

**INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD**  
**Board Meeting 24 Oct 2017 – 1:30 am to 5:00 pm**  
**Gilmour Room, Business Inn**  
**180 Maclaren Street, Ottawa ON**

The meeting began at 1:30 pm (EDT) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Mr. A. David Dr. F. Sciremammano		Dr. G. Béchard, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet (ph.) Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	IJC Staff	
		Mr. D. Fay
	Associates	
Ms. C. Fisher (ph.) Mr. T. Lavigne		Ms. J. Dickhout (ph.) Ms. W. Leger Mr. B. Morton Mr. P-M. Rondeau

**1 Welcome and introductions**

The Canadian Chair, Dr. Béchard, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks.

**2 Approval of agenda and 20 September Minutes**

The agenda was adopted (attached). The previous minutes were approved after minor

12 amendments.

13 **Action item:** The Canadian Secretary will send the approved September minutes to the  
14 IJC for translation before posting on the website.

### 15 **3 Status of Previous Action Items**

16 All action items from the September 2017 meeting were marked complete, aside from actions  
17 addressed later on the agenda and an on-going action.

18

### 19 **4 Current Conditions and Regulation Overview**

20 The Canadian Alternative Regulation Representative presented on hydrologic conditions, including  
21 recent wet weather and high water levels in the upper Great Lakes, as well as an update on  
22 conditions in the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system. The application of the F-Limit  
23 during the extreme wet weather in April/May was reviewed, followed by the deviations and  
24 application of the L-Limit from June through August, and then the return to Plan 2014 flows  
25 starting in September through most of October. He answered questions in detail so that all  
26 understood the hydrologic conditions that had occurred, the Board’s response and the limitations  
27 that conditions presented. He then presented an updated forecast of water levels of Lake Ontario to  
28 the end of the year and into the next, which demonstrated that water levels are highly dependent on  
29 future water supplies, more so than outflows or current (initial) water levels.

30

### 31 **5 After High Water Assessment**

#### 32 **a. Board Member Workshop**

33 The Board accepted the draft questions circulated to poll individual Board members to gather  
34 information on the Board’s ability to respond to the event, how well prepared they were with  
35 forecast, impact, and communication tools during the high water of 2017. Board members should  
36 also answer a question on how well Board governance was followed. The Board will hold a  
37 workshop of Board members and staff in early December, including a tour of Lake St. Louis.

38 **Action item:** Secretaries will work together to compile the answers for a Board  
39 member and staff workshop, arranged with the IJC.

40 **Action item:** Secretaries will poll members to determine a convenient date for the  
41 Board workshop in December.

42 **Action item:** Board members will complete the questionnaire by November 10<sup>th</sup>, and  
43 the secretaries will compile the information in advance of the December

44 meeting.

45

46 **b. IWI Proposal for Communications Assessment**

47 The Board discussed the IWI proposal, due on Monday 30 October 2017, which the Secretaries  
48 and IJC staff had prepared to hire a communications professional to assist the Board in its  
49 communications review. They mentioned a number of additional points to include. Other Boards  
50 could also benefit from the lessons learned in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system during  
51 2017.

52 **Action item:** Secretaries will work with IJC staff and USACE communications staff to  
53 incorporate suggestions from this meeting into the proposal for Board  
54 approval after 27 October and submission to the IJC's IWI funding  
55 committee on 30 October.

56 **Action item:** Secretaries will work with IJC staff and USACE communications staff to  
57 better cost and schedule the Statement of Work and details for the  
58 Communications Consultant Contract.

59

60 **6 Communications Committee**

61 **a. Topline Messages**

62 IJC staff and the Communications Committee circulated top-line messages and a set of questions  
63 and answers after our last Board meeting

64 **Action item:** Secretaries and staff will prepare more questions and answers for the next  
65 few months for Board members to communicate the high water causes  
66 and Board actions to media and the public.

