

Terms of Reference

International Souris River Board 2012 Souris River Basin Task Force
For the
Review of the Operating Plan Contained in Annex A of the 1989 Canada-United States
Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin
And to
Facilitate Collaboration amongst the various Federal, State, Provincial, and Local
Agencies and Consultations with the Public and Local Government

Introduction

The 2011 flood in the Souris River basin has proven to be the largest flood of record in the last century and far surpasses any previous recorded floods. As a result, significant flooding was experienced throughout the basin, severely testing the water management systems and control structures in the basin. In addition to extensive flooding along the Souris River, significant flooding also occurred on the Assiniboine River, to which the Souris River is a tributary, entering just downstream of the City of Brandon.

The 1989 Canada-United States Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin governs the operation of the control structures during flood and non-flood events, as specified in Annex A of the Agreement. One outcome of the 2011 flood has been a call for a review of the 1989 Operating Plan.

The International Souris River Board (ISRB) has developed a stepped process to address the concerns raised by the 2011 flood event. The first step, which was to document the 2011 flood event, has been completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in its 2011 Post-Flood Report for the Souris River Basin. This report was submitted to the ISRB at its February 22, 2012 meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. The next step is to coordinate and conduct a review of the Operating Plan for flood control and water supply detailed in the 1989 Agreement. As specified by Article V of the 1989 Agreement, the Parties through their designated entities will jointly review the operating plan in an effort to maximize the provision of flood control and water supply benefits consistent with the terms of the Agreement.

The designated entities are:

- * The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) is the designated entity of Canada.
- * The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the designated entity for the United States during flood operations.
- * The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the designated entity for the United States during non-flood periods.

In addition to the designated entities, the North Dakota State Engineer is assigned responsibility under the Agreement for monitoring the operating plan and in 2007 the ISRB was given an oversight function by governments for flood operations in cooperation with the designated entities identified in the Agreement.

Given the unprecedented flooding and the number of initiatives being undertaken by various Federal, State, Provincial, and Local agencies, the ISRB has agreed to establish a 2012 Souris River Basin Task Force.

The Task Force will be led by the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as the designated entities for flood control under the 1989 Agreement and will include representation from other Federal, State, Provincial, and Local agencies as appointed by the ISRB. The Task force will also make provision for public and local government consultation.

The 2012 Souris River Basin Task Force will report to the Co-chairs of the International Souris River Board.

Objective

The objectives of the ISRB 2012 Souris River Basin Task Force are:

- * to conduct a review of the Operating Plan contained in Annex A of the 1989 Canada-United States Agreement for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin for presentation to governments,
- * to evaluate the impacts that changes to the Operating Plan of Annex A will have to downstream interests, and
- * to facilitate collaboration amongst the various Federal, State, Provincial, and Local Agencies undertaking actions as the result of the 2011 flood and to provide for public and local government consultation.

Tasks

The proposed tasks are:

1. Develop a plan of study (POS) and scope of work (SOW) for studies and activities to be conducted to accomplish Task Force objectives, identifying the need for supporting consultants as well as outlining stakeholder engagement in Canada and the United States. The POS and SOW are to:
 - a. Articulate all studies and activities to be performed and level of detail anticipated for each study;
 - b. Recommend the agencies or organizations capable of conducting aspects of each study or activity, recognizing the need for involvement by a bi-national team;
 - c. Identify sources of, or means of obtaining, needed information;
 - d. Establish the priority, duration and timing of each study or activity, considering the inclusion of phases to assist in the organizational management of the overall review; and
 - e. Estimate the human and financial resources, including expertise, required to conduct each individual study or activity and a summary for the entire review.
2. Conduct a review of post flood reports, watershed plans, proposed and existing flood mitigation efforts, and identify gaps with respect to non-flood and flood issues.
3. Gather information on initiatives being undertaken or proposed by various Federal, State, Provincial, and Local agencies and identify potential gaps or constraints with the intent of supplementing the work of the Task Force and avoiding duplication of effort.

4. Establish an analysis and modelling team to accomplish needed hydrology and hydraulic analysis as identified by the Task Force POS and SOW.
5. Evaluate the impact that changes to the Operating Plan Contained in Annex A will have to downstream interests.
6. Prepare progress reports, an interim draft report, and a final report summarizing flood and non-flood issues and current and proposed water management initiatives within the Souris River basin, identifying possible improvements for non-flood and flood management in the basin as well as possible changes to the Operating Plan as presented in Annex A of the 1989 Agreement.