

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

**Board Meeting/Teleconference
31 March 2016
8:30 to Noon
6th Floor, 477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit MI**

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. (ET) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
BG R. Kaiser, Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Dr. F. Sciremammano		Mr. P. Morel, Chair (ph) Ms. P. Clavet (ph) Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon Mr. J. Aubry-Morin
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC Karl Jansen Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer (Alt.)
	Commissioners	
Ms. D. Glance		Mr. G. Walker
	IJC Staff	
Ms. S. Runyon		
	Associates	
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. J. Allis LTC A. Czekanski Ms. C. Fisher Ms. C. Jarema Dr. L. Fry CPT. M. Kukesh Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. K. McCune Mr. J. Oyler (ph) Mr. D. Romano Mr. D. Schulenburg		Ms. J. Dickhout (ph) Mr. M. Gagnon (ph) Ms. W. Leger (ph) Mr. M. McNiven (ph)

1 Welcome and introductions

U.S. Chair, BG Kaiser, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks, welcoming all to the Board meeting taking place at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District.

2 Approval of agenda

The agenda was adopted (attached).

3 Status of Prior Action Items

Action items from the previous meeting were marked complete or on the day's agenda.

4 Approval of 28 October 2015 Minutes

The October minutes were adopted with the revisions as circulated prior to today's meeting.

Action item: The Canadian Secretary will send the approved minutes to the Commission for translation before posting on the website.

5 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

The U.S. Regulation Representative presented a report on current conditions as of 29 March 2016 that included:

- ▶ the above average levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario,
- ▶ the above-average Ottawa River flows and levels of the St. Lawrence River in the Montreal area,
- ▶ the forecasted Plan 1958-D flows and levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River,
- ▶ the low snow water equivalent of the Lake Ontario basin, high upstream supplies, and the high snow water equivalent of the Ottawa River basin, which has had its first freshet,
- ▶ the current general aim to maintain Plan-prescribed outflows and lake level as much as possible, and
- ▶ the low risk of violating any of the low regulation criteria in the next several months weighed against the one third chance of violating high water criteria.

The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended:

- Outflows continue to follow Plan 1958-D, as much as possible,
- Lake Ontario outflows be managed according to the freshet and flood risk along the St. Lawrence River, and adjusted as necessary,
- The water stored on Lake Ontario be released as soon as possible,
- Continue to permit under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address critical conditions

The Board agreed to the recommendations, cognizant that New York Power Authority (NYPA) may need to spill during 29 April to 20 May, if they are unable to delay a three week bank outage, to avoid lowering outflows and storing additional water on Lake Ontario. NYPA agreed

to inform the Board through the regulation representatives of its reasons and decision. The Board encourages NYPA to consult with the required regulatory agencies before any spills during the April to June spawning season.

Action item: Future regulation representative reports include long-range temperature and precipitation outlooks from Canadian agencies, showing conditions for Canada.

Action item: The Canadian Secretary will request comment and confirmation of the strategy from the absent Canadian Member.

6 Communications Committee Activities

a. 2015 Annual Summary

The U.S. Secretary provided the highlights of the previous year, as reported in the upcoming Semi-Annual Report to the IJC.

Action item: The U.S. Secretary to add that a protocol document for hosting occasional webinars/teleconference is available in the absence of regular events.

b. Learning Module Narration

The Learning modules on the SharePoint Site have English narration; once French narration is complete, the Board will post the narrated learning modules on the public webpage.

c. Short Video Segments

The Communications Committee is preparing short video segments to engage the public.

d. Website/Facebook Updates

The Communications Committee is continuing to improve and update the website and Facebook pages.

7 Gaging Committee Activities

a. 2014 Annual Inspection Report

The Gaging Committee members are reviewing the 2014 draft, which will be ready for Board review by its April meeting.

b. 2015 Annual Inspection

The 2015 annual gage inspection occurred from 13-20 October 2015, with one-time funding from the IJC to cover NOAA participation. The Gaging Committee will prepare a list of new and old action items for the April Board meeting.

c. Gaging Procedural Guide

The draft guide is ready, except for the description of U.S. agency support for the annual inspections, awaiting resolution. Approval of the Water Level Gaging Procedural Guidelines was deferred until this item is resolved.

d. Agency Support for Gage Inspections

The USACE recognizes the importance of reliable annual inspections and is willing to take the responsibility from NOAA, once written notification occurs. Mr. Stephen Durrett, Regional Business Director, for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, has written Mr. Richard Edwing, NOAA Director Ocean Service Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, to ask for written clarification of NOAA's stance on the 1971 MOU; however a second letter to the Admiral from the U.S. Board chair will be sent.

Action item: BG Kaiser will write to NOAA Admiral, enclosing the first letter to Mr. Edwing if determined to be necessary.

e. 2016 Inspections

With the support of USACE, if needed, the 2016 inspections will occur as soon as they may be arranged, after the response from NOAA, indicating the role it accepts.

8 Great Lake St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee Update

a. Approval of GLAM Minutes for web posting

The Board agreed to review and endorse the minutes, noting any comments.

b. Board discussion on GLAM

Mr. McCune presented the progress on the work plan of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee. He mentioned the establishment of the GLAM Committee's effective partnerships, i.e., the Circles of Influence, reporting and studies. The Board looks forward to the first triennial report draft, expected in six months.

