

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

**Board Meeting/Teleconference
14 September 2016
1:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Édifice Marie Guyart – tour/Tower, 1^{er} Étage/1st Floor
675, boul. René Lévesque Est
Quebec QC G1R 5V7**

The meeting began at 1:30 pm (ET) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
Board Members		
Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Chair Mr. T. Brown (ph) Mr. R. Company Dr. F. Sciremammano		Dr. G. Béchard Mr. J. Aubry-Morin (ph) Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
Secretaries		
Mr. A. Heer		Ms. G. Faveri
Regulation Representatives		
LTC A. Czekanski Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. R. Caldwell Mr. J. Bruxer
IJC Staff		
		Mr. D. Fay
Associates		
Mr. T. Ahlfeld Mr. B. Carmichael Ms. C. Fisher (ph) Mr. T. Lavigne Mr. J. Oyler (ph) Ms. S. Wagner		Mr. A. Carpentier Ms. J. Dickhout Mr. D. Ferko Ms. W. Leger Mr. M. McNiven

1 Welcome and introductions

Canadian Chair, Dr. Béchard, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks.

2 Approval of agenda

The agenda was adopted (attached).

3 Approval of 19 April 2016 Minutes

The April minutes were adopted as circulated prior to today's meeting.

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

4 Status of Prior Action Items

Most action items from the April 2016 meeting were marked complete, aside from the joint meeting with OPG, NYPA and ORRPB and colour coded ensemble plots.

5 Current Conditions and Regulation Strategy

The Canadian Regulation Representative presented a report on current conditions as of Sunday, 11 September 2016 that included:

- ▶ the above average levels of lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, Erie and slightly below average levels of Lake Ontario,
- ▶ the below-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 expected higher than average temperatures for the Laurentian - Great Lakes basin and equal chance of high, low or average precipitation in the forecasts
- ▶ the current general aim to maintain Plan-prescribed outflows as much as possible, and
- ▶ levels below chart datum at the Port of Montreal for the next few days.

The Regulation Representatives therefore recommended:

- To soon restore the 0.2 cm (0.1 in) of water which was released on 13 September 2016 from Lake Ontario to assist a ship entering the Port,
- to continue to release outflows following those specified in the Regulation Plan 1958-D, and
- to continue to permit under- or over-discharges that may be necessary to address critical conditions,

After discussion, the Board added the following to the regulation strategy:

- to allow under-discharges if Plan flows are higher than turbine capacities during maintenance activities at the hydroelectric plants at Cornwall and Massena from mid-October to early November, so long as those under-discharges do not conflict with critical needs elsewhere in the system (see agenda item 10c).

6 Communications Committee Activities

a. Video Presentations

The Buffalo District of USACE is preparing a brief teaser video one minute long on Lake St. Lawrence fluctuations with input from the committee with the hope for more one minute videos to follow.

b. Update on Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Since the April Board meeting, the Canadian Regulation representative has attended the

Stormont Yacht Club Sailpast on 21 May 2016 and presented a session hosted by the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Science on 9 August 2016 at Long Sault ON. This last session was well-received and invitations were extended to conduct similar sessions at Clayton NY and Morrisburg ON, likely in some future year. The Independent Electrical System Operator (IESO) will be meeting with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) in Cornwall on 29 September 2016 to discuss emergency operation contingencies. Board members and associates of both sections should attend in person or by teleconference to impress upon IESO members the primacy of allegiance to IJC Orders for the Moses-Saunders Power Plant.

Action item: Canadian Regulation Representative will notify every one of the details of the meeting/call as soon as they are available.

7 St. Lawrence Great Lakes Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee

The Canadian Co-lead of the GLAM committee presented an oversight of the committee's recent activities and workplan for the Board's endorsement. A fuller review of the role and interaction of the committee and the Board and the GLAM committee mid-term strategy will be discussed at our next meeting.

Action item: All board members to review and endorse GLAM Semi-Annual Report and Work Plan by 23 September.

Action item: GLAM committee will send out notification and link to GLAM website when IWI and other reports are ready for Board review.

Action item: Add discussion of GLAM mid-term strategy to our Board's October meeting agenda.

