

Final Minutes

International Souris River Board

International Inn
Minot, North Dakota
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. (CST) by Mr. Frink. Mr. Frink welcomed the Board members and other participants. It was noted that Mr. Johnson has been appointed as an interim member of the Board until the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Dybvig can be filled.

05-B-01 Review of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as written.

05-B-02 Approval of Minutes for February 22, 2005, Meeting

It was moved by Mr. Boals and seconded by Colonel Pfenning to approve the minutes as submitted by email to Board members, support staff, and observers.

Carried

05-B-03 Compilation of Souris River Flows to May 31, 2005

(Mr. Salm; handout provided)

Inflow for Long Creek at the Eastern Crossing was 14 620 dam³ (11,852 acre-ft). The total diversion for Boundary Reservoir was 9 025 dam³ (7,317 acre-ft). The total diversion for Long Creek Basin was 10 370 dam³ (8,407 acre-ft).

Inflow for Rafferty Reservoir was 43 120 dam³ (34,957 acre-ft). The total diversion for the reservoir was 43 080 dam³ (34,925 acre-ft), and the total diversion for the upper Souris River Basin was 46 400 dam³ (37,616 acre-ft). The total diversion for the lower Souris River Basin was 3 410 dam³ (2,764 acre-ft).

The total diversion for Moose Mountain Creek Basin was 22 500 dam³ (18,241 acre-ft).

Total additions from noncontributory basins were 18 280 dam³ (14,820 acre-ft).

The total diversion for the Souris River Basin was 82 680 dam³ (67,029 acre-ft). Recorded flow at Sherwood was 48 890 dam³ (39,635 acre-ft). The United States share on a 40/60 basis was

45 320 dam³ (36,741 acre-ft). The United States received 50 970 dam³ (43,321 acre-ft) for a surplus of 5 650 dam³ (4,580 acre-ft).

Recorded flow at the Western Crossing of Long Creek was 10 200 dam³ (8,269 acre-ft), and recorded flow at the Eastern Crossing of Long Creek was 14 620 dam³ (11,852 acre-ft). Thus, the surplus from the United States to Canada was 4 420 dam³ (3,583 acre-ft).

It was moved by Mr. Wiche and seconded by Mr. Bowering to accept the calculation of natural flow as submitted.

Carried

05-B-04 Review of Current Flow Conditions

Saskatchewan (Mr. Johnson; handout provided)

Fall precipitation during 2004 varied from near normal in the northern part of the Souris River Basin to slightly below normal in the southern and western parts of the basin. Winter precipitation varied from somewhat below normal in the southwestern parts of the basin to slightly above normal in the northern parts of the basin. A winter storm on March 17, 2005, brought significant precipitation to the lower reaches of Long Creek Basin. However, well-above-normal temperatures during the last 2 weeks of March 2005 resulted in rapid melting of the snowpack.

Spring precipitation for 2005 was above normal in the basin. Most of the precipitation was received in June.

Spring runoff for 2005 was somewhat above normal as a result of heavy winter snowfall and rapid melting of the snowpack.

Flows on Long Creek filled Boundary Reservoir and allowed a small amount of water to be diverted to Rafferty Reservoir during April 2005. Rainfall during May 2005 helped sustain the flow, and the reservoir was near its full supply level by the end of May 2005. The elevation of Boundary Reservoir on June 27, 2005, was 560.74 m (1,839.68 ft), which was 0.12 m (0.39 ft) below full supply level.

Rafferty Reservoir was at an elevation of 549.81 m (1,803.82 ft) at the end of April 2005. On June 27, 2005, the elevation was 549.96 m (1,804.31 ft). Operation plans are to maintain the reservoir at an elevation of 550 m (1,804.44 ft) or less through the summer.