Action item: Board members to review the GLAM semi-annual report and provide comments or endorsement to secretaries by 8 April 2016.

9 Review of the Spring Semi-Annual Report (SAR)

The spring 2016 Semi-annual Report has been reviewed by the secretaries/regulation representatives for accuracies, and by Ms. Runyon for clarity.

Action item: Board Members are to send any comments or edits on the spring 2016 SAR to the Board Secretaries by 8 April 2016.

10 Other Business

a. Stormont Yacht Club Invitation

The Board reviewed the invitation from the yacht club to have the Canadian Regulation Representative participate on the review stand of their 2016 Sail Past. Also discussed was an invitation from the International Water Levels Coalition for the Canadian Regulation Representative, Commissioner Glance and Mr. Brown to attend the Clayton Boat show, a great outreach opportunity.

Action item: The Regulation Representative will respond that due to a prior commitment he can't attend the Sail Past, but suggests someone else from the Board participate.

b. IJC Style Guide

The IJC has changed spellings, formats and capitalization for all public documents of the Board.

c. IWI Workshop

The Board will comment on its support of GLAM sponsored IWI projects, in the IJC's three priority categories, at the upcoming IWI workshop, which Mr. Brown and Mr. Hudon will attend.

11 Appearances and Upcoming Events

The Board will hold its pre-appearance meeting in Washington, DC Tuesday, 19 April at 1:30 pm at the IJC offices; the reception is Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm, at the State Department. An IWI workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, 20 April at 8:00 am at the Hilton Hotel; the Board will appear in front of the Commissioners Wednesday, 20 April at 1:45 pm, also at the Hilton Hotel.

The IJC is not scheduling an appearance for October 2016 in Ottawa, but an appearance in the spring of 2017 in Ottawa and in the fall of 2017 in Washington, DC will be scheduled. They still require a fall SAR in 2016; therefore, the next in-person meeting will be in the fall of 2016, in Quebec City, followed by a March 2017 meeting in Queenston ON. A subsequent meeting prior to the appearance in Ottawa, and a fall meeting may be held in Cincinnati, OH.

Action item: The secretaries to coordinate meeting dates and inform Board Members and associates.

Action Item Review

- i. The Canadian Secretary will send the approved minutes to the Commission for translation before posting on the website.
- ii. Future regulation representative reports include long-range temperature and precipitation outlooks from Canadian agencies, showing conditions for Canada.
- iii. The Canadian Secretary will request comment and confirmation of the regulation strategy from the absent Canadian Member.
- iv. The U.S. Secretary to add that a protocol document for hosting occasional webinars/teleconference is available in the absence of regular events in the 2015 Communication Committee summary.
- v. BG Kaiser will write to NOAA Admiral, enclosing the first letter to Mr. Edwing, if determined to be necessary.
- vi. All members to review the GLAM semi-annual report and send the U.S. Secretary any comments by 8 April 2016.
- vii. Board Members are to send any comments or edits on the spring 2016 SAR to the Board Secretaries also by 8 April 2016.
- viii. The Canadian Regulation Representative to respond that due to a prior commitment he can't attend the Sail Past, but suggests someone else from the Board participate.
- ix. The secretaries to coordinate meeting dates and inform Board Members and associates.

There being no other business, the Board meeting adjourned at noon.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

Board Meeting held on 31 March 2016
8:00am to 12:00 pm
US Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue 6th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions [BG Kaiser] 8:00 am
2. Approval of agenda [BG Kaiser] 8:05 am
3. Status of Prior Action Items [Heer] 8:10 am
4. Approval of October 28 2015 Minutes [Heer] 8:20 am
5. Current conditions & regulation strategy [Koralewski] 8:25 am
6. Communications Committee activities [Heer/Koralewski/Frank S.] 9:00 am
 - a) 2015 Annual Summary [Heer]
 - b) Learning Module Narration
 - c) Short Video Segments
 - d) Website/Facebook updates
7. Gauging Committee activities [McNiven, Oyler, Heer] 9:30 am
 - a) 2014 Annual Inspection Report
 - b) 2015 Annual Inspection
 - c) Gauging Procedural Guide
 - d) Agency support for gauge inspections [Heer]
 - e) 2016 Inspections
8. GLAM Committee Updates [McCune] 10:00 am
 - a) Approval of GLAM Minutes for web posting [Heer]
 - b) Board discussion on GLAM [All]
9. Review of Spring SAR [Heer] 11:00 am
10. Other Business 11:15 am
 - a) Stormont Yacht Club Invitation [Caldwell/Faveri]
 - b) IJC Style Guide [Heer]
 - c) IWI Workshop [Brown, Hudon]
11. Appearance and upcoming Board events [Heer] 11:45 am
 - a) Board Meeting: 1:30 pm Tuesday, 19 April 2016
 - b) IJC Reception: 6:30 pm Tuesday, 19 April 2016
 - c) IWI Workshop: Morning, Wednesday 20 April 2016
 - d) Appearance: 1:45 pm Wednesday, 20 April 2016
 - e) Fall Meeting: TBD
12. Action Item Review [Heer] 11:50 am
13. Closing remarks and adjourn [BG Kaiser] 11:55 am

Teleconference

877-336-1839
Access 5162099
Passcode: 5162099
Security: 1111

WebEx

<https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/AWMlogin>
Meeting Number: 877-336-1839
Code: 5162099