

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD
Board Meeting 6 March 2019 – 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Empire Room, Marriott Downtown Syracuse
Syracuse, NY

The meeting began at 9:15 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. D. Kuehn		Dr. G. Béchard, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. B. Carmichael		Mr. R. Caldwell
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. J. Bruxer Ms. J. Dickhout (Alt.)
	International Joint Commission (IJC) Staff	
Mr. M. Colosimo		Mr. D. Fay Ms. S. Lobrichon
	Associates	
Mr. P. Davis Ms. C. Fisher Mr. J. Scharf Mr. G. Schmidt (ph) Ms. S. Wagner Mr. J. Allis Dr. T. Eberhardt (ph)		Ms. W. Leger

9 **1 Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives**

10 Mr. Durrett, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks.

11 **2 Approval of Agenda**

12 The agenda was adopted (attached) with 2 minor changes and two additions as noted.
13 Item 4 and 5 presented by US Regulation Representative rather than initially identified
14 responsible individual. Items 11d and 11e added at the request of Board members.

15 **3 Previous Action Items**

16 All action items from the 24 October meeting were marked complete.

17 **4 Current Conditions and Regulation Overview**

18 **a. Regulation Overview**

19 The US Alternate Regulation Representative presented the current conditions and regulation
20 overview, highlighting the continued high water supplies to Lake Ontario and the associated high
21 outflows called for by Plan 2014. A large Ottawa River freshet is likely.

22 **5 Gauging Committee**

23 **a. Status of 2017 and 2018 reports**

24 The 2017 gauging report is approximately 2/3 done. Finalization of power entity data is required
25 to complete the report. Finalization of the power entity data is expected in the next two months.
26 The 2018 report is contingent on the completion of the 2017 report.

27 **b. 2019 Scheduled inspection activities and precision survey update**

28 The 2019 annual inspection will take place August 12 through 16.

29 Due to the continued alkali-aggregate reaction (swelling, cracking and deterioration of the concrete
30 on the Canadian side of the Moses-Saunders dam), an international precision survey is to be
31 completed every ten years (at minimum), at the previous request of the Committee. 2008 was the
32 last year the survey was completed meaning 2018 was when the next required survey was
33 recommended. A Memorandum of Understanding between OPG and National Geodetic Survey
34 (NGS) is required before the survey work can commence and due to the rigorous requirements of
35 the survey and the coordination required between the two nations it was not feasible to conduct the

36 survey in 2018. There is one item left to be rectified in order to complete the MOU and it is
37 expected to be finalized on 18 March, 2019. The survey will be done in the fall of 2019.

38 Discrepancies between the Long-Sault rating table and the measured flow were noted, raising the
39 need for an assessment of the methods used to measure flow. The gauging committee will
40 continue to monitor the discrepancy when additional flow measurements are obtained.

41 **6 IJC/Board Website update**

42 The new site was launched in October of 2018 and training for the website Board website
43 representatives was conducted in January and February of 2019. The Board's Secretaries and
44 Regulation Representatives received training on user account management, site navigation, and
45 content editing. The US Secretary provided a brief tour of the new website to the Board.

46 **Action Items:**

47 **Mr. Koralewski, Ms. Schefferle, and Mr. Andy Kornacki will be granted administrative**
48 **access.**

49 **Board members who wish to submit headshot photos of themselves for the website are**
50 **encouraged to do so by May 1st, 2019. Headshots are not required.**

51 **7 Communications Committee (Note: this item was addressed after item 8 due to** 52 **scheduling changes)**

53 **a. Brief of Face to Face meeting in Cornwall – 18 December**

54 The Communications Committee (CC) met in Cornwall on 18 December to discuss a number of
55 recommendations made by ECO strategy summarizing the Board's communications activities
56 throughout the 2017 event. Several recommendations came out of the meeting:

57 1. A seasonal newsletter that could be used to communicate a variety of information to
58 the public that is pertinent to the current conditions.

59 **Action Item: CC to ensure that appropriate politicians and staffers are**
60 **included on the newsletter distribution.**

61 2. An updated Social Media Strategy that would reduce the level of effort required to
62 maintain the Facebook page.

63 3. An updated strategy to build relationships with various stakeholders during non-
64 crisis periods.

65 4. An updated strategy that streamlines the review process for producing media

66 releases. This strategy involves the CC distributing topline messages to the Board
67 on a regular basis and the Board approves the messages. Then the CC leads draft of
68 the media release and the CC approves it, then it is translated and released within 24
69 hours of approval. The Board was asked to approve this strategy and consensus
70 approval was given.