Releases from Alameda Reservoir were increased in mid-April 2005 at the request of the State of North Dakota. Following the releases, outflows were decreased to 1 m³/s (35.32 ft³/s). However, because of runoff from spring rains, the elevation of the reservoir gradually increased during May and early June 2005. By mid-June 2005, Alameda Reservoir was at an elevation of 562.378 m (1,845.05 ft). On June 27, 2005, the elevation was 562.273 m (1,844.71 ft).

Operation plans are to maintain the current releases until the reservoir is at an elevation of 562.1 m (1,844.14 ft). Releases then will be staged back to 1 m³/s (35.32 ft³/s) for the remainder of the summer.

(Mr. House; handout provided)

Runoff began in late March 2005 and most streams had peaked by early April 2005. Post-runoff precipitation was below normal and most streams responded quickly. Moderate flow increases occurred as a result of rainstorms in mid-June 2005.

Releases were started from Alameda Reservoir in early April 2005. By May 31, 2005, 12 700 dam³ (10,296 acre-ft) had been released and the reservoir was at an elevation of 562.25 m (1,844.63 ft).

On May 31, 2005, Rafferty Reservoir was at an elevation of 549.78 m (1,803.72 ft). Since then, the elevation has increased an additional 0.17 m (0.56 ft).

North Dakota (Ms. Prindiville; handout provided)

January through April 2005 precipitation totals were below normal. May 2005 totals were above normal, and June 2005 totals, to date, have been well above normal. Minot received 7.34 inches (186.44 mm) of rain during the first 3 weeks of June 2005, increasing precipitation totals to 131 percent of normal.

Spring runoff in the Souris River Basin was minimal.

Long-term drought conditions continue to improve for the western half of North Dakota. The June 21, 2005, Drought Monitor ranks north-central North Dakota as drought-free. By comparison, the February 8, 2005, Drought Monitor ranked north-central North Dakota as abnormally dry.

(Mr. Wiche; handout provided)

Spring snowmelt in the Souris River Basin brought the peak on the Souris River at Sherwood to well above normal. The peak of 1,450 ft³/s (41.06 m³/s) on March 31, 2005, ranked 28th in 75 years of record. Flows were well below 4 ft³/s (0.113 m³/s) from January 1, 2005, to March 5, 2005. Flows were above the long-term median flows for the remainder of the January 1, 2005, to May 31, 2005, period except in late April and early May when flows were less than the median daily streamflow.

Flows for the Souris River at Westhope were low during the winter. However, the flows increased to about 900 ft³/s (25.48 m³/s) during the spring, and median daily flows were above normal from early April 2005 through May 2005. The peak of 909 ft³/s (25.74 m³/s) on April 11, 2005, ranked 38th in 75 years of record.

Manitoba (Mr. Bowering; handout provided)

Spring 2005 runoff was near normal in southern parts of the Souris River Basin in Manitoba and well above normal in northern parts of the basin in Manitoba. Spring runoff began in late March 2005, and crests on the Souris River in Manitoba occurred in early April 2005.

Precipitation during April 2005 was 25 percent of normal. However, on June 1, 2005, the Souris River Basin in Manitoba received 100 to 150 mm (4 to 6 in.) of precipitation. Adjacent areas in North Dakota and Saskatchewan also received large amounts of rain in June. As a result, the Souris River was above flood stage from Melita to Hartney during June 10-15, 2005, and from the United States boundary through the Coulter area for most of June. Median flows for mid-June 2005 ranged from 250 ft³/s (7.08 m³/s) at Melita to 285 ft³/s (8.07 m³/s) at Wawanesa.

With normal precipitation, flooding should cease by mid-July 2005.

05-B-05 Operation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges and Reservoirs on the Souris River, 2005

(Mr. Knauer and Mr. Gutzke; handout provided)

Total provisional inflow at Sherwood for January through May 2005 was 36,940 acre-ft (45 565 dam³). This was 47 percent of the historic January-May inflow for 1938 through 2004. Total provisional outflow at Baker Bridge for January through May 2005 was 32,969 acre-ft (40 667 dam³). This was 48 percent of the historic January-May outflow for 1938 through 2004. The elevation of Lake Darling increased from 1,595.80 ft (486.41 m) on January 1, 2005, to 1,596.44 ft (486.60 m) on May 31, 2005. The elevation was 1,596.45 ft (486.60 m) on June 1, 2005, and 1,596.50 ft (486.62 m) on June 22, 2005. All gates were open.

