

Meeting Minutes

Annual Public Meeting, International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC)

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Oroville High School Commons
816 Juniper Street, Oroville, WA 98844

List of Acronyms

IJC	International Joint Commission
IOLBC	International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control
OTID	Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District
WADOE	Washington State Department of Ecology
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

IOLBC Annual Meeting

	United States	Canada
Chair	Cindi Barton (absent)	Bruno Tassone
Members	Col. John Buck Kris Kauffman Ford Waterstrat John Arterburn	Glen Davidson Brian Symonds Anna Warwick-Sears Sue McKortoff
Secretariat	Sara Marxen	Gwyn Graham
IJC Commissioners	Rich Moy	Richard A. Morgan
IJC Advisors	Mark Colosimo	David Fay Camille Mageau
Guests	Al Josephy (WA Dept. Ecology), Shaun Reimer (BC FLNRO), Jay O'Brien (Zosel Dam operator)	
Public	<i>(Char Schumacher, Al Josephy, Susan Burgdoff-Beery, Neil Basqurt, tory Basqurt, Diana Waterstrat, Gwen Monteith, Lee Chapman, Birgit Amstein, Lynda Jamison, Jeff Fryer, Jay O'Brien, Shannon O'Brien, Dick Sass, Arnie Marchand)</i>	

Agenda

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| 1. | Welcome and introductions | <i>Col. John Buck</i> |
| 2. | Review of the agenda | <i>Col. John Buck</i> |
| 3. | Overview of the IJC Order | <i>Col. John Buck</i> |
| 4. | Drought Criteria & Hydrologic Conditions and Lake Levels in 2016 | <i>Brian Symonds</i> |
| 5. | Report by Applicant on Zosel Dam Operations | <i>Al Josephy</i> |
| 6. | Update on Educational Documentary | <i>Al Josephy</i> |
| 7. | Management of Instream and Out-of-Stream Water Use in the Okanogan, WA, watershed | <i>Al Josephy</i> |
| 8. | Overview of Cooperative Water Management between British Columbia and Washington | <i>Brian Symonds</i> |
| 9. | Public Comments and Questions | |
| 10. | Adjourn | |

Opening

United States Section Chair, Col. John Buck opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and introductions of the Board members, IJC Commissioners, Board Secretaries, guests and public on Tuesday September 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Review of the Agenda

Col. John Buck provided a review of the agenda items. The agenda was accepted with no additions or other changes.

Overview of the IJC Order

Col. John Buck provided an overview of the IJC supplementary Order of January 29, 2013 along with an explanation of the IJC's role and description of the IJC rule curve for Osoyoos Lake.

Brian Symonds provided an overview of the standard Okanogan/Similkameen hydrological regime, followed by a specific breakdown of the 2016 hydrological conditions.

Zosel Dam Operations

Al Josephy (WADOE) provided an explanation of role of Zosel Dam, range of duties of dam and compliance with the IJC Order. A comparison was presented of the Osoyoos Lake level trends for 2014 (considered a relatively normal year) with trends for 2015 and 2016. In-stream flow needs and the OTID irrigation requirements were explained. Operations at Zosel Dam allowed slightly higher lake levels this summer (they usually try to maintain 911.5 ft). The IJC Orders provide authority to raise level to 912 ft (but public preference for 911.5 ft). WADOE maintained slightly higher summer lake levels to make use of additional allowable storage space given concerns over water availability due to the early snow melt and low flow on the Similkameen River. The climate and hydrologic trends suggest that these higher summer water levels may become more common in the future. An overview of the recently installed fish counter (CRIFC and Colvilles) at Zosel Dam was also provided. There was significant improvement in sockeye salmon returns this year as compared to the previous year.

Update on Educational Documentary Film

Al Josephy provided an update on the documentary film that's in development. The IJC has provided a grant to fund the WADOE contract management of film with the objective to tell the story of cooperative water management in the transboundary Okano(a)gan basin. The film will seek to highlight the complexity of water use with regards to the many stakeholders involved – agriculture, recreation, fisheries, urban supply (tourism), all requiring certain amounts at different times of the year and in many cases, competing interests.

