

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

27 January 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting (in December)
 - i. PowerPoint for PAG meeting to be reviewed by Board for comments and edits – have these complete by Jan. 6
 - ii. Follow up with PAG 2 weeks before meeting asking for questions they have for us (they have been asked this in the initial meeting invite)
 - iii. List of questions that Board members that have for the PAG
 - iv. January 5th – ~1hr Board meeting to prepare for the meeting with the PAG on the 13th, review study plans for 2023 and progress from 2022
 - v. Board – Let Comms. Committee know if you have any thoughts or comments on the creation of documents regarding what the Board does/does not do, water licensing, and water rights (Complete these documents by the end of January)
 - vi. IRG Process document will be cleaned up and sent
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
3. New business for Board action
 - a. PAG meeting follow-up, discussion, action items
 - i. Dave Peterson (US) and Richard Philips (Canada) are new co-chairs
 - ii. PAG members not present were in favour of the co-chairs named, Board also in favour of nominated PAG co-chairs
 - b. Frequency of participation discussion
 - i. What mechanism will we use to invite PAG co-chairs to meetings?
 - ii. Several options have been discussed
 - iii. Governance doc. Outlines PAG interacting primarily with Comms. Committee
 - iv. Board in agreement: PAG to be invited on an as-needed basis
 - c. Terms of Reference document
 - d. PAG appointment letters – update
 - e. TWG results-based master matrix discussion
 - i. Review of output and plans
 - ii. Major tasks sub-divided into specific tasks, resources to do so are listed, dependencies outlined
 - iii. Important: look at the outputs and outcomes, Board to review the document to provide a second set of eyes – want to ensure everyone is on-board with the outputs of the TWG work

- f. Menti Meter results and next step plans
 - i. Review of poll results:
 - 1. Havre, top contender for location of public meeting (Glasgow as an alt.), Lethbridge in Canada
 - 2. Menti meter feedback: worked well, was simple, was fun
 - ii. Doodle poll to be sent out to Board members – first week of May seems to be a potentially good time
 - iii. Havre preferred by Board for meeting over Glasgow, Lethbridge preferred to Milk River on Canadian side
 - g. Invite IAG to study board meeting before IJC appearance in April (should we do the same with the Government Forum)
 - i. Proposed: 1 or 2 week in April, joint meeting with IAG to be held
 - h. Technical writer – discussion on the purpose and use of a technical writer for public documents
 - i. Primary task would be to get started now on the final study report, as well as a summary report
 - ii. Can bring in a writer early to start working on a table of contents, begin looking over documents, becoming familiar with the study, and creating initial format for what will be the Board’s final study report
 - iii. Could be a resource to change very technical documents into public-facing plain language documents
 - iv. Summarize TWG documents for use as public engagement and for study summary report
 - i. Posting of meeting minutes to the external webpage
 - j. Next iteration for the workplan
 - i. Proposed timeline: results of pilot study expected by end of February, new version of workplan to be worked on in March, new version drafted by April, finalized by May
 - ii. Provided to the commissioners two weeks prior to the semi-annual appearance
 - iii. IRG responses
4. Study Board budget
- a. Discussion items and updates
 - b. Technical work will be a large portion of the budget, numbers will be refined in middle of Feb.
 - c. Budget reports have been proposed for events related to the Study Board, IJC, and TWGs
 - d. Feedback on proposed budget report
5. Study Group special updates
- a. IJC updates
 - b. IAG updates

- c. Communications
- d. TWG updates
 - i. Pilot study continues to move forward, state of knowledge reports will be done on time, work plans being finalized
- e. Special Liaison update
- 6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Updated workplan in Feb.
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
 - i. International Records Meetings (week of Feb. 14, 2023)
 - ii. Semi-Annual Appearances in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
- 8. Action items
 - a. Board to review TWG Results Based Master Matrix Discussion to provide a second set of eyes – want to ensure everyone is on-board with the outputs and outcomes of the TWG work
 - b. Organize a Doodle poll to gauge what the best time might be for the next public meeting (F2F)
 - c. Proposed: 1st or 2nd week in April, joint meeting with the Study Board and IAG to be held
 - d. IRG comments to be reviewed from previous version of the workplan
 - e. Go through and review areas of the current workplan that need to be updated, will discuss findings
 - f. Board to review draft of updated workplan near the end of April, to be sent to the IJC before appearance

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

10 February 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

- 1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting (in December)
 - i. Board to review TWG Results Based Master Matrix Discussion to provide a second set of eyes – want to ensure everyone is on-board with the outputs and outcomes of the TWG work –
 - ii. Organize a Doodle poll to gauge what the best time might be for the next public meeting (F2F) – Done
 - iii. Proposed: 1st or 2nd week in April, joint meeting with the Study Board and IAG to be held - Polled IAG and they chose 3/24 – group confirms date.

- iv. IRG comments to be reviewed from previous version of the workplan – Status ongoing – Co-chairs and CSMs need to revisit IRG comments to ensure they're addressed in the next Work Plan version.
 - v. Go through and review areas of the current workplan that need to be updated, will discuss finding – by next meeting they will have updated plan – Ongoing
 - vi. Board to review draft of updated workplan near the end of April, to be sent to the IJC before appearance – Closed, addressed in item 4
- 2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
- 3. New business for Board action
 - a. PAG meeting updates – location and doodle poll results
 - b. TWG updates (progress, plans, challenges)
 - i. Climate and hydrology
 - ii. Water management models
 - iii. Socio-economic
 - iv. Infrastructure options
 - v. Water apportionment and administrative options
 - vi. Aquatic ecosystems
 - vii. OFEG for technical work
 - c. Approval of the TWG results based master matrix
 - i. IJC feedback discussion
 - d. Workplan – planned timeline of events to update document (discussion)
 - e. Presentation to Alberta irrigators – update
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. Discussion items and updates
- 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - b. IAG updates
 - c. Communications
 - d. Special Liaison update
- 6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Technical writer – updates
 - i. Need to add 2-4 page overview of SOK to contract – requirements per year – basic understanding of amount and length of documents
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
 - i. International Records Meetings (week of February 14, 2023)
 - ii. Semi-Annual appearances in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
- 8. Action items
 - a. PAG appointment items

- b. All board members need to review outputs, outcomes, and impacts sections of the master matrix to contribute in a discussion at the next meeting. *Note: remember to review how they tie into workplan. (Changes or comments should be documented in a separate word document and vocalize at the next meeting)
- c. Adjusted timeline on workplan will be made – ongoing
- d. Next meeting the board will discuss how to engage Socio economic group into PAG and Indigenous conversations., as well as how to invite to Havre
- e. SOK Summary added to the request for the technical writer

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

24 February 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. PAG appointment items
 1. Letters sent out
 - ii. All board members need to review outputs, outcomes, and impacts sections of the master matrix to contribute in a discussion at the next meeting.
 1. Clarification of what all the abbreviations mean
 2. Climate and Hydrology group will have a report – will this be combined with WMM report?
 - a. Reports will need refinement and proper titles
 - b. Determine stepwise process, planning, dates & timing
 - c. Looking for feedback from the board re: if the correct things are listed in terms of TWG activities
 - d. Need to work with study managers and co-chairs to come up with study-based PIs
 3. Would be ideal to close-off the RBF document, knowing that it is going to change (is an evergreen document)
 4. Potential to set up a small group – to put final finishes on the RBF (what are the outcomes, how will we achieve them and show people that we have?)
 - a. Help with this to articulate the outcomes of the RBF
 - b. Meeting to be organized, send out a Doodle
 - iii. Adjusted timeline on workplan will be made – ongoing
 1. Revisited workplan timelines and dates, to be discussed later
 - iv. Next meeting the board will discuss how to engage Socio economic group into PAG and Indigenous conversations., as well as how to invite to Havre
 1. Socio-economic group wanting to engage in public meetings
 2. Both groups have been contacted, this is underway
 - v. State of Knowledge summary added to the request for the technical writer
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
3. New business for board action
 - a. PAG meeting updates – location and doodle poll results
 - b. IAG coordination meeting discussion

