

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the March 5, 2015 Meeting
Buffalo Federal Building, Room 426
130 S. Elmwood Ave Buffalo, NY 14202

BG Kaiser called the meeting to order at 1300. Those in attendance were:

<u>UNITED STATES</u>		<u>CANADA</u>
<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>		
BG R. Kaiser, Co-Chair Mr. W. Allerton		Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair Ms. J. Keyes
<u>SECRETARIES</u>		
Mr. A. Heer (Alt)		Absent
<u>WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES</u>		
LTC K. Jansen Mr. E. Tauriainen Ms. L. Gale (ph) Mr. J. Oyler (ph) Mr. J. Scungio (ph) Ms. C. Fisher Mr. K. Koralewski Mr. J. Allis		Dr. F. Seglenieks Mr. J. Frain Ms. J. Fooks
<u>OTHERS</u>		
Ms. D. Glance, IJC Dr. M. Colosimo, IJC (ph) Mr. D. Gronewold Mr. Stephen Durrett		Mr. Walker, IJC Ms. W. Leger, EC Mr. D. Fay

Item 1. Introductions

BG Kaiser began the meetings with introductions.

Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved with changes.

Item 3. Status of Prior Action Items

Previous actions items were marked as complete.

Item 4. Review of September 2014 Minutes

Chair Thompson will coordinate comments on minutes with Mr. Beach.

Item 5. Update on Lake Erie Niagara River Conditions

Mr. Koralewski provided the Board with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies for Lake Erie and the Niagara River:

- Monthly Lake Erie water levels began September above average and remained above average through February
- Lake Erie received below average precipitation (81% of the average)
- Lake Erie Net Basin Supplies were above average
- Lake Michigan-Huron levels were above average
- As a result of above average water levels of lake Michigan-Huron, inflow to Lake Erie via the Detroit River was 6.7% above the long term average.
- The outflow from Lake Erie via the Niagara River was about 5% above average from September through February.

Item 6. Ice Boom

- a. Installation- Ice boom installation began December 15th and was completed December 16th. On January 9th potential breaks in the boom were reported and breaks were confirmed. The ice boom was fully repaired by January 18th.
- b. Status of Ice – Mr. Koralewski reported significant ice formation took place from January 28 – February 5. By March 2 Lake Erie was almost completely covered. It was noted that the ice cover was similar to last year.
- c. Ice Measurements – Mr. Koralewski gave an overview of the ice measurements that took place on February 13. The next measurement is scheduled for March 13.
- d. Ice Boom Webpage – An ice boom webpage was created this year. The Board plans to post weekly updates regarding the status of the ice boom, ice measurement dates, and any pertinent data.
- e. Procedural Guide – Dr. Seglenieks reported the Procedural Guide was last developed in 1984 and may be out of date. An update to the Procedural Guide was proposed and will be in-progress.

Item 7. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update

The Board was provided a summary of the operation and maintenance of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool (CGIP) and International Niagara Control Works (INCW).

- a. Operations during reporting period

During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within all of the criteria indicated in the 1993 Directive.

- The accumulated deviation of the CGIP's level from March 1, 1973 through February 28, 2015 was +0.37 metre-months (+1.2 foot-months) above the long-term operational average elevation. The maximum permissible accumulated deviation is +0.91 metre-months (+3.0 foot-months).
 - There were no months in the reporting period that the change in the monthly mean from one month to the next exceeded 0.15 metres
 - The maximum range of fluctuation in the pool level during a calendar did not exceed 0.46 metres.
 - Daily maximum or minimum CGIP levels were not exceeded.
- b. Maintenance issues - The scaffold and work platforms are being constructed in order to install steel brackets beneath each span to provide added support to the corbel ledge of each pier. This work is being undertaken to address a problem with suspect corbel ledge supports and the identified failure mechanism. The project will include every pier/span of the INCW and is expected to continue until December 2016.
- c. Flow violations since last meeting – No flow violations have occurred.

