

## INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

### Minutes of the 05 March 2015 Meeting

The International Lake Superior Board of Control met on 05 March 2015 in the Buffalo Federal Building, room 426 located at 130 S. Elmwood Ave, Buffalo NY 14202. BG Richard Kaiser, United States Chair, chaired and convened the meeting at 8:45 a.m. The attendees were:

<u>United States</u>		<u>Canada</u>
	Board Members	
BG Richard Kaiser Mr. Stephen Durrett		Mr. J. Gadal
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Mr. R. Caldwell
	Regulation Representatives	
LTC M. Sellers Mr. J. Allis (Alt.)		Mr. J. Bruyer
	Associates/IJC	
Mr. J. Oyler (by phone)		Mr. R. Stefano
	Mr. D. Fay	
Mr. J. Babb Mr. K. Kompoltowicz Ms. D. Glance Mr. K. Sprague (by phone) Ms. C. Jarema Mr. E. Tauriainen		Ms. W. Leger Mr. G. Walker Mr. G. Gazankas Ms. J. Dickhout (by phone)

#### **Item 1. Introductions**

Chair BG Kaiser initiated a round of introductions.

#### **Item 2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as drafted.

#### **Item 3. Status of Prior Action Items**

Mr. Heer reported on the status of prior action items. Mr. Allis confirmed all action items were completed.

#### **Item 4. Update from Regulation Representatives**

##### *Hydrologic Conditions and Regulation Update*

The Board was provided with the following update on hydrologic conditions for lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron, and Erie. LTC Sellers opened with remarks and Ms. Jarema presented slides showing recent net basin water supplies, levels and flows (observed and forecasted), precipitation, climate outlooks, and Lakes Superior/Michigan-Huron water balance parameters. Highlights included:

- Ice cover on Lake Superior was 95% at the end of February, and entire Great Lakes were 84% covered.
- Lake Superior water levels were above average from September through February 2014 and have been above average since March 2014. Monthly levels ranged from 17 to 27 cm above last year.
- Lake Michigan-Huron was above average. Monthly mean water levels were 1 to 22 cm above last year. September marked first time water levels have been above average since January 1999.
- Water supplies to Lake Superior and Michigan-Huron were above average from September through January. Supplies were below average in January and February.

### *Deviation Strategy and Regulation Plan Update*

Beginning in May of 2014 through December, the Board used Commission-approved deviations to reduce the risk of expected high outflows in the St. Marys Rapids during the summer and prevent spillage through the Compensating Works using Lake Superior Regulation Plan 2012 as a guide. The Board officially implemented Lake Superior Regulation Plan 2012 beginning January 2015.

#### **Item 5. Hydropower Plant Maintenance**

Mr. Stefano reported on unit outages due to maintenance at the Brookfield power plant for the months of September, and February, and planned outages in March, April, and June due to maintenance. No forced outages were made during the reporting period.

The US government hydropower plant reported a total of 294 hours unit outages from September through February, including an outage due to high wind event resulting in a 30 hour outage in September.

#### **Item 6. Deviation Strategy St. Marys Rapids**

Mr. Bruxer presented on a proposed deviation strategy for the St. Marys Rapids. Strategy was proposed to adjust Rapids flows in the next months. Deviation would potentially benefit fish, anglers, and Whitefish Island, while causing small impact to lake levels, and minor impacts to navigation in the lower river. Under a wet scenario, up to 7-gate equivalent and under, and in less than average conditions, 5-gate equivalent. Deviation would require less than Plan flow in spring and fall, and more in the summer. Board will need to submit formal letter to the Board to request deviation. Board would like to begin deviation in May.

Action Item: Board Chairs agree on deviation strategy and submit formal letter to IJC. D. Fay requested the letter by beginning of April.

#### **Item 7. Compensating Works**

- a. Inspections – Ms. Jarema reported routine monthly inspections were made to the Compensating Works.
- b. Maintenance – Ms. Jarema reported routine maintenance activities were performed within the reporting period.
- c. Partial Gate Openings – Mr. Bruxer reported on partial gate openings. Benefits of partial gate settings may benefit anglers and fish by smoothing flow transitions. Measurements have been taken to verify sluice gate equation. More measurements will be taken in the future.
- d. Gate Ramping – Mr. Allis reported on gate ramping. Concern with how quickly gates may be opened or closed and impacts to aquatic species. August measurements will be taken to look at gate speed and effect on flows. Mr. Sprague communicated operational constraints with slower gate openings. May require increased labor and mechanical upgrades.