- c. Discussion of approval to utilize SMEs in TWGs
- d. TWG results based master matrix
 - i. IJC feedback discussion
- e. Workplan – planned timeline of events to update document (discussion)
 - i. Opportunities to provide updates in many different sections, more details in certain areas
 - 1. Budgets have been updated, timelines to be updated next
 - 2. IRG comments to be addressed and updated in the workplan
 - 3. TWG workplans to be updated in workplan
- 4. Study board budget
 - a. Discussion items and updates
 - i. Put forward a process for the Board to agree to regarding a process for budgeting/allocation of funds/getting contracts in place
 - ii. Important to keep the overall workplan in mind as this occurs, TWG co-chairs to be kept in the loop at all times
- 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. Semi-annual documents, Board appearances
 - b. Communications
 - c. Special Liaison update
 - i. Setting up a Government Forum meeting
 - d. TWGs
 - i. Pilot Study work coming along nicely, contracting challenges have been resolved
 - ii. Figuring out differences between both models, putting effort into identifying these
 - iii. Timelines: actively working on Performance Indicators for multiple scenarios
 - iv. Dashboard
- 6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Technical writer – updates
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
 - i. Semi-Annual appearance in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
- 8. Action items
 - a. Meeting to be set up = to articulate the outcomes of the RBF, send out a Doodle
 - b. Dates have been selected for next public meetings, review details, planning, budgeting.
 - c. Clarification on a 2-day workshop, respond and sort out upcoming meeting dates and will send out an email to clarify
 - d. Table 2 in workplan – RBM framework to be updated in workplan

- e. IRG comments to be addressed and updated in the workplan
- f. TWG workplans to be updated in the overall workplan
- g. Review workplans to take an independent look at them, meeting to be set up to discuss them (this meeting will be next week)
- h. 3 sentence executive summary of all TWG workplans could be useful
- i. This technical meeting next week will also look at the contracting procedure for budgeting purposes
- j. IJC Appearances: please contact if you will be in D.C. and send a note to if you are going to be attending

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

10 March 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Meeting to be set up = to articulate the outcomes of the RBM, send out a Doodle [done]
 - ii. Dates have been selected for next public meetings, review details, planning, budgeting. [done]
 - iii. Clarification on a 2-day workshop, respond and to sort out upcoming meeting dates and will send out an email to clarify [complete; the workshop is not related to the study]
 - iv. Table 2 in workplan – RBM framework to be updated in workplan [done]
 - v. IRG comments to be addressed and updated in the workplan [ongoing]
 - vi. TWG workplans to be updated in the overall workplan [done]
 - vii. Review workplans to take an independent look at them, meeting to be set up to discuss them (this meeting will be next week) [done]
 - viii. 3 sentence executive summary of all TWG workplans could be useful [ongoing]
 - ix. This technical meeting next week will also look at the contracting procedure for budgeting purposes [done]
 - x. IJC Appearances: please contact if you will be in D.C. and send a note if you are going to be attending [ongoing]
2. Approved documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
3. New business for board action
 - a. PAG meeting updates
 - b. State of Knowledge updates and review
 - c. Workplan – planned timeline of events to update document (discussion)
4. TWG results-based master matrix
 - a. Board member assignments – review bulleted workplan along with results-based master matrix
 - b. RBM matrix – breaking it out by TWG to make it easier for Board to look at items, tasks, suggested outputs
5. Study Board budget
 - a. TWG specifics
 - b. Updated budget numbers
 - i. OFEG funds have increased for several reasons, OFEG picking up work, money being distributed differently, going toward pilot study

- c. Discussion
 - i. Agreement from the Board regarding current plan to allocate funds
 - ii. These are still estimates, they are in the revision state, they are not final
- 6. Study Group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - b. Communications
 - c. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - d. Special Liaison update
 - i. Working on next meeting date to keep momentum going
 - ii. Will work on an update to the Government Forum for the upcoming public meetings, will keep them updated on the status of the TWGs
 - e. OFEG
 - i. Pilot Study has been going very well, has been successful, work is essentially complete, kinks being worked out for overall study
 - ii. Document/report being worked on, calling the pilot study a proof of concept
 - iii. First draft to be completed and present to the Board in early April
 - iv. Will illustrate to the Board was the study is hoping to accomplish and how
 - v. Board decision will be required regarding which model to use
 - vi. This has been a major first step and was successful
- 7. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Technical writer updates
 - i. Technical writer will be available for all study documents
 - ii. Needs to have a point of contact for the US and Canada, how this will be managed
 - iii. Writer will begin reviewing documents and laying out the final report
 - b. IAG update
 - i. IAG members invited to next Board meeting, Indigenous members of Government Forum also invited, separate link to these members to begin the next Board meeting
 - ii. Introductory slides will be presented, IAG will introduce themselves, ask questions
- 8. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
 - i. Semi-annual appearances in DC (week up April 24, 2023)
 - ii. PAG face-to-face and public townhall, Havre, MT (May 1-3)
 - b. Take 2 on current spending to date
- 9. Action items
 - a. Board members – for the TWG they are monitoring, please review the State of Knowledge report, RBM details for that TWG in the Master Matrix, and Workplan specifics – by March 24

- b. Comms committee will begin advertising when the date and venue are set for the Townhalls
- c. New map for banner being created
- d. Please book your room and update the excel spreadsheet if you plan on attending
- e. Would like to have the Board member associated with every TWG to review the final SOK reports
- f. Board members to review the TWG master matrix by March 24th

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

24 March 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Review of IAG meeting
 - i. Review water studies that were mentioned in the IAG meeting
 - c. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - d. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Board members – for the TWG they are monitoring, please review the State of Knowledge report, RBM details for that TWG in the Master Matrix, and Workplan specifics [partially done]
 - ii. Comms committee to begin advertising as date and venue are set [ongoing]
 - iii. New map for banner being created [ongoing]
 - iv. Please book your room and update the excel spreadsheet for the PAG/Townhall event if you plan on attending [ongoing]
 - v. IRG comments to be addressed and updated in the workplan [ongoing – almost done]
 - vi. 3 sentence executive summary of all TWG workplans could be useful [done]
 - vii. IJC appearances [done]
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
3. New business for Board action
 - a. PAG meeting updates – location and logistics discussion
 - i. Advertising suggestions from PAG Co-Chairs
 - ii. Meeting occurred yesterday, advertising suggestions being pushed to Comms. Committee (radio, newspaper, newsletters, social media)
 - iii. Wildhorse border crossing closes at 5pm – hurdle for Canadian folks who might want to attend
 - iv. Travel costs for PAG being sorted out
 - b. State of Knowledge updates and review
 - i. Aquatic Ecosystems TWG – study scope limitations and support for future funding. Is this a recommendation that could be presented sooner?
 - ii. TWG co-chairs have a better understanding of limitations within the study, this will provide a springboard for future study on this topic
 - iii. Scope is better understood at this time, data collection being completed (IWI funding)
 - iv. Lots of future opportunity here for federal agency/educational institution research

- c. Workplan – planned timeline of events to update document
 - i. Feb 1-9 – CSMs review report
 - ii. Feb 10 – CSM present workplan update needs to the board
 - iii. Feb 13-Mar 3 – OFEG and CSM to update sections and budgets
 - iv. March 6-17 – CSMs work to update sections
 - v. March 24 – SMMR Study Board update on workplan
 - vi. March 24-31 – updates to be incorporated
 - vii. April 7 – Study Board to approve workplan changes
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. No update today
- 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. None at this time
 - b. Communications
 - i. Western Producer letter response and invitation
 - c. Special Liaison update
 - d. OFEG
 - i. Dashboard update
 - ii. Proof-of-concept briefing update
 - 1. Finalized first draft, have sent around to study managers for review – will be provided to Board on April 3 for review before next Board meeting
 - 2. Switching into having discussions with TWGs to initiate work of the study beyond proof-of-concept
 - e. IAG update
 - i. Nothing at this time
- 6. Old business: Discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Technical writer – updates
 - i. Being moved forward
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board’s attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. Important upcoming dates
 - i. Semi-annual appearance in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
 - ii. PAG face-to-face and public townhall, Havre, MT (May 1-3)
 - 1. Build agenda/format for this face-to-face, Board to think about this, will address at next meeting
- 8. Action items
 - a. Review water studies that were mentioned in the IAG meeting
 - b. Updating spreadsheet – IRG comments
 - c. Refer the indigenous water rights issue to the government liaisons to bring up with the government reps.

