

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
Conference Call
Monday December 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM PST
MS Teams

ACRONYMS

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
IJC	International Joint Commission
IOLBC	International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control
IWI	International Watershed Initiative
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Hutchinson	Chair, Canadian Section
Cindi Barton	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 (outgoing)
Cameron Marshall	Secretary, U.S. Section (incoming)
Martin Suchy	Secretary, Canadian Section
Sonja Michelsen	Colonel Xander Bullock
Cherise Lao	Colonel Xander Bullock

IJC REPRESENTATIVES

Paul Allen (absent)	Communications, Canadian Section
Rob Caldwell	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Adam Greely	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Jeff Kart	Communications, U.S. Section

1. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting was led by Dave Hutchinson (Chair, Canadian Section) and the agenda was reviewed and approved.

Dave announced the retirement of Cindi Barton (Chair, US Section) from the USGS and stated that she

will continue as a volunteer on the IJC Board until a USGS-Washington Water Science Center (WAWSC) director replacement is found. Cindi started with the Osoyoos board in 2000. Cindi will likely be in a blackout period of a couple of weeks in the beginning of January, due to the retirement and change to a volunteer.

Andy Gendaszek (Secretary, US Section) introduced Cameron Marshall (USGS, hydrologist) as the incoming U.S. secretary. Both will remain on the IJC Board over the next year to provide a smooth transition.

2. Meeting Minutes Review Process

Martin Suchy (Secretary, Canadian Section) reviewed the Osoyoos Board SharePoint site for meeting minutes and discussed the recommendation to review meeting minutes by email via links to the SharePoint documents. This would provide more flexible timelines and would transition to one centralized system for minutes and other document review. Martin will upload the September, Annual board, and other meeting minutes to the SharePoint and provide a place for Board members to initial after they have approved of minutes.

Martin provided a live walk-through of the SharePoint site. Key folders were placed at the top level of the structure with yearly folders beneath these, then separated by month or further specific topic areas.

One question was brought up asking if it was possible to lock files from editing? It was stated that all documents are open for editing unless specifically and individually changed.

Martin requested feedback be provided on the structure and use to discuss in the March meeting.

3. Hydrologic Conditions and Climate

Martin Suchy (Secretary, Canadian Section) provided an overview of the fall hydrologic and climatic conditions. It was noted that discharge of the Similkameen River at Hedley, BC was less than last year. Discharge data measured at the USGS gage at Nighthawk was not available for part of November and December due to ice. The Okanagan River was 0.24 m below target elevation for this time of the year and it was anticipated to level off over the next several months. Okanagan River discharge was 224 cfs this morning, near minimum of desired flow level at Penticton; outflows are not likely to be reduced any further. Okanagan River at Oroville current flow was 308 cfs. Osoyoos Lake was close to 10th percentile with decreasing flows decrease that were similar to levels of last year and near the lower range of the historic levels. Similkameen River near Nighthawk forecasting indicated that steady flows are expected. This is the third season for La Nina conditions but is trending downward overall and is likely generally from climate change. A University of Washington study indicates that more La Nina seasons will occur in the short-term, but long-term will trend towards El Nino seasons. Probabilistic forecasts from NOAA indicated below normal temps and above normal precipitation for the region of the watersheds.

Snowpack conditions in the region were also discussed. The Mission Creek snow site was removed due to an issue with the snow pillow bladder and will not be repaired this season. This is because the repair will disturb the snow above it and impact the provided data. They are preparing to use proxy data from the Grano Creek station and more manual measurements. The impact from this would be consequential for the water supply forecast. The Board will need to track this heading into the spring, as there is concern that bi-weekly measurements might not be able to fill gap for a site that covers about 30% of the watershed. Sonja Michelsen (Technical Assistant to Col. Bullock) mentioned that USACE has had experience with this and other surrogates have been used in the past. Andy stated that the Board should reach out to the folks to see what issues they might have with forecasting. Overall, snowpacks are “pretty healthy” for season; low- and mid-thicknesses are high. It is slightly drier in the Similkameen basin. The WA SNOTEL reported that the Upper Columbia region is above normal for snowpack. BC snow-water equivalents will be available in January and integrated into automated report, once provincial data is available.