Item 8. Review of Discharge Measurements Program

- a. Niagara River and Welland Canal - Flow measurements in the Niagara River are scheduled for April 27th – May 1st at the International Railway bridge and Welland Canal.
- b. Cableway Report – The latest data set was presented. The report has been distributed to the Coordinating Committee for review and will be distributed to the Board following the meeting.
- c. Fort Erie Rating Equation - A recommendation to revise the equation was proposed. Work on this is ongoing by the Working Committee.

Item 9. Meeting with the Public

The next public meeting will be in conjunction with the Working Committee meeting on the Canadian side. Teleconference capabilities will be available.

Item 10 Other Business

- a. Great Lakes AM Committee Updates – Ms. Leger presented information from the GLAM Committee first face to face meeting. Mr. McCune absent due to illness. Gave an overview of various products the GLAM hopes to develop including communication, information management, risk management, and evaluation tool management strategies. Developing a work plan is a priority for the fall meeting. Tri-annual reporting due 2017.
- b. Semi Annual Reporting Cycle – It was suggested the Board moved to a fixed reporting period. This item was not discussed.
- c. FAQ – The Board will aim to have a FAQ page posted on the website prior to the IJC Appearances.
- d. International Gauging Stations – Chair Thompson gave a presentation on the designation of International Gauging Stations. Preliminary discussion took place that the Great Lakes Gauges were not designated as IGS. Currently NOAA and the power entities operate all Niagara River gauges. Board would like to investigate the possibility of IGS designation.
- e. American Falls Bridge Project – Mr. Koralewski gave an update to the project. Two pedestrian bridges crossing the American Falls Channel from Prospect Park to Green Island and from Green Island to Goat Island are proposed to be repaired by New York State Parks. Construction activities may be of concern to the Board. The IJC, USACE Regulatory are currently involved and EC will attend the next meeting. IJC and Board may be asked to review the project plans. The Board will continue to monitor this project.
- f. Welland River – Ms. Frain reported the Conservation Authority will be revisiting the floodplain mapping work on the Welland River.

Item 9. Review of Action Items

- Secretaries will prepare a letter to the Commission stating the ice boom will not be opened by April 1st.
- Content of ice boom page will be discussed
- Mr. Tauriainen will distribute Cableway report to the Board
- Secretaries will distribute details of the next public meeting.
- FAQs to be posted to Board website prior to IJC Appearances
- Secretaries will submit Semi-Annual Report to IJC by April 1st.

Item 10. Closing Remarks

BG Kaiser made closing remarks. Meeting adjourned at 1510.

**INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL
MEETING**

March 5, 2015

1300– 1515 hours

Buffalo Federal Building,
130 S. Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202
Room 426

(See Call and WebEx Information Below)

Final Agenda

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|---|------------|
| 1. Introductions | 1300--1305 |
| 2. Approval of agenda | 1305-1310 |
| 3. Status of Prior Actions Items | 1310-1315 |
| 4. Review September 2014 Minutes | 1315-1320 |
| 5. Update on Lake Erie/ Niagara River Conditions (Koralewski) | 1320-1330 |
| 6. Ice Boom | 1330-1350 |
| a. Installation | |
| b. Status of Ice | |
| c. 2015 Ice Thickness Measurements | |
| d. Ice Boom Web Page | |
| e. Procedural Guide | |
| 7. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update | 1350-1410 |
| a. Operations during reporting period | |
| b. Maintenance issues | |
| c. Falls flow violations since last meeting | |
| 8. Review discharge measurements program | 1410-1420 |
| a) Niagara River and Welland Canal | |
| b) Cableway Report | |
| c) Fort Erie Rating Equation | |
| 9. Meeting with the Public | 1420-1430 |
| 10. Other business | 1430-1500 |

- a. Adaptive Management
- b. Semi Annual Report and Reporting Cycle
- c. FAQ's
- d. International Gauging Stations

11. Review of Action Items	1500-1505
12. Next meeting and IJC appearance	1505-1510
13. Closing remarks and Adjourn	1510-1515