71 **b. Public Outreach Activities / Brief of FB Activity**

72 Board members were presented with the outreach activities recorded during the reporting period.
73 Any activities not presented were requested to be submitted to the Board Secretaries.

74 **Action Item: Board members to submit any missing public outreach activities to Board**
75 **Secretaries.**

76 Facebook support was widely discussed. The Board raised the question of the need for analytical
77 data of people visiting the Board's Facebook page. It was noted that Mr. Kornacki provided
78 some analytic data to the CC. The Board discussed methods for filtering comments and
79 identifying common threads that need to be addressed. The concern was raised that the current
80 strategy for Facebook support is unsustainable and a new strategy must be developed and
81 implemented. It was noted that there is an existing IJC social media guidance document
82 developed in 2010 that can be used for reference, but that it is in need of updating.

83 **Action Items:**

84 **Several staff and members will hold a call next week to discuss updating the social media**
85 **strategy.**

86 **US Secretary to work with new Public Affairs Specialist and IJC Social Media Advisor to**
87 **draft a new social media strategy, then schedule a call with interested members of the CC**
88 **to move the proposed strategy forward for approval by the CC and ultimately board**
89 **approval.**

90 **c. Brief of meeting with Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations**

91 Mr. Hudon provided a brief overview of the 19 November meeting and general takeaways.
92 Discussion followed on the tone and takeaways from the meeting. The Board raised the point
93 that the agenda was set by Mr. Cliff Steinburg from the Ault Island Community Association and
94 he ran the meeting, which created some difficulty in communicating the Board's key messages.
95 The Board discussed scheduling a spring meeting with the same group of stakeholders. The
96 Board also discussed potential other formats for the meeting such as an open house format.

97 **Action Item: CC to set date for spring open house and identify individuals who can attend**
98 **on the next CC call.**

99 **Mr. Aubry-Morin to share notes from secondary meetings hosted by Seaway Corporation**
100 **officials and Great Lakes Pilotage Authorities.**

101 **d. Website content needing updates (learning modules, FAQs, etc.)**

102 Board Members were informed of outdated material on the Board’s website and a discussion on
103 who could develop updated content followed.

104 **Action Item: The CC was tasked with identifying new messaging for the website and**
105 **ensuring the appropriate Board associates were involved in developing the new content.**

106 **e. Update on communications strategy for spring 2019**

107 The Board was updated on the communications strategy for the spring and reiterated the new
108 media release strategy discussed in agenda item 7a. A news release was published on 4 March
109 stressing that high outflows continue to be released.

110 **8 Power Entity Updates**

111 2019 marks the 60th Anniversary of NYPA and OPG and 2018 was the highest production year
112 on record. When Long Sault Dam was operated in 2015, it was the first time since 1998,
113 highlighting the need for implementing an automation project at Long Sault to facilitate the
114 expected need for more frequent operations at that structure.

115 **a. Status of NYPA/ OPG Generation Rejection Communication Plan**

116 The NYPA generation rejection (GR) communication plan, “Notification of STL Gen Rejection
117 during 765kV outage October 22, 2018”, was presented to the Board by the OAG’s NYPA
118 representative. The plan was developed with coordination between the Seaway, OPG, NYPA,
119 and the Board’s Regulation Representatives. A standard operating procedure is now in place
120 which requires notification of the Seaway, OPG, the Vessel Control Center, and the OAG once
121 the generation rejection system is armed. This has happened once since the implementation of
122 the plan in October 2018. It was also noted that the GR system is not a new protection system,
123 and has been employed in the past in New York and in Ontario.

124 **9 GLAM Committee**

125 The Board was briefed on the current Committee’s membership changes including the vacancy

126 of the US Co-chair, the new appointment to the EPA vacancy, and the temporary acting member
127 for the NOAA vacancy.

128 **a. 2017 Annual Report – fallout/ outstanding questions**

129 The IJC released the GLAM report on November 29, 2018 and made it available on the GLAM
130 Committee’s website. The report received some minor US attention but overall not a lot of
131 feedback. The IJC is currently reaching out to state and provincial officials to see if there is
132 interest in receiving a presentation-style briefing on the report.

133 **b. FY19 work plan status/ briefing of February GLAM meeting**

134 The GLAM Committee provided a brief summary of the work plan items relevant to the Board’s
135 priorities and interests. The Board was informed of the ongoing development of the 12-year
136 strategy in conjunction with the Committee’s directive to perform a 15-year review of the
137 regulation plan. The strategy will include a review and update of the performance indicators,
138 development of targeted hydroclimate initiatives to aid in assessment of regulation, and decision
139 process strategy linked to a trade-off analysis. The Committee would like the opportunity to
140 engage more closely with the Board on this process and proposed a workshop-type meeting with
141 GLAM Committee members and Board members to develop a dialogue about the 12-year
142 strategy.

