

INTERNATIONAL
SOURIS RIVER
BOARD



CONSEIL
INTERNATIONAL
DE LA RIVIÈRE SOURIS

Final Minutes

International Souris River Board Winter Meeting
Comfort Suites, 929 Gateway Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501
February 27, 2009

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks. Dale Frink convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Agenda. The agenda was approved with some minor changes to the order of discussion.
3. Approval of Minutes of Sept 25, 2008 conference call.

Megan Estep moved to accept the minutes. Gregg Wiche seconded. Carried.

4. Review of Action Items

- ACTION: Doug Johnson to arrange meeting of the Hydrology Committee. Completed, further discussion was tabled to agenda item 10.
- ACTION: Megan Estep to contact Doug Johnson regarding the Hydrology Committee meeting. Completed, further discussion was tabled to agenda item 10.
- ACTION: Brian Yee to follow-up with Mike Laitta regarding next steps on the Souris River integrated drainage basin mapping initiative. Completed, further discussion was tabled to agenda item 20.

Water Quantity

5. Determination of Souris River flows to December 31, 2008

Don Hood reviewed the determination of natural flow of the Souris River at Sherwood for 2008. He noted that 2008 was a below normal runoff year with limited runoff in the tributaries. The 2007 minor project usage was used in the calculations as the 2008 data was not available from Saskatchewan. Doug Johnson noted that the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is in the process of reviewing the minor projects in the basin. There were no additional projects licensed in 2008. Russell Boals noted that the deliveries by Saskatchewan to North Dakota met the 50/50 criteria as well there was a net gain on Long Creek from the Western Crossing to the Eastern Crossing, thereby meeting requirements of the 2000 Interim Measures as Modified.

Gregg Wiche moved to accept the determination. Megan Estep seconded. Carried.

6. Review of 2008 hydrologic conditions and forecast for spring 2009

- i. Saskatchewan

Doug Johnson reviewed the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority forecast. Normal to

above normal flows in the basin are expected with precipitation in the Saskatchewan portion of the basin being 100 to 150% of normal from November 1, 2008 to February 16, 2009. Stubble soil moisture is rated good to very good. Dale Frink noted that this would mean a 60/40 apportionment split between Saskatchewan and North Dakota if the Lake Darling criteria was satisfied. Ed Eaton noted that the flood operations may need to be implemented if flows exceed the 1 in 10 flood event, which is defined as the 30 day volume at Sherwood as 175,200 acre-feet (216,110 dam³) and/or when the local 30-day volume at Sherwood Crossing is expected to equal or exceed 30,000 acre-feet (37,000 dam³). Formerly the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would make the decision on whether or not a flood year was occurring and operate accordingly. However, with the new directive, the Board needs to make that decision. Russell Boals noted that such determination may need to wait until the flow conditions are known in March. Ed Eaton noted that if the flood operations are in effect, the USACE would provide funding to the USFWS for gate operations. It was decided that the Board will hold a conference call at 10:00 a.m. CST on March 18 to discuss the potential flood operation.

ACTION: Brian Yee will take a lead on setting up a conference call for March 18. Duration of call should be an hour.

ii. North Dakota

Steve Robinson reviewed flow conditions in North Dakota. He noted that 2008 was very dry with little to no flow in the small tributaries. The peak at Sherwood was 294 cfs on Mar. 28 ranking 63rd in 79 years of record. Flows at Westhope were well below normal with the peak flow of 149 cfs occurring June 18 ranking 66th in 79 years of record.

Allen Schlag reported on the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast for the 2009 spring snowmelt runoff. The NWS forecast shows risk of flooding downstream of Minot and less risk upstream of Minot. The lower end of the Souris River basin in North Dakota (below Minot) is expected to deliver medium to high flows. There is significant snow pack in the lower portion of the Souris River basin in North Dakota with 5" to 7" snow water equivalent. Significant flows are forecasted for Westhope. He expects the 1:10 year event triggers will be met.

iii. Manitoba

Bob Harrison noted that spring runoff in 2008 was the lowest since 1981. The tributaries of the Souris River in Manitoba were well below normal. The forecast for 2009 is expected to be similar in size to the second largest flood on record, which occurred in 1999 (1976 was the highest year on record).