During mid-April, the North Dakota State Water Commission requested and received increased outflows from Saskatchewan. Inflows at the border were about 75 ft³/s (2.1 m³/s) on April 30, 2005, and refuge outflows were about 36 ft³/s (1.0 m³/s). During May 2005, Lake Darling was managed for an interim summer supply level of 1,596.50 ft (486.62 m) for refuge habitat-management purposes.

Total inflow at Bantry for January through May 2005 was 50,027 acre-ft (61 708 dam³).

A wet summer may not allow Lake Darling to evaporate to 1,596 ft (486.47 m). Water in excess of 1,596 ft (486.47 m) should be released by October 15, 2005, to reach J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge before freeze-up.

During a general discussion on the Flood Operations Group, it was stated that coordination between agencies is good and that the Group should continue to operate as is now being done. **The Group was asked to submit a formal report of its August discussion to Board members (through the Board secretary) by the September 21, 2005, conference call.**

05-B-06 Report by the Natural Flows Method Committee

Suggestions on How Wording in Agreement Should be Interpreted (Mr. White; handout provided)

The Committee is still discussing how the wording in the agreement should be interpreted. **Additional modeling will be done to help decide if wording changes are critical or if wording can remain unchanged.**

Status of Procedures Manual (Mr. Boals)

Revisions have been made to the outline of the draft manual. **The manual will be drafted in accordance with the revised outline.**

05-B-07 Update by the Flow-Forecasting Liaison Committee

(Ms. Prindiville)

There were no changes from the February report. **An alternate still is needed for Environment Canada. Mr. Boals will follow up on this matter.**

05-B-08 Update on Water-Management Projects

NAWS (Mr. Frink)

The first ruling in the lawsuit filed by Manitoba requires that further environmental studies be conducted. However, construction of the pipeline can continue. The last 14 mi (23 km) of pipeline will be constructed during 2005. The treatment level of the water from Lake Sakakawea is still under discussion. The U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of North Dakota have appealed the ruling.

Lake Metigoshe (Mr. White)

Necessary easements still are needed from landowners. **Mr. White, at the request of the Oak Creek Water Board, will draft a letter to the International Joint Commission requesting approval of the dam. Mr. White also will draft a letter of support from the Board. Commissioner Olson will follow up on this issue.**

2001 Flood Report (Mr. Eaton)

Work on the draft report is proceeding.

Other

No comments.

05-B-09 Status of ISRB Enhanced Mandate Proposal

(Mr. Boals)

Progress is being made. Approval has been received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(Commissioner Olson)

The amalgamation of the International Souris River Board and the Bilateral Water-Quality Monitoring Group has been approved by both governments. **The International Joint Commission Legal Counsel will assist in development of a mandate for the combined group. The team that was discussed by the groups at the February 22, 2005, meeting in Bismarck, N. Dak., should begin work on a directive and a work plan for the group.**

05-B-10 Status of ISRB 2004 Annual Report

The annual report was distributed in May 2005. Mr. Frink expressed thanks for the work done by Ms. Martin and others.

05-B-11 Other Business

(Commissioner Olson)

Commissioner Olson stated that progress is being made on bringing a transboundary approach to watersheds.

(Mr. Colosimo)

Funding proposals are being reviewed. Input on priorities will be requested from the Board.

(Mr. Hanretty)

The Water Resources Board is removing log jams that are against structures such as roads or bridges. Some jams are holding back as much as 2 ft (0.6 m) of water.

Two research students from Minot State University were in attendance and gave a short overview of their research projects.

