

**INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL**  
**Conference Call**  
**Tuesday December 11, 2018, 9:30 – 11:30 AM PST**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Cindi Barton	Chair, U.S. Section
Bruno Tassone	Chair, Canadian Section
John Arterburn	Board Member, U.S. Section
Col. Mark Geraldi (absent)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ford Waterstrat	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ted White	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds	Board Member, Canadian Section
Anna Warwick Sears	Board Member, Canadian Section

**BOARD STAFF and BOARD MEMBER ASSISTANTS**

Andy Gendaszek	Secretary, U.S. Section
Martin Suchy	Secretary, Canadian Section
Kevin Shaffer (absent)	Technical Assistant to Colonel Mark Geraldi

**IJC REPRESENTATIVES**

Wayne Jenkinson	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Communications, Canadian Section

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Meeting started at 9:30 and was led by Bruno Tassone (Canadian Co-Chair). The meeting agenda was accepted with no changes and finalized.

**2. US STATE DEPT. STAFF OBSERVERS**

Cindi Barton (U.S. Co-Chair), indicated that U.S. State Department staff would like to attend IOLBC quarterly conference calls and Annual Board and/or Public Meetings to learn more about management of Osoyoos Lake and IOLBC activities. The co-chair indicated that State Dept. staff had previously attended meetings for eastern boards. IJC representatives will issue guidance about observation b, but generally the following conditions should be met so that external presence does not influence Board discussions:

- Participation requests needs to be relayed ahead of time,
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) which is the Canadian State Dept. counterpart, may choose to have an observer, whenever State wants to participate.
- Government representatives may only be present as observers, and they should not intervene or seek to influence the discussion of the Board Members,
- Best if observers during information presentations, but not during decision meetings,
- Governments are able to provide direction to the IJC at any time through the IJC Secretaries.
- Secretaries may use their discretion to relay concerns and provide advice to the Board.

### **3. APPROVAL SEPTEMBER BOARD AND PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 2018 Board Meeting with edits to section 3.1 and 3.3 and approved the September 2018 Public Meeting notes as written.

### **4. REVIEW OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**

Osoyoos Lake levels remained within the rule curve during the Fall through December. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, lake level was 909.74 ft. Outflow from Okanagan Lake was mostly unchanged beginning in early November, while an early November rainfall event resulted in a spike of Similkameen River discharge, before leveling off. Late Fall snow pillow conditions are close to average, but with drier than normal conditions. Higher elevations in the Similkameen and Okanagan Basins have closer to normal snowpack than lower elevations where snowpack is less. Climate forecasts predict an El Nino, but El Nino conditions have not yet been officially declared. During El Nino years, warmer and drier conditions during the winter result in below-normal snow pack with the Similkameen and Okanagan Basins typically 80-90% and 90-110% of normal, respectively.

Board Member Kris Kauffman, indicated conditions are similar to those in 1976, a precursor to the drought of 1977. Suggestion to convene water availability sub-committee.

### **5. PLANNED FALL/WINTER LAKE LEVELS**

The Board discussed fall and planned winter lake levels. In the fall, lake levels were lowered by about 1.5 feet which is biologically significant for aquatic species and a gradual lowering of lake levels during the fall may better accommodate fish. The rate of draw down may be a legacy of the rule curve from before the 2013 update to the IJC Orders. In anticipation of lower snowpack due to El Nino conditions, the Board discussed the possibility of maintaining higher winter lake levels until the depth of the 2018/2019 snowpack is better established. However, the Osoyoos Lake is kept at a lower level during the winter to minimize the risk of damage to shoreline

facilities from ice and wind during winter storms. In addition, winter lake levels must be sufficiently low for milfoil removal equipment to pass under bridges on Osoyoos Lake. The Board can make suggestions or requests of the Applicant about their operating levels, but although the Applicant is mandated to operate within the rule curve established by the IJC Orders, the Applicant is under no obligation to maintain any specific water level within the rule curve. The Applicant will be invited to make a presentation to the Board on how operational decisions are made regarding planning water levels in advance of the spring freshet and during fall drawdown.

## **6. IJC SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW**

The Canadian Section co-chair provided an update of the Boards presentation to IJC Commissioners at the Fall semi-annual meeting in Ottawa on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The presentation was well received, with minimal comments from Commissioners. Questions were posed as to how to increase participation of the Public Meeting. U.S. Commissioner Moy suggested; that because of the 2018 flooding, the public may be interested to again discuss a potential Similkameen River dam to mitigate flooding downstream at Oroville.

