

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

Board Meeting 20 Sept 2017 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Beck 1 Boardroom, Ontario Power Generation

The meeting began at 9:10 am (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. Béchar, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin (ph.) Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	IJC Commissioner	
		Mr. G. Walker
	IJC Staff	
Mr. F. Bevacqua Mr. D. Hermann		Mr. D. Fay
	Associates	
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. B. Carmichael Ms. C. Fisher Mr. K. McCune Mr. J. Scharf		Ms. J. Dickhout Ms. G. Grady Ms. W. Leger Mr. M. McNiven

1 Welcome and introductions

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

2 Approval of agenda, 2 May Minutes, and 31 August Conference Call notes

The agenda was adopted (attached), postponing the first items until after the arrival of Commissioner Walker, so he would be present for these discussions. The previous minutes and conference call notes were approved.

Action item: The U.S. Secretary will send the approved May minutes to the IJC for translation before posting on the website.

3 Status of Previous Action Items

All action items from the May 2017 meeting were marked complete, aside from actions addressed later on the agenda.

4 Current Conditions and Regulation Overview

a. Letter from IJC to the Board

On 13 September 2017, the IJC wrote to the Board to indicate its concurrence with the Board's proposal to return Lake Ontario outflows to those specified by the rules of Plan 2014 as of September 2, 2017 as that will provide continued relief to riparians while balancing the impacts of water levels and future supplies to all interests in the system consistent with the Commission's orders and directives. The IJC also agrees with the Board's proposal to reset the regulation plan's computed Lake Ontario to the actual Lake Ontario level as of September 2, 2017 and for the Board to "write-off" the accumulated deviations. This will in essence incorporate the effect of the major over-discharge deviations undertaken in the late spring and summer of 2017 into the regulation plan calculations going forward.

b. Regulation Overview

After commendations from everyone on the daily briefings and weekly support from the regulation offices, the Canadian Alternative Regulation Representative presented slides showing the hydrologic conditions of 2017 and the Board's responses. He answered questions in detail so that all understood what had happened, why the Board had such limited responses, and what the likely scenarios for the water levels of Lake Ontario to the end of the year would be, highly dependent on the near future water supplies. The Canadian Regulation Representative next presented the current conditions and regulation overview of the still high level of Lake Ontario for this time of year, the rapid draw down in August and the continued high outflows prescribed by Plan2014.

c. Minor Deviations for Boat Haul-out

Because of the continued high outflows from Lake Ontario, Lake St. Lawrence is much lower than its average water level for this time of year; indeed many boats are mired in the mud. To assist with boat haul-out the Board agreed to a minor deviation, that is to lower the outflow of Lake Ontario temporarily for 48 hours starting on Saturday, 7 October. The increase of Lake Ontario level of far less than 2 cm would be paid back immediately following the temporary decrease in flow.

5 After High Water Assessment

The Canadian Secretary summarized the draft outline of a proposed after high water assessment report that was sent to Board members prior to the meeting. The objective of this report would be to describe the hydrologic conditions, impacts and actions taken by the Board during the high water of 2017. International Watershed Initiative (IWI) funds from the IJC would likely be requested in 2018 to fund any outside contract work.

a. Board Member Poll on Readiness

An independent contractor(s) with regulation knowledge might poll individual Board members to gather information on the Board's ability to respond to the event, how well prepared they were with forecast, impact, and communication tools during the high water of 2017. Board members, cognizant of limited resources, felt it more efficient for the Board to have a workshop of Board members and staff focusing on this task.

Action item: Secretaries will work together to prepare focus questions to send to Board members and staff before a workshop, arranged with the IJC.

b. Board Operational and Communications Report

A report on the operational responses of the Board to the high water supplies and downstream conditions of 2017 would be covered in the annual report of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee. The Board felt it most important to spend outside resources on the skills required to review the Board's communications practices during 2017 and develop a communications plan that could be implemented whenever extreme conditions occurred in the future, whether wet or dry or some other emergency the Board needed to communicate quickly. Other Boards could also benefit from the lessons learned in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system in 2017.

Action item: Communications Committee will work with IJC staff to prepare an IWI proposal, Statement of Work and contract for a communications professional to assist the Board in its communications review.

c. GLAM Committee Role

The GLAM Committee will include a full report on hydroclimate analyses, impact assessment, and plan review component in its tier 1 annual review of 2017 regulation plans. This report will cover the Board's operations.

Action item: GLAM Committee will submit a draft annual report covering the 2017 high water event on Lake Ontario at the March 2018 Board Meeting.

6 Communications Committee

a. Topline Messages

Announce the timing, effects and reason for the flow reduction during the October long weekend.

Action item: Secretaries to prepare a media release on the October short term flow reduction.

b. Public Outreach Activities

The Board discussed the best methods for explaining the hydrology of 2017, the limits of regulation and the new regulation plan to a wider public. The Canadian Chair, alternate Regulation Representative, and the Canadian Secretary of the GLAM Committee are presenting the next day at the Ontario Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Workshop, an annual workshop for water resource professionals in Ontario interested in high water events. Other parties have expressed interest in hearing from Board members and staff. The advice of the communications professional contracted for the communications review would assist in developing methods of obtaining public perspectives.

Action item: Communications Committee to reach out to elected officials, and circles of influence, and respond to speaking requests.

7 GLAM Committee

a. Status of 1st Triennial Report to the IJC

The GLAM Committee provided an oversight of the proposed outline for the first triennial report which was sent to all prior to the meeting.

b. FY18 Work Plan Overview

The GLAM Committee reviewed the framework of their FY18 Work Plan. More details will be provided later.

