

1                                   **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

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3                                   Minutes of the March 25, 2014 Meeting  
4                                   Detroit, MI

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8 COL Peterson called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm in a conference room of the US  
9 Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District. Those in attendance were:

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UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

COL R. Peterson, Alt. Co-Chair  
Mr. W. Allerton

Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair  
Ms. J. Keyes

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SECRETARIES

Mr. J. Kangas

Mr. C. Southam

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13                                   WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES

14                   LTC O. Beaudoin  
15                   Mr. J. Allis  
16                   Ms. C. Fisher  
17                   Ms. L. Gale  
18                   Mr. K. Kompoltowicz  
19                   Mr. K. McCune  
20                   Mr. J. Oyler  
21                   Mr. J. Scungio (phone)  
22                   Mr. E. Tauriainen  
23                   Mr. P. Yu

Dr. F. Seglenieks  
Mr. P. Kowalski  
Mr. D. Beach (phone)  
Ms. J. Fooks (phone)  
Mr. D. Stevenson (phone)

24                                   OTHERS

25                   Mr. J. Babb, IJC  
26                   Dr. M. Colosimo, IJC  
27                   Mr. K. Grode, USACE  
28                   Ms. L. Pollack, IJC

Mr. D. Fay, IJC  
Ms. W. Leger, EC (phone)  
Mr. G. Walker, IJC  
Mr. R. Caldwell, EC  
Mr. J. Bruxer, EC

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30  
31 **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

32 The Board approved the agenda as distributed (Encl 1).  
33

34 **Item 2. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions**

35                   Mr. Yu provided the Board with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin  
36 supplies for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Precipitation over the Lake Erie basin

37 and the net basin supplies were near average for the September 2013 – February 2014  
38 period. The Lakes Michigan-Huron level is about a foot higher than a year earlier, but is  
39 expected to stay below average for the next 6 months. Levels are expected to rise and  
40 stay above chart datum by early spring. Lake Erie outflows were near average during  
41 the September 2013 – February 2014 period. Currently, Lake Erie’s water level is about  
42 5 cm (2 in) below average. The latest 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Erie’s level  
43 will likely remain near average through the summer.

44

45 **Item 3. Review of Ice Season Activities and Conditions**

46 The Board was provided a summary of the 2013-2014 ice season to date.  
47 Under the Commission’s 1999 Supplementary Order of Approval, installation of the  
48 boom’s spans may begin when the Lake Erie water temperature at Buffalo reaches 4 °C  
49 (39 °F) or on December 16, whichever comes first. This ice season, installation began  
50 on December 14 and was completed on December 20. The water temperature reached  
51 4 °C (39 °F) on December 8.

52 This ice season, the areal coverage on Lake Erie peaked at about 96%, with ice  
53 thicknesses greater than average. Ice coverage on the other Great Lakes was also  
54 greater than average, with the second highest coverage reported since the early 1970s.  
55 There were no ice boom breakages, although the chains holding several pontoons in  
56 place did break, leaving them trailing. Due to the large amount of ice on Lake Erie at  
57 the time of the Board meeting it was apparent that there would not be less than 250  
58 square miles of ice on April 1. The Board agreed to send a letter to the IJC that the  
59 boom would not be opened by April 1, and to issue a press release to that effect. The  
60 Board further agreed to monitor ice coverage by satellite imagery until the ice in the  
61 eastern portion of the basin had reduced to about 75% coverage. Thereafter, fixed-  
62 wing observations would be used in the customary manner.

63

64 **Item 4. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

65 Mr. Kowalski discussed the operation and maintenance of the Chippawa-Grass  
66 Island Pool (CGIP) Control Structure during the reporting period. Several gate outages  
67 were experienced for repairs. A resolution to the structural issues identified earlier with  
68 the bridge decking over the control structure is still being determined by engineering  
69 consultants. Due to the load restrictions, cofferdams need to be moved by work barge  
70 during the open water season.

71

72           During and immediately after the ice event on January 6-8, extensive ice  
73 breaking operations were required. It was noted that ice was drawn into the new intake,  
74 but may not have been drawn into and through the tunnel. The levels and fluctuations  
75 as measured at the Material Dock Gauge were within the Board's tolerances.

76           Mr. Southam reported that a review of the Board's Directive for operation of the  
77 Chippawa-Grass Island Pool is continuing. Proposed minor clarifications, such as  
78 renumbering, are expected to be tabled for Board discussion at the Fall meeting.  
79

#### 80 **Item 5. Review discharge measurement programs**

81           Mr. Tauriainen reported on the discharge measurement programs. Measure-  
82 ments were taken in late October and early November 2013 at the Ashland Avenue  
83 location. Measured flows agreed well with the updated Ashland Avenue rating. Due to  
84 high winds, however, flows were not able to be measured at and near the bottom end of  
85 the outflow ranges. Additional measurements are being considered, possibly during the  
86 summer to allow for longer working hours. The Board was informed that the INC may  
87 need to send a letter to the Power Entities to request their cooperation maintaining  
88 steady flows during the measurements. It was noted that flows near the Treaty  
89 minimum have not been successfully made since 2007.

90           Flows were also made at the Welland Canal intake weir in September 2013.  
91 The report is being finalized. Next regularly scheduled measurements at the standard  
92 sections are scheduled for 2015.

