Mr. B. Carmichael

Mr. D. Beach

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12 **WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES**

13 LTC. J. Toth

Dr. F. Seglenieks

14 Mr. K. Koralewski

Ms. J. Frain

15 Mr. M. Asklar

Ms. J. Fooks

16 Ms. L. Schiffelre

Mr. H. Ahmad (teleconference)

17 Ms. C. Fisher

Mr. J. Schooley

18
19 **OTHER**

20 Mr. D. Hermann, IJC

Mr. D. Fay, IJC

21 Mr. A. Armstrong, USACE

Mr. M. McNiven, OPG

22 Mr. G. Schmidt, USACE

23
24 **Item 1. Introductions and Membership changes**

25 Changes to the Board included: Assignment of Mr. David Capka to the vacant US
26 member seat. Change of Command of USACE Buffalo District, LTC Jason Toth will
27 replace LTC Adam Czekanski as Working Committee Chair. Announcement of Joan
28 Frain's retirement from the working committee.

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30 **Item 2. Approval of Agenda**

31 The draft agenda was approved by the Board.

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

34 Draft minutes circulated. Comments requested by 11 April, 2018.

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

37 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies
38 for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. The Lake Erie basin received approximately 37.8
39 cm (14.9 inches) of precipitation during the September 2017 through February 2018
40 period. This is approximately eight percent below the average for the period. Lake Erie
41 began the reporting period with a September mean level at 42 cm (16.5 inches) above its
42 1918–2017 period-of-record, long-term average level for the month. From September
43 2017 to January 2018, the lake level fell 23 cm (9.1 inches). This is 6 cm (2.4 inches)
44 more than the average fall of 17 cm (6.7 inches) for that period. Lake Erie began its
45 seasonal rise one month earlier than normal with its level rising 6 cm (2.4 inches) from
46 January to February, when Lake Erie water level typically remains steady. Lake Erie levels
47 ended the reporting period with a February monthly mean water level 42 cm (16.5 inches)
48 above average. The Lake Erie basin received approximately 37.8 cm (14.9 inches) of
49 precipitation during the September 2017 through February 2018 period. This is
50 approximately eight percent below the average for the period. Niagara River flows
51 remained above the long term average throughout the reporting period.

52

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

54 **a) 2017-2018 Installation and Maintenance update**

55 The Board was provided a review of the 2017-18 installation season ice boom activities.
56 Installation of the ice boom was completed on December 17th, 2017. During the 2017-
57 2018 ice season, a thick lake ice cover formed behind the boom. In mid-January ice
58 covered 93% of Lake Erie, before warmer weather and rain caused the ice to recede to
59 60% coverage.

60

61 On 2 January 2018, NYPA was notified of a possible break in the ice boom at Span L.
62 NYPA crews confirmed the break to be at Span M and repairs were completed by 8
63 January 2018. On 25 February the United States Coast Guard (USCG) notified NYPA
64 that 5 pontoons had broken free. While NYPA crews were recovering the buoys they
65 noticed a break at Span M, which they repaired by 1 March 2018.

66

67 Cold weather has persisted through March and the Board has issued a media release
68 notifying the public the boom will not be removed prior to April 1st, 2018. An ice flight is
69 scheduled for April 2nd, 2018.

70

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

72 The draft version of the 2017-18 Ice Boom report is expected to be complete by

73 September 2018.

74

75 **c) Media Advisories for Boom**

76 The media advisory for the installation of the Ice Boom was released on December 15th,
77 2018. A media advisory advising the Ice Boom will be removed after April 2nd was
78 issued on March 27th, 2018. The Working Committee will continue to monitor conditions
79 and hold coordination calls to establish when conditions are acceptable for Boom
80 removal.

81

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

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

85 **a) Compliance to directive**

86 The water level in the CGIP is regulated in accordance with the Board's 1993 Directive.
87 During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within all criteria indicated in the
88 1993 Directive.

89 **b) Operations and maintenance**

90 The Board was provided update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,
91 International Control Dam (ICD) outages, and ICD environmental issues. Operations of
92 the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting period. Gate 15 was out of
93 service from August 11th through October 4th for a major overhaul.

