

SUMMARY OF MEETING (DRAFT)

International Lake Ontario – St Lawrence River Study Board

Kingston, Ontario

8 June 2005

In attendance: Gene Stakhiv, Doug Cuthbert, Tom McAuley, Bill Werick, Ian Crawford, Pete Loucks, Greg McGillis, Sandra LeBarron, Henry Lickers, Dan Barletta, Arleen Kreuzsch, David Fay, Ed Eryuzlu, Andre Carpentier, Paul Yu, John Ching, Russ Trowbridge, Danielle Trudeau, Elaine Kennedy, Frank Quinn, Wendy Leger, Mark Colosimo, LTC Timothy Touchette, George Cotroneo and Tony Eberhardt.

1. The agenda (attached) was accepted with the addition of
 - PFEG update,
 - the Upper Lakes Studyunder other items
2. Debriefing on discussion (morning of 8 June) with the Commission:
 - The Commission approved a December briefing from the Study during their Executive meeting, to discuss views of the Study Board about the plan options.
 - Commission has tasked the IJC Secretaries to start plans for “Transition” as soon as possible.
 - Regarding mitigation, the Commission confirmed that it cannot provide mitigation in support of any plan implementation. This issue is considered by the Commission essentially as a “theoretical” exercise.
 - David: conversion to operational plans will likely start in October and be finished in December; they will cover most elements common to the options submitted pending final choice.
3. Plans / preparations for the summer public meetings:
 - It was noted that the International Water Levels Coalition (IWLC) has met with State and Congressional representatives.
 - Tony and Ed will prepare a letter to the IWLC offering a briefing of Study results at one of their Board Meeting, hopefully before August.
 - Related to information at the briefings and meetings:
 - PFEG needs to provide better descriptions of plans and prepare answers to questions regarding results,
 - After public meetings, a list of questions raised should be added to the FTP/ Study web site – Arleen and Greg will comb transcripts with Aaron Smith’s assistance.

4. Final presentation Package for the summer public meetings:
(Some of the issues were addressed under item #3)

- The IJC staff at the meeting suggested that the presentation should not make commitments regarding when the Commission may decide on the best option and / or when to implement any of the options.
- The Board committed to appropriate revisions to the presentation.

5. Review of Draft Final Report

- Sections on IM, PFEG and PIAG have not yet been provided.
- No comments on the first draft have been provided, but should be received before July 1st with final comments by September 1st.
- Wendy will provide a summary on contextual narratives, with the full documents as an appendix.
- A section will be included regarding legislative implications / considerations – Gene will assign a writer.
- Gene will lead the write-up on Mitigation for the Final Report.
- The Study Final Report and the Report of the Independent Review Panel will be completed and provided to the IJC around the same time in the fall of 2005. Need to address this since issues from the review may not be included (and could possibly impact the results) in the Final Report.

6. Information Management:

- The GMs circulated the document prepared (attached) and discussed their assessment of the status of IM activity.
- The Board agreed that the IM group should continue their work with the targets as outlined in the document.
- The IM group has committed that the Document Management System will be ready for translation before the public meetings start; the translation will be done by the Ottawa Study Secretariat.

7. Proposed Plan Operation and Deviations; Conversion to Operational Plan

- Those responsible for developing operational plans for the recommended options will be the Great Lakes Office of Environment Canada in Cornwall, Ontario and the Water Management Office of the Corps of Engineers in Buffalo, New York.
- Two types of deviations were discussed: “adjustments” for events (ice management, emergencies) and “deviations” related to supplies. Tony will write a draft section for the Final Report with input from PFEG and will send to the Study Board for review prior to the Board’s August meeting.

8. Other items:

PFEG update:

- The group continues to do fine-tuning.
- The Board directed that all plan development must be completed by August 15, 2005.
- They have a 4th plan developed by John Ching; it has very promising features; good economic and environmental benefits; losses are minimal.
- There is still some doubt about the FEPS results; they are working on them.
- Coastal damages (for both upper and lower river) are still not right; working on them.
- Coastal may have overestimates of flooding values.
- RecBoating values still not right; working on them.
- Rec. Boating is investigating high losses at Ogdensburg.
- Plan D and the plan proposed by John Ching have the same DePinto Index of 1.03, however, the Ching Plan has a lower score for species at risk.
- Hydro Quebec has expressed concerns regarding cavitations at units when Lake St. Louis levels drop below 20.5 m. Sylvain Robert will verify.
- Dan Barletta raised a question on whether crustal movement was considered when wetland impacts were evaluated. The question will be asked of Joe Atkinson and Doug Wilcox.

Upper Lakes Study.

David Fay and Mark Colosimo or Tom McAuley may contact members regarding lessons learned from this Study that could be applied to the proposed Upper Lakes Study.

Future meetings:

- The August 24-25 meeting in Alexandria Bay was confirmed; Sandra will help get a hotel and blocked rooms;
- The September 20-21 meeting was confirmed to take place in Niagara-on-the-Lake

International Lake Ontario –St. Lawrence River Study Board
Meeting at Kingston, Ontario,
Holiday Inn / Kingston Waterfront
(2 Princess Street)
8 June 2005 (1:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

1. Agenda review and approval
2. Debriefing on discussions with the Commission that morning. (Gene / Doug)
3. Plans / preparations for the Summer Public Meetings (Greg, Arleen)
4. Final presentation package (public meetings) (Greg, Arleen)
5. Review of draft Final Report (Tony, Doug)
6. Information Management issues/status (Connie Hamilton / Roger Gauthier)
7. Proposed Plan Operations and Deviations; Conversion to Operational Plan
(Frank Sciremammano / all)
8. Other items:
 - Future Study meetings
 - PFEG update,
 - The Upper Lakes Study