- d. Build agenda/format for the Havre F2F, Board to think about this, will address at next meeting
- e. Board to review and approve updated Workplan by next meeting (April 7th) - being sent out a week in advance
- f. Lead IJC presentation, Board appearance slides to be developed -- to be ready by 21st of April
 - i. What do we want to highlight in this presentation? Make a draft presentation to be shared, cover this at next meeting
 - ii. Update regarding which commissioners will be present, will send out an email

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

6 April 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Review water studies that were mentioned in the IAG meeting - Pending, getting a better sense of the types of reports
 - ii. Updating spreadsheet – IRG comments – Complete, aside from one comment (will be addressed shortly)
 - iii. Refer the indigenous water rights issue to the government liaisons to bring up with the government reps. - Also see information compiled here on the SharePoint site (Indigenous Engagement and Outreach / Indigenous Water Rights) - Information to be conveyed surrounding water rights issues
 - iv. Build agenda/format for the Havre F2F, Board to think about this, will address at next meeting Public Townhalls - May 2, 2023 - Attendance, Logistics & Agenda.xlsx - In progress, all are welcome to review, anyone with input free to update as needed
 - v. Board to review and approve updated Workplan by next meeting (April 7th) - being sent out a week in advance – Being reviewed today
 - vi. Lead IJC presentation, Board appearance slides to be developed -- to be ready by 21st of April – work in progress
 1. What do we want to highlight in this presentation? - make a draft presentation to be shared, cover this at next meeting
 2. Update regarding which commissioners will be present, will send out an email
 - vii. Board members – for the TWG they are monitoring, please review the State of Knowledge report, RBM details for that TWG in the Master Matrix, and Workplan specifics – by March 24 – Some reviewed, others pending
 - viii. Comms committee to begin advertising as date and venue are set – Team meeting coming up, work in progress
 - ix. New map for banner being created -Ongoing
 - x. Please book your room and update the excel spreadsheet for the PAG/Townhall event if you plan on attending – Most members confirmed
 - xi. IRG comments to be addressed and updated in the workplan. Nearly – done. One unresolved issue highlighted here Summary of IRG Comments and Board Response.xlsx
2. Approval documents for board consideration

- a. Updated workplan
 - i. Climate and Hydrology budget allocation – lots of data already available to other TWGs, Climate and Hydrology hasn't had many efforts in the area in the past, needs are greater for this group, they have significantly more tasks than other groups
 - ii. Include some explanation regarding the budget distribution in the workplan (budget is not indicative of the importance of tasks/groups for the overall study)
 - iii. Workplan agreed upon by 4 Board members
- 3. New business for board action
 - a. PAG/IAG/GF modeling options review and input
 - i. How to consider input from these groups, how to best present information to them, timing and format of this, how broad of a scope to present
 - ii. Will be limited in terms of time i.e. how many options are presented
 - iii. To what extent should the TWGs make decisions so as to not pre-determine the outcome, how much input should the Board have?
 - iv. Use the meeting with the PAG to run options by them, do this virtually with other groups in a webinar to offer them the same opportunity
 - v. Considerations of input/suggestions from all groups, modeling to be done to illustrate the outcomes of these options
 - vi. Consideration of a public webinar to report back to group
 - b. PAG process and logistics for sharing information – steps moving forward
 - i. Will be included in next agenda
 - c. Havre meeting updates
 - i. PAG members – questions regarding being reimbursed
 - d. Workplan – planned timeline of events to update document (discussion)
 - i. Feb 1-9 – CSMs review report
 - ii. Feb 10 – CSM present workplan update needs to the board
 - iii. Feb 13-Mar3 – OFEG and CSM to update sections and budgets
 - iv. March 6-17 – CSMs work to update sections
 - v. March 24 – SMMR Study Board update on workplan
 - vi. March 24-31 – updates to be incorporated
 - vii. April 6 – Study Board to approve workplan changes
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. AQ Ecosystems funding transfer updates
 - b. Budget review for US – updates to follow in early May
- 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. Proof-of-concept document to be given to IRG?
 - b. Communications

- i. Western Producer draft has been sent, see email regarding information and comments
- c. Special Liaison update
- d. OFEG
 - i. Proof-of-concept presentation
 - 1. Goal: demonstrate how TWGs would work together to create a final product
 - 2. WMM moves water through system series that has a series of rules
 - 3. Two models used – WRMM and Riverware
 - 4. Base-Case, Infrastructure (canal capacity) and Administrative (balancing) Scenarios run
 - a. 600cfs vs. 850cfs (canal capacity scenario)
 - 5. Performance Indicators created and the effect of changes on the system were examined to see how they affected the PIs
 - a. Creation of PIs to be done for the study
 - 6. Document to be shared with IRG
 - 7. Creation of fact sheet surrounding PIs?
 - ii. Presentation for discussion on model selection – Riverware vs. WRMM
 - 1. WRMM: AB Gov. developed, used for Joint AB MT Initiative, explored 300 water management scenarios
 - 2. Riverware: developed in Colorado for a 2012 study by the USBR and MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation
 - 3. Both produced similar results to the Eastern Crossing, differences were Fresno Reservoir storage values
 - a. Both are being used as planning and not operational models
 - b. Both use variable irrigation demands based on conditions in the basin
 - c. WRMM has a twice monthly timestep, Riverware is daily
 - d. Both can do what is required for the study, both consider uses downstream of Fresno
 - e. Work would be required to configure either for the study
 - f. Model review process would be needed
 - g. Each model has more detail on either side of the border
 - 4. Q: Is each model going to model the whole area? Will there be two results for every question? A: Yes
 - 5. Q: What will be the strategy for resolving significant differences between model results? A: Figure out why the differences exist, decide if one may be more accurate in that location/for that specific result

6. Q: What is the cost of doing both instead of one? A: Cost of both is included in current budget (60k on US side, 80-100k for AB)
7. Q: Would one model do a better job of working with the data we will have on-hand? A: Both will work better in certain areas
8. Q: Will one model do a better job of modelling in Canada vs. the US and vice versa? Can we use one model for specific areas and the other for others depending on where they are most applicable? A: Yes we can consider this.
9. Board in agreement to use both models
 - iii. SEA socio-cultural team in Havre – where participate
- e. IAG update
 - i. No report this week
6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Anything to add?
7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. Important upcoming dates
 - i. Semi-annual appearances in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
 - ii. PAG face-to-face and public townhall, Havre, MT (May 1-3)
 - c. USBR Environmental Assessment on St. Mary Diversion Dam replacement now open for public comment (March 27 through April 5)
8. Action items
 - a. Suggestion: include some explanation regarding the budget distribution in the workplan (budget is not indicative of the importance of tasks/groups for the overall study).
 - b. Workplan agreed upon by 4 Board members
 - c. Board in agreement to use both models.
 - d. Environmental Assessment on St. Mary Diversion Dam replacement to be passed on to the IAG for information