#### **Item 8. Plan 2012 Implementation**

Plan 2012 has been implemented as of January. Mr. Bruxer reported Lake Superior fact sheet is on the website and a FAQ page is in development.

#### **Item 9. Peaking and Ponding**

Plan flow at max capacity. No peaking and ponding to report.

#### **Item 10. Communications**

- a. Communication Summary/Strategy – Ms. Jarema reported fact sheet is posted on website for Plan 2012. Boards are required to develop communication strategy by 2016.
- b. 2015 Meeting with the Public – Typically held in spring. Need to coordinate public meeting time and location with Board.
- c. Engineers Day at Soo Locks end of June – Ms. Jarema reported thousands of people attend the event and 100-200 visit Lake Superior booth. Next year making posters may help increase attendance.

Action Item: Secretaries to set public meeting time and date, and inform Board and IJC.

**Item 11. Other Business**

- a. Great Lakes AM Committee Updates – Ms. Leger presented information from the GLAM Committee first face to face meeting. Mr. McCune absent due to illness. Gave an overview of various products the GLAM hopes to develop including communication, information management, risk management, and evaluation tool management strategies. Developing a work plan is a priority for the fall meeting. Tri-annual reporting due 2017.

**Item 12. Review of semi-annual report**

Report will be reviewed by the Board and sent to the IJC by March 27. Report will be distributed to the Board by March 13<sup>th</sup> for review. Board will review by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Item 13. Next Meeting and IJC Appearance**

IJC Appearances will take place April 28<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC at the Canadian Embassy. Fall Appearances will take place October 28<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. Next Board meeting TBA.

Action Item: Secretaries determine date for next Board meeting

**Item 14. Action Item Review**

Mr. Heer gave a review of action items including:

- a. Chairs to agree on deviation strategy and Reg Reps will submit formal letter to IJC to request deviation by beginning of April.
- b. Secretaries to set date of public meeting and inform Board and IJC
- c. Secretaries to inform the Board of semi-annual report review and submittal schedule
- d. Secretaries will inform Board of upcoming IJC appearance dates and next Board meeting.

**Item 15. Closing Remarks**

General Kaiser gave closing remarks.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL  
BOARD MEETING**

**March 5, 2015**

**0830 – 1200 hours**

Buffalo Federal Building,  
130 S. Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14202  
Room 426

**(See Call and WebEx Information Below)**

**Draft Final Agenda**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Introductions (BG Kaiser)                               | 830-835   |
| 2. Approval of agenda (BG Kaiser)                          | 835-840   |
| 3. Status of Prior Action Items (McCune)                   | 840-845   |
| 4. Update on conditions and regulation (LTC Sellers/Allis) | 845-900   |
| 5. Hydropower Plant Maintenance (Jarema/Bruxer)            | 900-910   |
| 6. St. Marys Rapids Strategy Discussion (Jarema/Bruxer)    | 910-930   |
| 7. Compensating Works (Jarema/Bruxer)                      | 930-1000  |
| a. Inspections   |           |
| b. Maintenance activities                                  |           |
| c. Partial Gate Openings                                   |           |
| d. Gate Ramping  |           |
| Break  | 1000-1015 |
| 8. Plan 2012 Implementation (Jarema/Bruxer)                | 1015-1030 |
| 9. Peaking and Ponding (Jarema, Bruxer)                    | 1030-1035 |
| 10. Communications (Allis/ Jarema)                         |           |
| a. Communication Summary/Strategy                          | 1035-1045 |
| b. 2015 Meeting with the Public                            | 1045-1055 |
| c. Engineers Day at Soo Locks end of June                  | 1055-1105 |
| 11. Other business:  |           |
| a. Great Lakes AM Committee updates (McCune)               | 1105-1120 |
| 12. Review semi-annual progress report (Jarema/ McCune)    | 1120-1130 |

13. Next meeting and IJC appearance (McCune)	1130-1140
14. Action Item Review (McCune)	1140-1150
15. Closing remarks and Adjourn (BG Kaiser)	1150-1200

**Conference Line:**

Dial In: 1-877-336-1839

Access Code: 5162099

Security Code: 1111

**WebEx:**

<https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/AWMlogin>

Meeting Number: 877-336-1839

Code: 5162099