

# INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

## Conference Call

March 15, 2016, 9:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

### BOARD MEMBERS

Cindi Barton	Chair, U.S. Section
Bruno Tassone	Chair, Canadian Section
John Arterburn	Board Member, U.S. Section
Col. John Buck ( <i>absent</i> )	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ford Waterstrat	Board Member, U.S. Section
Glen Davidson	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds	Board Member, Canadian Section
Anna Warwick Sears	Board Member, Canadian Section

### BOARD STAFF and BOARD MEMBER ASSISTANTS

Marijke van Heeswijk	Secretary, U.S. Section
Gwyn Graham	Secretary, Canadian Section
Sara Marxen	Technical Assistant to Col. John Buck

### GUEST

David Fay (IJC Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section)

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Meeting was led by Canadian Chair; meeting agenda was accepted with 1) modification of a decision item about USGS water-quality proposal to an information item and 2) addition of discussion of preparation of the presentation for the April semi-annual IJC meeting.

### DECISION ITEMS

The Board approved the summary of the December 14, 2015, conference call. The summary will be posted on the Board website pending approval by the IJC.

The Board postponed approval of the draft Board communication protocol pending changes requested by the Board. The communication protocol document will serve as internal guidance for the Board.

### OUTREACH

Canadian Board member Brian Symonds will give an invited presentation during the spring workshop of the B.C. Water Supply Association in Kelowna, BC, on April 4, 2016. The presentation will focus on the process that was followed leading to the 2013 Supplemental Order, the key changes to the Order, and the implications of those changes.

## **REVIEW OF BOARD MANDATE and INTERNATIONAL WATERSHED INITIATIVE (IWI)**

The Board discussed the February 18, 2016, letter from the IJC that clarified that the focus of the Board's mandate is to ensure compliance with the provisions of the IJC's Orders of Approval regulating the operation of Zosel Dam. The letter noted that the IJC issued a Directive to the Board dated April 16, 2013, that states that the Board is to: "ensure compliance with the terms of the Order and with any instructions of the Commission issued with respect to the Order", "keep the Commission currently informed of all matters relating to the Order", and "maintain awareness of water management issues within the watershed with potential impact on the management of Zosel Dam". The Board's mandate does not extend to water quality in the basin. The IJC requests that the Board keep it informed of water-quality issues in the basin that the Board may become aware of in the course of its normal operations.

For the Board to become an IWI Board, which typically has a broader mandate that includes water quality issues, referrals to the IJC would be needed from the federal governments of both Canada and the U.S.

## **FORECASTED HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**

As of mid-March, snowpacks are above normal. Snowpack densities are higher than normal for the time of year and thus snowmelt may start and end earlier than usual. This could result in low streamflows by late summer. Winter temperatures have been above normal and are expected to be above normal throughout the summer, although far less so than in 2015. The current long-term climate outlook suggests that the El Niño is breaking up and a La Niña may develop later this year. Water supply forecasts for the Similkameen River and Okanagan Lake are such that it is highly unlikely that the IJC Order's drought criteria will be met.

## **SEMI-ANNUAL IJC MEETING AND IWI WORKSHOP, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 2016**

The Board co-chairs and secretary of the U.S. section will participate in person in the April semi-annual IJC meeting. The other Board members and secretary of the Canadian section will participate in the semi-annual meeting via teleconference or WebEx.

The Board co-chairs and secretary of the U.S. section will also participate in the IWI workshop.

## **OSOYOOS LAKE RAMPING RATES**

In lieu of asking the Applicant to develop a guidance document on changing lake levels (ramping rates), the Board will send a letter to the Applicant with advice regarding ramping rate considerations.

## **STATUS OF ZOSEL DAM OPERATIONS MODEL**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has nearly completed an operations model for Zosel Dam to help with operational decision making. The model was developed in cooperation with the Applicant and the dam operator. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may suggest collection of stage data downstream from Zosel Dam to improve model accuracy.

## STATUS OF DOCUMENTARY (AN IJC-IWI PROJECT)

Ecology has awarded a videographer the contract to produce the documentary. Ecology will meet with the videographer and a small steering committee on April 15, 2016, to prepare a more detailed plan for the documentary. The Board Secretaries and subgroup of four Board members (Ford Waterstrat, John Arterburn, Brian Symonds, and Sue McKortoff) are invited.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The Osoyoos Lake Water-Quality Society will invite the Board to “Osoyoos Lake Appreciation Day,” which is scheduled for May 21, 2016. Sue McKortoff will coordinate the invitation to the Board.

## STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

**In progress:** Ecology will develop an operations model for Zosel Dam with assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**In progress:** Board Secretaries will investigate possibility of adding webcams to Zosel Dam.

**In progress with revision:** *Original* -- Ecology will develop ramping-rate guidance document with Board assistance. *Revision 1* – Secretaries will draft letter to Ecology with ramping rate advice for Board review.

**Completed, pending review of 2015 annual report:** Secretaries will prepare a summary of the hydrologic conditions in 2015 that led to the activation of Condition 10.

**Completed:** Secretaries will verify that the Board no longer needs to provide the IJC with monthly updates of hydrologic data and inform distribution-list members of on-line data access links.

**Completed:** Secretaries will update Board website with 2013 and 2014 Osoyoos Lake hydrographs and historical and current temperature data.

**In progress:** The Secretaries will prepare draft language to add to the IJC guidance on Board decision making with examples of and information about Board decision-making practices.

**In progress with revision:** *Original* -- The Secretaries will prepare draft language that documents Board protocol for communicating with the Applicant and the public. *Revision 1* -- By April 1, 2016, Board members will provide the Secretaries with comments about the draft Board communications protocol and the Secretaries will revise the draft for Board review.

**Completed, Board had no feedback:** The Secretaries will prepare a draft response with Board feedback to the IJC on 1) the 4<sup>th</sup> *IWI Report to Governments* (due to IJC by January 31, 2016), and 2) three IJC questions to Boards related to moving the IWI forward (due to IJC by February 28, 2016).

**Completed:** All Board members interested in attending the April 2016 semi-annual meeting will let the Secretaries know of their interest and whether they require IJC financial support for travel.

**In progress with revision:** *Original* -- by mid-February 2016, Board members and Secretaries will suggest draft text for additions to the Board work plan. *Revision 1* -- By June 14, 2015, the Secretaries will revise the workplan for Board review.

**Completed:** The Secretaries will provide a more easily-identified link to the Plan of Study reports on the Board website.

**Canceled:** All Board members will provide Secretaries feedback about the USGS water-quality proposal.

## **NEW ACTION ITEMS**

Board members will notify Secretaries if they do not wish to receive IJC press releases.

Other new action items are incorporated in the previous section as revisions to existing action items.

The Secretaries will post the summary of the December 2015 conference call on the board website after seeking IJC approval for posting.