93           The revision to the Buffalo rating is being finalized by the Working Committee. A  
94 report is expected to be sent to the Board this spring.

95

#### 96 **Item 6. OPG Tunnel Operation**

97           Ms. Frain reported on the tunnel status. The tunnel is working well and a  
98 performance test confirmed that it is operating according to design. This issue will be  
99 dropped from future agendas.

100

#### 101 **Item 7. 2014 Meeting with the Public**

102           The Board discussed the preliminary plans for the 2014 annual meeting with the  
103 public. The Niagara Board will combine a face-to-face meeting with a webinar and  
104 teleconference. The timing of the event will coincide with either a Working Committee  
105 or Board meeting, depending on the venue of the fall Board meeting, which is yet to be  
106 determined.

107

108 **Item 8. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report**

109 The Board was requested to provide comments to either Secretary by the end of  
110 the week (March 28). An advance copy of the report will be sent to the Commission  
111 electronically by April 11.

112

113 **Item 9. Other Business**

114 **a. Adaptive Management** Ms. Leger briefed the Board by telephone and  
115 webinar on the work of the Adaptive Management Task Team that she co-chaired with  
116 Ms. Deborah H. Lee of the Corps of Engineers. She also discussed the efforts since the  
117 Task Team completed its work in late January. The IJC is looking for letters of support  
118 from the Control Boards for the concept of adaptive management and to confirm on-going  
119 support from the agencies supporting the Boards. A single AM Committee that supports  
120 all three Great Lakes Boards of Control would be stood up by the Boards of Control. A  
121 letter to this effect will be sent to the IJC on behalf of all three Boards will be sent by the  
122 U.S. Chair. This will be sent prior to the April Appearances. It was noted that resources  
123 (fiscal and personnel) need to be carefully considered.

124 **b. Ice boom 5-year review** Mr. Kangas noted that the IJC asked the Board to  
125 review the operation of the ice boom every 5 years and provide any recommendations to  
126 the IJC. The next assessment is due at about the time of the Fall Board meeting. The  
127 Working Committee was tasked with this effort and will provide a draft response for the  
128 Board to consider.

129 **c. Response to US Representative Higgins letter** Mr. Kangas noted that a  
130 local Congressman had written to the IJC about the January 6-8 ice event. The IJC has  
131 asked the Board to respond. The Working Committee, Secretaries, and Power Entities  
132 had cooperated in developing a response. It was noted that the ice boom performed as  
133 intended, the event was within the design parameters, the ice breaking was accomplished  
134 with the existing equipment, and only minor flooding of a road resulted from the event.  
135 The flood warning was issued in a timely manner. No further response has been  
136 received from the Congressman's office. LTC Beaudoin noted that the issue did not  
137 come up during a recent visit to the Congressman's office.

138 **d. American Falls Bridges** Mr. Yu reported on the progress of plans for the  
139 rehabilitation of existing or construction of new bridges across the American Falls  
140 channel. Representatives of the Corps' Buffalo District had met recently with the design  
141 consultant, who was seeking bathymetric and other data. The Board will be kept  
142 informed of the bridge project's status.

143           **e. Temporary gauge at MoM** Ms. Frain reported that Ontario Power Generation  
144 installed a temporary water level gauge at the Maid-of-the-Mist dockage area last year.  
145 The gauge is expected to be operable again this year. Following this season, a  
146 relationship to the Ashland Avenue gauge may be developed.

147           **f. Falls recession** Dr. Seglenieks updated the Board on monitoring the Falls  
148 crest for rock movement. He noted that a portion of the crest had fallen on October 2,  
149 2013 close to the previous rock fall. An area of about 60 square metres fell.

150           **g. Welland River Watershed** The Board was updated on the Welland River  
151 issue. The Board will be updated at future meetings.

152           **h. Website and FAQs** Mr. Southam updated the Board on the new web site,  
153 also hosted by the IJC. Environment Canada will develop FAQs and these will be  
154 reviewed by the Working Committee prior to being sent to the Board for approval and  
155 posting.

156 **Item 10. Next Board meeting and IJC appearance**

157           The Board noted that its Appearance with the IJC is scheduled for the morning of  
158 April 30; the Reception is that evening. The next Board meeting is yet to be  
159 determined, but will likely be in the Toronto-Burlington-Niagara Falls region.

160           The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL  
MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2014

Approved Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Update on Lake Erie/ Niagara River Conditions
3. Review of ice season activities and conditions
4. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update
  - a. Operations during reporting period
  - b. Maintenance issues
  - c. Review of Directive
5. Review discharge measurements program
  - a. Welland Canal
  - b. Niagara River
  - c. Buffalo rating equation
  - d. Fort Erie rating equation
6. OPG Tunnel Operation
7. 2014 Meeting with the Public
  - a. Date, venue, and format
8. Review of 122<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Annual Progress Report

Break

9. Other business
  - a. Adaptive Management (Leger)
  - b. Ice Boom 5-year review
  - c. Response to US Representative Higgins letter
  - d. American Falls Bridges
  - e. Temporary MoM Gauge
  - f. Falls Recession
  - g. Welland River Watershed
  - h. Website and FAQ's
10. Next meeting and IJC appearance