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

21 April 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Suggestion: include some explanation regarding the budget distribution in the workplan (budget is not indicative of the importance of tasks/groups for the overall study).
 - ii. Workplan agreed upon by 4 Board members
 - iii. Board in agreement to use both models.
 - iv. Environmental Assessment on St. Mary Diversion Dam replacement to be passed on to the IAG for information
 - v. Review water studies that were mentioned in the IAG meeting – Pending, getting a better sense of the types of reports
 - vi. Refer the indigenous water rights issue to the government liaisons to bring up with the government reps.
 - vii. Build agenda/format for the Havre F2F, Board to think about this, will address at next meeting Public Townhalls - May 2, 2023 - Attendance, Logistics & Agenda.xlsx - In progress, all are welcome to review, anyone with input free to update as needed
 - viii. New map for banner being -Ongoing
 - ix. Please book your room and update the excel spreadsheet for the PAG/Townhall event if you plan on attending – Most members confirmed
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. IJC presentations discussion and approval
3. New business for Board action
 - a. Havre meeting logistics – updates
 - i. Virtual option in the AM
 - ii. Communications updates
 - iii. Final map completed
 - b. IRG matrix completion
 - c. Board questions for the PAG to consider
 - d. Decision to produce a newsletter
 - e. Distributing the workplan to IAG, PAG, government forum, IRG, etc. – when can this be distributed
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Nothing new to report
5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates

- b. Communications
 - i. Western producer
- c. Special liaison update
- d. OFEG
 - i. TWG updates:
 - 1. WMM is working with CH to determine input data for water management models and calibration data for hydrologic models
 - 2. IO and WAAO have been meeting to provide options to discuss at May 2 meeting
 - 3. SEA will be at the Havre meeting
 - ii. Working to get detailed timelines in place so TWGs and others know when items are occurring and what the deadlines are
 - iii. Working on presentation documents for PAG meeting
 - iv. Information products
 - 1. Memos: working documents to update TWGs or Board on TWG/OFEG progress. No IRG review necessary. Not automatically public
 - 2. Briefings: more detailed working documents that support longer-term work by TWG/OFEG. IRG review requested. Not automatically public
 - 3. Reports/Fact Sheets: documentation of study findings. Higher level of reviews including IRG and other technical specialists. Intended to be publicly available document
- e. IAG update
- 6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Nothing at this time
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. Important upcoming dates
 - i. Semi-annual appearances in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
 - ii. PAG face-to-face and public townhall, Havre, MT (May 1-3)
 - c. USBR Environmental Assessment on St. Mary Diversion Dam replacement now open for public comment (March 27 through May 5). Role, if any, for the Board and/or its TWGs?
- 8. Action items

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

19 May 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

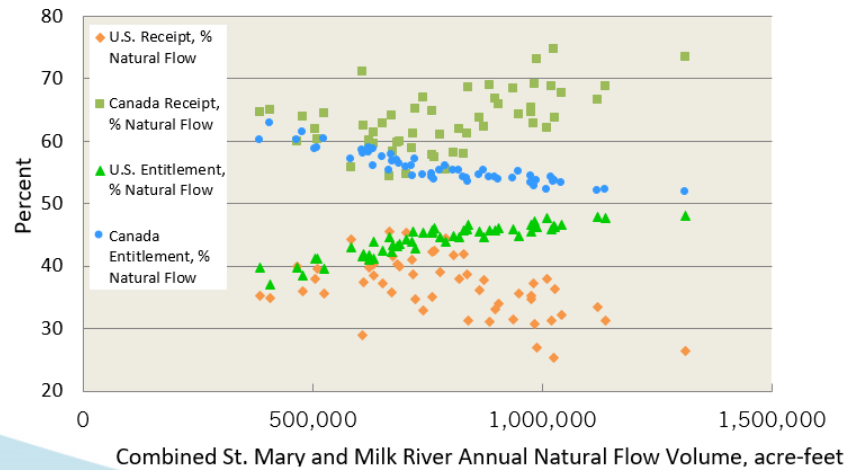
1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Review water studies that were mentioned in the IAG meeting – pending, getting a better sense of the types of reports
 - ii. Refer the Indigenous water rights issue to the government liaisons to bring up with the government representatives
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve
3. New business for Board action
 - a. Havre meeting follow-up items and summary
 - i. Need facilitator for PAG meetings
 - ii. Would have been nice to reconvene after meeting with the PAG and public forum – build that time in for future meetings
 - iii. Did PAG desire Board representation during their meeting? Not necessary, but they were unclear on their mission
 - iv. PAG meeting was recorded
 - v. Public meeting – turnout affected by weather – farmers were in their fields
 - b. Newsletter content and information to include
 - i. ISMMRS Newsletter #1 DRAFT
 1. Includes 2023 highlights, next steps, and information on the website, study fact sheets, contact information
 2. Feedback or additional information that should be included in the newsletter?
 - a. Everyone is happy with the format and content, Comms. Committee to review for publication
 - b. There is a new version of the map (this could be added to the newsletter)
 - ii. ***To preserve newsletter formatting, please open the document in the Word Desktop App***
 - iii. ACTION ITEM: for Board and other Study “Team” members – please review and provide updates and additional content
 - iv. This will be a semi-annual newsletter minimum (more as needed if we have specific information to share)
 - c. Frequency of board meetings (move to monthly)

- i. If we move to a monthly meeting, are we able to still get updates from the TWGs? – as needs are identified and topics want to be discussed, we can bring in the co-chairs at that time or schedule a special meeting. We can target TWG milestone moments as the time to bring the members to the study board.
 - 1. Once a month for the summer, while the TWGs get some additional work completed
- ii. September would be the time to move back to every other week
- iii. Next meeting dates: Wednesday June 14 10am; July 13 10am; August 17 10am MDT
- d. SEA TWG discussion and focus of the group
 - i. Board questions to the TWGs
 - 1. 5 questions can be answered at this time
 - 2. 1 residual question, related to the value of water delivered to a farm during the irrigation season in various parts of the basin
 - a. Re-phrased: What is the current economic value of water delivered to a farm in the SMM basins in Alberta and Montana? What are the differences?
 - b. Will look at several aspects of on-farm irrigation and compare it to dryland irrigation
 - c. Prediction costs, crop rotations, etc. considered
 - d. In the process of contracting some work to look into this in Canada, looking for advice regarding who to hire in Montana for this purpose
 - e. Once numbers are obtained, can evaluate what the outcome of changes in administrative procedures or structures will be in each basin and province/state
 - f. Will be evaluated based on if the water is increased, more reliable, more timely, etc.
 - g. Improvements on water supplies will lead irrigators to improve their productivity (working hypothesis)
 - h. Performance Indicators to be developed to see where this economic analysis goes
 - i. Looking for an American consultant to do the required work in the Milk River basin in the US who understands on-farm economics
 - i. Original non-partisan research group approached for the US economic evaluation who turned the work down
 - ii. Questions/comments

1. Is there a relationship between volume and value? If x amount of water is variable, can you compute quantity of output?
 - a. We can potentially make inferences based on water volume regarding how the productivity of the land changes
2. How are environmental concerns considered in the economic analysis?
 - a. Outcomes will be presented as will information other groups and opinions. The best economic information will be provided. Economics will inform (not drive) decisions.
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Status update
 - i. Will be addressed at next meeting
5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. IRG – reached out to them, provided them with state of knowledge and updated work plan, will be providing their feedback by June 5
 - ii. Q. from IJC – lessons learned in setting up study governance?
 - iii. Q. from IJC – plan for summarizing state of knowledge reports? Comms. Committee will work with technical writer to develop summaries of the reports (fact sheets?) to be shared publicly
 1. For the public it would be good to clarify the role of the OFEG and the TWGs
 - iv. It would be nice to capture in-kind contributions to the Study
 - v. State of Knowledge reports also to be summarized in overall report by technical writer
 - b. Communications – planning PI fact sheet in plain language
 - c. Special liaison update
 - d. OFEG
 - i. Next round of options confirmation by board
 - ii. Feedback received to date by WMM TWG (southern tributary model, student support, confirm baseline with Fresno bladder or not – no decision needed for baseline now, but FYI)
 - iii. Meeting weekly with WMM TWG to keep on track, timelines being set up, some concerns from the TWGs regarding them
 - iv. Work being done to run models with the simplest scenarios to begin with
 - v. Suggested addition to AO TWG SoK report (1.1.5 in RBM), low flow years vs. high flow years



