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## **Final Minutes**

International Souris River Board  
Conference Call, May 19, 2011

Attendees: Russell Boals, Todd Sando, Col. Michael Price, Bob Harrison, Megan Estep, Scott Gangl, David Donald, Gregg Wiche, Doug Johnson, Dennis Fewless, Mike Sauer, Brian Connelly, Bob White, Girma Sahlu

Regrets: Richard Zitta

Observer: John Fahlman

Agenda:

### **Update on Forecasted Flow in the Souris River Basin**

Todd Sando initiated the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Brian Connelly from the National Weather Service gave background of the recent precipitation events in the basin. He mentioned the basin experienced heavy rains from May 9-11 which resulted in higher flows in Long Creek and Souris at Sherwood. The Souris at Sherwood crested some 24-48 hours ago around 7,500 cfs. Prior to that flows were around 2,500 cfs. Flows are currently falling. However, more precipitation is expected this weekend starting Friday, May 27 through Sunday, May 29 somewhere around 1.5 inches of rain or more. Currently, the flow at Sherwood is about 7,200 cfs slowly falling to 4,000 cfs at the end of the month which is also the target flow.

Lake Darling is currently releasing 5,000 cfs. The pool elevation was 1596.8 ft or so in the last 48 hours and slowly rising as flows from Sherwood enter the lake. The current plan for Lake Darling is to hold it steady at 5,000 cfs until the rain event comes through and the USACE would like to maintain the flows at Minot at 5,500-5,700 cfs for about a week after this rain event. Doug Johnson asked what the local inflow was between Sherwood and Lake Darling right now. Brian replied there wasn't much coming between the two locations according to his simulation that shows an estimated local inflow of only 100 cfs. The inflow hydrograph shows somewhere 7,200 – 7,400 cfs coming into Lake Darling without much attenuation taking place between Sherwood and Lake Darling.

Doug Johnson stated Rafferty was at an elevation of 553.5 m releasing at 100 m<sup>3</sup>/s and dropping. No releases are made from Boundary at the moment. Releases from Alameda are at 45 m<sup>3</sup>/s for

the next couple of days. The Alameda Lake level is 566 m. Doug mentioned that Rafferty being at 553.5 m leaves only about 18 inches of maximum allowable storage. Whereas, Alameda at an elevation of 566 m could only provide 1 m to maximum allowable flood elevation.

Russell Boals inquired about the maximum lake elevation for Lake Darling. Col. Price confirmed the maximum pool elevation for Lake Darling is 1601 ft. Todd Sando asked Brian to provide an update on inflows to the reservoirs. Brian stated that inflows were 1600 cfs into Alameda, 2300 cfs into Rafferty (includes diversions), and 500 cfs into Boundary. Currently, Rafferty is releasing more than what is coming in and Alameda is steady (inflow and outflow are almost equal).

Brian Connelly mentioned that heavy rains are forecasted for south-west North Dakota with more intense rain in the northern part of the Souris basin. Forecasted flow for Rafferty is 1.75 inches of rain or 3,500 cfs on the morning of May 25<sup>th</sup>. Alameda could get 1-1.25 inches of rain. Boundary is expected to receive 1.5-1.75 inches that could generate 1,200 cfs inflow into the reservoir. Except for the storm this weekend, no major rain storms are expected in the next 10 days.

Doug Johnson mentioned that SWA is looking at relaxation of the 14 m<sup>3</sup>/s for June at the border in the next week and half and get back to 100-110 m<sup>3</sup>/s (4,000 cfs) range, but all that depends on what happens over the weekend. The target is to keep the flow at Minot in the range of 5,500-5,700 cfs.

Bob White asked if the Board needs IJC approval to deviate from the Agreement and surcharge the reservoirs above their operating levels. Russell Boals stated that the Board has been given the oversight to manage events like this and does not require IJC approval. However, the Board will advise the IJC about the actions it has taken to address the flooding issue.

Russell Boals asked for a proposal to deal with the forecasted storm. The following motion was passed by the Board:

**Col. Price motioned that, based on the significant forecasted flows, the Board should deviate from the Agreement and authorize the reservoirs to be operated above their target release levels to provide additional storage capacity. This action will be reviewed in two weeks time at next conference call to be held on May 27, 2011. The motion was seconded by Bob Harrison. Carried.**

Discussion – Todd Sando asked Doug Johnson to provide the release schedule for the Saskatchewan reservoirs. Doug mentioned the release schedule will be available after June 1.

Megan Estep noted that the US FWS would like to see Lake Darling elevation be brought down to below 1601 ft as soon as possible.

Other – Next Board meeting will be held in the Town Souris, MB. Public meeting on June 20, followed by Board meeting in the morning of June 21 at the Canad Inn, Brandon, MB. Media release to be made as soon as possible.