7. Review Water Quantity Monitoring Plan for 2009

Scott Hill and Steve Robinson reported that no changes to the water quantity monitoring network are planned for 2009.

8. Water appropriations in the Souris River Basin during 2008

Doug Johnson reported that the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is conducting a review of water licenses in the Souris River basin. He expects this review to be completed by March 31. This review will assess the current state of water permits in the Saskatchewan portion of the Souris River basin (i.e. which projects are active, which have been discontinued).

Bob White reviewed water appropriations in North Dakota. There was one surface water permit for 86.2 acre-feet of annual use and six groundwater permits for 2134.4 acre-feet of annual use. Dale Frink noted that the Dakota Group aquifer is a very deep aquifer and pumpage from that aquifer would likely have no impact on Souris River surface flows. This water is of poor quality and it is being used for fracking (hydraulic fracturing) by the oil and gas industry. The Karlsruhe and Denbigh aquifers are shallow glacial aquifers and those permits are in the vicinity of Towner.

9. Operation of U.S. Refuges and Reservoirs on the Souris River in 2008 and plans for 2009.

Megan Estep reviewed operations of the USFWS refuges and reservoirs in 2008. Total inflow at Sherwood was 16 percent of the historic January to May inflow. The total Upper Souris Refuge pool volume decreased 11,889 acre-feet from January to May 2008. Lake Darling elevation decreased from 1592.1 feet on January 1 to 1590.28 ft (484.8m) on May 31. Total measured flow from the Souris River to the J. Clark Salyer Refuge from January to May was 13,625 acre-feet. Pool volume on May 31 was 35,820 acre-feet. This was 15,483 acre-feet above the January 1 volume and approximately 421 acre-feet were passed to Manitoba during the period.

Total outflow measured at Westhope for 2008 (water year) was 9,444 acre-feet. Total outflow was 18,381 acre-feet less than total measured inflow on the Souris River at Bantry. Outflow during the June 1 to October 31 period was 8,897 acre-feet, or 2,828 acre-feet above the 6,069 acre-feet required minimum.

Megan Estep reviewed 2009 plans for operations of the USFWS refuges and reservoirs. Approximately 60,000 acre-feet of water is required to raise Lake Darling to 1,597.00 feet. Gary Erickson reviewed how drying out the pools to mimic natural drying cycles of Prairie potholes improved nutrient conditions in the pools.

There was some discussion related to maintenance of the fishery on Lake Darling. Lake Darling has become a recreational fishery and a member of the public has expressed concerns that management operations have had a detrimental impact on fish populations. Megan Estep noted that Lake Darling's original purpose was to provide storage to maintain habitat on J. Clark Salyer. Duane Anderson noted that significant winter fish kill is expected due to low winter oxygen levels (thick ice and snow cover is reducing light penetration and causing die off of aquatic vegetation). It is possible that Lake Darling will not be a viable recreational fishery.

10. Update from Hydrology Committee

Doug Johnson reported on the meeting held February 26. Megan Estep, Doug Johnson, Ed Eaton, Ken Bottle, Bob Harrison, Bob White, Steve Robinson, Rob Kirkness were in attendance. The committee reviewed the status of assigned tasks and provided comments on the draft Terms of Reference. Ed Eaton noted that the

Hydrology Committee has added a scoping section to the Roles and Responsibilities of the Committee. This is intended to address the difficulties the Committee has had in delivering on tasks assigned by the Board. Russell Boals asked the Hydrology Committee to distribute to the Board a copy of the revised Terms of Reference.

ACTION: Megan Estep to provide a copy of the revised draft Terms of Reference to the Board and Secretary.

Megan Estep reviewed a hardcopy report submitted by the Hydrology Committee on the outcomes from its February 26 meeting. The Committee requested clarification and background for the analysis of Inflow/Outflow vs Change in Storage for Rafferty Reservoir. Russell Boals indicated that Mike Renouf had worked on this project.

ACTION: Russell Boals to research his files and follow-up with Mike Renouf to determine what analysis has been done on Inflow/Outflow vs. Change in Storage for Rafferty Reservoir. Russell Boals to provide his findings to the Hydrology Committee.