143 **Action Item: Schedule a half day workshop with the Board and the GLAM Committee in
144 conjunction with the September Board meetings.**

145 The Committee also briefed the Board on work plan items associated with wetland monitoring
146 and modeling, the shoreline property owners survey, the Lake Ontario Shoreline protection
147 structure survey, and the marina/ yacht club and municipal and industrial (M&I) surveys.

148 **Action Item: GLAM Committee to ensure the Board is included on all future Committee
149 meeting invites.**

150 **Action Item: GLAM Committee to ensure Mr. Tony David is invited to the wetland
151 monitoring meeting or teleconference.**

152 **Action Item: GLAM Committee to provide a list of M&I requesters to Ms. Patricia Clavet.**

153 **c. Discussion on GLAM priorities for Board initiatives**

154 The Board discussed the priorities on which they wanted the GLAM Committee to focus. The
155 impacts of low Lake St. Lawrence levels were highlighted and the Committee said they will be
156 executing plan evaluation model simulations on varying scenarios for communicating the
157 impacts of different regulatory strategies on the system. The Board discussed the potential

158 applications of the 12-year strategy development and how it could help the Board with
159 understanding and communicating the GLAM Committee's work initiatives as it relates to the
160 regulation plan evaluation. There was overall support from the Board to have the Committee
161 provide some topline communication messages to aid them in communicating the GLAM
162 Committee's initiatives and how they support the Board's priorities. The Board enquired about a
163 newsletter to communicate the findings of the shoreline surveys.

164 **Action Item: CC and GLAM Committee to develop topline GLAM messages for the**
165 **Board's use.**

166 **Action Item: GLAM Committee to distribute the shoreline survey results summary**
167 **document for Board review.**

168 **d. June 2019 meeting**

169 The GLAM Committee will be meeting in the Buffalo, NY area in June to move along the 12-
170 year strategy and develop its FY20 work plan. When the meeting details are finalized invites
171 will be circulated to the Board.

172 **10 Semi-Annual Report update**

173 The US Secretary provided a status report of the 131st Semi- annual report to the IJC. The draft
174 report was distributed to Board members on March 1st, 2019 with incomplete data from February
175 2019. The updated draft will be distributed within 2 weeks to allow Board members a 2-week
176 review period. The finalized version of the semi-annual report will be submitted to the IJC prior
177 to May 1st, 2019.

178 Canadian Section staff will prepare the spring reports in the future, while the US Section staff
179 will prepare the Fall reports.

180 **11 Other Business**

181 **a. Seaway communications and recent teleconferences**

182 The Board was briefed on the calls between the Seaway Officials and the Board's Secretaries
183 and Regulation Representatives. Some Board members expressed disappointment about the lack
184 of full Board membership inclusion on those teleconferences.

185 **i. Decision criteria for opening and closing dates**

186 The decision criteria used in selecting dates for the Seaway opening and closing were
187 communicated to the Board for their reference. Seaway officials indicated that the Seaway
188 opening date had been changed twice and that tentatively it is set for March 26th, 2019. Board

189 members expressed concerns that there is less flexibility in the closing dates and this creates a
190 risk for ice jam influenced flooding with the onset of early rapid ice set up. Ice formation
191 impacts the ability to dip gates at Iroquois Dam and ice jam risk can become considerable by the
192 end of December. Discussion followed on the Seaways coordination efforts and the multiple
193 factors considered when setting the closing date, including the risk for ice onset. Seaway
194 officials indicated that the agency responsible for managing ice jam risk was the Coast Guard,
195 and proposed a coordination call with the Board, Seaway and Coast Guard. Board members
196 expressed concern that Hydropower authorities should also be involved as they manage the
197 installation and removal of ice booms. Concerns were raised that the Coast Guard's ability to
198 break up ice jams upstream of the dam does not alleviate the risk of ice jam flooding because that
199 ice would just be moved downstream to be caught by the power dam, impacting operations and
200 essentially moving the areas at risk of flooding. Board members stated that changes in the system
201 need to be considered moving forward and the previous decision-making model may be
202 inadequate to address the changes in conditions. A meeting was proposed to discuss how to
203 reconcile the communications and better evaluate the risk of flooding in the future as part of the
204 decision making process.

205 **Action Item: Schedule a meeting at the end of summer/ early fall timeframe for interested**
206 **Board members and Seaway officials to reconcile the changing conditions within the system**
207 **and how to potentially address ice jam flooding risk in a more proactive way.**

208 **b. April/ October meetings – before or after Appearances**

209 The Board discussed the potential pros and cons for holding the Board meeting directly after the
210 IJC Appearances as opposed to directly before the Appearances. The Board decided that they
211 wished to keep the meeting scheduled prior to the Appearances.