US & Canada Apportioned and Received Flow, 1950-2004



vi.

e. IAG update

- i. July 10-12 will be the next meeting time, will be about 2 hours in length, prep materials being created
- ii. Another meeting will be held in September – IAG and PAG hopefully to be in the same place to collaborate

6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval

- a. None at this time

7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention

- a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
- b. Important upcoming dates

8. Action items

- a. Board and other Study "Team" members – please review and provide updates and additional content via email by May 26 regarding Newsletter
- b. Plan for summarizing state of knowledge reports. Comms.
- c. Communications – planning PI fact sheet in plain language

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

14 June 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Board and other Study “Team” members – please review and provide updates and additional content regarding newsletter
 1. To be finalized at Comms. Committee meeting tomorrow
 - ii. Plan for summarizing state of knowledge reports. Comms.
 1. Ongoing, working with technical writer
 - iii. Communications – planning PI fact sheet in plain language
 1. Significant effort made, talking about approach later in special updates
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve
3. New business for board action
 - a. None
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Status
 - i. Still working through budget updates on the Canadian side
 - ii. Final numbers for previous fiscal year available, unspent funds to be reallocated to current fiscal year
 - iii. Have a good sense of the contracts expected this year, sufficient budget available for what is expected
 - iv. ACTION: more detailed budget presentation/review at next meeting
5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. IRG comments received
 - ii. General response to how comments will be addressed within the study
 - iii. IRG questions would be beneficial to review
 - iv. Next item for review is the annual report in the fall
 - v. ACTION Board to review linked document
 - b. Communications
 - i. Performance Indicator fact sheet(s) in plain language
 - ii. Newsletter to be approved and distributed
 - iii. PI fact sheet – first version
 - iv. Second fact sheet will be created that is more study focused, and more study related to give an idea of how PIs will be used and developed in the study

- v. Fact sheet will go along with a questionnaire where groups (such as the IAG, PAG) can provide feedback (they are the primary target for this document)
- vi. All fact sheets will be reviewed by Board before they are approved
- vii. Comms. Committee to review and send back to the Board for further review/approval
- viii. Looking for feedback from the Board: do you agree with this approach?
- c. Special liaison update
 - i. Nothing at this time, update at next meeting
 - ii. Last US-Can Gov. Forum meeting was the first, one on one communications have been the primary method of contact over the last few months
- d. OFEG
 - i. SEA contracting – still working on both eco and socio ones
 - 1. Work in progress, not complete yet, will be updated once it is completed and signed
 - ii. CH update
 - 1. Moving along, looking to have an in-person modeling meeting in the near future, possibly late September
 - iii. WMM progress
 - 1. Looking at options, collaborating with AO group
 - iv. Options details
 - 1. From PAG members
 - 2. Developing details with IO and WAAO
 - v. Real PI development for review
 - 1. Currently being developed – to be reviewed upon completion of first draft (July?)
 - 2. Question regarding data storage? – GitHub being used in the meantime
 - a. Licensing and access being reviewed for data storage
 - b. Data management group reviewing and testing options
- e. IAG update
 - i. July 12 will be the next meeting time, 10:00-12:00 pm MT, prep materials being created
 - ii. Going to send out a “save the date” to IAG and invite Indigenous members of Gov. Forum as well
 - iii. OFEG to present at this meeting (presentation from public meetings in Havre)
 - iv. A face-to-face meeting will be held this Fall (November) IAG and PAG hopefully to be in the same place to collaborate and gather input
 - 1. Planning has begun for this event, more information to come

2. Meeting tomorrow, this topic will be discussed
 3. Location: both ends of basin
 4. IAG is in a state of flux, ultimately would like to have members finalized as appointees
6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
- a. Newsletter – Comms committee to provide final approval and distribute/circulate
 - i. Will be distributed to the Board, PAG, etc. via email, will also be sent to other news outlets that have reached out, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
- a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Note that all events, meetings, appearances, etc. are being collated for final reporting
 - ii. CWRA
 - iii. AWRA Conference
 - b. Important upcoming dates
 - i. IAG virtual – July 12
8. Action items
- a. More detailed budget presentation/review at next meeting
 - b. Board to review IRG comments received

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

13 July 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. More detailed budget presentation/review at next meeting
 - ii. Board to review IRG comments received
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve
3. New business for board action
 - a. None
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Detailed budget – review of spent and remaining budget
 - b. USD and CAD included, updated numbers to date
 - c. \$537k total spent to date
 - d. Have money being spent on US and CAN sides
 - e. Detailed breakdown in diagram for spending in separate groups
 - f. US technical lead, OFEG meetings, travel, engagement – heavy allocation of funds at this time
 - i. Contracts
 - g. Detailed being worked through, some in progress, others to be sent up shortly (this will require a large amount of budget)
 - h. Have been fortunate to expediate contracts through the IJC
 - i. Question: Do we anticipate any pinch points anywhere, are we preparing for this in advance?
 - i. Indigenous engagement, travel to Indigenous nations
 - ii. Aquatic ecosystems
 - j. Question: How many contracts are settled at this time? How many more are to come?
 - i. Most TWG contracts are settled, some still being negotiated
 - ii. Not a lot of unknown big contracts are anticipated
 - iii. Many in-kind contributions
5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. No specific updates
 - b. Communications
 - i. Fall meeting with purpose
 1. Performance indicator development
 - a. Discussion and definition of PIs for the study

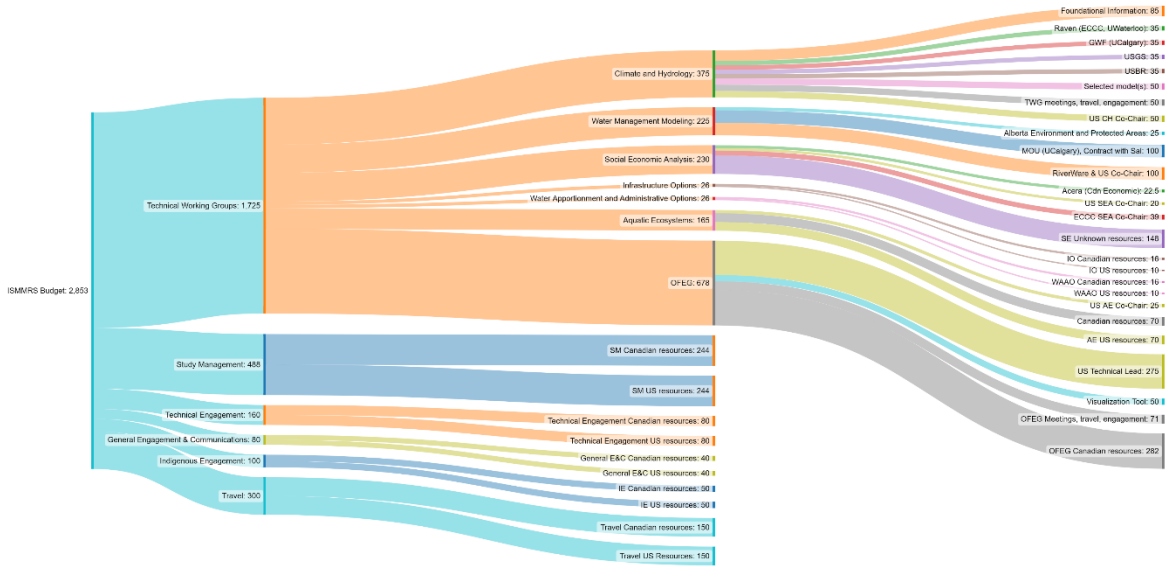
2. Visualization tool – not only what does the study need, but what can be taken away by the AO's
 - a. A kick-off for a visualization tool, opportunity to discuss
 - b. Want a product that doesn't just get put on the shelf, something that can be used going forward
 - c. Want outcomes that make sense
 3. TWGs leads virtually present their 15' results/updates and what is your plan for the remainder of the study
 - a. Filling in gaps – what the TWGs are doing, facilitated session to identify feedback from PAG, IAG, others for course correction, collate new ideas, modifications to the plan
 - b. Great Falls, MT meetings would be focused on getting individuals up to speed with the study and focusing on the development of performance indicators (what they are, how they work, how they fit into the study)
- ii. Consideration of small group face-to-face meetings in the basin to gather feedback
 1. Value in doing this, meetings on individual territories
- c. Special liaison update
- i. No updates at this time
 - ii. Difficult to get the Gov. Liaison groups together, might be helpful to invite them to attend in person
 - iii. Would the Gov. Forum be provided information in advance of the meeting to ensure they are as informed and up-to-date as all other groups in attendance
 1. Yes this would be arranged, perhaps in the form of an online platform where they could review a presentation/information and documents
 2. Provide the presentations regarding the TWG progress, plans, and updates
 3. Could have a small audience for a presentation like this in person and record it for review in the future and for those who can't attend
- d. OFEG
- i. Development of 1-pager plain language introductions to the TWGs
 1. First draft of WMM TWG as an example
 2. Will be working on all 6 TWGs, plus the Data Management Group and AO TWG in the next month
 - ii. Critical path update
 1. Input into MS Planner and Project

