

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

2
3 Minutes of the March 23, 2022 Meeting
4 (Virtual Meeting)

5
6 Mr. McCune called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Those in attendance were:

7
8
9

UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Kyle McCune, Alt. Chair
Mr. David Capka, Member

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

SECRETARIES

Mr. B. Carmichael

Mr. D. Beach

WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES

Ms. L. Schifferle, USACE

Mr. H. Ahmad, ECCC

Ms. C. Fisher, USACE

Mr. K. Kornelson, OPG

Mr. J. Allis, USACE

Mr. S. Frick, SMC

Mr. M. McClerren, USACE

Dr. E. Jamieson, ECCC

Mr. K. Koralewski, USACE

Mr. M. Asklar, NYPA

Mr. A. Armstrong, USACE

OTHER

Mr. N. Heisler, IJC

Ms. E. Klyszejko, IJC

Ms. L. Greer, USACE

Ms. C. Cho, ECCC

26 **Item 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions**

27 Introductions were conducted. All Board members and secretaries were in attendance. Dr.
28 Jamieson was acting for Ms. Fooks as ECCC member of the Working Committee for this meeting.
29

30 **Item 2. Approval of Agenda**

31 The agenda was approved by the Board.
32

33 **Item 3. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes.**

34 Board approved posting of previous meetings minutes.
35

36 **Item 4. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River Conditions**

37 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies for Lake
38 Erie and the Niagara River. The level of Lake Erie was above average throughout the reporting
39 period. It began the reporting period with a September mean level at 48 cm (18.9 inches) above its
40 1918–2020 period-of-record long-term average level for the month. Between September and
41 February, the monthly mean lake level on average lost 25 cm (9.8 inches), which is more than the
42 average lake declines of 18 cm (7.4 inches) during this period. Lake Erie levels ended the reporting
43 period with February mean water level 41 cm (16.1 inches) above average.

44 Niagara River flows at Buffalo were well above average during the reporting period months. Flows
45 ranged from 7,150 m³/s (244,700 cfs) to 6,550 m³/s (231,300 cfs) due to above average levels on
46 Lake Erie.

47 Overall, precipitation on the Lake Erie basin was dryer than average for the reporting period, with
48 the basin receiving 43.9 cm (17.3 inches) of precipitation from September 2021 through February
49 2022, which is approximately 6.8 percent above average for the period.
50

51 **Item 5. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom**

52 **a) 2021-22 installation and maintenance update**

53 NYPA requested the flexibility to begin boom installation as early as 10 December to
54 accommodate any impacts from COVID-19 related delays. The board concurred that allowing
55 for early installation of the boom would best serve the public interest and in turn requested
56 the IJC to consider issuing a Supplementary Order of Approval to allow NYPA to begin early
57 boom installation. The IJC reviewed and approved the request for installation to begin as
58 early as December 10, 2021. Installation of the boom began on December 10 by attaching the
59 ice boom pontoons to the buoy barrels on Lake Erie beginning from the Canadian side. A
60 hardware failure required repair, and then high winds and waves slowed installation, with
61 crews unable to work on the water due to safety. NYPA crews were able to resume pontoon
62 installation on December 14 and installed the twelve remaining spans of the boom by the end
63 of day.

64 **b) Status of 2020-21 Ice Boom Report**

65 The 2020-21 Ice Boom Report has just begun to be drafted and first draft will be circulated
66 for comment in June.
67

68 **c) Helicopter/ Fixed wing flight**

69 Based on rapid spring thaw, it was determined that no ice flight was necessary this spring.
70 Improved satellite technology has facilitated the analysis of remote imagery to assess the
71 extent of ice cover through the spring. This technology has made traditional methods of ice
72

73 cover assessment such as aerial observation less crucial and possibly even outdated and
74 unnecessary. The Board requested an analysis of the benefit of continuing with traditional
75 methods or moving to a wholly remote analysis for determining future spring ice cover and
76 appropriate dates for removal of the ice boom.

77
78 **Action Item: INWC to prepare an analysis of moving wholly to remote analysis of the ice**
79 **sheet in spring to replace the legacy method of aerial survey.**
80

81 **Item 6. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

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

84 **a) Compliance to directive**

85 The water level in the CGIP is regulated in accordance with the Board's 1993 Directive.
86 During the reporting period tolerances for regulation of the CGIP were suspended on a number
87 of occasions for ice, and abnormally high flows during the reporting period. There were five ilce
88 suspensions in January and 13 in February. Suspensions for abnormally high flows occurred
89 twice in November, four times in December, and twice in January. Tolerances were also
90 suspended for emergency or rescues on September 6 and 7th, October 11th and 12th,
91 November 15th and 16th, and December 8th and 9th.
92

93 **b) Operations and maintenance**

94 The Board was provided an update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,
95 International Niagara Control Works (INCW) outages, and INCW environmental issues.
96 Operations of the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting period. No
97 extraordinary circumstances were noted and the Board had no questions or issues with
98 the update.
99

00 **Item 7. Falls Flow Violations**

01 During this reporting period, there were no flow violations and flows over Niagara Falls did not
02 fall below the minimum Treaty requirements.
03

04 **Item 8. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing**

05 **a) OPG** – COVID-19 restrictions have impacted maintenance schedules and all scheduling
06 projections are subject to changes. OPG is continuing a unit rehabilitation program
07 which began in 2007. The Sir Adam Beck 1 (SAB 1) G10 Gibson Report was finalized and
08 reviewed by NYPA in summer 2021, and was submitted for approval in September 2021.
09 The SAB 1 G5 unit overhaul is complete and the unit has returned to service.