8 Gauging Committee Activities

a. 2015 Gauging Committee Report

The Report is awaiting signatures by the responsible agencies. The final report will be ready before the March 2018 meeting. By October 2018, the 2016 and 2017 Gauging Committee reports will be ready.

b. NOAA to USACE Information Transfer

The functional transfer of data and knowledge of the gauging committee from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is essentially complete. NOAA will respond to later demands for information should any arise.

c. 2017 Gauge Inspections

The Inspections this year, scheduled earlier in June 2017, were delayed by high water and outflows to the previous week in September (11-16) with personnel from the Buffalo and Cornwall offices. Three Canadian gauge replacements were delayed to later this fall due to the extreme conditions of 2017. As could be expected with the installation of new equipment, deficiencies were noted in the 2017 inspections.

9 Semi-Annual Report Review

The Board reviewed its Semi-Annual Report (SAR) for the period 1 March to 31 August 2017 and suggested it elaborate on previous conditions to respond to criticisms of flow regulation and go into details on the conditions which occurred this year, in anticipation that a full after high water report may take some time to thoroughly prepare.

- Action item:** Regulation Representatives to work together to prepare tables to list the operational adjustments and major deviations to include in the report.
- Action item:** Secretaries to revise the draft SAR and send to members for their review by Friday, 29 September
- Action item:** Members to review the draft SAR and send their comments to the secretaries by 5 October
- Action item:** Secretaries to schedule a conference call for 10 October if necessary to discuss the SAR, before submitting a final draft to the IJC on 12 October.

10 IWI Multi-Board Workshop – Climate Change Framework

The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) held a teleconference/webinar 29 August following their meeting in Washington in May 2017. The CCWG is trying to develop a shared information pool which would assist boards in engaging stakeholders to address climate change. The CCWG is also trying to resolve the GLAM funding issue. A report on a CCWG pilot project on the Ste-Croix river basin should be out by now.

- Action item:** Canadian GLAM Co-chair and Canadian Board member to continue on the CCWG.

11 Other Business

Future Board Activities:

- a. Next Board Meeting Ottawa, Tuesday 24 October 1:30 pm
- b. IJC Appearance: Ottawa, Wednesday 25 October 8:30 am
- c. Communication Workshop: Ottawa 25 October 1-4 pm
- d. IJC Reception: Ottawa 25 October 6:30 pm
- e. Next Board meeting: Buffalo, 14 March 2018
- f.

12 Action Item Review

- i. The U.S. Secretary will send the approved May minutes to the IJC for translation before posting on the website.
- ii. Secretaries will work together to prepare focus questions to send to Board members and staff before a workshop on Board operations in 2017 is arranged with the IJC.
- iii. Communications Committee will work with IJC staff to prepare an IWI proposal, Statement of Work and contract for a communications professional to assist the Board in its communications review.
- iv. GLAM Committee will submit a draft annual report covering the 2017 high water event on Lake Ontario at the March 2018 Board Meeting.
- v. Secretaries to prepare a media release on the October short term flow reduction.
- vi. Communications Committee to reach out to elected officials, and circles of influence, and respond to speaking requests.
- vii. Regulation Representatives to work together to prepare tables to list the operational adjustments and major deviations to include in the report.
- viii. Secretaries to revise the draft SAR and send to members for their review by Friday, 29 September
- ix. Members to review the draft SAR and send their comments to the secretaries by 5 October
- x. Secretaries to schedule a conference call for 10 October if necessary to discuss the SAR before submitting a final draft to the IJC on 12 October.
- xi. Canadian GLAM Co-chair and Canadian Board member to continue on the Climate Change Working Group.

13 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

Board Meeting 20 Sept 2017 - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Beck 1 Boardroom, Ontario Power Generation

14000 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0

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

Web Meeting: <https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/AWMlogin>; No: 8773361839; Access: 5162099

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Introductions, Opening Remarks [Béchar] 9:00 am
2. Approval of Agenda and previous Minutes [Béchar] 9:10 am
3. Previous Action Items [Faveri] 9:15 am
4. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Caldwell] 9:30 am
 - a) IJC letter to Board dated 13 September 2017
 - b) Regulation Overview
 - c) Minor deviation for boat haul-out
- BREAK (15 min) 10:15 am**
5. After High Water Assessment [Faveri] 10:30 am
 - a) Board Member Poll on Readiness
 - b) Board Operational and Communications Report
 - c) GLAM Role
6. Communication Committee [Hudon] 11:00 pm
 - a) Topline Messages
 - b) Public Outreach Activities
- LUNCH (1 hour) 12:00pm**
7. GLAM Committee [Leger] 1:00pm
 - a) Status of 1st Triennial Report to IJC
 - b) FY18 Work Plan Overview
8. Gauging Committee Activities [McNiven] 2:00 pm
 - a) 2015 Gauging Committee Report
 - b) NOAA to USACE Information Transfer
 - c) 2017 Inspections
9. Semi- Annual Report Review [Faveri] 2:15 pm
10. IWI Multi-Board Workshop – Climate Change Framework [Hudon] 2:30 pm
11. Other Business [Faveri] 3:00 pm
 - a) Next Board Meeting Tuesday 24 October
 - b) IJC Appearance: Ottawa, 25 October 8:30 am
 - c) Communication Workshop 25 October afternoon
 - d) IJC Reception: 25 October 6:30 pm
 - e) Next Board meeting: TBD March 2018
12. Action Item Review [Faveri] 3:20 pm
13. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Béchar] 3:30 pm