8 Gaging Committee Activities

a. 2015 Gaging Committee Report

The 2015 St. Lawrence Committee on River Gaging Report is undergoing completion.

b. 2016 GC Action Item Review

Any new items from the latest inspection will be added.

c. 2016 Inspection

The 2016 annual gage inspection were conducted 22-26 August, with a close-out briefing to the power entities on 30 August 2016.

d. Agency Support for Gage Inspections

The funding from USACE (LRD) to assist National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with travel costs for the 2016 gage inspection was cancelled due to administrative

impediments, however, cooperation with NOAA in the transfer of knowledge and expertise continues.

Action Item: USACE Buffalo District will coordinate with NOAA CO-OPS office to transfer all relevant documentation, procedures and history of power entities' gauge audits and Gauging Committee inspections to the Buffalo office.

Action Item: Add recognition of NOAA's contributions to the October Appearance presentation.

Action item: Secretaries will prepare a letter to NOAA thanking them for their contributions to the vitally critical work in ensuring the accuracy of gauged water levels which support the decisions of the Regulation Representatives and the Board and requesting Mr. Oyler's presence for next summer's inspections and transfer of his knowledge and expertise to Buffalo District.

9 Review of 126th Semi Annual Report

The Board reviewed the 126th Semi Annual Report to the IJC and provided comments then and with more to come by email.

Action Item: All board members to provide Canadian secretary with comments on the 126th SAR by Friday, 16 September so a draft final version may be sent on Tuesday 20 September, final comments to be returned on Friday 23 September for incorporation into final version for submission to IJC.

10 Other Business

a. IWI Workshop

Following the last IWI multi-board workshop in April 2016, it was clear that climate change was a priority and thus it was decided that a Climate Change Framework Working Group (CCFWG) would be put in place. The first meeting is scheduled to take place 28 October 2016 to further develop and implement a framework which will:

- Build upon work conducted at the last two IWI workshops and complete a baseline review of the existing climate change activities of all IJC boards;
- Identify and synthesize the social, economic, and ecological impacts triggered by climate change on water quality and/or quantity in the transboundary basins where the IJC has a mandate, particularly any emerging impacts not yet identified by IJC Boards;
- Prioritize the social, economic, and ecological impacts relative to the mandates of IJC Boards and the use of risk analysis and/or other appropriate methods;
- Identify needed action items by completing a gap analysis – in other words, compare the priorities relative to existing IJC Board activities;
- Develop an adaptive management plan to monitor progress, document and share lessons, and adjust activities and strategies as appropriate.

Many were interested in this activity.

Action item: Mr. Hudon to keep the Board and associates abreast of the progress of the CCFWG.

10b) Peaking and Ponding Extension

Since the current peaking and ponding extension is until 30 November 2016, the power entities have written the IJC for another five year extension. The IJC in turn has written the Board for advice. The regulation representatives have received no complaints or notification of adverse effects from past peaking and ponding activities, however they recommend the Board request for further clarification on peaking and ponding limits with regard to hour-to-hour fluctuations and operational switching to reflect present realities.

Action item: Canadian Secretary to include request for clarification on peaking and ponding limits with regard to hour-to-hour fluctuations and operational switching in the response to the IJC's letter.

10c) NYPA GSU Upgrade and Flow Reduction Request

New York Power Authority (NYPA) will have to reduce capacity from 14 October to as late as 3 November 2016 while four turbines are upgraded. At the same time, OPG may have up to four units also out of commission, reducing the total plant capacity to about 7,540 m³/s. The Regulation Representatives have determined that there will be up to about a 20% risk that Plan flows will be higher than the reduced capacity. Should outflows be reduced the Seaway would like to know sooner than later. The regulation strategy will include a possibility for reduced outflow, or if higher flows are needed downstream, for spill at Long Sault. If necessary, the Board may convene a conference call, as the next meeting is scheduled for late October.

11 Appearance and Upcoming Board Events

A review of upcoming Board events was given, as listed on the final agenda, despite the high degree of uncertainty of the dates for the IJC Appearances.

Action item: Secretaries will send out dates and location for October Ottawa meeting as soon as IJC sets Appearance agenda. Appearances will be from 24 – 28 October 2016.

Action item: At October Board meeting, decide on dates for next March and September, if possible. Spring 2017 meeting is tentatively set as 1 March 2017 in Cincinnati.

