

# INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

**Board Meeting 24 Oct 2018 - 1:30 to 5:00 pm**

**Ballroom A, Delta Hotel Ottawa City Centre  
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. D. Kuehn		Dr. G. Béchar, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Mr. R. Caldwell
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. J. Bruxer Ms. J. Dickhout (Alt.)
	International Joint Commission (IJC) Staff	
Mr. F. Bevacqua		Mr. D. Fay Ms. S. Lobrichon
	Associates	
Mr. B. Carmichael Mr. P. Davis Ms. C. Fisher Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. G. Schmidt (ph) Ms. L. Schifferle Ms. S. Wagner		Mr. J-F. Belzile Ms. S. Grady Mr. D. Huff Mr. J. Hughes Ms. W. Leger Mr. P-M. Rondeau Mr. H. Sansoucy (ph) Mr. R. Singhroy Mr. M. Shantz

## 1 Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives

Dr. Béchar, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks, including a

traditional First Nations greeting.

## **2 Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted (attached).

## **3 Previous Action Items**

All action items from the 18 September meeting were marked complete.

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

### **a. Regulation Overview**

The Canadian Regulation Representative presented the current conditions and regulation overview, highlighting the continued high inflows to Lake Ontario, and the associated effects on Lake St. Lawrence. Lake St. Lawrence levels have been at or near record low values in recent months.

### **b. Minor Deviation for Boat Haulout**

Because of the continued high outflows from Lake Ontario, Lake St. Lawrence levels remained near record lows. To assist with boat haulout, the Board agreed to minor deviations to lower the outflow of Lake Ontario temporarily for up to 48 hours twice over two weekends, starting on the afternoon of Friday, 5 October. A target level of 73.38 m at Long Sault Dam was employed. The 2 cm increase of Lake Ontario will be paid back as soon as possible.

The need for more direct communication regarding the impact on Lake St. Louis was discussed. Given that flow was reduced over two weekends this year worsened these impacts, especially as it occurred during duck-hunting season as hunters there wished to use their boats for this annual sporting activity.

**Action items:** Secretaries to include boat haulout benefits/impacts in future semi-annual progress reports. Regulation Representatives and Secretaries will improve internal (i.e., OAG) and external (media release, etc.) communications on future boat haulout efforts.

## **5 Power Entity Measures re System Operators Requests**

### **a. Overview of NYPA and OPG Directives/Measures Proposed**

The background on this issue was reiterated. Given there is a long-term outage on the transmission tie line between Moses and Saunders, generation rejection was discussed as a “next step” contingency consideration. This could entail an immediate cut of up to 342 MW of

generation, equivalent to shutting down up to 6 units and resulting in a sudden decrease in flow of up to 1,700 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Spillage at Long Sault Dam would be initiated immediately following any such outages, so that the entire river flow was maintained as soon as possible thereafter. New York Power Authority (NYPA) will staff an extra operator during such times to facilitate this transfer of flow.

#### **b. OAG Review of Proposal**

Seaway Corporations experts, Power Entity officials and Regulation Representatives all agreed to a final draft generation rejection (GR) communications plan during a call on 16 October. Fan-out calling lists were established for arming and/or activation of the GR system, as well as for restoration of generation thereafter. A note was added such that the communication plan can be employed for any such unexpected loss in generation. NYPA will include new signage and stakeholder safety alerts (near Long Sault Dam spillway) in the full communication strategy.

**Action items:** Operations Advisory Group (OAG) Representative, Shari Grady, to send revised Communication Plan for Generation Reduction document to Secretaries for Board distribution. The document will be revised such that it will be applied at any time should there be a sudden loss of generation. Secretaries to circulate the final generation reduction communication plan.

### **6 IJC/Board Website Renewal**

The new site will be launched on 25 October. There are still a few items to finalize and update (e.g., automation and animation of plots and tables, missing translations, inclusion of pending reports, reversing the order of the flow changes table, and highlighting recent and upcoming Board outreach efforts in a widget or calendar application). There is still some content on the website that needs to be updated to reflect changes since implementation of the new regulation plan. Members and staff will be trained on the administration and use of the new site within the next couple of weeks.