94

95 **Item 7. Falls Flow Violations**

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

98

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

100 a) OPG – Beck 1 G10 unit testing delayed until January 0f 2019. DeCew Falls 2 G2
101 unit overhaul began in November 2016 return to service expected in June
102 2018.Canal rehabilitation anticipated in 2021-2022.

103 b) NYPA – Unit 9 to be rebuilt in June. 4 of 12 units still need to be rebuilt.
104 Inspection of twin intakes due in 2019.

105

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

107 a) **Overall Schedule** – Overall review intervals summarized.

108 b) **American Falls** – May 2017 measurement draft report currently under review, next
109 scheduled measurement in May 2022.

110 c) **International Railway Bridge** – Last measurement was April 2015. Next scheduled
111 measurement May 2018. The 2012 Buffalo rating equation compared well to the 2015
112 measurement, while the Fort Erie and Material Dock equations underestimate flow.

113 The Fort Erie equation is currently under review and it is recommended that a review of
114 the Material Dock equation be carried out.

115 **d) Welland Canal** – Last measurement was May 2015 and the next measurement is
116 scheduled for May 2018. The draft report is currently under review.

117 **e) Ashland Avenue Rating Section** – Last measurement was May 2016 and the next
118 measurement is scheduled for May 2019. The report on the 2016 measurement is
119 complete and measurements were within 5% of 2009 Ashland Avenue equation.

120 **ACTION ITEM: INWC to compose a letter to power entities requesting**
121 **coordination of scheduling the rating survey for May 2019**

122 **f) Fort Erie rating equation** – The new proposed Fort Erie rating equation was discussed.

123 **g) Niagara Index Velocity Meters** – New index velocity meter installation is in planning
124 stages. Preliminary linear rating established. Local survey benchmarks need to be
125 verified with USACE – Buffalo office survey section.

126

127 **Item 10. 2018 Public Outreach and Engagement**

128 A public lecture is scheduled at the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) meeting on
129 June 10th, 2018.

130

131 **Item 11. Review 130th Semi-Annual Progress Report**

132 The first draft was distributed to the Board on March 7th and comments submitted on
133 March 14th. The second draft was distributed on March 21st and comments are due
134 April 5th. Clean-up and finalization of report will be completed by April 9th prior to
135 submission to the IJC ahead of the April 25th Appearances.

136 **a. Proposal to change reporting period to fixed reporting period (March**
137 **1-Aug. 31, and Sep. 1- Feb. 28).**

138 Proposal was discussed and approved. Fixed reporting will begin with the
139 132nd semi-annual report: Sep. 1, 2018- Feb. 28, 2019.

140

141 **Item 12. Other Business**

142 **a. GLAM's annual report to the IJC**

143 Progress on the GLAM's 2017 annual report to the IJC was presented to the
144 Board. The report will include a hydroclimate section covering the entire Great
145 Lakes watershed. The report includes a short paragraph on the challenges
146 associated with managing the CGIP with higher flows coming down the Niagara
147 River.

148

149 **b. Falls Recession**

150 The Board was updated on monitoring the Falls crest for rock movement. No
151 significant changes in the crest line of the Falls were noted over the last reporting
152 period.

153

154 **c. Ashland Avenue Gauge intake refurbishment**

155 The remediation work began on November 1st, 2017 and was completed on
156 November 10th, 2017. Due to the precise coordination of this work, the hourly
157 Ashland Avenue data was only unavailable for 1 hour, on November 8, 2017. A
158 value for this hour was extrapolated using data both before and after the missing
159 hour along with Grass Island Pool (GIP) elevation data.

160

161 **d. Ashland Avenue back-up gauge options**

162 No update.

163

164 **e. Power Entity Gauge Maintenance Program**

165 The attendees engaged in a discussion on standards of maintenance of gauging
166 stations. Available documents on standard maintenance procedures was
167 reviewed.

