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International Souris River Board

Conference Call  
October 2, 2012

**Final Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Russell Boals, Todd Sando, Steve Robinson, Gregg Wiche, Ed Eaton, Syed Moin, David Donald, Bob White, Brian Connelly, Ted Yuzyk, Ed Eaton, Rick, Tim Fay, Bob Harrison (retired), Nicole Armstrong, Frank Durbian, Megan Estep, Tom Pabian, Brenda Toth, Scott Gangl, David Helfrick, John Fahlman, and Girma Sahlu.

Regrets: Col. Michael Price, Dennis Fewless.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

R. Boals opened the conference call at 09:10 a.m. CST and asked Board members and attendees if there were any additions or changes to the draft agenda that was sent earlier. There were no changes. **Motion:** David Donald, Seconded: Gregg Wiche, that the draft agenda be adopted as presented. Carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

a. June 20, 2012 Face-to-Face Meeting in Minot, North Dakota

R. Boals asked if there were any changes or modifications to the draft Board minutes. None were identified. **Motion:** Gregg Wiche, Seconded: Megan Estep, that the draft June 20 2012 minutes be approved as circulated. Carried.

b. July 26, 2012 Board Conference call Minutes

R. Boals asked if there were any revision or changes to be made to the draft conference call minutes. There were none. **Motion:** David Donald; Seconded: Megan Estep, that the draft July 26 2012 minutes be adopted as circulated. Carried.

**3. Natural Flow Determination as of August 31, 2012**

Dan Selinger was away on leave and Dave Helfrick presented on his behalf. D. Helfrick mentioned that he was given the assignment late and didn't have all the computations ready. The data needed to complete the natural flow computations is from the USGS and he was not sure if Dan Selinger or Scott Hill had them. The following data are needed from the USGS:

- Recorded flow at Sherwood,
- Short Creek diversion in the US,
- Long Creek- recorded flow at East Crossing, and
- US diversion between East and West Crossings in the Long Creek Basin.

Dave Helfrick asked Gregg Wiche if the USGS could send the data directly to him. G. Wiche mentioned the data was sent today, October 2, 2012 but was not sure to who in Water Survey.

R. Boals mentioned we were in a surplus situation in May 2012 and there shouldn't be problems in meeting apportionment requirements. The basin has been dry since mid-summer.

It was agreed that D. Helfrick would complete the computations and send them to Girma Sahlu for circulation to Board members.

#### 4. Planned Reservoir Operations

##### a. North Dakota

Frank Durbian presented conditions in Lake Darling and J. Clarke Reservoirs. Lake Darling was 1596.3 ft at the beginning of the summer. Currently, Lake Darling is at 1595.9 ft and dropping. US FWS has kept a minimum flow of 25 cfs all summer to maintain the DO levels in the Souris. US FWS is working with the USGS to repair the pumping station on Lake Darling. For J. Clarke complex, pools 323 and 326 have been drawdown and flows at Westhope are maintained at 24 cfs. Evaporation rate has been 1/10 of a foot every 3-4 days. No major releases are planned in the fall or winter. No problems are anticipated in reaching the target elevation by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

##### b. Saskatchewan

John Fahlman joined the meeting and provided an update on planned reservoir operations in Saskatchewan. The following are the current conditions of the three reservoirs:

- **Boundary Reservoir** - was at 550.0 m on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 0.8 m below its FSL, and 0.5 m above the median. There are no plans for fall or winter releases.
- **Rafferty Reservoir** - was 549.7 m on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 0.8 m below its FSL, and 0.2 m above the target level on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The reservoir is 93,000 dam<sup>3</sup> above its target level for February 1<sup>st</sup>. The evaporation rate for October was 18,000 dam<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, 75,000 dam<sup>3</sup> has to be released between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> at a rate of 1 m<sup>3</sup>/s.
- **Alameda Reservoir** – was at 561.57 m on October 1<sup>st</sup>. 0.43 m below its FSL, and 0.57 m above the February 1<sup>st</sup> target elevation. Currently, the reservoir has 63,000 dam<sup>3</sup> of water above its target elevation for February 1<sup>st</sup> target. The evaporation rate is 4500 dam<sup>3</sup> which leaves 58,500 dam<sup>3</sup> for release by Saskatchewan at a rate of 0.75 m<sup>3</sup>/s. The total amount release from Saskatchewan is expected to be around 1.75 m<sup>3</sup>/s. J. Fahlman also noted that he will discuss with his US counter-parts to coordinate the winter releases.

David Donald asked what happens to the winter releases after the 90-days are over in order to maintain live stream. J. Fahlman answered that is all Saskatchewan has for now, but will see how things go in the future to warrant any additional releases during the winter months.

