

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
Conference Call
Tuesday December 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM PST

BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Hutchinson	Chair, Canadian Section
Cindi Barton (absent)	Chair, U.S. Section
Ted White	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds	Board Member, Canadian Section
Anna Warwick Sears	Board Member, Canadian Section
John Arterburn	Board Member, U.S. Section
Col. Xander Bullock (absent)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman	Board Member, U.S. Section
Arnie Marchand	Board Member, U.S. Section

BOARD STAFF and BOARD MEMBER ASSISTANTS

Andy Gendaszek	Secretary, U.S. Section
Martin Suchy	Secretary, Canadian Section
Kevin Shaffer	Technical Assistant to Colonel Xander Bullock

IJC REPRESENTATIVES and GUESTS

Wayne Jenkinson (absent)	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo (absent)	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Paul Allen (absent)	Communications, Canadian Section
Norman Barth (absent)	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Adam Greely	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section

1. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The conference call was started at 1:00 PM and lead by Dave Hutchinson (Canadian Co-Chair). The agenda was reviewed and accepted without changes.

2. Approval of September Conference Call Minutes

The Board reviewed and approved the September conference call minutes with the removal of item 8c, which was a duplicate of item 8b. Dave Hutchinson moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Anna Warwick Sears and Sue McKortoff.

3. Hydrologic Conditions and Climate

Snowpack

Early season snowpack measured at low, middle, and high elevation within the Okanagan Basin by Brenda Mine (1,460 m), Mission Creek (1,780 m), and Silver Star (1,840 m) snow pillow were above

normal in early December. In the Similkameen Basin, the Blackwall Peak snow pillow (1,940 m) recorded high-elevation snowpack was near normal.

Hydrology and Operations

Zosel Dam gates remained fully opened from May 11 to July 21 during the 2020 spring freshet when Osoyoos Lake level peaked at 913.64 feet on June 2. On July 18, lake level declined below 912 feet and regulation of Osoyoos Lake outflows at Zosel Dam began on July 21 when gates were lowered. Zosel Dam operations maintained the level of Osoyoos Lake at a targeted level of 911.7 feet through mid-September at which point outflow was regulated to reduce lake levels to a target winter level of about 909.5 feet, which was achieved by late November.

The Similkameen River has remained at or near historical mean daily discharge since the spring freshet except for one peak-flow event that reached about 6,540 cfs on November 6, which had no effect on Osoyoos Lake outflow. In the near term, Similkameen levels are forecast to be near normal for mid-December. Likewise, Okanagan Lake, which peaked at 1,124.54 feet on June 25, well above the “normal” full pool level of 1,123.62 feet, was near its historical mean elevation by early September. Discharge of the Okanagan River at Penticton and Oliver have likewise become near historical mean discharge since early September following decreased outflow from Okanagan Lake.

Climate Outlook

A La Nina Advisory has been issued by U.S. and Canadian authorities. The strength of La Nina conditions is expected to persist through the 2020/2021 winter before decreasing in the 2021 spring and summer. As the La Nina conditions strengthen through the winter, the probability of cooler temperatures and increased precipitation is forecasted to increase in the southern interior of BC and northern WA.

4. Workplan Update

The Board reviewed the IOLBC workplan and suggested several changes for the updated 2020-2021 Workplan. These changes included two additions to the Board’s ongoing core activities including 1) communicating the status and trends of Osoyoos Lake levels to the public on a quarterly basis and as needed more frequently (e.g., during freshet) and 2) keeping the Board informed about activities in associated river basins that may have effects on Osoyoos Lake and the surrounding community. In addition several additional priorities for the Board were defined or edited within the 2021 workplan, which include: 1) combining Board efforts to work with the Applicant to collect and integrate data from Zosel Dam water-level gates with the development of the USACE operational analytical model and 2) development of an IWI proposal to improve Osoyoos Lake water balance, and 3) secure funding from partners to supplement IWI funds for the 2021 Osoyoos Lake Science Forum.

5. Enloe Dam

The Board discussed recent communications to the public regarding Enloe Dam and recommended the Secretaries send an email to the reiterating the Board’s mandate and that the Board has not taken a position with respect to Enloe Dam.