67 **b. Public Outreach Activities**

68 The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation and Senate  
69 Standing Committee on Agriculture had invited the U.S. Board Co-Chair and the IJC to a public  
70 hearing in Mexico NY on 10 October 2017. The senate panel consisted of Senator Patty Ritchie,  
71 Senator Tom O'Mara, Assemblyman William Barclay, Assemblyman Bob Oaks. The purpose of  
72 the meeting was to hear from stakeholders on the implementation of Plan 2014, to discuss the  
73 impacts of rising water levels on local businesses and homeowners, the ability of international  
74 lake level regulators to pre-emptively manage lake levels, the adequacy and accessibility of state  
75 and federal programs designed to assist local in protecting against rising water levels, and to  
76 explore possible state options for improved assistance. The alternate U.S. chair read a written  
77 testimony into the record and answered questions from the senate committee panel, emphasizing

78 that high water supplies were the cause of this year’s record high water levels, extreme weather  
79 conditions cannot be reliably forecast months or weeks in advance, and the potential impacts to  
80 all interests in the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system must be balanced when making  
81 water management decisions. Another Senate hearing is expected in November and the Board  
82 may be invited once again.

83  
84 Additionally, Board members and staff attended a number of Canadian events, such as the  
85 Ontario Provincial Flood Forecasting Warning Workshop, Stormont and Glengarry Municipality,  
86 Recreational Boating Association council of Ontario, and the Emergency Management Team of  
87 the City of Belleville. They conveyed the same messaging about the cause of the 2017 high  
88 water, including the unusually high water supplies which statistically have a low probability of  
89 reoccurring, but may occur again in the future. The GLAM Committee members made good  
90 links to possible contacts for circles of influence.

91  
92 Other parties have expressed interest in hearing from Board members and staff, and a number of  
93 similar events are already scheduled in November.

94 **Action item:** Canadian secretary to poll Board members with the known dates of  
95 possible speaking engagements to see who may attend.

## 96 **7 GLAM Committee**

### 97 **a. FY18 Work Plan Approval**

98 The Board approved the FY18 Work Plan as circulated prior to the meeting.

99

### 100 **b. Status of draft Annual Report covering 2017 to IJC**

101 The Canadian Co-Chair of the GLAM Committee gave a brief overview of the status of the  
102 proposed report. The report will document observed water levels, regulation outflows, and a  
103 comprehensive assessment of hydroclimate conditions throughout the basin. Additionally, the  
104 report will document all available information regarding the impacts to municipal and industrial  
105 water uses, navigation, hydropower, riparian property owners, recreational boating and tourism,  
106 and the environment resulting from water levels and outflows. The final part will provide a  
107 review and evaluation of other possible regulation approaches and water supply scenarios and  
108 document the potential impacts under these alternative scenarios. A preliminary draft version of  
109 the report is expected by March 2018 and will be finalized once data collection and evaluation

110 efforts are complete.

111 **Action item:** Board members to submit possible outflow and water supply scenarios  
112 they may wish investigated as well in the GLAM 2017 annual report.

113 **Action item:** GLAM Committee to present the status of the GLAM 2017 annual report  
114 at the December Board member workshop.  
115

## 116 **8 Review of Appearance Presentation**

117 The Board had no comments on the slides as circulated.  
118

## 119 **9 Other Business – IESO Request**

120 The Independent Electrical System Operator (IESO) in Ontario requires immediate decreases in  
121 outflow a few times a year at the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) plant to protect the electric  
122 grid. At these times, OPG may ask the New York Power Authority to increase their generation  
123 (water rental), open the spill gates at Long Sault Dam, or may need to just decrease the outflow.  
124 Abrupt changes in flow cause problems to many interests of the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence  
125 River system, such as ships at critical reaches of the river, and fish spawning at critical times of  
126 the year. The power entities will work with the IJC to have Addendum #3 to the Operation  
127 Guide revised, with an annex relating to such IESO requests.

128 **Action item:** OPG to fully outline protocols for various scenarios and times of the year  
129 to consider implications and the communications with Regulation  
130 Representatives and Operations Advisory Group members necessary to  
131 act on IESO directives for Spring Appearance.

132 **Action item:** IJC engineering advisors to revise Addendum #3 to the Operations  
133 Guide, and include an annex pertaining to IESO requests.

