

**RECORD OF MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING
AT BALFOUR, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Balfour Beach Inn
October 13th, 1999
7:00 PM

The annual public meeting of the International Joint Commission, Kootenay Lake Board of Control was held on October 13th at the Balfour Beach Inn in Balfour, British Columbia.

Attendance	Canada	United States
Chairmen:	Kirk Johnstone (presiding)	Col. James M. Rigsby
Members:	Prad Khare (absent) Neil Banera (alternate)	Derrill Cowing
Secretaries	Larry Adamache (recording)	Larry Merkle
Observers:	Ann Mackenzie (IJC)	Lisa Bourget (IJC)

1. Introductions

Mr. Johnstone introduced members of the Board.

2. Presentation by Mr. Larry Merkle

Mr. Merkle gave a presentation on the International Joint Commission, the Kootenay Lake Board, the Kootenay River geography and the operation of Libby Dam for the year. A member of the public requested a copy of his presentation.

- Member of the public asked about the Coordination Agreement between the Columbia River Treaty entities. Mr. Johnstone stated that the IJC were not involved in this Agreement.

- Question from public: Asked about the status of the Coordination Agreement and stated that the Coordination Agreement is a concern to residents as well as to downstream fish. The entities won't release information about the agreement negotiations.

- Question from public: Will the 1939 Order be updated? Mr. Johnstone advised that there is no review planned at the present.

- Question from public: What is happening to the proposed expanded role of IJC in the IJC 21st Century Report? Ms. Mackenzie replied that the IJC recommended watershed boards. The governments agreed in principle and asked the IJC to expand on the recommendation. Pilot studies are proposed. Ms. Bourget noted that the governments had originally requested the IJC to review its role in supporting the governments.

3. **Presentation by Mr. Dan Harney of WKP**

- Mr. Harney reviewed the 1999 hydrological conditions for Kootenay Lake using hydrographs.

- Question from public: Is it true that conditions at Grohman Narrows had deteriorated since 1938? Mr. Harney disagreed and noted that WKP is still able to maintain Lake levels below what is allowed in the Order of Approval.

- Question from public: Does WKP do soundings of Grohman Narrows? The water survey does four tests per year.

- Peter Burleigh: People on the Lake are suffering because of planned increases in flows for Sturgeon during the last 5 years. It will cost me \$50,000 to improve my breakwater.

- Mr. Johnstone noted that Libby operations have changed as a result of the U.S. Endangered Species legislation.

- Peter Burleigh: There is a need to excavate Grohman Narrows. The cost would only be \$60,000.

- Comment from public: In 1997 I almost lost my deck because of the high water.

- Question from public: I am a fisherman. In 1997, water could not flow out of Grohman Narrows any faster than it did. Was there dissolved gas at the dams? Mr. Harney stated that there probably was.

- Question from public: Why do some people want to remove the Duncan Dam? Mr. Harney said he did not know because this would result in an even higher elevation on Kootenay Lake.

- Dan Harney: This was a high water year - the 6th highest since 1974. The runoff was high and later than usual.

- Question from public: Would you clarify our understanding of the effects of dam operations on the Lake?
- Peter Burleigh: What causes the sturgeon pulse, the temperature? Not answered.
- Question from public: What does the U.S. Endangered Species legislation have to do with Kootenay Lake which is in Canada?
- Dwaine Boyer: Some years if the natural flows are high enough there will be no need for the extra pulse from Libby.
- Dan Harney: This year the sturgeon flows consisted of a 3 day 25,000 cfs turbine flow with one month of flow of 30,000 cfs at Bonners Ferry.
- Statement from public: There has been a lot of building around the lake since 1974 with no memory of those high waters.
- Dan Harney: This year Duncan did everything it could do. The summer flows for salmon were minor and consisted of 3 feet of storage from Libby reservoir. The actual peak water level of Kootenay Lake this year was 1750.1 feet. The allowable was 1751.3 feet. Without Grohman Narrows excavation the level would have been 1753.4 feet and without Libby and Duncan Dams the level would have been 1760.2 feet.
- Peter Burleigh: There were 2 gates open on Corra Linn this spring. There would have been more discharge with more gates open. Would there have been power loss? Dan Harney: Yes, there would have been some power loss. At this point we are already at 60 to 70,000 cfs discharge.
- Statement from Public: If Grohman were dredged further it would only affect some of the West Arm of the Lake. Dan Harney: Some old drawings show there were two levels of excavation considered at Grohman Narrows. The Fraser Narrows is the next control.
- Peter Burleigh: We are trying to protect property owners around the Lake. What do we do now? Kirk Johnstone: the concerns expressed tonight will be passed on to the Commission. Mr. Murphy tries to attend these meetings, but he is currently at hearings on the water export issues. You should approach the B.C. Ministry of Environment for advice on Flood Protection Management.
- Kirk Johnstone: I will make those concerns known to the Commission.
- Question from Public: Can the Board ask the entities to modify the coordination agreement to take Kootenay Lake into account? Can we ask the Board to investigate this? Kirk: I would be prepared to look into this and pass on the concerns expressed here.

- Statement from Public: Concerned about IJC proposal for water boards. Don't want another level of government. Don't want the federal government involved.

4. Meeting Adjourned

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