6. September 2019 Flush Summary

John Arterburn (Board Member, U.S. Section) presented a summary of the September 2019 regulated-flow operation to flush fine-grained sediment from spawning gravels in the reach of the Okanogan

River between Zosel Dam and the Similkameen/Okanogan River confluence. Because peak discharge of the Okanogan River coincide with backwater inundation from the Similkameen, fine-grained sediment is not often flushed within the Okanogan River downstream of Zosel Dam. When there is no backwater in effect, flows below 1,500 cfs also do not mobilize gravel. The Similkameen River exceeded 3,000 cfs from mid April to mid July during the 2020 spring freshet; peak discharge of the Okanogan River was 1,270 cfs 4/20/20 prior to inundation from the Similkameen and 2,400 cfs post inundation on 7/15/20.

Marker stones placed at the first riffle crest below Zosel Dam showed little to no mobilization in Spring 2020. Some mobility of surface layer occurred in late summer when Okanogan discharge was still high and no longer backwatered by the Similkameen. Marker stones were frequently observed within a few meters when they were displaced. No sets of markers were completely mobilized. Increased flows that mobilize gravels are necessary to maintain quality of spawning gravel in the Okanogan River downstream of Zosel Dam.

7. Fall 2021 Science Forum

The Secretaries are working with Anna Warwick Sears and her staff at OBWB to convene the steering committee and several sub committees of the 2021 Osoyoos Lake Science Forum. The steering committee is working on getting input for the science forum from Tribes and First Nations.

8. IWI Similkameen Model and Phase II Update

Similkameen Hydrologic Model (Phase I) is slightly behind schedule due to delay in obtaining updated water demand data from sub-contractor. Model calibration, model execution, ensemble analysis continues, while next steps are analysis for the April-July drought criteria. Scheduled was for project completion by end of February, which will likely get pushed back into March, but contractor confident they will complete before end of March. The second phase of the Similkameen and Okanogan basin modeling has been approved by the IJC-IWI and is set to go to contracting. The Secretaries are working with the IJC U.S. Section to determine the timing of the funding as the first phase of the project concludes in spring 2021.

9. Quarterly Call Schedule

2021 Quarterly call schedule being developed using Doodle Poll, including tentative place holders for April, May and July.

10. Round Table

- Fall Board and Public meeting minutes will be available for March quarterly conference call. The Secretaries will ask Board to invite Trevor Hutton, the new technical representative of the Applicant, to introduce himself to the Board at the Board's March conference call.

11. Action Items

In Progress.

1. Develop workplan to engage Tribes and First Nations within the Okanagan/Okanogan and Similkameen Basins;
2. Investigate the extension of inundation maps south of border into Washington State and post on Board website;
3. Secretaries to watch for the schedule release of the BC Snow and Water Supply Bulletin in 2021 before proposing IOLBC quarterly conference call dates for 2021.
4. IJC guidelines for outside participation (Agencies such as the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Tribal and First Nations) in quarterly conference calls and Board meetings. Board Secretaries waiting for official guidance document for IJC. Continue with interim guidance;
5. Board Secretaries to add Osoyoos Lake inundation maps to IOLBC webpage. Canadian inundation maps have been created, but extend only to US/Canada border;
6. Board Secretaries to add update on Board website to indicate installation of new High-Water Monuments. Waiting for the US Veterans Memorial Park monument to be completed in order to update the website. Town of Oroville is ready to do whatever they need to do to assist with this;
7. Improve knowledge of the Osoyoos lake water balance (both US and Canadian side); and
8. Track USGS Enloe Dam sediment quality project.

Completed Items

1. Update Board website with June 2020 conference call minutes;
2. Prepare for Board and Public meetings on October 8, 2020;
3. Prepare for Ottawa Fall Semi-Annual appearances on October 22, 2020;
4. Send calendar invite for the Fall Semi-Annual IJC Appearance on October 22, 2020;
5. Develop a sub-committee/steering committee for 2021 Osoyoos Lake Science Forum;
6. Provide Similkameen Model sub-basin input to NHC;

New Items

1. Update 2020-2021 Work Plan document;
2. Update Board website with September 2020 conference call minutes;
3. Invite Trevor Hutton (the new technical representative of the Applicant), to introduce himself to the Board at the Board's March conference call.
- 4.
- 5.