- a. These projects will align with what are being used for other study documents
 - 2. Progress but not quite at the mark for the arbitrary deadlines
- iii. Water Management Modelling briefing update
 - 1. Started the Water Management Models Input Summary
 - 2. WMM modelling firmly on the critical path
 - 3. Some timelines starting to slip a little bit, focusing on aligning models to have a similar level of detail and inputs and ensuring we are clear on the forcing data that would be used for calibrating, focusing on getting a student in place to assist with this
 - 4. Contracts in place for some TWG work, will have more hands on deck to update the model in the coming months
 - 5. More resources will be available on the modelling front, goal is to move critical path items forward as quickly as possible
 - 6. Have started the process of documenting where some gaps are in WMM modelling documents, working on filling these in
- e. IAG updates
 - i. Update on the July 12 meeting
 - 1. Great discussions were had, notes were taken and are available in folders
 - 2. PIs were suggested
 - 3. Questions, comments, and responses from this meeting will be added to a document and provided to the IAG
 - 4. Presentation was recorded and is available for those who missed the meeting
 - ii. A face-to-face meeting will be held this Fall (November) IAG and PAG hopefully to be in the same place to collaborate and gather input
 - 1. It was suggested that in the interest of reciprocity and exchange, one or more Indigenous speakers could be invited to Great Falls in November to give a presentation on a topic of mutual interest (e.g. traditional knowledges, protocol, data sovereignty, hydrology or aquatic ecology research in the basin, etc.)

6. Final reporting

- a. Technical writer – LimnoTech – still with the secretary to be assigned and formalized, contractor has been identified
- b. Statement of knowledge summaries
- c. Glossary
 - i. Can be appended to the report
- d. Table of contents
- e. Board members to start drafting a table of contents, this would be a good starting place

- f. Technical Writer won't be in a place to hit the ground running, can begin the process following the creation of the ToC, appendices, background information
 - g. Board to identify final report sections and appendices for the table of contents
 - h. Question: are there existing IJC products that would provide a useful template?
 - i. Yes, a folder will be created to provide links and documents, directive will be a key component to review to ensure all sections are addressed
 - ii. Great to come up with a template for this report, must be aware of what needs to be addressed
 - i. Board member sub-committee to work on a broad overview of the final report
 - j. LimnoTech has worked on similar projects in the past, good set of expertise available, creation of ToC will help them make best use of their time
7. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
- a. Newsletter – Comms. Committee to provide final approval and distribute/circulate
 - i. Newsletter posted
 - ii. Email sent out, Board members will be connected to ISMMSB notifications on LinkedIn
 - b. Performance indicator fact sheets progress
 - i. To be finalized and sent out, to be finalized by November, approved at August meeting
8. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
- a. AO conditions update from LOI
 - b. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - c. Important upcoming dates
 - i. IAG virtual – July 12
9. Action items
- a. Board to identify final report sections and appendices for the table contents
 - i. Board member sub-committee to work on a broad overview of the final report
 - b. PI fact sheets to be finalized by November. To be approved at August meeting, reviewed by Board
 - c. Send placeholder for next F2F meeting - complete



10.

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

17 August 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Board to identify final report sections and appendices for the table contents
 1. Board member sub-committee to work on a broad overview of the final report
 2. Will be worked on and moved to SharePoint before the next meeting, it has been moved to a standing item
 - ii. PI fact sheets to be finalized by November
 1. To be approved at August meeting, reviewed by Board
 2. Considered done
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. Performance Indicator Fact Sheet (draft)
 - i. Board approves of the document in principle
 - ii. Members have until end of day tomorrow to remove their support, non-voting members can send in comments
3. New business for Board action
 - a. Letter of Intent (LOI) discussion to support modelling efforts
 - i. OFEG request for LOI primer to inform board, TWGs and others, real life examples of its application
 - ii. AOS to get the TWGs to present a summary at the next board meeting, information on how it has worked in the past and how it is not quite working as well at the moment, to be used to fuel a necessary detailed discussion
 - iii. Meeting discussion included points on: account period and their impact on daily apportionment and calculated flows; LOI is a relatively new (1991) operational tool; the effectiveness of the LOI may be a good conversation to have with the government forum; the simplicity and balancing periods of the Eastern Tributaries
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Next update in September
5. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. Going ahead with the appearances the week of October 16 and in the works of confirming schedule

- ii. There will be a crisis communications workshop (virtual option may be available) and an IWI workshop
 - iii. The annual report will be due at that time and provided to commissioners ahead of the appearances
 - iv. Technical writer contract is signed and will be communicated, the first task will be the table of contents
 - v. Update on commissioners: New US co-chair Gerald Acker. Robert Gioia is the next nominee and should be through soon as well, replacing Robert Sisson
 - vi. The Canadian section has been extended until December 31 or until new commissioners are appointed
- b. Communications Committee updates
- i. Media opportunities
 - 1. Bridge City News
 - 2. Global News
 - 3. Taber Times
 - 4. Westwind Weekly Article
 - ii. Performance indicator fact sheet circulation plan
 - 1. Will be circulated to everyone
 - iii. PAG comments: how they should be collected, discussed and formalized for board consideration
 - 1. Suggesting to produce a survey/questionnaire for PAG members with carefully structured questions to solicit input
 - 2. Any request that arises should be directed to the appropriate person/liaison
 - iv. PAG members – request to consider an additional Canadian member (US parity required) or replacement
 - v. Newsletter #2
 - 1. Another newsletter will be prepared and issued in September
- c. Special liaison update
- i. Attempting to get improved engagement with government forum members
 - ii. Proposing that government forum members be invited to attend some of the meetings in Oct/Nov (1 or 2) and have a separate session with them (similar to the PAG meeting); giving opportunity to formulate questions to the Board
 - iii. Sending out a save-the-date (for a hybrid format) to members soon, briefing documents would be sent to them in advance of the meeting(s)
 - iv. Action: special liaison session will occur in Great Falls, begin planning work, no opposition was voiced
- d. OFEG update