## 134 **10 Future Board Activities:**

135 **a. IJC Appearance:** Ottawa, Wednesday 25 October 8:30 am

136 **b. Communication Workshop:** Ottawa 25 October 1-4 pm

137 **c. IJC Reception:** Ottawa 25 October 6:30 pm

138 **d. Meteorological Support Presentation:** in conjunction with Board workshop December

139 **e. Next Board meeting:** Buffalo, NY in March 2018 – Doodle date  
140

## 141 **11 Action Item Review**

142 i. The Canadian Secretary will send the approved September minutes to the IJC for  
143 translation before posting on the website.

144 ii. Secretaries will work together to compile the answers for a Board member and staff

- 145 workshop, arranged with the IJC.  
146 iii. Secretaries will poll members to determine a convenient date for the Board workshop in  
147 December.  
148 iv. Board members will complete the questionnaire by November 10<sup>th</sup>, and the secretaries  
149 will compile the information in advance of the December meeting.  
150 v. Secretaries will work with IJC staff and USACE communications staff to incorporate  
151 suggestions from this meeting into the proposal for Board approval after 27 October and  
152 submission to the IJC's IWI funding committee on 30 October.  
153 vi. Secretaries will work with IJC staff and USACE communications staff to better cost and  
154 schedule the Statement of Work and details for the Communications Consultant  
155 Contract.  
156 vii. Secretaries and staff will prepare more questions and answers for the next few months  
157 for Board members to communicate the high water causes and Board actions to media  
158 and the public  
159 viii. Canadian secretary to poll Board members with the known dates of possible speaking  
160 engagements to see who may attend.  
161 ix. Board members to submit possible outflow and water supply scenarios they may wish  
162 investigated as well in the GLAM 2017 annual report  
163 x. GLAM Committee to present the current status of the GLAM 2017 Annual report at the  
164 December Board member workshop.  
165 xi. OPG to fully outline protocols for various scenarios and times of the year to consider  
166 implications and the communications with Regulation Representatives and Operations  
167 Advisory Group members necessary to act on IESO directives for Spring Appearance.  
168 xii. IJC engineering advisors to revise Addendum #3 to the Operations Guide, and include  
169 an annex pertaining to IESO requests.  
170 xiii. U.S. secretary to Doodle poll members and associates for a convenient date in March  
171 for a meeting in Buffalo.  
172

## 173 **12 Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

174 The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

175

176 **INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD**  
177 **Board Meeting 24 October 2017 - 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm**  
178 **Business INN**  
179 **180 MacLaren Street, Ottawa ON**  
180  
181

182 **FINAL AGENDA**  
183

- 184 1. Introductions, Opening Remarks [Béchar] 1:30 pm  
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186 2. Approval of Agenda and previous Minutes [Béchar] 1:35 pm  
187  
188 3. Previous Action Items [Faveri] 1:40 pm  
189  
190 4. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Caldwell] 1:45 pm  
191  
192 5. After High Water Assessment [Faveri] 2:30 pm  
193 a) Board Member workshop  
194 b) IWI Proposal for Communications Assessment  
195  
196 **BREAK (15 min) 3:00 pm**  
197  
198 6. Communication Committee [Hudon] 3:15 pm  
199 a) Topline Messages  
200 b) Report on Public Outreach Activities  
201  
202 7. GLAM Committee [Leger] 4:00 pm  
203 a) FY18 Work Plan Approval  
204 b) Status of draft Annual Report covering 2017 to IJC  
205  
206 8. Review of Appearance Presentation [Faveri] 4:15 pm  
207  
208 9. Other Business- IESO request [Morton] 4:30 pm  
209  
210 10. Upcoming Board Activities [Faveri] 4:45 pm  
211 a) IJC Appearance: Ottawa, 25 October 8:30 am  
212 b) Communication Workshop 25 October 1-4 pm Laurier Room, Capitol Hill Hotel & Suites, 88 Albert  
213 Street  
214 c) IJC Reception: 25 October 6:30 pm  
215 d) Meteorological support Webinar: TBD  
216 e) Next Board meeting: Buffalo, 14 March 2018?  
217  
218 11. Action Item Review [Faveri] 4:50 pm  
219  
220 12. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Béchar] 5:00 pm  
221