168 **ACTION ITEM: INWC to prepare Draft report on Gauge maintenance standards**

169

170 **f. IJC website update**

171 The IJC is preparing new websites for all the International Boards. The proposed
172 site layout was reviewed and comments provided by the Board to the IJC on March
173 21st. The IJC is still working on the new site and it should be ready sometime in
174 2018.

175

176 **g. Recent media story on Niagara River water use**

177 A media story with factual inconsistencies was highlighted for Board awareness.
178 The INWC co-chair discussed his follow-up with the media outlet notifying them of
179 the inconsistencies.

180

181 **h. Update monthly plots on water diversions for Hydropower Treaty share
182 vs. total diversions**

183 Updated plots of water diversions were presented to the Board and discussed.
184 Suggestions were made and new versions of plots are to be re-tooled and
185 presented to Board at September meeting.

186

187 **Item 13. Next Board & INC meetings and IJC Appearance**

188 The next IJC Appearance is scheduled for Wed April 25th, 2018 in Washington D.C.,
189 USA, from 09:30-10:00 AM EDT. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September
190 19th, 2018 in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada.

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192 **Item 15. Closing Remarks**

193 The closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

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International Niagara Board of Control
March 28, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Embassy Suites Hotel Buffalo/ Downtown
Salon Meeting Room
200 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY, 14202, United States

Teleconference: 1-877-336-1839; Access: 5162099; Security: 1234

Web Meeting: https://usace.webex.com/meet/LRD_Great_Lakes

Agenda

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 1. | Opening Remarks, Introductions (Durrett) | 8:30-8:35 |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda (Durrett) | 8:35-8:40 |
| 3. | Review of Previous Meeting Minutes (Beach) | 8:40-8:50 |
| 4. | Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions (Koralewski) | 8:50-8:55 |
| 5. | Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom | 8:55-9:05 |
| | a) 2017-18 installation and maintenance update (Koralewski) | |
| | b) Status of 2017-18 Ice Boom Report (Armstrong) | |
| | c) Media Advisories for Boom (Koralewski /Beach) | |
| 6. | Chippawa-Grass Island Pool | 9:05-9:15 |
| | a. Compliance to Directive (Seglenieks) | |
| | b. Operations and maintenance (Frain/Schooley) | |
| 7. | Falls flow violations (Carmichael) | 9:15-9:20 |
| 8. | Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing | 9:20-9:30 |
| | a) OPG (Frain) | |
| | b) NYPA (Asklar) | |
| 9. | Review discharge measurements program (Fooks/Taurianen) | 9:30-9:45 |
| | h) Overall Schedule | |
| | i) American Falls | |
| | j) International Railway Bridge | |
| | k) Welland Canal | |
| | l) Ashland Avenue Rating Section | |
| | m) Fort Erie rating equation | |
| | n) Niagara Index Velocity Meters | |
| 10. | 2018 Public Outreach and Engagement (Seglenieks/Koralewski) | 9:45-9:50 |
| 11. | Review of 130 th Semi-Annual Progress Report Draft (Carmichael) | 9:50-10:00 |
| | a. Proposal to change reporting period to fixed period
(March 1-Aug. 31, and Sep.1-Feb. 28) | |
| 12. | Other Business | |
| | a) GLAM's Annual Report to the IJC (Carmichael/Seglenieks) | 10:00-10:05 |
| | b) Falls Recession (Seglenieks) | 10:05-10:10 |

242		c) Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake Refurbishment (Asklar/Frain)	10:10-10:20
243		d) Ashland Avenue Back-up Gauge Options (Seglenieks)	10:20-10:25
244		e) Power Entity Gauge maintenance Program (Beach)	10:25-10:35
245		f) IJC website update (Beach)	10:35-10:40
246		g) Recent media story on Niagara River water use (Seglenieks)	10:40-10:50
247		h) Update monthly plots on water diversions for Hydropower	10:50-10:55
248		Treaty share vs. total diversions (Seglenieks)	
249			
250	13.	Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance	10:55-11:00
251	14.	Closing Remarks and Adjourn (Durrett)	
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