The Hydrology Committee noted that Development of a Procedures Manual for the Determination of Apportionment for the Souris River has been slow with limited progress for several years. It was suggested that the Procedures Manual is the highest priority for the Hydrology Committee as there is a need to capture corporate knowledge before people retire. Doug Johnson suggested that the Procedures Manual could be a project for the Canadian members of the Hydrology Committee to draft and he volunteered to coordinate a Canadian team to produce a draft procedures manual, which would then be brought to the Hydrology Committee for further review and development. Doug Johnson noted that populating the information into the Table of Contents prepared by Brian Yee would be the approach. The Board agreed.

ACTION: Doug Johnson to coordinate and call a meeting of a Canadian team for production of a draft procedures manual.

The Hydrology Committee recommends that a project proposal be developed to access International Watersheds Initiative funding to develop a hydrologic operations and water management model for the Souris River basin. There was some discussion of use of the model as a planning tool and/or a near real-time operational tool. Ed Eaton estimated there would be several hundred thousand of dollars spent on LIDAR surveys for the Souris River basin and several hundred thousand required for model development. It was agreed that discussion on a funding proposal for model development be added to the agenda for the March 18 conference call.

Scott Gangl asked for an explanation of the concerns regarding the operating level for Lake Darling. Megan Estep noted that shoreline erosion is occurring at the current operating level of 1597.00 ft. They had proposed operating at 1596.00 ft., but this has implications to the 60/40 and 50/50 apportionment criteria. Ed Eaton noted that the FSL elevations are stipulated in the 1989 Agreement between Canada and United

States for Water Supply and Flood Control in the Souris River Basin agreement.

There was some discussion of the lowering of the fish barrier at the outlet of Pool 357. Megan Estep reported that the USACE had not yet responded to the May 15, 2007 letter from the USFWS.

ACTION: Ed Eaton to follow-up on the status of the USACE response to concerns raised by the USFWS in their May 15, 2007 letter.

11. Update from Souris River Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee (SRFFLC)

Russell Boals reviewed the report prepared by Alf Warkentin. Dale Frink noted that the SRFFLC was created in 1969 in the aftermath of the 1969 flood in Minot. It has been instrumental in improving and maintaining effective communication between the member agencies of the Board and the operations. There have been some significant changes in membership on the committee. Alf Warkentin has indicated he would step down as Canadian co-chair. Ed Eaton noted that the chairs have generally come from the forecasting agencies due to their day-to-day involvement. The Board suggested that Alf Warkentin be asked to continue as the Canadian Co-Chair of the SRFFLC given his position as Manager of Forecasting and Flood Response Coordination for Manitoba Water Stewardship.

ACTION: Bob Harrison to speak with Alf Warkentin about continuing on as Canadian Co-Chair of the SRFFLC.

12. Update on water management projects

i. Rafferty/Alameda

Doug Johnson reported that repairs on roller bearings on the spillway gates at Alameda and Rafferty Reservoirs in Saskatchewan were progressing well and flood storage capacity will be available prior to the 2009 spring runoff.

ii. NAWS

Dale Frink reported on NAWS. Phases north of Minot are under construction. A record of decision was signed off in 2008. Manitoba has a lawsuit that is still in the courts. A separate lawsuit has been brought forward in Washington from downstream parties contending that the NAWS project will detrimentally affect flows on the Missouri River.

iii. Lake Metigoshe

Bob White indicated that he had not heard anything from the State Department since 2007. The cabin owner in Manitoba, who had expressed a concern about water levels, has sold his property. There have been no further public concerns expressed. At this time, further discussion and decisions are at the government to government level. The IJC has not been informed of any decision.

Aquatic Ecosystem Health

13. Compliance with water quality objectives for 2008

Mike Sauer noted that the water quality data from Westhope and Sherwood were similar to 2007. Phosphorus, TDS, sulphate, chloride, boron and iron exceeded objectives. Dissolved oxygen fell below the objective on occasion. Russell Boals asked if there are any conclusions that can be drawn from the data. The pattern of exceedances is ongoing and he asked if the objectives were too low. Mike Sauer responded that the data are not atypical of Prairie streams. Mike noted that the State of ND had listed the Souris River as impaired in 1998 for aquatic life and recreation due to low oxygen, high phosphorus and high bacteria levels. A TMDL study initiated in 2006, with sampling in 2006 and 2007 has indicated that sediment is the major contributor to consumption of oxygen in the water column. The TMDL study is in draft and should be finalized in the next few months.