10 **b) NYPA** – NYPA continues to improve the Lewiston Pump Generating Plant. PG2
11 brought back into service in January 2022 after completion of motor generator
12 work. Work on PG5 and PG7 still remains to be done and is expected to be
13 completed in the first quarter of 2023. Work on PG5 commenced on February 1,
14 2022.
15

16 **Item 9. Review discharge measurement programs**

- 17 a. Overall Schedule - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all measurements across
18 border were postponed for 2021. Measurements were re-scheduled for 2022.
- 19 b. International Railway Bridge (Buffalo and Fort Erie) – last done in 2018, re-scheduled
20 for week of 4 April 2022
- 21 c. Welland Canal – last completed in December 2021, scheduled for 2024
- 22 d. Ashland Avenue Rating Section – last done in September 2019

- e. American Falls- Last measured in May 20017, scheduled for week of May 23, 2022.
- f. Lower Niagara Index Velocity Gauge – ongoing measurements several times annually.

Item 10. 2021 Public Outreach and Engagement

The Board discussed different opportunities to hold an outreach event and it was decided that the Board would coordinate with the other Great Lakes Boards to hold a tri-Board/ IJC webinar sometime in the summer of 2022.

Action Item: Board Secretaries to coordinate dates for public webinar.

Item 11. Review 138th Semi-Annual Progress Report

The first draft was distributed to the Board and comments requested by March 25th. Clean-up and finalization of report will be completed prior to the April IJC Appearances.

Item 12. Other Business

- a) Niagara Inspections update
Item discussed at INC meeting
- b) Ashland Avenue Gauge update
NYPA showed video of inspection dive at new intake pipe of gauge. New gabion protection and extension of intake have eliminated problems with build-up of debris affecting gauge reading reliability. Concluded that repair work has been successful.
- c) Adaptive Management (Carmichael)
The GLAM Committee is currently heavily engaged in the review of Plan 2014 for the ILOSLRB. No GLAM activities ongoing for the INBC.
- d) Falls Recession (Beach/Cho)
New imagery comparison method introduced to the Board. New method clearly shows falls crestline over time and allows for clear comparison of current and past conditions. Imagery analysis indicates there has been no notable recession during reporting period.
- e) American Falls Bridge (Schifferle)
No new updates.
- f) Board website updates (Beach/ Carmichael)
INWC identified FAQs are out of date and need updated.

Action Item: Include Falls Recession comparison slide in IJC Appearances deck

Action Item: Secretaries to update FAQs on Website

Action Item: Secretaries to update website with inclusion of Directive

Item 13. Next Board & INC meetings and IJC Appearance

The next IJC Appearance is currently scheduled for 6 April in Washington DC and virtually. The next Board meeting will be scheduled for September 2022 in person and virtually.

Item 14. Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

International Niagara Board of Control
Board Meeting, 23 March, 2022, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Virtual meeting details below

Agenda

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 2. | Opening Remarks, Introductions | 1:00-1:05 |
| 3. | Approval of Agenda | 1:05-1:10 |
| 4. | Review of Previous Meeting Minutes | 1:10-1:15 |
| 5. | Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions | 1:15-1:25 |
| 6. | Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom | 1:25-1:40 |
| | a) 2021-22 Ice Boom season | |
| | b) Status of 2021-22 Ice Boom Report | |
| | c) Helicopter/Fixed Wing Ice flight considerations | |
| 7. | Chippawa-Grass Island Pool | 1:40-1:55 |
| | a) Compliance to Directive | |
| | b) Operations and maintenance | |
| 8. | Falls flow violations | 1:55-2:00 |
| 9. | Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing | 2:00-2:20 |
| | a) OPG | |
| | b) NYPA | |
| | Break (10 min) | |
| 10. | Review discharge measurements program | 2:30-2:45 |
| | a) Overall Schedule | |
| | b) International Railway Bridge (Buffalo and Fort Erie) | |
| | c) Welland Canal | |
| | d) Ashland Avenue Rating Section | |
| | e) American Falls | |
| | f) Lower Niagara Index Velocity Gauge | |
| 11. | 2022 Public Outreach and Engagement | 2:45-2:55 |
| 12. | Review of 138 th Semi-Annual Progress Report Draft | 2:55-3:00 |
| 13. | Other Business | 3:00-3:20 |
| | a) Niagara Inspections update | |
| | b) Ashland Avenue Gauge update | |
| | c) Adaptive Management | |
| | d) Falls Recession | |
| | e) American Falls Bridge | |
| | f) Board website updates | |
| 14. | Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance | 3:20-3:25 |
| 15. | Closing Remarks and Adjourn | 3:25 |