

## MINUTES

### International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Annual Meeting

Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre  
Kootenay Salon  
701 Lakeside Drive  
Nelson, BC

Thursday October 22, 2009

#### Attendance

	<b>United States</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Chair	Col. Anthony Wright	Kirk Johnstone (host)
Members	Steve Lipscomb	Glen Davidson
Secretary	Larry Merkle	Daniel Millar
Guests	Dr. Mark Colosimo (IJC), Tom McAuley (IJC), Amy Reese (USACE)	

*And joining the meeting in progress...*

Dave Cochrane (FortisBC), Marko Aaltomaa (FortisBC), Dan Egolf (FortisBC), Kelvin Ketchum (Columbia River Treaty Operating Committee), Jim Barton (Columbia River Treaty Operating Committee)

Prior to this meeting, Board members visited FortisBC's Corra Linn Dam, which is the subject of the IJC's 1938 Kootenay Lake Order, and BC Hydro's Kootenay Canal Plant, which shares the Corra Linn forebay.

#### Minutes

##### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Kirk Johnstone welcomed and led introductions of the Board members and guests. He particularly recognized new Board member Steve Lipscomb.

##### **Review of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved without addition.

##### **Business from the Previous Meeting**

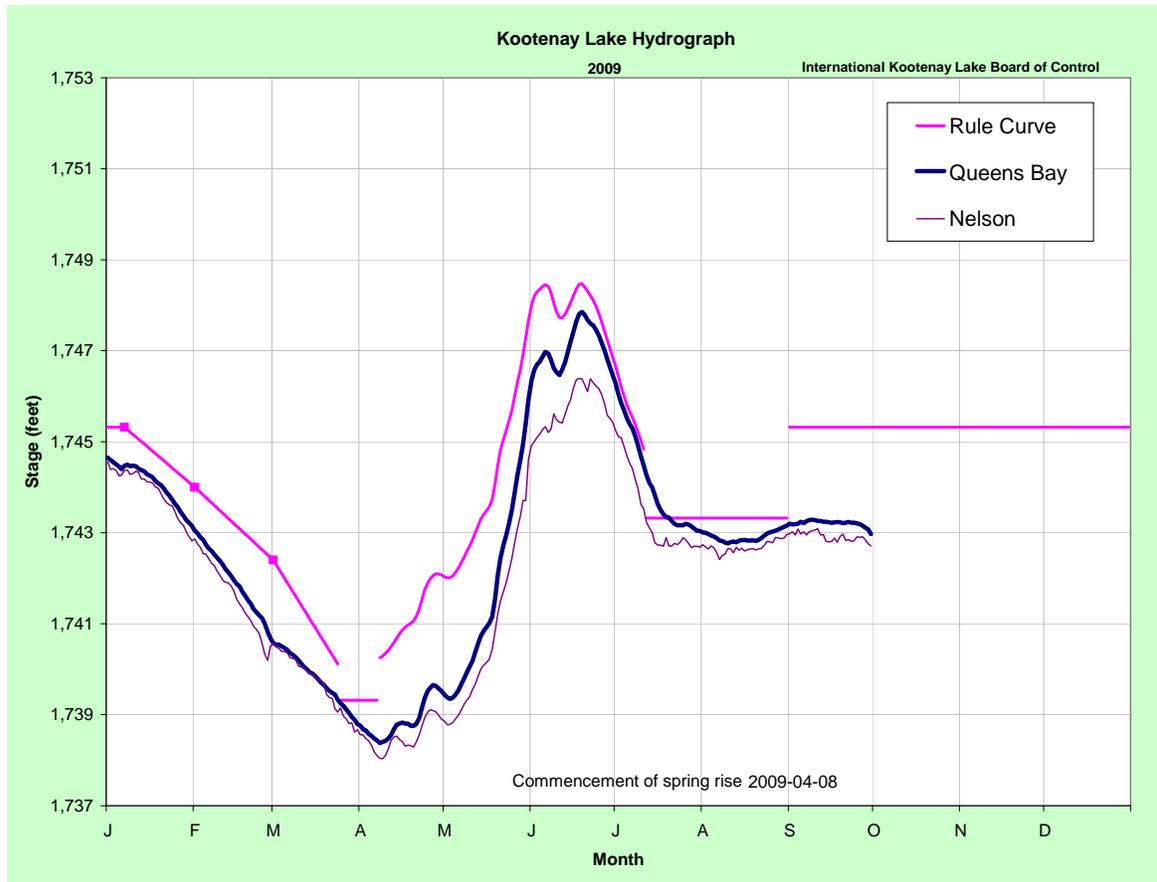
###### **Spring Rise**

The Board discussed a letter received from the Columbia River Treaty Operating Committee (CRTOC) dated September 21, 2009, which offers an objective method—a model—to supplement the Board's current method for determining spring rise. The Board noted the difference between the source of the Board's summary of spring rise dates extracted from lake level hydrographs and the CRTOC's interpretation of those dates. Further, members discussed the concept of late spring rise determination leading to trapped storage in the upstream reservoirs.

##### **New Business**

###### **Compliance with the Kootenay Lake Order in 2009**

Daniel Millar presented a hydrograph of lake levels as compared to the 1938 Order's rule curve. During 2009, FortisBC, the Applicant to the Order, has properly maintained Kootenay Lake levels below the maximum levels specified in the Order.



### FortisBC Operations in 2009

The Board received a letter from FortisBC, dated October 14, 2008, describing their maintenance of the water level gauges identified in section 6 of the 1938 Order. This fulfilled a commitment made at last year's meeting to provide this information. The letter noted that FortisBC had not received a request from the State of Idaho for pumping costs, per section 3 of the 1938 Order, for 2006, 2007 or 2008.

Dave Cochrane of FortisBC made a presentation to the Board with the following highlights:

- 2009 saw a low snowpack and dry spring. The lake went below 1739.32 on March 23 and stayed below this level until May 9. With moderate inflows the lake peaked at 1747.80 on June 19. It receded quickly and went to Nelson control on July 12, which was very early. The company received some complaints from the public about low water in July and August. For the second year in a row FortisBC was able to “empty” the lake to elevation 1738.0. Concern about low water in April—ferry issues and public comments—led to a review of the consequences of keeping a little more water in the lake
- Most stored water can be released before the lake peaks, and most of it can be used to generate energy. On April 21<sup>st</sup> the lake started 9” or so above 1738.0, and FortisBC was able to generate all but ½” or so of this “stored” water. The effect on the peak lake elevation is even less than this ½”.
- The company worked on Corra Linn plant discharge modelling in 2008. FortisBC is satisfied that the “new” model for Corra Linn is good and is now being used. The new model indicates no difference (compared to the old) at 5,000 cfs, the base discharge for 10 months of the year. At full load, the model indicated a 1000 cfs increase in discharge, which lasts approximately 2 months per year.
- Actual tests confirmed that the spillgate model is good and doesn't require any further work.
- BC Hydro has revised the discharge model for Kootenay Canal due to new rating curves indicating 1% greater efficiency at the normal (peak efficiency) operating load, and 3% less efficiency, roughly 1000 cfs, at full load. This equates to negligible change over the year in terms of total volume of water.

- Does the Board have a role in reviewing or vetting the discharge model?
- Two of the Corra Linn units are scheduled for upgrade over the next two years.
- Water level gauge preventative maintenance is scheduled every six months with the next due at the end of October. This will include a diving inspection of the intakes. The only corrective maintenance was at Nelson where some tweaking of the pulse radar unit was required. Capital work is scheduled at Queens Bay to maintain the exterior and upgrade the electrical system of the gauge.
- No request by the State of Idaho for payment of pumping costs was received in 2008 or 2009 and no payments have yet been made for 2007. FortisBC is in discussions with the Kootenai Valley Reclamation Association, the State's representative in this matter, to catch up on billing and payments. The letter of agreement between FortisBC and the State (allowing for payment of \$27,000 in pumping costs over the \$3,000 specified in the 1938 Order) will be revised to set time limits for invoicing by the State.

The Board asked Mr. Cochrane for a copy of statements on the new models along with a summary of proposed upgrades and rehabilitation of Corra Linn Dam and powerhouse.

Mr. Cochrane advised that Marko Aaltomaa will be replacing him as the company's contact for the Board of Control.

#### **Preparation for the Public Meeting**

Board members reviewed the evening meeting's agenda and speculated on issues that might be raised by guests.

#### **Adjourn**