14. Water Quality Monitoring Plan for 2009

Mike Sauer reported that no changes are anticipated in the monitoring plan compared to 2008. He reported that Environment Canada's organic monitoring for 2,4-D and DDT at Sherwood had some hits detected, but these were below objectives. Mike Sauer noted that there have been no hits detected on phenols. Gregg Wiche suggested the elimination of phenols and metals. The lab costs for phenols are about \$7400, and for metals it is about \$7500 to \$10000. This sampling had been agreed to under the Souris River Bilateral Water Quality Monitoring Group.

Dennis Fewless motioned that the AEHC be tasked with reviewing the water quality monitoring program, and at this time focus on a review of the phenols and metals program and review replacing total Coliform and fecal Coliform with E. Coli. Gregg Wiche seconded. Carried.

Dwight Williamson noted that there should be some parallel review of the Sherwood and Westhope programs. Gregg Wiche noted that the City of Minot provides funding for water quality monitoring and he expected that the review cover the basin.

ACTION: Richard Zitta and Scott Gangl, members from the Board on the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee to ensure the AEHC reviews the water quality monitoring program and in particular, review the need for phenol and metal monitoring.

15. Sediment toxicity testing

A decision has not been made regarding who would evaluate the testing protocols, select the appropriate tests and conduct the tests. Mike Sauer reported that no progress has been made on sediment toxicity testing.

16. Dissolved oxygen levels in the Souris River

Dissolved oxygen levels were noted to be low at times in 2008 at Sherwood. North Dakota had requested releases from the mid-level outlet on Alameda instead of the low level outlet. Mike Sauer reported that low dissolved oxygen levels has been primarily attributed to consumption of oxygen by organic material in the bed material

17. Fish kills in the Souris River

A resident of Manitoba reported poor water quality and fish kills in the Manitoba portion of the Souris River in 2008. Dwight Williamson reported that a fish kill in the Souris River in Manitoba was attributed to low flows and low oxygen levels. Scott Gangl reported that fish kills were also observed in 2006 and 2008 in Minot. The fish kills were attributed to low flow and low oxygen levels. In 2008, dissolved oxygen samples taken at the time of the fish kills were in the range of 0.4 to 1.6 ppm.

18. Boundary Dam coal mine expansion.

Richard Zitta provided an update. There are two projects in Prairie Mines and Royalty Ltd proposal for coal mine expansion.

- i. Shand South Extension. This extension is located approximately 6 km southeast of the City of Estevan and will approach to within 2.5 km of the International Boundary with the United States. The overall extension area covers about 3200 hectares (60 quarters), all within Township 1, Range 7, W2M. The new pits will be located east of the existing dragline strip mining operation. The development will extend the life of the Boundary Dam Coal Mine up to an additional 30 years, supply a portion of the coal for Saskatchewan's thermal generating units and maximize the recovery of coal reserves by mining the deeper Estevan seam. The Environmental Impact Statement was sent to the North Dakota Department of Health for comment. Public review of the EIS ended on February 5, 2009. Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment decision is pending. There is no proposed discharge to the Souris River -- all water will be managed on site.
- ii. Boundary Dam Mine, Pit 17 and extension to Pit 17. PMRL received Ministerial Approval signed Sept 30, 2008 to extend the Boundary Dam Mine into a 220.5 hectare area adjacent to the Estevan landfill. PMRL has subsequently received Ministerial Approval (February 10, 2009) for a change to add 7.7 hectares of land immediately to the north of the approved Pit 17.
- iii. Other potential projects (verbal only, no proposals received): SaskPower is considering the conversion of Boundary Dam Power Station Unit 3 to Clean Coal technology. The Clean Coal plant at Shand Power Station is not proceeding.

19. Update from Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee

Richard Zitta reported that the committee had not been given any tasks to complete and as such, the committee was essentially inactive for the year.