- i. Critical path update
 - 1. There has been some slippage in the timelines
 - 2. All groups have been very active this summer in revising and refining options and progress has been made
 - 3. Memos
 - a. Memos 2, 4, and 5 are essentially complete, 1 and 3 are in the works, working on how they are best communicated and who they need to be communicated with
 - b. Re 6: need to work on finalizing the WMM State of Knowledge report
 - c. Using new tools to better formulate high level timelines
 - d. Incorporating the feedback from the IRG
 - 4. TWGs progress this summer
 - a. Socio-cultural work, summary and thoughts about May meeting in Havre
 - i. The socio-cultural is aware of in person PAG meeting in Great Falls
 - ii. Little expansion on the proposal has been proposed, working on summarizing information and moving up the chain
 - b. TWG face-to-face in Calgary: Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 PM through Thursday, November 16 at noon
 - i. Opportunity to engage and collaborate with all groups
- e. IAG update
 - i. Fort Belknap in-person meeting
 - 1. Tentative date: Sept 19 community meeting at the Aaniiih Nakoda College Water Center
 - 2. Proof-of-concept presentation
 - ii. Critical path updates
 - 1. No major updates
- 6. Final reporting
 - a. Status update on meetings to date
 - i. Review of past reports and building ToC
 - ii. Identify final report sections and appendices
- 7. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. IRG comments
 - b. Contracting status
 - i. SEA economic scope for US
 - ii. WMM and CH with UofC

1. Nothing new to report, draft annexes have been sent off legal and finance
8. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the Board
 - i. None
 - b. CH TWG Hydrothon #2 in Lethbridge? September 26-28
 - i. Likely moving to Calgary
 - c. IJC semi-annual appearance in Ottawa: October 16-20, 2023
 - i. In-person board meeting participation
 - d. Final decision on dates for the in-person meetings and engagement in Great Falls, MT
 - e. Annual report
 - i. Last year's report
 - ii. IJC wants the annual report in 6 weeks
 - iii. Action: review previous report
 - iv. TWGs memos should suffice for information
 9. Action items
 - a. Send email regarding the proposed Great Falls meeting dates
 - b. AOs to get the TWGs to present a LOI summary for the next Board meeting
 - c. Begin planning work for a special liaison session with Gov. Forum members
 - d. Review last year's annual report

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

15 September 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous board meeting
 - i. Send email regarding the proposed Great Falls meeting dates
 1. Save-the-date went out to the Study Board members, unsure if it was also sent to PAG members, follow up required
 - ii. AOs to present a LOI summary for the next Board meeting
 1. A slide deck to be presented later in the meeting
 - iii. Begin planning work for a special liaison session with government forum members
 1. Emails were sent out to all government forum members to notify them of Great Falls meeting dates
 2. Minimal responses have been received, more progress is needed
 3. Plan to schedule a call between Special Liaisons, Board Co-Chairs and IJC staff to get on the same page for the government forum was discussed
 - iv. Review last year's annual report
 1. Still needs to be done
 - v. Reminder items for board consideration
 1. Final report development – reminder for those involved to post any ToC materials
 - vi. Reminder: Fall Annual Report
 1. Received ideally by October 6 so that it can be included in IJC's BN to Commissioners
 2. This is a priority in the next 10 days
 - vii. Glossary
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None
3. New business for board action
 - a. Great Falls meeting updates
 - i. Draft agenda
 - ii. Dates: Oct 30-Nov 3
 - iii. Hotel information
 - iv. Meeting room information
 - v. Request that the purpose of the meetings and technical lead presentations be communicated so the leads can better prepare

- vi. Suggested to start off the meetings in Great Falls with testimonials from locals on their association/cultural relationship with the water in the basin; there was broad consensus that allowing time for this is a good use of time
 - vii. When planning meetings where the IAG will interact with the PAG, it is important to be aware of the dynamics and differences between the two groups; the suggestion to create breakout rooms with just IAG or PAG during the meetings in addition to mixed groups was made
 - viii. Emphasis of the importance of interactions and giving opportunities for input on what people want modeled
 - ix. There is potential that the time currently assigned to the visualization tool can be cut down, re-working of the meeting is likely
 - x. Members of the IAG and PAG can stay and participate in further meetings
- b. Performance Indicator Fact Sheet
- i. Are we ready to have this finalized and disseminated?
 - 1. Comments added that mainly pertain to expanding/adding examples and making them more specific to the basin; the document is a few months old and needs some work incorporating comments
 - 2. The Souris study can be used as a reference
 - ii. Who is on point for this item?
- c. Letter of Intent (LOI) Correspondence – updates
- i. Slide show on the St. Mary and Milk River LOI (signed in 1991) detailing the background, purpose, origin, and general details of the 1991 LOI and Annex
 - ii. Information on the 2001 LOI that superseded the 1991 LOI and outlined the differences/changes in the new LOI and associated Annex
 - iii. How the new LOI functions and the dates that each country can build a deficit/repay the deficit
 - iv. The wording of the LOI is specific to ensure water is available for Milk River users, not just the St. Mary users
 - v. In the first 25 years, the canal capacity declined over time; unclear on the benefit to US irrigators; Canadian Milk River irrigators benefit in dry years
 - vi. Currently exploring options to manage the water supply to Canadian irrigators in year without LOI; trying to avoid shutting down irrigation; a tight timeframe on balancing period (2 weeks) was useful initially; may be able to be changed with new technologies available to manage water
 - vii. In wet years, Canada usually gets more than their share, could be because the US doesn't need the water
 - viii. A dam safety issue could occur if the US is holding back the water to the point where it is at risk of overtopping

- ix. The current conditions are: Canada has a deficit of cfs and the US has one of ~100 cfs; it is dry in the watersheds so unless it rains in the fall, Canada may not be able to repay; the canal is almost shut down and the US still has to maintain the flow for biological operations; a more flexible approach may help the repayment options
- d. Technical writer discussion
 - i. Contact is in place, setting up a time to meet will work with OFEG to set up a folder for docs to be edited and reviewed
- e. New newsletter – content and timing, do we want to move forward with this at this time?
 - i. The first newsletter went out 3 months ago
 - ii. The timeline for the second in Oct/Nov however this is a busy time, so it was suggested to push the release back to early December instead
 - iii. This will allow for information from the meetings in Oct/Nov to be added
 - iv. Consensus was to hold off until late November or early December
- f. CH TWG Hydrothon #2 in Lethbridge: September 26-28 updates and progress
 - i. Meetings are being held in Calgary and the agenda is set
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. Contracts pending
 - i. Working on a couple contracts that are currently pending before the Oct 1 USGS closeout
 - ii. US budgets will be finalized in the next few weeks
 - b. Finances to-date
 - i. Push this item to the meeting on Sept 29
 - c. Travel expenses – upcoming travel authorizations
- 5. Study Group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. The semi-annual appearances agenda has been finalized and sent out
 - ii. The IJC had a cyber security incident, no major hiccups have been experienced for this Board
 - b. Communications Committee update
 - c. PAG update
 - i. [*Aging water diversion infrastructure in Montana needs replacement: Mclver*](#)
 - d. Special liaison update
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. WAAO group has had several meetings to discuss options refinements and how to incrementally develop new scenarios; these very detailed items are needed before modelers can continue work
 - ii. WMM TWG is currently setting up models; some runs completed; synchronization occurring between RiverWare and WRMM