### **7 Communications Committee**

#### **a. IWI Communications Strategy Update**

Mr. Huff, Founder, ECO Strategy, presented his communications strategy firm's findings on the Board's communications efforts during the 2017 high-water crisis. A total of 48 recommendations were provided (e.g, lags in getting word out during crises can be avoided by having a crisis communication plan in advance; media releases with photos perform best;

reporters rely on Twitter, etc.). In general, communication efforts were found to be excellent, and the maintenance of the Facebook page's recruitment shows a general "vote of confidence" and that the public trusts the Board as a reliable source of information. The Communications Committee looks forward to adopting some of the consultant's recommendations in months to come.

**Action items:** The Communications Committee will have a call to discuss the findings, and further discuss the recommendations with the Board in March and the Commission in April.

#### **b. Public Outreach Activities**

Hiring of a public affairs officer at US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) by year end will help the Board's communications efforts. This morning's International Watershed Initiatives workshop, attended by several Board members and staff, demonstrated the need to strengthen communications surrounding climate change impacts and adaptation. The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee will work with the Climate Change Framework contractor on such initiatives.

The Communications Committee is developing a Wikipedia piece on Lake St. Lawrence to raise awareness of our regulatory operations and the control structures. Board members and staff plan to visit Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations again over the winter to continue to dialogue with residents, community leaders and conservation authorities. It was decided that a letter will be developed to go out to newly elected Canadian municipal leaders and other community leaders.

**Action items:** Communications Committee to develop a short letter to go out to newly elected Canadian government leaders and other community leaders. Secretaries to send this piece, once available. Board representatives to meet with Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations over the winter.

## **8 GLAM Committee**

### **a. 2017 Report – IJC Appearance Points**

The GLAM Committee provided an overview of the report on the conditions, impacts, and plan performance during the 2017 high-water crisis, focusing on outstanding issues, key findings and next steps. The Committee discussed a stakeholder engagement strategy to present to the IJC on 25 October, but it was agreed that this required more discussion. The Board was asked to endorse the executive summary by 31 October. A final, signed report is expected to be submitted to the IJC by 9 November.

**Action items:** Board to note in tomorrow's Appearance that more GLAM funding is needed. The Communications Committee will have a discussion to determine how best to respond to the report's upcoming release.

**b. Direction for FY19**

The GLAM Committee provided a brief summary of the work plan and noted that an adjusted plan will be submitted early next week. Two main analyses were discussed including the ongoing plan performance review, and a gap analysis related to a listing of known impacts and/or potential plan changes, prioritized based on available or needed data and information.

**9 Semi-Annual Appearance Presentation Review**

The Board discussed its Semi-Annual Appearance Presentation for 25 October. A request for more GLAM funding will be added. No other substantive changes were required.

**10 Other Business**

**a. Proposed Changes in OAG Representatives**

Mr. Jean-François Belzile, Harbour Master and Director of Marine Operations, Montreal Port Authority (MPA) presented his proposal to be added to the membership of the Operations Advisory Group (OAG). MPA is an autonomous federal body created under the Canada Marine Act. The Port's location 1600 km inland from the Atlantic Ocean provides access to 110 million consumers within a two-day transit. Several examples of the Port's efforts towards sustainable development and as a collaborative actor were given. The Port demonstrated their efforts with regards to making use of available vessel drafts to the extent possible, including their planning, monitoring and online record of vessel transits. It was noted that MPA has specific knowledge of certain factors (above and beyond what the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) would), and sometimes, the OAG's work is not reflected in CCG's liaising with MPA. MPA's jurisdiction was noted, prompting a question about who, in the Canadian federal family of agencies, is responsible for safe vessel transits on the waterways in a legal context, and another about whether this would set precedence for other such proposals. The Board members, Secretaries and Regulation Representatives held a closed session to discuss the proposal and deferred a decision to a later date. The OAG composition, nomination process for membership, and terms of reference for the group as well as the mandate of certain relevant agencies must be reviewed and clarified (in light of no previous member-agency changes since 1960, yet in consideration of changes in the trade and at the Port). A CCG representative sent a letter to the Board expressing

their viewpoint on MPA's request for consideration.