12 Action Item Review

- i Canadian Secretary to send approved April 2016 minutes for translation prior to posting on the website.
- ii Canadian secretary to add third bullet to strategy to allow for any needed spilling for downstream needs or storage on Lake Ontario if necessary during reduced capacity period from NYPA maintenance. Circulate to Board for comments.
- iii Canadian Regulation Representative will forward details of the IESO session in Cornwall on 29 September for all Board members to attend.
- iv All board members to review and endorse GLAM SAR and Work Plan by 23 September.
- v GLAM Committee will send out notification and link to GLAM website when IWI and other reports are ready for Board review.
- vi Add discussion of GLAM mid-term strategy to the Board's October meeting agenda.
- vii USACE Buffalo District will coordinate with NOAA CO-OPS office to transfer all relevant documentation, procedures and history of power entities' gauge audits and Gauging Committee inspections to the Buffalo office.
- viii Add recognition of NOAA's contributions to the October Appearance presentation.
- ix Secretaries will prepare a letter to NOAA thanking them for their contributions to the vitally critical work in ensuring the accuracy of gauged water levels which support the decisions of the Regulation Representatives and the Board and requesting Mr. Oyler's presence for next summer's inspections and transfer of his knowledge and expertise to Buffalo District.
- x All board members to provide Canadian secretary with comments on the 126th SAR by Friday, 16 September so a draft final version may be sent on Tuesday 20 September, final comments to be returned on Friday 23 September for incorporation into final version for submission to IJC.
- xi Marc Hudon will keep the Board and associates apprised of progress on the IWI approach to climate change.
- xii Canadian Secretary to include request for clarification on peaking and ponding limits with regard to hour-to-hour fluctuations and operational switching in the response to the IJC's letter.
- xiii Secretaries will send out dates and location for October Ottawa meeting as soon as IJC sets Appearance agenda. Appearances will be from 24 – 28 October 2016.
- xiv At October Board meeting we will decide on March and next September, if possible, dates. Spring 2017 meeting is tentatively set as 1 March 2017 in Cincinnati.

13 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

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Board Meeting 14 September 2016
1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Édifice Marie Guyart – Tour/Tower **1er étage/First Floor**
675, boul. René Lévesque Est, Québec QC G1R 5V7

DRAFT AGENDA

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|-----|---|---------|
| 1. | Welcome and Introductions [G Béchard] | 1:30 pm |
| 2. | Approval of agenda [G Béchard] | 1:35 pm |
| 3. | Approval of 19 April 2016 Minutes [Faveri] | 1:40 pm |
| 4. | Status of Prior Action Items [Faveri] | 1:50 pm |
| 5. | Current conditions & regulation strategy [Caldwell] | 1:55 pm |
| 6. | Communications Committee activities [Hudon] | 2:45 pm |
| | a) Video Presentation [Koralewski] | |
| | b) Update on Stakeholder Engagement Activities [Faveri] | |
| 7. | St. Lawrence Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee [Leger] | 2:55 pm |
| 8. | Gauging Committee activities [McNiven, Koralewski, Heer] | 3:15 pm |
| | a) 2015 Gauging Committee Report | |
| | b) 2016 GC Action Item Review | |
| | c) 2016 Inspection | |
| | d) Agency Support for Gauge Inspections | |
| 9. | Review of 126 th Semi-Annual Report [Faveri] | 3:45 pm |
| 10. | Other Business | 4:00 pm |
| | a) IWI Workshop [Hudon] | |
| | b) Peaking and Ponding Extension [McNiven] | |
| | c) NYPA GSU Upgrade and flow reduction request [Ahlfeld] | |
| 11. | Appearance and upcoming Board events [Faveri] | 4:40 pm |
| | a) Fall IJC Appearances – Ottawa ON, week of 24 October 2016 | |
| | b) Spring Board Meeting – Cincinnati, OH, week of 13 March 2017 | |
| | c) Spring IJC Appearances – Washington, DC, April 2017 | |
| | d) Fall 2017 Board Meeting – Queenston, ON, Sept 2017 | |
| 12. | Action Item Review [Faveri] | 4:45 pm |
| 13. | Closing remarks and adjourn [G Béchard] | 5:00 pm |

Teleconference

877-413-4788

Passcode: 412 9525

WebEx: <https://pwgsc-nh.webex.com/pwgsc-nh/j.php?MTID=m542b7552648d45512bc82e49975be9b6>

meeting password: ISLRBC

Meeting Number: 556 106 358