Administration

20. Board and Committee membership

Review Board membership and Committee membership (Hydrology, Flow Forecasting Liaison, and Aquatic Ecosystem Health). The Board discussed plans and actions to address any current vacancies and succession planning for future vacancies.

Paul Pilon noted that new Board members were appointed July 14, 2006. It was agreed that the 2008 annual report should clarify the Board membership for the 2006 and 2007 annual reports. Mark Colisomo noted Gregg Wiche and Dale Frink were re-appointed July 14, 2007 for another term to expire July 14, 2010.

Russell Boals noted that the Board members sitting on the committees are responsible for ensuring that a chair is selected, that the Committee is progressing in reviewing its Terms of Reference, and is progressing in delivering on action items. Each committee is to have one chair and it was agreed that Canada/USA co-chairs are not required.

The Committee memberships were identified as:

Hydrology Committee members were identified as: Doug Johnson, Megan Estep, Bob Harrison, Steve Robinson, Ed Eaton, Dave Helfrick, Rob Kirkness, Bob White, Ken Bottle, Allen Schlag. Chair TBD.

Flow Forecasting Committee: Allen Schlag, Alf Warkentin, Annette Verley, Ed Eaton, Bob White, Steve Robinson, Scott Dummer, Ken Bottle, Martin Graczyk, Scott Hill, Darren Tessmer, Bob Harrison. Chair TBD.

Aquatic Ecosystem Committee: Bruce Holliday, Scott Gangl, Kevin Johnson, Richard Zitta, Mike Sauer, Bob Lundgren. It was agreed that representatives from Lower and Upper Souris Watershed Planning were not required. Several other members to be confirmed. Chair TBD.

ACTION:

Bob Harrison will ask Alf Warkentin to serve as chair of the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee for one more year.

Doug Johnson will ask Martin Graczyk to serve on the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee

Russell Boals to confirm if Darren Tessmer can serve on the SRFFLC

Allen Schlag will ask Scott Dummer for a representative to serve on the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee

Dwight Williamson to seek a representative from Manitoba Water Stewardship for the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee.

Richard Zitta will follow up with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to see if Susan Cosen can serve on the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee.

Megan Estep will follow up with Kevin Johnson to serve on the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee and provide Kevin Johnson's contact information to Brian Yee.

21. Update on International Watershed Initiative Projects

i. Two proposals submitted by Russell Boals to the IJC:

1. A Watershed Backgrounder for the International Souris River Basin (\$25K)

2. A Who's Who for the International Souris River Basin (\$25K)

The IJC review committee approved an amalgamation of the two proposals for \$25K.

Paul Pilon noted that a contract has been issued for the development of a watershed backgrounder on the International Souris River Basin. The contract should be completed by March 31, 2009. There is no progress on the Who's Who.

A call for new proposals has been submitted. Paul noted that there is \$725K available on the Canadian side of the IWI. Mark Colisomo noted that there is as yet no announcement of budget on the USA side of the IWI. It was noted that funds from the Canadian section of the IJC can only go to the Canadian member agencies of the Board or to contracts originating from the Canadian side of the Board. There is no provision to carry the funds from one fiscal year to the next, which differs from the USA rules which allow federal funds to be carried forward several years. There was some discussion on the difficulties of managing contracts through the Canadian federal government bureaucracy and it was suggested that perhaps the contract could be managed through one of the Canadian provincial agencies.

ACTION: Doug Johnson will check into the potential for the Province of Saskatchewan to issue contracts to either Canadian or USA contractors using IJC funds.

There was discussion of the Hydrology Committee proposal for a hydrologic basin model. It was suggested that the project be broken into several steps spanning 2-3 years. Steps could include: an experts workshop, a scoping phase, development of a work plan, and another step being LIDAR data collection. Russell Boals suggested he and Doug Johnson to start development of the proposal at an upcoming meeting for the first week of March in Edmonton. Paul Pilon suggested speaking to Phil Adkins at PFRA on how they accomplished LIDAR mapping of the Pembina River basin.

ii. Souris River Basin integrated drainage basins

Paul Pilon reported on the progress of the transboundary hydrographic harmonization. In support of the International Joint Commission's (IJC) International Watersheds Initiative (IWI), a Transboundary Hydrographic Data Harmonization Task Force was established in July 2008 to promote and coordinate at the federal level harmonization of watershed boundary delineations and hydrographic features along the Canada-United States border. Consistent and compatible geospatial data will contribute to the IWI's objective of adopting a watershed-based, ecosystem approach to transboundary waters.