1. Some delays due to WRMM staff vacations, will have updates soon
 - iii. The socio-cultural team from SEA TWG is planning to attend in-person PAG meeting in Great Falls; when final dates determined for their expected attendance, we will work with them on travel
 - iv. TWG F2F in Calgary: Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00PM through Thursday, November 16 at noon. Location same as last year. Will be set up to have first day get all TWGs up to speed on scenarios/options/modelling efforts. Next days will be smaller groups, with working groups in a seminar-style discussions to answer specific questions, refine PIs, and potentially discover new scenarios to model. Timing is 2 weeks after PAG/IAG meeting so that the TWGs can consider and incorporate thoughts from Great Falls into the study.
 1. No questions were asked
- f. IAG update
 - i. Fort Belknap in-person meeting – Sept 19 community meeting at the Aaniiih Nakoda College Water Center
 - ii. Taking time to meet with people one-on-one with people who haven't been able to make it to other meetings
 - iii. Will report back to the Board when they return from the meetings
6. Final reporting (June 2025)
 - a. Status update on meetings to date
 - i. Review of past reports and building ToC
 - ii. Identify final report sections and appendices
7. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. IRG comments
 - b. Contracting status
 - i. SEA economic scope for US
 1. A sole source contract is a possibility; decision with the group will be made soon
 - ii. WMM and CH with UofC – last update was draft annexes has been sent off legal and finance
 1. Agreement is now in place
8. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. IJC semi-annual appearance in Ottawa: October 16-20, 2023
 - i. In-person board meeting participation
 - c. Final decision on dates for the in-person meetings and engagements in Great Falls, MT
 - d. Annual report – will send a draft to IJC on Sept 25
 - i. This has been identified as a priority
 - ii. There is a potential US government shutdown on Oct 1
9. Action items
 - a. Follow up on whether the save the date for Great Falls was sent out to PAG members
 - b. Review last year's annual report

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

29 September 2023 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - i. Begin planning work for a special liaison session with government forum members – updates?
 1. Plans to schedule a call between special liaisons, board co-chairs and IJC staff to get on the same page for the government forum was discussed
 - c. The agenda has been discussed; waiting to see the overall meeting agenda and for discussions during later sections of this meeting; trying to adjust the agenda/meetings to people's travel requirements
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. Will be discussed under new business – progress report
3. New business for Board action
 - a. CH TWG Hydrothon #2 in Calgary: September 26-28 – updates and progress
 - i. Good representation from both the US and Canada
 - ii. Three models have been developed and are being tested
 - iii. Conclusions were reached and writing assignments were given to some people
 - iv. The goal is to have the work done by the end of December, at a minimum having it completed for the conceptual models
 - v. Model update: all of the models cannot replicate much on the Milk River
 1. A post doc has begun investigating the non-contributing area issue
 2. One was the Swiftcurrent river/creek, the other was the Milk River, really struggling on the tributaries in the basin
 - b. PAG update, save the date, and sharing of the agenda
 - i. Save the date and agenda have all gone out
 - ii. Forms for the PAG members to travel to Great Falls are in the works
 - c. Annual Report updates
 - i. Some requests for information have been sent out
 - ii. Indigenous section is not complete
 - iii. Asked for members to review the document by Tuesday
 - iv. Finalization for early next week and will be sent to the IJC on Friday
 - v. Will be used in the preparation for the semi-annual appearances and briefing notes for Great Falls
 - d. Oct-Nov in-person agenda details and updates
 - i. Near-final version

- ii. Gov. Forum session is on Tuesday afternoon, will have opportunity for discussion with members on Wednesday morning
 - iii. Clarification on the structure and timing of the breakout rooms, there will be three rooms
 - iv. Remote invitation for all 3 days for the GF, emphasize that the Wed-Thurs meetings are more important but they are allowed to stay for the whole time or join virtually
 - v. Agenda was agreed upon
 - vi. Provide a draft agenda for review
 - e. Oct-Nov presentation updates – TWGs (Progress?)
 - i. They have put together a high-level rough draft, emphasizing high level, should be enough for the progress report
 - f. IAG highlights from Tribal Engagement
 - i. Recap of the meeting with the Fort Belknap Indian Community. There was a good turnout (estimation of 20-30 ppl).
 - ii. Engagement from the Tribe, water and land resource management, Environmental Quality, and faculty from the college.
 - iii. A highlight of the meeting was the questions raised.
 - iv. Emphasized the importance of holding these meetings.
 - v. One of the aquatic ecosystem faculty has been asked to speak at the Great Falls meetings. He is busy but may be able to join virtually, if not in person. Will have to follow procedures on indigenous data sharing.
 - vi. Noted how the aquatic ecosystem TWG's role is less analytical than the others and that they are working on their approach. Consolidation the information on the aquatic ecosystems from the various entities/stakeholders
 - g. US Shutdown (?)
 - i. Possibility for continuing resolution that may push it to the week of October 31. No official word yet. If this occurs it may impact Great Falls and the ability for certain members to participate and hold meetings. IJC permanent staff will not be affected. No contingency plan yet, will wait to see what the resolution ends up being.
 - ii. May have to ask Reclamation to stop modeling efforts
4. Study Board Budget
- a. Contracts pending
 - i. Working with management and budget analysis for the US side
 - ii. All funding that was able to be carried forward is
 - iii. Contracts are out in place now
 - iv. Annual report was updated
5. Study group special updates
- a. IJC updates

- i. Semi-annual
 - 1. No addition to previous updates given
- b. Communications committee update
 - i. Next meeting is on the 10th of October, the last meeting was cancelled
- c. PAG update
 - i. Membership issue
 - ii. In-person meeting expectations/facilitation
 - 1. Provided agenda and outlined how they saw the PAG meeting going
 - 2. Two themes are the proposed put out and the performance indicators
 - 3. Hoping to have a board meeting in the room, and have it recorded
- d. Special liaison update
 - i. GF in-person break out discussions – how do you want this to unfold?
 - 1. The only time allocated to have inter group discussion after the breakout rooms is an hour
 - ii. What do you need for briefing the GF members prior to the meeting?
 - 1. Asked about any potential issues that can be raised beforehand/heads up may be beneficial/opportunity to prepare
 - iii. Report out from SEA socio-cultural group
 - 1. Socio economic TWG came up with a document after Havre that may be useful
- e. OFEG update
 - i. SE Canadian economic value report review to those interested
 - 1. Provide any comments by October 6
 - ii. An overview of our tasks
 - 1. Presentation for Great Falls meeting
 - a. Talked about previously
 - 2. Contributions to progress report
 - a. Talked about previously
 - 3. Critical path items: scenario development, water management modelling gear-up, memos created in August and September
 - a. Facilitation of scenario development, conversations between WAOO and WMM TWGs, memos on work that has been created, a student contractor has been working to create visualizations of some of the scenario outputs, will be for Board viewing
 - iii. Overview of our broader project management activities
 - 1. Revisiting our board approved RBM framework and matrix

- a. Having started putting work into this, taking the spreadsheet and converting it into the planner app and Microsoft timelines, going through the tasks one by one
 - 2. Updating planner app and Microsoft Project
 - a. Process to confirm status with TWG co-chairs
 - b. Add in tasks/steps that include PAG/IAG feedback from Great Falls meeting
 - c. Confirm status with TWG co-chairs
 - d. Highlight any concerns with the management team and board
 - e. Recommend any changes to the RBM tasks
 - f. Start developing Project PIs to track technical work progress
 - f. IAG update
 - i. Will add in the summary of IG events to the annual report
 - ii. Trying to get representation to Great Falls and hopefully will be able to have someone speak to their cultural knowledge from the two Nations
- 6. Final reporting (June 2025) – Final Report Development
 - a. Status update on meetings to date
 - i. Review of past reports and building TOC
 - 1. Identify final report sections and appendices
 - ii. Considered done. No major tasks associated with this item. Final comments can be submitted before it is submitted to technical writer
 - b. Glossary – ready to go – cleaning up and moving to IJC legal
 - i. Considered done, no action required
- 7. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Great Falls meeting updates
 - i. Logistics
 - b. Performance indicator fact sheet
 - i. No deadline, but would be nice to have done before the in-person meetings
 - c. Technical writer discussion
- 8. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the Board’s attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Nothing
 - b. Next Study Board meeting: October 13, 2023; 10 AM Mountain, 11 AM Central, 12 PM Eastern
 - c. IJC Semi-Annual appearances in Ottawa: October 16-20, 2023
 - i. In-person board meeting participation
- 9. Action items
 - a. PAG positions

- b. Provide a document and/or information to add into the indigenous section of the annual report
- c. Annual report to be sent to the IJC on Friday the 6th
- d. Provide a draft agenda for review for GF members in Great Falls