

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

Conference Call

December 13, 2016, 9:00 – 11:00 AM PST

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 (<i>absent</i>)	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

Andy Gendaszek	Secretary, U.S. Section
Gwyn Graham	Secretary, Canadian Section
Sara Marxen	Technical Assistant to Col. John Buck

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Meeting was led by the U.S. Chair; meeting agenda was accepted with the addition of a discussion of highlights from the October 2016 Semi-Annual IJC Meeting in Ottawa.

DECISION ITEMS

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the September 20, 2016, Annual Board and Public meetings. The summary will be posted on the Board website.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER SEMI-ANNUAL IJC MEETING

Brian Symonds and Cindi Barton attended the IJC semi-annual meeting. Brian Symonds' presentation about the IOLBC was well received and there was interest in the documentary film as a good example of the use of watershed initiative funds and international cooperation.

UPDATE ON HYDROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Lake levels were compliant with the rule curves during the 2016 Water Year with the exception of exceedances during the spring freshet, which is allowable under the Order due to naturally high inflow conditions (Condition 9 of IJC Order).

Since the annual meeting in September, lake levels have been ramping down according to the IJC rule curve and are leveling off at around 910 feet. The fall was wetter than normal with higher than normal inflows to Osoyoos Lake (twice the normal Okanagan River discharge at Oliver). The climate outlook calls for weak La Nina conditions with cooler temperatures and above average precipitation, which may result in an increased snowpack accumulation during the winter.

The Board discussed adding lake levels projected by the Applicant's operations and average freshet conditions to the real-time plot of the lake level with the rule curve. The Applicant typically provides public notices of changes to lake level operations on the WA Dept. of Ecology website for Zosel Dam. Board secretaries will look into feasibility of adding month-ahead projections to the IOLBC water level status and trends plot. At the next quarterly call the board will discuss whether projections can be reliably made and for what period of time they can be made before deciding if projected water levels should be available.

ADDITIONAL WATER LEVEL MONITORING NEEDS ABOVE AND BELOW ZOSEL DAM

Water-levels within the forebay and tailwater need to be measured for a range of water-level elevations and gate openings to provide necessary data for development of an analytical model for better calculation of discharge from the dam. One to two years of data are likely required to be collected for adequate calibration of the equations. Cost estimates were reviewed for the different water level measurement options. Funding for installation of the gages may be available from IJC. There is also a possibility of changing U.S. Fiscal Year 2017 USGS requests to include gage installation.

The Board decided to look into installation of staff gages only in 2017 and ideally have them installed prior to the freshet in spring 2017 to capture high discharges from the dam.

WEBCAM INSTALLATION AT ZOSEL DAM

The purpose of a webcam at Zosel Dam is to show to anyone interested the hydraulic conditions and operations at Zosel Dam, water levels in the spillway and openings of the gates. This could best be accomplished by focusing the webcam looking from downstream to upstream. Cost estimates were reviewed for equipment and installation of the webcam as well as ongoing operations and maintenance costs. Potential cost reductions including co-locating with a gage and using available wifi connections at the dam will be researched.

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE (ONA) INTEREST IN BOARD

The ONA has expressed interest in observing the Board and providing information about ONA water and fisheries management, but is limited in its availability and capacity to participate.

John Arterburn offered to serve as an avenue of communication between the ONA and the Board.

UPDATE ON DOCUMENTARY FILM

The film trailer was presented to the IJC at the semi-annual meeting and was published on the IJC's website. Acknowledgement of a funding contribution by the Okanogan Basin Water Board will be added to IJC website. The film trailer will also be added to the IOLBC website. A list of target audiences will be shared with the videographer and will be updated to include local NGOs and volunteer groups. Editing of the video is starting with a rough cut expected by mid-to late-May 2017 and a final delivery by September 2017. There is no budget yet for distribution.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY OKANOGAN RIVER CHANNEL SURVEY

The bathymetric survey of the channel between the lake and the dam was completed in fall 2016 by Ecology and preliminary survey data from one of the survey days was emailed to the Board in October. Ecology is processing their survey data this winter and plans to release the final survey in spring 2017. Pending a search for existing bathymetric survey data of Lake Osoyoos, there may be interest in the future to update bathymetric surveys of the lake that could support further modeling work.

FOLLOW-UP OF WADOE INFORMATION ABOUT TONASKET CREEK SEDIMENT ISSUE

The Tonasket Creek delta into the Okanogan channel was captured as part of the 2016 Ecology Bathymetric Survey and is a potentially important limitation on lake outlet channel capacity and related lake-level effects from Zosel dam operations. No sediment pulse was observed into the channel from Tonasket Creek during 2016, but Tonasket Creek remains a potential sediment source in the future due to land-use and burned areas (forest fires) within the watershed. The Board remains interested in these broader sediment management issues given the relevance to channel capacity upstream of Zosel Dam and relevance to the IJC Order (Condition 4, *Consolidated IJC Orders for Osoyoos Lake*).

2017 CONFERENCE CALL TIMES AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Board will receive requests for quarterly conference calls and the annual meeting that reflect the 2016 dates. The next quarterly conference call will be in mid-March.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

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

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Secretaries will research the possibility of adding flows projected by the Applicant to the plot of real-time data with the rule curve hosted on the USGS website.
2. Board Secretaries will look into potential availability of USGS funding support for staff gages and webcam at Zosel Dam.
3. Board Secretaries will look into availability of additional bathymetric data for Lake Osoyoos.
4. Board Secretaries will update IOLBC website with documentary film trailer.