

MINUTES

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Annual Board Meeting

Board Room Kootenai River Inn
7169 Plaza Street
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

Wednesday, 26 September 2012
2:00 – 4:30 PM

Attendance

	United States	Canada
Chair	Col. Bruce Estok (host)	Kirk Johnstone
Members	Michael Lewis	Glen Davidson
Secretary	Amy Reese	Gwyn Graham
Guests	Commissioner, Mr. Rich Moy (U.S.), Ted Yuzyk (IJC, Can.)Dr. Mark Colosimo (IJC, U.S.), Bruno Tassone, Environment Canada, Kelvin Ketchum, BCHydro, Martin Jasek, BCHydro, Ron Malmgren, Corps of Engrs., Marko Aaltomaa, Network Services Manager (FortisBC), Jamie King, Power Supply Operations Manager (FortisBC), Jarret Leason, Senior Engineer, Operations (FortisBC), Larry Merkle (Technical Advisor)	

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Col Estok welcomed and led introduction of the Board members and guests.

2. Review of the Agenda

Col Estok led a review of the agenda which was adopted without change.

3. Business from previous meetings

3.1 Columbia Treaty Operating Committee Plans for Operation of Treaty Projects

Ron Malmgren of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division Office, representing the U.S. Section, Columbia River Treaty Operating Committee (CRTOC), distributed draft copies of a report; "Evaluation of Libby Dam Flood Risk Management Operations on Kootenay Lake" and gave a presentation summarizing the report. Ron's report was in response to questions raised in the Board's 2011 Annual Meeting. The questions pertain to the fact that an important consideration in formulation of the 1938 Order was to, where possible, especially during the spring planting period and fall harvest period, provide low Kootenay Lake levels to enhance gravity drainage and minimize pumping requirements in the Kootenai Flats agricultural areas.

The evaluation was based on modeling studies that investigated and compared the effect on Kootenay Lake of Libby and Duncan projects operated to not pass more than inflow when Kootenay

Lake is at or above its rule curve (with IJC logic) versus operation to draft Libby and Duncan projects as needed to increase reservoir space for flood risk reduction (without IJC logic). The Board's principal question was how much would drafting from Libby and Duncan during the spring period increase lake levels which would increase backwater effects in the Kootenai Flats area which would reduce gravity drain potential and increase pumping requirements. It is acknowledged that although drafting of Libby and Duncan increases river levels in the agricultural areas in March and April, it leads to lower maximum annual Kootenay Lake levels which has a flood risk reduction benefit in many years.

Kirk Johnstone reviewed the history of operation of the Libby and Duncan projects as that operation affects Kootenay Lake and Kootenai River levels especially in the March and April period. Mr. Johnstone mentioned that he did not agree with including in the report the statement that release of upstream storage during an IJC Order exceedence does not result in a violation of the Order. That statement seems to absolve the upstream projects from any responsibility for the exceedence. Whereas, all IJC said in its 19 December 2008 letter is that the 1938 Order is directed solely to the Applicant [FortisBC], and the operation of the upstream dams is a matter for the two federal governments to determine. This absolves FortisBC of responsibility for a violation of the Order provided it has assured Corra Linn project is not controlling lake levels but does not resolve the issue of whether the upstream projects are operated in a manner consistent with the Kootenay Lake Order as required by the Columbia River Treaty. Mr. Johnstone suggested that, when CRTOC report is complete, the Board should submit it to IJC and suggest that IJC submit the issue to the two governments.

Mr. Malmgren stated that he anticipated some technical revisions to the draft report and that it would be submitted to the CRTOC for approval at their December 2012 meeting.

4. New business

4.1 Review of Project Operations-2012

Amy Reese reviewed the 2012 operation of Libby and Duncan projects as they affected Bonners Ferry stage and Kootenay Lake. Increased snow accumulation in February and March resulted in an increase in the 1 April forecast of April-August basin runoff. April drafting from storage at Libby and Duncan projects contributed to Kootenay Lake being above the rule curve from March 28th to April 20th when the spring rise was declared. Summer rain in the basin reached record levels with June precipitation at many stations in the 250 to 350 % of normal. These factors resulted in Kootenay Lake elevation reaching a maximum elevation of 1753.78 on July 3rd, the 2nd highest level since Libby and Duncan projects became operational.

4.2 Compliance with the Kootenay Lake Order-2012

Gwyn Graham reviewed FortisBC's compliance with the IJC Order. He stated that the lake was below the rule curve throughout the preceding year except during the period March 28th to April 20th, 2012. During that period Fortis had lowered the Corra Linn forebay causing hydraulic control of lake discharge to shift to Grohman Narrows. Because the lake levels exceeding the rule curve were caused by high inflow conditions and Fortis BC had lowered the forebay so that Grohman Narrows controlled lake discharge (sufficient gates shall be opened and remain open throughout such period of excess), FortisBC was not in violation of the Order.

4.3 FortisBC Operations-2012

Marko Aaltomaa mentioned that Kootenay Lake reached a minimum level of 1739.62 on March 25th. Fortis did visual damage surveys when Kootenay Lake was near its maximum level, 1753.78 feet. Although BCHydro reports have indicated "zero damage level" is about elevation 1750, Fortis's visual survey indicated relatively minor to moderate damage at maximum lake level this year. Some

basements were flooded, operations at some marinas were restricted and some docks were damaged or not functional. FortisBC has photographs and will make them available.

4.4 Grohman Narrows Issues: Potential for Increased Channel Capacity

Kelvin Ketchum stated that BCHydro is studying the possibility of increasing hydraulic capacity at Grohman Narrows. The study is in a preliminary stage so cost of achieving increased capacity, if feasible, has not been determined. Qualitatively, it is likely that increased capacity would provide flood risk reduction benefits on Kootenay Lake and hydropower benefits at downstream projects. Tentatively, BCHydro will be looking at lowering control level 1-2 meters. Mr. Ketchum anticipates that BCHydro will do some drilling and/or other geotechnical investigations in 2013. Glen Davidson stated that potential effects on water rights are a concern to BC province. Mr. Ketchum mentioned that another consideration is that if hydraulic capacity is increased at Grohman Narrows, hydraulic control may shift upstream to a narrow point just downstream of the Queens Bay gage.

5 Preparation for Public Meeting & Review of the Agenda

Gwyn Graham reported that he had been contacted by BC government officials who objected to the scheduling of this year's Kootenay Board Meetings because the schedule conflicts with the scheduled meeting of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). Gwyn stated that we will attempt to get the UBCM schedule next year and give that schedule consideration in scheduling the Board Annual Meetings.

Amy Reese mentioned that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting in Bonners Ferry on October 22 to discuss this year's Libby project operation.

The agenda for the public meeting was approved.

Adjourn

Col Estok declared the meeting adjourned.