4. 2023 Communications Plan

Andy Gendaszek (Secretary, US Section) presented the 2023 communications plan that was previously within the Work Plan. This is now broken out and separated into 3 areas: Policy, Strategy, and Schedule.

The first draft of this is available on the IJC SharePoint site. Martin has reviewed Andy's initial draft.

Andy then led discussion for each of the communication plan sections. First being the Communication Policy. He stated that organizations from all over have communications plan and the public ones are published. This section describes how our organization (1) handles communication, (2) how the board is operated [secretaries disseminating communications to the board, board chairs approve information to go out to the public, and any necessary reviews are conducted from main IJC], and (3) the approval process and who is allowed to communicate.

Several questions were brought up during the discussion:

- Are state and provincial governments considered "local" governments? It was noted that state and provincial governments are not listed in this section.
- Who is allowed to speak on behalf of the Board? It was mentioned that anyone should be able to speak in personal capacity, as a public person affiliated with the Board, but not on behalf of the Board. Rob Caldwell (Engineering Advisor, IJC, Canadian Section) mentioned that the IJC is developing its own communications policy, which is currently in review and 100 pages long. It has requirements for approvals for communications regarding outreach to the public. However, anyone should state upfront what their role is when communicating with the public: personal or representing the board. A question was raised about the timeline for IJC release the communication plan to Boards but nothing is known at this time and it is in draft mode and 90% done. The IJC policy is a mix of Board and IJC executive directives. Board documents should reference the main IJC document in their own communication plans. There is a location for a communications matrix section in the plan; however, it is currently left as "TBD" and is undetermined how this IJC Board will use this section.
- How does the Applicant communicate with the public, as this communication plan document does not cover anything outside of the Board. It was stated that the dam owner would have to notify the IJC if it was out of compliance and communications would follow plan from there. Coordination with the applicant should be performed. As an example, the Department of Ecology has put out press releases and the Board has coordinated press releases from there.

It was recommended that the Board target the March quarterly conference call to review and approve the Board communication plan. Board comments are needed for the following areas: (1) Key audiences with a need to differentiate between key audiences (i.e. governments are not all the same) and who we are trying to communicate with outside our organization; (2) Objectives and strategies to identify if there are any objectives that are needed; (3) think critically about how our communications work and determine a communications schedule.

5. 2023 Work Plan

Martin provided information on the IJC Work Plan. It was noted that the work plan will be updated in the coming year and ensuring priority items, like the communication plan, are included. Some items in the work plan could be combined and will be investigated, like items 6,7,11, all the communication plan points, but communicating with the public could be left as its own. Anna commented that the list of ongoing activities should be specific and maybe not reference the communications plan alone.

Several priorities were identified for 2023. They include, but are not limited to,

- removing the U.S. monument and Canadian monument vandalism from the list; there is still a need to address this somewhere)
- placing the Zosel Dam webcam on the IJC website and limitations of the IJC webpages will be investigated; Jeff will follow-up to see if the current image could be linked to
- bathymetry data for Zosel Dam to enhance model; this item should be left in as there is more work to be done on this
- Osoyoos Lake water balance; it was discussed that this should be left on the list, even if just for the following year or two, with an update for both Canadian and U.S. information but the water demand for Canadian portion is based on 2014 information and could use an update using similar methods. Sonja stated that she would check with NHC on water demand for the US portion. It was also mentioned that, in Canada, in absence of water use information, they use water licenses.
- IWI bathymetry mapping was completed
- Update IOLBC communication plan: priority for this year; waiting for IJC policy to update accordingly
- Pilot subscriber-based news release interface: IJC has delivered on this, subscription ability has been enabled; Andy and Martin will create news release and post on board website and will use existing email list to ask people to subscribe. The IJC is using Osoyoos as a pilot for other boards. The Board needs to consider key media contacts that we want to ask to subscribe.
- Name use for Okanagan or Okanogan? This should be a separate consideration with respect to possible traditional and regional names that we should best document the name in the Board material
- Phase 2 model integration project: Update wording for this item; contracting and work needs to be completed. The projected completion date is 2024 but is likely to be delayed to the end of 2024.