The Task Force has Canadian members from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Environment Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration & Environment), and American members from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Task Force has established two sub-groups: one has been tasked to develop processes and methods to reconcile differences between the Canadian and

USA hydrography; the second has been tasked to develop a plan and methods for accounting units and topographic harmonization of drainage basins.

Work is underway to develop a set of updated Canadian and American hydrographic datasets, fully harmonized at a scale of 1:50,000 or better, for a swath of land straddling the entire length of the International Border. Phase I is scheduled for completion on August 31, 2009, with delivery of a harmonized data management strategy, web-based data access tools, and documentation for users and stakeholders of where and how to access the data. The longer term goal is to complete by March 2010:

1. Harmonization of water-related geospatial datasets at a resolution suitable for local water resource planning and management along the boundary.
2. Preparation of technical guidance and documentation on ongoing and future harmonization activities.
3. Incorporation of harmonized data into the participating agencies' respective geospatial programs and databases.
4. A shared and sustainable data dissemination plan for all the harmonization data products.
5. Applications and best practices that will help others use the harmonized data effectively.

The IJC facilitated a meeting February 10-12 2009 in Regina to develop draft technical standards for drainage area harmonization and basic technical approaches, a federal (EC, USGS, NRCAN and PFRA) level action plan including identification of spatial extents and timelines, and the beginnings of a stewardship vision. Work is not being done at the Souris River basin level until methods and process are developed at the country to country level. Basin specific harmonization workshops are expected to follow.

22. Update Work Plan.

Russell Boals noted that a work plan had been drafted for 2008-09 and the intent is to update the work plan for 2009-10. The 2008-09 work plan was a follow-up to the four strategic initiatives of the IWI. He reviewed the items on the work plan and provided a short status report.

- i. Build shared understanding of the watershed and transboundary issues
 - Complete a summary report of water quality and aquatic ecosystem health challenges by September 2009. This will be modified based on today's discussion to a review of the water quality monitoring program.
 - Prepare information bulletin and facts sheets on water quality and water management challenges. This is being done under contract with IWI funding and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2009.
 - Complete a harmonized drainage basin map by September 2009. This date will be changed to September 2010.
- ii. Communicate watershed issues at the local, regional and national levels

- Host one public meeting annually. Public meetings have been held but attendance has been minimal. The Board will continue to hold public meetings and in 2009 plans to hold the public meetings in conjunction with a watershed planning meeting in Saskatchewan to improve public attendance.
 - Attend and report on Board activities at IJC meetings; Russell Boals and/or Dale Frink have presented reports on Board activities to the IJC.
 - Communicate ongoing apportionment and critical conditions to the IJC and public. Appropriate communications have occurred as required.
 - Prepare an information bulletin on mandate, role and basin contacts. An information bulletin and fact sheets are being completed under an IWI funded contract.
 - Update Board information on the IJC website. Brian Yee has sent information to the IJC for posting on a regular basis.
- iii. Contribute to the resolution of watershed issues
- Facilitate information sharing for flood forecasting in the basin. Information sharing on flood forecasts has been shared in an effective manner.
 - Assess the basin data collection network and recommend requirements by June 2009. This has not yet been done. Date likely needs to be changed to June 2010.
 - Maintain an awareness of proposed developments and issues in the basin. Information on proposed developments and issues has been shared in effective manner.
- iv. Administer the existing order and references
- Monitor and approve apportionment according to the Interim Measures as Modified in 2000. The apportionment has been monitored and approved in a timely manner.
 - Conduct a review of information needs for the Board. This has not been done and is a lower priority.
 - Complete a review of the joint water quality monitoring program by Jan 2009. The Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee will be conducting this review under an IWI proposal for contract.
 - Effective operation of the Board functions. Includes prepare minutes within three weeks of the meetings, prepare terms of reference for the Committees. Minutes of meetings have been prepared in a timely manner. Draft terms of reference for the Committees have been prepared.
 - Develop a three year work plan and update annually. A draft work plan was developed for 2008-09 and plans are in place to develop a draft work plan for 2009-10.

