

## MINUTES

### International Kootenay Lake Board of Control Public Meeting

Best Western Baker Street Inn  
153 Baker Street  
Nelson, BC

Thursday September 20, 2007  
7:30 – 9:30 PM

#### Attendance

	<b>United States</b>	<b>Canada</b>
Chair	Col. Mike McCormick	Kirk Johnstone (absent)
Members	Kathy Peter	Glen Davidson (host)
Secretary	Larry Merkle	Daniel Millar
Guests	Commissioners: Jack Blaney (Canada) & Irene Brooks (USA) Dr. Mark Colosimo (US Section IJC), Tom McAuley (Canadian Section, IJC), Ed Zapel (USACE) Dan Egolf (FortisBC, Trail), Andy Shadrack (Regional District of Central Kootenay, Kaslo), Marc-André Beaucher (Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, Creston), Dwain Boyer (BC Ministry of the Environment, Nelson), Eric Weiss (BC Hydro, Surrey), Eric Sargent (Nelson), Kevin Bradshaw (FortisBC, Puss Creek).	

#### Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions Glen Davidson  
Glen Davidson introduced Board members and led a round of introductions of guests.
2. Review of the agenda Glen Davidson  
Mr. Davidson presented the agenda to guests. No modifications were made.  
Note that item 3.2 (Kootenay Lake water level –public concerns) was deleted from the draft agenda during the business meeting as the high water issue was not relevant this year.
3. IJC and the Kootenay Lake Orders – context Daniel Millar  
Mr. Millar gave a short presentation describing the International Joint Commission, its Kootenay Lake Board of Control, and the Kootenay Order. The presentation also covered a short history of William Baillie-Grohman's exploits in the area in the late 1800s.
- 3.1 Kootenay Lake levels 2007 Daniel Millar  
Mr. Millar presented a hydrograph depicting water levels on Kootenay Lake during the year and reviewed the Commission's maximum water level criteria for the lake. FortisBC successfully maintained water levels below the maximum during 2007, except for a protracted period during March and April. During this time, a series of weather conditions led to exceedence of the Order. In response, FortisBC kept the Corra Linn forebay drawn down to the extent that lake levels were naturally controlled upstream at Grohman Narrows. This exceedence was not considered a violation.
- 3.2 Questions from the public concerning the Kootenay Order and Board Members

operation of Kootenay Lake in 2007

[Questions are paraphrased. For clarity, answers may be reported here with more detail than offered at the meeting.]

Andy Shadrack: Were there any occasions during the year when Libby or Duncan Dam operators were asked to restrict outflows? (Mr. Shadrack's concern appeared to be a near-flood situation at Meadow Creek that he felt could have been caused by early filling of the Duncan reservoir followed by a forced spill.) *A: No such direction was issued by the Board. Eric Weiss offered that BCHydro made several releases from Duncan Dam, particularly during August, for fish flows specified in the Water Use Plan.*

Marc-André Beaucher: Mr. Beaucher advised that several farmers in the Creston Valley area were concerned that the lake did not reach its usual low water level in March, leading to increased costs for pumping water from their land back up to the river. *A: Noted.*

Eric Sargent: What drives the lake levels? Is there more to it than man made control? Consider the sudden rise in water level around the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. *A: The lake levels are controlled by a combination of dam operations upstream and downstream of the lake, along with weather events such as snowmelt, rainfall and drought. However, the September rise was caused by FortisBC beginning their water storage period.* Mr. Sargent further commented that it would be helpful if newspaper forecasts of lake levels would report why the levels were changing. *A: This is a matter for FortisBC. Mr. Egolf offered to explain water level changes any time Mr. Sargent would like to telephone him.*

Marc-André Beaucher: Are the hourly gauge readings at Queens Bay available on internet? *A: Yes. Mr. Millar will send the coordinates to Mr. Beaucher:*  
<http://scitech.pyr.ec.gc.ca/waterweb/default.htm>.

Marc-André Beaucher: Will water levels rise to the maximum 1745.32 feet this fall? *A: Mr. Egolf offered that FortisBC is not sure of the maximum elevation to which they will raise the lake during the fall storage period. The level selected will be based on operational requirements including the construction and operation of the new Brilliant Expansion Project at the mouth of the Kootenay River.*

Eric Sargent: Has the Kootenay rule curve changed since 1938? *A: Yes, it was altered once or twice during the war years to increase electrical generation for military-related production. This is not to be confused with the freshet period of the rule curve during which the maximum water level is calculated each year, based on inflows. This ensures that FortisBC is taking advantage of the early 1940s dredging of Grohman Narrows to keep the freshet peak lower than under pre-dam conditions.*

Andy Shadrack: Was it lucky this year that we avoided flooding? *A: We were 'lucky' throughout much of BC that the freshet was orderly and flooding was avoided. The inflow to Libby and Duncan Dams was about 110% of normal, whereas snowpack conditions in southeast BC were reportedly lower than normal in most areas.*

4. Adjourn

Mr. Davidson thanked guests and adjourned the meeting.