**Action items:** Board staff will provide members with documents to assist review of the OAG composition, the membership nomination process, and any terms of reference for the group prior to making a decision on adding MPA to the OAG. The Canadian Co-Chair will speak to CCG to see if they can provide enhanced support.

A second OAG representative proposal was submitted by Mr. Hugo Sansoucy. Mr. Sansoucy is a manager of the current OAG member and alternate for Hydro-Quebec. Hydro-Quebec proposes that Mr. Sansoucy help facilitate any necessary flow changes outside of business hours, the spring melt period, ice management period, or other high-risk periods due to "administrative" reasons (later qualified as cost-saving measures). It was stressed that this change was already put in place a couple of weeks ago, without Board input. The need for Mr. Sansoucy to provide support will be communicated on a weekly basis following discussion with the current OAG member/alternate for Hydro-Quebec. Ms. Sylvie Ouellette will be Mr. Sansoucy's Alternate during such non-critical periods. Board members and staff pointed out that it is important that OAG members/alternates be fully aware of risks involved, and that they develop a working rapport with all members of the group in order to best facilitate and support rapid flow-change decisions throughout the year, including what may be non-critical times of year for Hydro-Quebec but critical for other interests (e.g., the recent low levels on Lake St. Lawrence being a critical concern for the Seaway Corporations). Adding people to the flow change facilitation process increases risks and complexity. Mr. Sansoucy assured the Board that they would engage in all OAG calls, have access to all pertinent Hydro-Quebec data, and that the two managers have many years of related experience.

**Action item:** Hydro-Quebec to provide an official letter to the Board outlining the proposal to permit further Board review and response.

**b. October/April Meetings – Before or After Appearance?**

This item was deferred to the March meeting.

**Action item:** US Secretary to include this discussion in March agenda.

**c. Next Board Meeting**

The spring 2019 Board meeting will be held on 5 to 6 March, and is expected to be in Detroit. Member David and the Canadian Regulation Representative will host workshops on

communication and an overview of regulation and forecasting, respectively, on 5 March, and the Board meeting will be on 6 March. The exact location is TBD.

**Action item:** US Secretary will inform the board of the meeting location and hotels as soon as possible.

#### **d. GLAM Meetings**

The GLAM Committee expects to hold meetings in Burlington in February and in either Buffalo or Detroit in June.

### **11 Action Item Review**

This item was deferred due to time constraints.

**Action item:** Secretaries to finalize action items from today and circulate to the Board for review.

### **12 Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Mr. Durrett indicated this may be his last IJC-related function. He was commended and thanked again. The open meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm and the closed meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

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Board Meeting 24 Oct 2018 - 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Delta Hotel Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St North, Boardroom Ballroom A

Ottawa, ON

## AGENDA

1. Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives [Béchar] 1:30 pm
2. Approval of Agenda [Béchar] 1:40 pm
3. Previous Action Items [Caldwell] 1:45 pm
4. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Bruxer] 1:50 pm
  - a) Regulation Overview [Bruxer]
  - b) Minor Deviation for Boat Haulout – review [Bruxer]
5. Power entity measures re System Operators requests [Morton. Davis] 2:15 pm
  - a) Overview of NYPA and OPG directives/measures proposed
  - b) OAG review of proposal
6. IJC/Board Website renewal [Dickhout] 2:25 pm
- BREAK (15 min)** 2:45 pm
7. Communication Committee [Hudon] 3:00 pm
  - a) IWI Communications Strategy Update [Don Huff]
  - b) Public Outreach Activities [Hudon]
8. GLAM Committee [Leger, Heer] 3:50 pm
  - a) 2017 Annual Report – IJC Appearance points
  - b) Direction for FY19
9. Semi- Annual Appearance Presentation Review [Caldwell] 4:10 pm
10. Other Business [Caldwell] 4:20 pm
  - a) Proposed changes in OAG representatives [Rondeau, Belzile]
  - b) October/April meetings – before or after Appearance? [Béchar]
  - c) Next Board Meeting: Detroit, 5-6 March 2019 (workshops Day 1, meeting Day 2)
  - d) GLAM meetings: Burlington Feb. 2019; Buffalo or Detroit, June 2019
11. Action Item Review [Caldwell] 4:50 pm
12. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Béchar] 4:55 pm