- Develop a procedures manual for determination of natural flow. Progress on the procedures manual has been slow, but the Hydrology Committee has put this as one of their highest priorities.
- Prepare the 2008 annual report six weeks prior to the IJC meeting. Bob White expressed some concerns about meeting this deadline. It was agreed to send the draft report to the IJC Engineering Advisors for review early in September and the final version about two weeks prior to the IJC meeting.

ACTION: Bob White to add Paul Pilon and Mark Colisomo to the circulation list for the penultimate draft of the annual report.

Doug Johnson suggested adding the development of a hydrologic basin model to the work plan.

ACTION: Russell Boals to prepare a draft of the 2009-10 work plan for discussion at the March 18 conference call.

23. Integrated Water Resource Management

Richard Zitta reported that the Province of Saskatchewan has completed seven source water protection plans to date and three are currently underway with the Souris River basin activity being one of those three. The plans focus on source water protection rather than water management. The Upper Souris Watershed Planning development is on track for completion in the next 12-18 months. A draft portfolio of existing conditions of water quantity and quality, riparian health, landfills, and contaminated sites has been completed. A watershed stressor evaluation model is being developed to rank stressors according to the risk they impose. Rob Kirkness noted that there is no regulatory process attached to the planning. Dwight Williamson reported that a similar planning exercise is underway in Manitoba.

24. Boundary Waters Treaty 100th anniversary (all) and IJC Spring Meeting

Mark Colisomo noted that there will be some special events to commemorate the 100th anniversary. The IJC is developing a commemorative kit that the Boards can use at their public meetings.

Mark Colisomo noted the Souris Board is scheduled to appear before the IJC from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 1. Russell Boals and Dale Frink plan to attend the meeting in Washington.

Dale Frink asked about the status of the IJC Commissioners. Mark Colisomo reported that with the change in administration in the USA, the USA Commissioners had tendered their resignation. He noted that at times, one commissioner will be retained to maintain continuity and quorum. New appointments are expected soon. Paul Pilon reported that commissioner Blaney's appointment expires at the end of March and will not be renewed.

25. Next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 17-18, 2009, in Estevan, Saskatchewan. The location will facilitate participation by members of the Upper Souris Watershed Advisory Committees. Doug Johnson said that SWA will take on planning of the next meeting.

ACTION: Doug Johnson to coordinate planning for the June 2009 meeting.

26. Adjournment – Dale Frink adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

List of Attendees, International Souris River Board meeting, February 27, 2009

Board Members in Attendance

Bob Harrison, Member for Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Dale Frink, USA Co-chair, ND State Water Commission
Dennis Fewless, Member for the USA, ND Department of Health
Doug Johnson, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Dwight Williamson, Member for Canada, Manitoba Water Stewardship
Gregg Wiche, Member for the United States, US Geological Survey
Megan Estep, Member for the USA, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Richard Zitta, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment
Russell Boals, Canadian Co-chair, Environment Canada
Scott Gangl, Member for the United States, North Dakota Game and Fish

Regrets

Col. Jonathan Christensen, Member for the USA, US Army Corps of Engineers

Support Staff in Attendance

Allen Schlag, Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service
Brian Yee, Canadian Co-secretary, Environment Canada
Don Hood, Hydrometric Technologist, Water Survey of Canada, Environment Canada
Duane Anderson, Biological Technician, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ed Eaton, IJC Technical Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers
Gary Erickson, Refuge Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Kelly Hogan, Project Leader, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ken Bottle, Hydrologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mark Colisomo, Engineering Advisor, IJC
Mike Sauer, Water Quality, North Dakota Department of Health
Paul Pilon, Engineering Advisor, IJC
Rob Kirkness, Senior Hydrologist, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Robert White, USA Co-secretary, ND State Water Commission
Scott Hill, Operations Manager, Environment Canada
Steve Robinson, North Dakota Data Chief, United States Geological Survey

Observers

Cliff Hanretty, Eton Irrigation District
Alan Walter, Director of Public Works, City of Minot
Dan Jonassen, City of Minot
Rusten Roteliuk, City Engineer, City of Minot