

International Souris River Board
Final Minutes of September 21, 2007 Conference Call

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. CST by Russell Boals, Canadian co-chair.

Attendees: Dale Frink, Bob White, Brian Yee, Bob Harrison, Gregg Wiche, Doug Johnson, Ed Eaton, Tedd Gutzke, Mike Sauer, Rich Elkin, Mike Laitta, Willem Brakel

Regrets: Megan Estep, Richard Zitta

1. Review of Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2007.

Comments on format were provided by Russell Boals. Item 3.vi. spelling error was noted, “oeperating” should be operating, Item 10.i. Mike Ell reported on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) issues not Mike Sauer.

Bob Harrison moved to accept the July 10, 2007 Minutes as amended. Gregg Wiche seconded. Carried

3. Review of action items from July 10, 2007 Meeting

- i. Brian Yee has not followed up with the IJC to ensure the full text of the 1989 agreement has been posted on the IJC Souris Board website. Willem Brakel indicated he would follow-up with the IJC.

ACTION: Brian Yee and Willem Brakel to follow-up with IJC.

- ii. Doug Johnson noted that he and Megan Estep have not met to discuss a meeting of the Natural Flow Methods Committee (NFMC).

ACTION: Doug Johnson to arrange meeting of the NFMC with Megan Estep.

- iii. Russell Boals has not had an opportunity to put together the work plan and governance model documents. He reported that Brian Yee and he had discussed using a resource person out of Brian’s work unit to assist Russell.

ACTION: Russell Boals to continue leading development of work plan and governance model documents.

- iv. US EPA – To date, a reply has not been received from the US EPA regarding their involvement in the ISRB. Russell noted that at the July 2007 meeting, Commissioner Al Olson had indicated that he would follow-up with IJC. Mike Laitta noted that he has received several enquiries from the EPA regional level regarding the WBD dataset. Dale Frink asked Willem Brakel to pursue EPA’s involvement with the IJC. Willem Brakel indicated he would follow-up with Mark Colisomo.

ACTION: Willem Brakel and Mark

Colisomo to follow-up with IJC and US EPA.

4. Natural Flow Determination

Rich Elkin reviewed the determination of natural flow from January 1 to August 31, 2007. Saskatchewan was determined to be in deficit 370 cubic decameters. It was decided the deficit would go to 0 by the end of the year and the determination of natural flow be accepted.

Gregg Wiche moved to accept the determination of natural flow as presented. Bob Harrison seconded. Carried.

5. Apportionment requirements

Doug Johnson noted that as the deficit is small, it is expected that current levels of flow will make up the deficit. Dale Frink agreed with this plan of operation. Mike Sauer had no water quality updates to report.

6. Approval of 2006 annual report

Bob Harrison asked why the 2007 forecast is in the 2006 annual report. Ed suggests that the report should only cover what happened in 2006. The Board agreed that 2006 annual report should only cover 2006. Bob White will remove references to forecasts for 2007 flows from the report. Under 7.3, Bob Harrison noted that there was non-compliance in October. Tedd Gutzke explained that Pool 357 was in drawdown and because the sill of the dam was apparently constructed a couple feet lower than it should have been, he had to release additional water from Pool 341 in order to pass water through Dam 357. Bob Harrison suggested that there should be a sentence in the annual report describing the reason for the non-compliance. Tedd Gutzke will prepare some text and send to Bob White for inclusion in the annual report. Russell Boals noted under section 5.1 – discussion regarding NAWS, 4th paragraph, Canada's concern regarding the introduction of non-native biota – what was the intent of including the St. Mary – Milk diversion? Russell suggests that there should be a further explanation as the St. Mary to Milk diversion is from Hudson Bay drainage to Missouri drainage, whereas the NAWS diversion is from Missouri drainage to Hudson Bay drainage. The current text implies that both diversions are in the same direction. Bob will send final revised draft out for review on Monday.

ACTION: Bob White to send out final revised draft for review on Monday, Sep 24.

ACTION: Board to return comments to Bob White by Wednesday, Sep 26.

7. Drainage Basin Mapping Initiative

Mike Laitta, USGS, is working on securing a base layer of digital map data and developing a proposal to go to IJC. Ed Eaton asked if the Board needed to send a letter to the IJC saying we want to proceed. Mike said that he would wait to hear from the Board and the IJC. He requires a request from the Board to the IJC asking Mike Laitta to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the Board discussing process and resource requirements.

ACTION: Brian Yee to prepare letter to IJC for signature by Russell Boals and Dale Frink

8. IJC Fall Meeting

ISRB presentation to be on October 18, 2007 near the end of the day. Russell Boals and Dale Frink noted that there are no controversial items. The presentation will focus on the operation of the Board in its first year as a combined water quantity and quality board.

ACTION: Russell Boals and Dale Frink to prepare presentation for IJC meeting.

9. February 2008 Meeting

The next ISRB meeting was scheduled Wednesday, Feb 27, 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. for Winnipeg, MB.

10. Other business

Doug Johnson asked Water Survey of Canada to compute and distribute the natural flow determinations as early as possible after the apportionment deadlines. This will help SWA in their water management.

11. End of Call

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Final Agenda
International Souris River Board
Conference Call

10:00 a.m. CDT (MB, ND, MN), 9:00 a.m. CST in SK 9:00 a.m., MDT in Denver

Friday, September 21, 2007

1. Review of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for July 10, 2007 meeting
3. Review of action items from the July 10, 2007 meeting
4. Natural flow determination--January 1 to August 31, 2007
5. Apportionment requirements and actions
 - *October to December 31, 2007
 - *Prior to February 1, 2008
6. Approval of 2006 Souris River Board annual report
7. Update on Souris River integrated drainage basin mapping initiative
8. ISRB presentation at IJC fall meeting
9. Arrangements for February 2008 meeting.
10. Other business
11. End of call

List of Attendees, ISRB, September 21, 2007 conference call

Board Members in Attendance

Russell Boals, Canadian Co-chair, Environment Canada
Dale Frink, USA Co-chair, ND State Water Commission
Bob Harrison, Member for Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Gregg Wiche, Member for the USA, US Geological Survey
Doug Johnson, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Regrets

Megan Estep, Member for the USA, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Col. Jonathan Christensen, Member for the USA, US Army Corps of Engineers
Dwight Williamson, Member for Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Dennis Fewless, Member for the USA, ND Department of Health
Richard Zitta, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Environment

Support Staff in Attendance

Bob White, USA Co-secretary, ND State Water Commission
Brian Yee, Canadian Co-secretary, Environment Canada
Ed Eaton, IJC Technical Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers
Tedd Gutzke, Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Sauer, USA Co-secretary, ND Department of Health
Richard Elkin, Acting Hydrometric Supervisor, Environment Canada
Mike Laitta, Hydrologist, US Geological Survey
Willem Brakel, Senior Advisor, IJC