Information on the Management of In-stream and Out-of-Stream Water Use in the Okanogan watershed

Al Josephy (WADOE) explained the broad WA Dept. of Ecology agency mandate and provided some history of the original Zosel dam (1920), IJC involvement and the progression of IJC Orders and Dam replacement. In the 1960's, the mill owner ceased using the original millpond and the Dam began to deteriorate. In 1978, the USACE issued a study on the impacts of dam failure on lake level (could drop to 905 ft). The state and province of WAS and BC both understood the impact, WAS understood impacts to downstream water rights holders (BC understood impacts to lake recreation and water licenses). This led to 1980 cooperation agreement to build new dam. Washington State became the applicant to IJC. The IJC issued new Orders in 1982 (this is the only dam owned by the WADOE). WADOE manages water for people, farms and fish and issues water rights. It applies a four part test (water will be applied to beneficial use; water is available for appropriation; proposed use won't impair existing rights; proposed use will not be detrimental to public welfare). WADOE also has a requirement to protect in-stream and out-of-stream water rights. In-stream flow rules are applied for protection of instream values (essentially creates a water right in the stream for ecological protection). The in-stream flow thresholds are identified for different gage stations (if flow falls below, then WADOE looks to interrupt junior water rights).

8 Overview of Cooperative Water Management between British Columbia and Washington

Brian Symonds provided some historical context to Okanagan water management. 1942 was an exceptionally large flood year, this led to extensive issues up and down the system (Okanagan). Zosel Dam attracted attention of IJC – A subsequent study led to recommendations, which led to the IJC Order in 1946. There was a flood in 1948 which led to a local resident, Webb Holler, promoting Canada/US cooperation. Beforehand, the Tribes/First Nations were connected through the water with common interests in the waterways. 1894 is the highest flood of record (high flows in Similkameen). Under normal conditions, the Similkameen River is the dominant force in the system. There has been and continues to be good communication between Zosel Dam operations (USA) and upstream Okanagan system operations (Canada).

Brian explained the BC-WA cooperation plan for Osoyoos Lake Levels and Transboundary Flow (Oct. 1980). These were non-binding agreements between WADOE and BCMOE, recognizing the sharing of waters based on principles of mutual trust, harmony and friendship. The agreement paved the way for the IJC rule curve. Okanagan Lake must be considered in any cooperative management plans regarding Osoyoos Lake. The cooperation plan stipulates that flow can be cut back to 100 cfs in the 2nd yr of a drought, but that this has not been required to date. At the Osoyoos Lake Fisheries advisory Committee early spring meetings, the committee discusses the water supply outlook and the anticipated fisheries issues, this led to proposed operations and flow releases over the coming months. There is a need to focus in on cooperative water management and coordination between the Okanagan system ops and Zosel Dam ops, rather than hard rules, since timing of needs can vary from year to year. Tribes and First Nations can and do work effectively across the border. The new IJC Order is more fish-friendly.

9 Public Comments and Questions

Question from Lee Chapman (Oroville): is there going to be a time when the IJC will look at water quality and milfoil control, since it does affect use of the lake and fish?

Board Response: The Board can raise these concerns to the IJC for guidance, as these issues come up, since they are out of scope of current Board mandate. Part of the Board's function is to advise the IJC on local environmental issues of relevance to the Order, but this can also require support of Canadian and US governments to allow the IJC (and thus the Board) to get more involved.

Comment (Oroville resident): everybody along the waterway is a stakeholder. Many have identified Tonasket creek as a problem (and similar problems with creeks exist above the border as well) and are trying to raise awareness. While the IOLBC is limited in scope and mandate, local stakeholders want to

bring notice and identify importance at a broader level. Colvilles and ONA are supportive and are trying to demonstrate how a small issue like Tonasket creek can be significant to water quality and quantity. They hope to provide Board with more specific information on impacts and relevance to the IJC at future Board meeting.

10 Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm