

**INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD**  
Final minutes of Conference Call held on September 25, 2008

Russell Boals convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST/MDT, 10:00 a.m. CDT

1. **Review of agenda.** No items were added to the agenda.

2. **Approval of minutes from June 20, 2008 ISRB meeting**

Dale Frink moved to approve the minutes. Gregg Wiche seconded the motion. Carried.

3. **Review of action items from June 20, 2008 meeting**

- Doug Johnson to arrange meeting of the Hydrology Committee by September 15, 2008. STATUS: Doug Johnson reported that he had not arranged for this meeting.

ACTION: Doug Johnson to arrange meeting of the Hydrology Committee.

ACTION: Megan Estep to contact Doug Johnson regarding the meeting.

- Richard Zitta to distribute a copy of the coal mine expansion EIA to the Board once the EIA becomes public. STATUS: Richard Zitta was not able to make the call. Brian Yee reported that he has sent an email to Richard Zitta requesting an update and he has not yet seen a reply.
- Brian Yee to follow-up with US section of IJC to obtain appointment letters of US Board members. STATUS: Brian Yee reported that he has sent a request to the US section of the IJC. The Washington office of the IJC is undergoing a move and they are unable to locate some of their files. He has copies of appointment letters for all Canadian members of the Board and some of the letters for the US members of the Board.
- Bruce Holliday and Mike Sauer to continue to work on the 2003-05 water quality annual report as their schedule permits. STATUS: On-going.
- Board members to review Terms of Reference (drafted by Russell Boals) and provide comments to other members of the Board by August 8, 2008. STATUS: Russell Boals reported that he has not received any comments from the members of the Board so he is assuming that the Terms of Reference for the committees are acceptable to the Board.
- Board members to review Work Plan and provide comments on structure and identify priorities to other members of the Board by August 8, 2008. STATUS: Russell Boals reported that he had received comments from Gregg Wiche on the work plan and these have been addressed. He is assuming that the Work Plan was acceptable to the Board.
- Russell Boals to prepare proposals (for funding from the International Watershed Initiative) using the IJC template, and submit to the Board for review, and subsequent submission to the IJC. STATUS: Done
- Each Board member to provide photos suitable for use on the annual report cover to Bob White by August 31, 2008. STATUS: Done.

- Doug Johnson to provide dam safety report to Megan Estep and Ed Eaton. STATUS: Doug Johnson reported that the dam safety report is not yet available.
- Doug Johnson to give a presentation on dam safety at the February 2009 meeting. STATUS: Pending.

#### **4. Determination of Natural Flow of Souris River at Sherwood to August 31, 2008**

Don Hood reviewed the Determination of Natural Flow of Souris River at International Boundary (Sherwood). He noted that there were some significant rains in May and June and there was a surplus in delivery for the period at Sherwood. Russell Boals noted that he reviewed the evaporation calculations for the reservoirs and the figures are reasonable. Gregg Wiche moved to accept the Determination of Natural Flows. Seconded by Doug Johnson. Carried.

#### **5. Apportionment requirements and actions**

- October to December 31, 2007
- Prior to February 1, 2008

Doug Johnson reported that as there was a surplus of delivery as of August 31, there were no plans to release from Rafferty and Alameda this fall. He also reported that the Saskatchewan reservoirs were at or near their February operating targets.

#### **6. Approval of 2007 Souris River Board annual report**

- Content – cover page, new directive, governance, minimum flow, SI units
- Format of drafts for future review (Word vs Adobe pdf)
- Timelines for future drafts/review process

Bob White reported that he had sent out the third draft of the report, the cover had been revised with photos and the IJC logo has been added to the cover. The Board thanked Bob White for his efforts in producing the report.

Russell Boals and Bob Harrison both expressed their preference to receive the draft in Word format as it facilitates making comments in Track Changes. They also said the Adobe pdf is useful to see the graphs. Bob White asked the Board to submit their changes directly to him as it is difficult for him to follow all the changes in Track Changes in Word.

Dale Frink suggested that any changes to units be considered for the 2008 annual report. He also suggested, as the public comprises part of the target audience for the report, that the units in the report be written out.

It was noted that each member of the Board and the IJC is to receive an original signed copy of the annual report.

#### **7. Update on International Watershed Initiative**

- Souris River integrated drainage basin mapping initiative

Brian Yee reported that he has not heard from Mike Laitta as to what next steps are involved in the process.

ACTION: Brian Yee to follow-up with Mike Laitta.

- Update on proposals submitted

Russell Boals reported that he had submitted two proposals for the development of a backgrounder to the basin and for the development of a “Who’s Who” guide to water management agencies in the basin. The IJC IWI review committee has approved funding for a combination of the two proposals.

**8. ISRB presentation at IJC fall meeting**

Dale Frink indicated that he would participate by conference call. Russell Boals will attend in person to give the presentation on behalf of the Board. No other Board members will be present.

**9. Arrangements for February 2009 meeting.**

Meeting will be held in Bismarck, ND on Friday, February 27 beginning at 10:00 a.m. CST.

**10. Location of next public meeting**

- Doug Johnson indicates SWA Upper Souris Watershed Planning would like to attend next public meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next ISRB public meeting in SK in conjunction with a public meeting of SWA’s Upper Souris Watershed Planning initiative.

- Promotion of public meeting to town, RM, and county offices

Brian Yee noted that after the July 2008 public meeting, the town of Souris had sent a complaint that they received insufficient notice of the meeting. The town suggested that invitations to the public meeting be sent directly to RMs and towns, and the town also provided a list of RMs and towns in the Souris basin in Manitoba. Russell Boals suggested that primary promotion of the public meeting should be done through the communication units of the respective Board chairs’ agencies.

**11. Other business – none.**

**12. End of call -- conference call adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

FINAL AGENDA -- INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD  
Conference Call, September 25, 2008

Draft Agenda  
International Souris River Board  
Conference Call  
10:00 a.m. CDT (MB, ND, MN); 9:00 a.m. CST (SK); 9:00 a.m. MDT (CO)  
Thursday, September 25, 2008

To join the conference, please call **1-866-646-2080**.

At the prompt, using the keys on your telephone, enter the following conference code: **7805040**, followed by the "#" key.

1. Review of agenda
2. Approval of minutes for June 20, 2008 meeting
3. Review of action items from the June 20, 2008 meeting
  - Doug Johnson to arrange meeting of the Natural Flow Methods Committee by September 15, 2008.
  - Richard Zitta to distribute a copy of the coal mine expansion EIA to the Board once the EIA becomes public.
  - Brian Yee to follow-up with US section of IJC to obtain appointment letters of US Board members.
  - Bruce Holliday and Mike Sauer to continue to work on the 2003-05 water quality annual report as their schedule permits.
  - Board members to review Terms of Reference (drafted by Russell Boals) and provide comments to other members of the Board by August 8, 2008.
  - Board members to review Work Plan and provide comments on structure and identify priorities to other members of the Board by August 8, 2008.
  - Russell Boals to prepare proposals (for funding from the International Watershed Initiative) using the IJC template, and submit to the Board for review, and subsequent submission to the IJC.
  - Each Board member to provide photos suitable for use on the annual report cover to Bob White by August 31, 2008.
  - Doug Johnson to provide dam safety report to Megan Estep and Ed Eaton.
  - Doug Johnson to give a presentation on dam safety at the February 2009 meeting.
4. Natural flow determination--January 1 to August 31, 2008
5. Apportionment requirements and actions

- October to December 31, 2007
  - Prior to February 1, 2008
6. Approval of 2007 Souris River Board annual report
    - Content – cover page, new directive, governance, minimum flow, SI units
    - Format of drafts for future review (Word vs Adobe pdf)
    - Timelines for future drafts/review process
  7. Update on International Watershed Initiative
    - Souris River integrated drainage basin mapping initiative
    - Update on proposals submitted
  8. ISRB presentation at IJC fall meeting
  9. Arrangements for February 2009 meeting.
  10. Location of next public meeting
    - Doug Johnson indicates SWA Upper Souris Watershed Planning would like to attend next public meeting.
    - Promotion of public meeting to town, RM, and county offices
  11. Other business
  12. End of call

**List of Attendees, International Souris River Board**  
**September 25, 2008 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  
Doug Johnson, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority  
Megan Estep, Member for the USA, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Gregg Wiche, Member for the USA, US Geological Survey  
Scott Gangl, Member for the USA, ND Fish and Game

**Regrets**

Richard Zitta, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Environment  
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

**Support Staff in Attendance**

Brian Yee, Canadian Co-secretary, Transboundary Waters Unit, Environment Canada  
Don Hood, Acting Hydrometric Supervisor, Water Survey of Canada, Environment Canada  
Bob White, USA Co-secretary, ND State Water Commission

**Regrets**

Ed Eaton, IJC Technical Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Gary Erickson, Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ken Bottle, Hydrologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Steve Robinson, North Dakota Data Chief, US Geological Survey  
Scott Hill, Operations Manager, Water Survey of Canada, Environment Canada  
Bruce Holliday, District Officer, Water Quality Monitoring, Environment Canada  
Mike Sauer, USA Co-secretary, ND Department of Health  
Mike Laitta, GIS Coordinator, IJC  
Paul Pilon, Engineering Advisor, IJC  
Mark Colisomo, Engineering Advisor, IJC

**Observer**

Greg MacCulloch, Water Survey of Canada, Calgary