## **5. Status Update from Committees**

### **a. Hydrology Committee**

Megan Estep reported that the Committee has not met yet. She asked who the Saskatchewan co-chair was. J. Fahlman responded it was Bob Kirkness from the Water Security Agency (WSA).

### **b. Aquatic Ecosystems and Health Committee**

Bruce Holiday mentioned that there was no progress on AEHC items. Scott Gangl mentioned that Mike Sauer has retired and AEHC needs a replacement.

### **c. Flow Forecasting and Liaison Committee**

Brian Connelly reported that the Committee has not met and there is nothing to report at this time. The membership is complete.

## **6. 2011 Annual Report**

Bob White reported that he was very busy with and oil and gas development projects in North Dakota and didn't have time to finish the annual report on time. B. White apologized for being late and also advised that he doesn't have a tentative date when the annual report would be ready. Ted Yuzyk, IJC, noted that the report would not be ready for the IJC appearance. R. Boals mentioned he will follow up with B. White in two weeks on the status of the report.

## **7. Plan of Study**

Syed Moin explained the current status of the draft Plan of Study (POS). S. Moin has shared two documents with the Board and Task Force members and would like to have some feedback. S. Moin plans to wrap-up the POS this week provided he receives feedback on all the elements identified in his report. The POS identifies maximum and minimum options for the proposed study (shown in Tables 10.1 and 10.2). S. Moin also mentioned that feedback will be received from the general public. The proposed dates, according to S. Moin, for the feedback are October 12, and 19, 2012 from the Board and general public, respectively.

R. Boals stated that he agrees with S. Moin's presentation, but would like a realistic cost estimate. S. Moin mentioned some of the cost estimates were very good, some had upper bars; and the \$2 million estimate was good. Todd Sando mentioned the POS looks good. R. Boals will introduce the POS, TOR, and summary table to the IJC at the fall Board appearance. The POS at the moment is exploratory in nature.

R. Boals restated that the POS has to be approved by the Board first before releasing it to the general public for comments and consultation. The standard practice is to allow a 30-day period for public input in 2 or 3 selected locations within the basin. Once the POS is ready the next steps will be determined by the Board who will give general direction when and how the public consultations will take place.

Ted Yuzyk mentioned if the POS costs \$ 2 million dollars as currently estimated, IJC won't be able to fund it. The alternative would be to go to governments for funding support. There was consensus that the Board and Task Team have to sort out the cost estimate before the public consultation. At this time, the Board needs to give the IJC advance notice to make them aware of the POS and its estimated cost.

R. Boals asked for any comments/observations from participants. Most participants had none.

Frank Durbian mentioned that he had received a call from a resident in Manitoba who lives one mile north of the border about putting a temporary culvert to replace a washed-out bridge on Highway 251. Nicole Armstrong said she was not aware of the problem. R. Boals mentioned he too has received a voice-mail about the temporary bridge and asked F. Durbian to pass the contact information to Nicole Armstrong for a follow-up. The person's name is Shirley Kernaghan (204-649-2385).

Ted Yuzyk asked about Bob Harrison's replacement in the Board. Nicole Armstrong replied that Manitoba will identify another member as soon as possible. T. Yuzyk also noted Saskatchewan's absence from the Board meetings. J. Fahlman reassured the Board that WSA will attend future meetings and provide the necessary support to the Board. J. Fahlman also suggested for a face-to-face meeting of Task Force members in the near future.

## **8. Fall IJC Meeting**

R. Boals briefly discussed the PowerPoint presentation slides that he has prepared for the IJC appearance in Ottawa on October 16, 2012. The slides have been shared with Board members seeking their comments or modifications. Some Board members have sent comments to R. Boals. There was a request if Board members could join the IJC appearance via a conference call. Todd Sando and Bob White expressed their desire to participate by conference call, if possible.

R. Boals asked for a roundtable comments /observations before closing the conference call. Scott Gangl noted under the AEHC report to add summer releases in addition to winter releases. There were no other comments.

## **9. New Business**

The temporary culvert/bridge issue on Highway 251 in Manitoba has been dealt with above.

Roundtable – Gregg Wiche thanked the IJC for providing the funding to repair the Sherwood Control structure.

The next face-to-face Board meeting has been tentatively set for February 19, 2013 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Girma Sahlu will work with Nicole Armstrong to finalize the meeting arrangement.

Tim Fay mentioned he would like to see the Task Force membership expanded to share the work load.

The Board has to approve and give general direction before the POS is released to the public, which could be done by conference call in late October or early November 2012.

Bob Harrison thanked the Board for his involvement and participation. B. Harrison has resigned from the Board.

There was a question raised as to if the National Weather Service Model was included in the model selection in the POS. S. Moin will follow-up.

R. Boals thanked attendees and closed the conference call. The next call will be at the end of October or early November 2012 to review and approve the POS.

**10. Adjourned at 10:15 a.m. CST.**