The International Souris River Board is scheduled to appear at the International Joint Commission Executive Meeting on October 19, 2005, at 3:30 p.m. CST.

05-B-12 Date and Location of Winter 2006 Meeting

The winter meeting will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan, on February 16, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. CST.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. CDT.

After the meeting, Mr. Knauer led a very informative tour of Lake Darling. Board Members expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr. Knauer.

FINAL AGENDA
INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD
International Inn
Minot, North Dakota
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

1. Review of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for February 22, 2005, meeting
3. Compilation of Souris River flows to May 31, 2005
4. Review of current flow conditions
 - Saskatchewan
 - North Dakota
 - Manitoba
5. Operation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges and reservoirs on the Souris River, 2005
6. Report by the Natural Flows Method Committee
 - Suggestions on how wording in agreement should be interpreted
 - Status of procedures manual
7. Update by the Flow-Forecasting Liaison Committee
8. Update on water-management projects
 - NAWS
 - Lake Metigoshe
 - 2001 flood report
 - Other
9. Status of ISRB enhanced mandate proposal
10. Status of 2004 ISRB annual report
11. Other business
12. Date and location of winter 2006 meeting

A TOUR OF LAKE DARLING IS SCHEDULED FOR 2:00 P.M CDT

FINAL MINUTES DISTRIBUTION LIST
INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD

International Inn
Minot, North Dakota
Tuesday, June 28, 2005

*Indicates attendance at meeting

MEMBERS FOR CANADA

*Russell Boals, Chief, Water Survey Division, Environment Canada, Regina, Saskatchewan

*Doug Johnson, Director, Basin Operations, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (Acting Member)

*Rick Bowering, Manager, Surface Water, Manitoba Stewardship, Winnipeg, Manitoba

MEMBERS FOR UNITED STATES

*Gregg Wiche, District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey, Bismarck, North Dakota

*Dale Frink, State Engineer, North Dakota State Water Commission, Bismarck, North Dakota

*Michael Pfenning, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, St. Paul, Minnesota

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

*Cathy Martin, Technical Editor, U.S. Geological Survey, Bismarck, North Dakota

OTHERS

*Randy House, Hydrometric Supervisor, Water Survey Division, Environment Canada, Regina, Saskatchewan

Brian Yee, Acting Manager, Water Survey Division, Environment Canada, Regina, Saskatchewan

Steve Robinson, Chief, Hydrologic Records, U.S. Geological Survey, Bismarck, North Dakota

*Robert White, Water Resource Engineer, North Dakota State Water Commission, Bismarck, North Dakota

*Edward Eaton, Chief, Water Control Section, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, St. Paul, Minnesota

*Megan Estep, Regional Private Lands Hydrologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado

*Charlene Prindiville, Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service, Bismarck, North Dakota

*Duane Anderson, Biological Technician, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Berthold, North Dakota

*Dean Knauer, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Foxholm, North Dakota

*Tedd Gutzke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upham, North Dakota.

*Kari Layman, Hydraulic Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, St. Paul, Minnesota

*Shawn Salm, Acting Hydrometric Supervisor, Water Survey Canada, Regina, Saskatchewan

*Ken Coberle, Research Assistant, Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota

*Clinton Molde, Regional Manager Southeast Region, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Weyburn, Saskatchewan

*Alan Walter, Director of Public Works, City of Minot, Minot, North Dakota

*Cliff Hanretty, Chairman, Eaton Irrigation District, Towner, North Dakota

*Mark Colosimo, Engineering Advisor, United States Section, International Joint Commission, Washington, DC

*Allen Olson, Commissioner, International Joint Commission, Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Bruce Holliday, District Officer, Water Survey Division, Atmospheric Environment Branch, Environment Canada, Regina, Saskatchewan

E.A. Bailey, Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Lisa Bourget, Secretary, United States Section, International Joint Commission, Washington, DC