One discussion point was brought up by Cindi Barton (Chair, US Section) for the IJC Board to consider putting together a portfolio of flood maps at different stages and an inundation map based on Osoyoos Lake levels. Flood maps from FEMA or USACE might be available as well. Anna commented that would need to be a separate project, but the data is available. Dave stated that the Board could seek IWI funding if we want to do that this year. He mentioned that linking the connection across the country boundaries could be difficult but is likely achievable. One concern is that by putting a line on a map could be problematic, but caveats could be put on the data to potentially alleviate future issues. Arnie Marchand (Board Member, US Section) mentioned that this would be good for the local planning commissions. Brian Symonds (Board Member, Canadian Section) wanted the Board to consider what we are trying to represent. If this is based on topographic contours, it could be less controversial. Sonja mentioned the potential complexity would take a little bit of work due to trying to match elevations and what the map would be based on, gage vs lake surface elevation, for instance.

6. Phase 2 Hydrologic Model Integration

Dave Hutchinson (Chair, US Section) presented about CMIP6 global climate models (GCMs) that will be available for use within the Phase 2 Hydrological Model. The new generation of GCMs are generally forecasting higher temperatures (about 7 degrees). Two CMIP6 downscaled gridded climate products

will be available in the near future: (1) dynamically-downscaled (4 km resolution) by NCAR (through USACE contract) which will be available ~ Feb; and (2) Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium statistically downscaled (10 km resolution) which will be available around April. The subcommittee will meet again to discuss whether there is a need for finer resolution than 4 km and if a grid scale is needed.

Martin commented that the NHC statement of work is being sought and will incorporate average unit costs for additional model runs. Also, being investigated is the statistical relationship for lake levels at Osoyoos, the RAVEN model for non-backwater conditions, and how backwater will be dealt with. After a subcommittee call, there will be a smaller group call with NHC to revise the statement of work.

7. Osoyoos Lake Science Forum Debrief

Anna Warwick Sears (Board Member, Canadian Section) discussed the film that was created and reported that the film is almost completed and awaiting review from Okanagan tribe. Once completed, it will be investigated on how to include the film on the IJC website. Jeff Kart will be consulted to see if the Vimeo or YouTube can be embedded and if something like this has been done in the past. The Science Forum had full attendance and was the most diverse (i.e. age, international, tribal representation, etc.) and largest attendance ever. It was reported that the Forum was very successful overall.

8. 2023 Conference Call Scheduling

Martin Suchy (Secretary, Canadian Section) reported that the Doodle poll was completed by 100% of board members but without 100% consensus. It was suggested to remove dates with low consensus and resend the Doodle poll. Primary board members were put as the highest priority for scheduling. It was asked if there is any possibility for recording meetings. Recording meetings is an option; however, ECCC Teams does not have a recording option. IJC and USGS do have the ability to do this, but Andy and Martin cannot create a Teams invite under the IJC account. If a recording can be obtained, it will not be posted on the board website but will be hosted on the IJC internal SharePoint.

9. Round Table

Brian Symonds (Board Member Canadian Section) brought up a discussion about meeting scheduling and urged us to look to schedule out the next few meetings, but to be flexible and have discussion about availability beforehand.

Lt. Corp. Cherise Lao indicated that she would bring up the communication plan work to Col. Bullock to identify and differentiate between key audiences. She asked if there should be clarification or further discussion be put into the communication plan regarding transboundary communications. She also mentioned that push notifications were not visible. Dave and Martin have this listed as a development action and may need to indicate this as a strategy in the communication plan.