## **7. IWI CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP REVIEW**

The Canadian Board Secretary provided an overview of the IWI Climate Change Workshop, which was held in Ottawa on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, during the Fall Semi-Annual Meeting. The objectives of the workshop was to explore methods of advancing the Climate Change Guidance Framework (CCGF) through: Information sharing, exploring approaches used by other agencies, and encouraging the IWI vertical pilot implementation. Workshop presentations focused on: explaining the vertical pilot, IJC funding availability, the St Croix Board example and model output.

IWI Climate Change Framework Focus is from 2015 to 2020, which means 2 years remain. The objectives are to help inform the Boards on: reducing climate related risks, modernizing/adapt regulation plans, planning for the long-term, practical considerations for climate adaptation, reduce uncertainty, and encourage leveraging through leading edge science. IOLBC had previously indicated interest in conducting the vertical pilot.

Mark Colosimo (Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section) encouraged the IOLBC to develop a Draft Plan on how to carry out the project, with funding from the IJC available up to October 2019.

Contractor to produce project, while the Board to oversee. It was indicated that the University of Western Washington has an active climate group, and might be a good candidate to prepare a proposal. Anna Warwick Sears (Canadian Section Board Member) interested in providing in-kind support through OBWB.

#### **8. PRE-1966 USGS LAKE LEVELS RECORD UPDATE**

The U.S. Board Secretary provided the Board with an update on the Osoyoos Lake elevation data from 1928-1965, which had not been previously entered into the USGS database, but was available on the Canadian MSC database. Paper copy USGS data was compared to the Canadian data. A datum shifts of 2.39 ft. for Canadian data between 1929-1942 will be required, while the USGS dataset will be updated to the full period 1928 to present. It was noted that 1928 and 1929 were only partial data years (seasonal data collection), while 1930 to present represents a complete dataset.

#### **9. ZOSEL DAM WEBCAM AND LAKE MONUMENT UPDATE**

In response to the additional historical data discussed in the previous section, Monument production was suspended in September 2018. The Board was presented with new monument text and graphics with added historical data range. Monument production will resume once changes approved by the Board.

#### **10. OBWB INITIATIVES UPDATE (BATHYMETRY AND FLOOD MAPPING)**

Canadian Section Board Member (Anna Warwick Sears), who is also the Executive Direction of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), provided the IOLBC with an update on a recently awarded OBWB contract for a bathymetric survey of the Okanagan River channel, which will support flood mapping for the Okanagan mainstem, which includes Osoyoos Lake. Part of the mapping contract is to do a flood frequency analysis of the Similkameen River using historical data. IOLBC Canadian Section Board Member Brian Symonds is on the technical advisory committee, along with Shaun Reimer – Okanagan Lake dam operator (BC Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development). The OBWB project will likely provide an opportunity for collaboration with the USACE's modeling operation for Zosel Dam. The projects also includes a climate projection component.

#### **11. NEW IJC / BOARD WEBSITE**

The Canadian Board secretary provided an update of the IJC's website modernization process. The new website went live on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Board Members had been provided the new address (<https://ijc.org/en/olbc>). IJC training for Board staff was to occur in mid-January.

## **12. 2019 CONFERENCE CALL AND MEETING PLANNING**

Canadian Section Secretary to poll Board members for upcoming 2019 IOLBC quarterly conference call dates. Poll results subsequently identified the following dates: March 6, June 18, September 10, and December 10.

A summer Board and Public Meeting was considered as a way to potentially increase attendance to the Public Meeting, but it was decided to be un-practical for venue cost and availability, and Board Member availability. Therefore, the proposed dates for the 2019 Annual Board and Public Meetings is the week of September 17<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to have the meetings on Tuesday September 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by a field trip on the morning of September 19<sup>th</sup>. This would allow International Kootenay Lake Board of Control (IKLBC) meetings that It was suggested that a September quarterly conference call be had the week prior to the Board and Public Meetings to finalize the agendas.

## **13. ROUND TABLE**

The IJC is waiting for appointment of Canadian Commissioners and re-appointment of U.S. Commissioners.

## **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

1. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will continue to look into availability of additional bathymetric data for Lake Osoyoos.
2. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will update IOLBC website with documentary film trailer.
3. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will prepare a bibliography to initiate the Organization step of the Preparedness Process proposed by CAWG.
4. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will investigate the possibility of funding short excerpts of "A River Film" about focused themes through the spring IWI request for proposals.
5. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will add Osoyoos Lake inundation maps to IOLBC webpage.

## **NEW ACTION ITEMS**

1. **In progress:** Develop draft plan for vertical climate change pilot

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2. **In progress:** IOLBC Secretaries to follow up with the Applicant regarding Spring water level plans