212 **c. Fall Board meeting: September 17-19, 2019 in Burlington, ON**

213 The originally proposed dates of September 17-19 for the Board meetings was not feasible due to
214 a travel scheduling conflict. The meetings were moved to September 24-26 with the ILO-SLRB
215 meeting on September 25th, and the GLAM Committee workshop on September 24th.

216 **d. ECCC Support of Boards**

217 The Canadian Co-Chair relayed the discussion she had with a Director at ECCC and reiterated
218 that there is broad Departmental support for the IJC and the Great Lakes Boards mission.
219 Thereby, the Department tangentially supports the need for overtime expenses paid to ECCC
220 staff in the Cornwall office associated with flow-change facilitations and coordination as

221 required by the regulation plan and IJC Order and Directives. This Director and the Cornwall
222 manager will discuss overtime requirements offline.

223 **e. Seaway update**

224 A Seaway official provided an update about changes within the St. Lawrence Seaway
225 Management Corporation. Support to the Board and its Operations Advisory Group will
226 continue, but from the Operations side.

227 An update on the current status of Seaway initiatives was provided to the Board. The existing
228 Ocean Protection Plan maintained by Transport Canada was referenced as the plan that ensures
229 the Seaway Corporation's decision-making process is transparent. Transport Canada is looking
230 for ways to engage in commercial navigation studies and should be followed up with if the Board
231 is notified of the implementation of any such studies.

232 **12 Action Item Review**

233 The Canadian Secretary reviewed the pertinent action items raised during the meeting as
234 previously noted above.

235 **13 Closing remarks and adjourn**

236 On Monday, Mr. Tony David will be promoted to Director of the Environment Division at the St.
237 Regis Mohawk Tribe, Akwesasne. The Executive Director of the Tribe supports Mr. David
238 continuing as a US Board member.

239 The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

240

241 **INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD**

242 **Board Meeting 6 March 2019 – 9:00 am to 4:30 pm**

243 **Marriott Syracuse Downtown – Empire Room 10th floor**

244 **100 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202**

245 **Teleconference: 1-877-336-1839 /Access Code: 5162099 /Security Code: 2552**

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

247 **AGENDA**

- 249 1. Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives [Durrett] 9:00 am
- 250 2. Approval of Agenda [Durrett] 9:10 am
- 251 3. Previous Action Items [Carmichael] 9:15 am
- 252 4. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Schiffeler Koralewski]* 9:30 am
- 253 a) Regulation Overview
- 254 **BREAK (15 min) 10:30 am**
- 255 5. Gauging Committee [McNiven Koralewski]* 10:45 am
- 256 a) Status of 2017 and 2018 reports
- 257 b) 2019 scheduled inspection activities/Precision Survey update
- 258 6. IJC/Board Website administrative access status [Carmichael] 11:15 am
- 259 **Lunch (1 hour) 11:30 am**
- 260 7. Communication Committee [Hudon, Company, Carmichael, Caldwell] 12:30 pm
- 261 a) Brief of Face to Face meeting in Cornwall- 18 December
- 262 b) Public Outreach Activities/ Brief of FB activity
- 263 c) Brief of meeting with Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations
- 264 d) Website content needing updates (learning modules, FAQs, etc.)
- 265 e) Update on communications strategy for spring 2019
- 266 8. Power Entity updates [Davis, Wagner] 1:30 pm
- 267 a) Status of NYPA/OPG Generation Rejection communication plan
- 268 9. GLAM Committee [Leger, Carmichael] 2:00 pm
- 269 a) 2017 Annual Report – fallout/ outstanding questions
- 270 b) FY19 work plan status/ briefing of February GLAM meeting
- 271 c) Discussion on GLAM priorities for Board initiatives
- 272 d) June 2019 Meeting
- 273 **BREAK (15 min) 3:00 pm**
- 274 10. Semi- Annual Report update [Carmichael] 3:15 pm
- 275 11. Other Business [Carmichael/ Caldwell] 3:30 pm
- 276 a) Seaway Communications and recent teleconferences
- 277 (1) Decision criteria for opening and closing dates
- 278 b) April/October meetings – before or after Appearance?
- 279 c) Fall Board meeting: September 17-19, 2019 in Burlington, ON
- 280 d) ECCC Support of the Board [Bechard]*
- 281 e) Seaway update to Board [Aubrey-Morin]*
- 282 12. Action Item Review [Caldwell] 4:00 pm
- 283 13. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Durrett] 4:20 pm

284

285 *- denotes agenda item revised or added during Approval of Agenda