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International Souris River Board

Conference Call  
Friday, July 19, 2013

**Final Minutes**

Attendees:

**Board Members:** Russell Boals, Todd Sando, John Fahlman, and Scott Gangl.

**Support Staff:** Scott Jutila (US ACE) also sitting in on behalf Col. Daniel Koprowski; Joel Galloway (USGS), Elizabeth Nelson (USGS).

**Secretaries:** Bob White and Girma Sahlu

Todd Sando called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. CST and asked if there were any changes to the draft agenda that was circulated before the conference call. Two items were added under Other Business:

- forming a Task Force for the Plan of Study (POS), and
- POS Update.

**1. Status of Flood Operations for 2013**

Saskatchewan – John Fahlman reported all three reservoirs (Boundary, Rafferty and Alameda) are at or close to their full supply level (FSL). Currently, there is no release out of Rafferty. Alameda is releasing 7 m<sup>3</sup>/s. (247 cfs) and is slightly above FSL. Boundary reservoir is below FSL. J. Fahlman mentioned that the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee (FFLC) met last week and had recommended that flood operations be stopped since the flow at Minot is less than 500 cfs.

North Dakota - Elizabeth Nelson stated the flow out of Lake Darling is currently 100 cfs. The flow at Minot will be less than 500 cfs, as well. Russell Boals suggested the Board declare that the flood operations to be over.

**Motion:** John Fahlman moved, based on the advice from Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee, that flood operations be deemed over. Seconded by: Scott Gangl. Carried.

Todd Sando asked how this decision would be communicated to the US FWS. It was mentioned that the US FWS staff were present at the FFLC meeting when the recommendation was made. However, the US ACE (Scott Jutila) will formally notify the US FWS that flood operation is over.

## **2. Public Meeting on August 7, 2013**

John Fahlman asked what should be covered under “How Water is Managed in the Souris River Basin”. R. Boals suggested including information on the various agencies involved and their roles, and the 2013 flood conditions would be useful. Bob White and R. Boals will provide J. Fahlman any PowerPoint decks that were used at past public meetings. The Board also requested to remove David Donald’s name and replace it with Heather H. Duchscherer for the water quality presentation at the public meeting.

## **3. Other Business**

**Forming a Task Force for the Plan of Study (POS)** - The Board discussed the status of the Plan of Study (POS) which is still with the IJC. Questions were raised if the Board could start some aspects of the POS without waiting for funding. The Boards agreed to discuss it further at the August meeting in Weyburn.

## **4. Other Business**

**Forming a Task Force for the Plan of Study (POS)** - The Board discussed the status of the Plan of Study (POS) which is still with the IJC. Questions were raised if the Board could start some aspects of the POS without waiting for funding. The Boards agreed to discuss it further at the August meeting in Weyburn.

- **POS Update** - Recently the U.S. Department of State, Office of Canadian Affairs set up a conference call with a number of federal agencies to discuss which of the three options to support. Once consensus has been reached by the agencies, the U.S. Department of State would meet with Canada to find agreement and make a recommendation to the IJC on the option to pursue. It was noted the ISRB has already sent the POS with its recommendation to pursue the optimal scope to the IJC on July 10, 2013. Bob White called Mark Colosimo, IJC Washington, for clarification about the email. M. Colosimo advised B. White that the conference call should not affect the POS or the activities of the Board. There will be another conference call among US federal departments on July 23, 2013 regarding this topic. Megan Estep, Gregg Wiche, and Scott Jutila will be on the call.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. on July 19, 2013.