

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

Board Meeting 18 Sept 2018 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Ontario Power Generation (OPG), St. Lawrence Power Development Visitor Centre
Cornwall, ON**

The meeting began at 9:00 pm (EDT) with the following participants:

United States		Canada
	Board Members	
Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Chair Mr. T. Brown Mr. R. Company Mr. A. David Dr. D. Kuehn		Dr. G. Béchard, Chair Mr. J. Aubry-Morin Ms. P. Clavet Ms. J. Frain Mr. M. Hudon
	Secretaries	
Mr. A. Heer		Mr. R. Caldwell
	Regulation Representatives	
Mr. K. Koralewski (Alt.)		Mr. J. Bruxer Ms. J. Dickhout (Alt.)
	IJC Commissioners	
Ms. L. Pollack		Mr. R. Morgan
	IJC Staff	
Mr. F. Bevacqua		Mr. D. Fay Mr. S. Zurbrigg
	Associates	
Mr. B. Carmichael Ms. C. Fisher (ph) Mr. R. Hippenstiel (ph) Mr. G. Kiaer (ph) Mr. K. McCune Mr. J. Oyler (ph) Mr. J. Scharf Mr. G. Schmidt (ph) Ms. L. Schifferle Ms. S. Wagner		Mr. D. Ferko Ms. N. Gardiner Ms. S. Grady Ms. W. Leger Mr. M. McNiven Mr. B. Morton Mr. S. Shah Ms. M. Shantz

	Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)	
		Ms. Monique Chugh Mr. David Devereaux Mr. Ahmed Rahwan Mr. David Short

1 Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives

Dr. B  chard, opened the meeting with a roll-call and introductory remarks, including a traditional First Nations greeting. Dr. B  chard thanked OPG for hosting the meeting and offered a warm welcome to recently appointed member, Dr. D. Kuehn.

2 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was adopted (attached).

3 Previous Action Items

All action items from the 24 April 2018 meeting were marked complete.

4 Current Conditions and Regulation Overview

a. Regulation Overview

The Canadian Alternative Regulation Representative presented the current conditions and regulation overview, highlighting the continued high inflows to Lake Ontario, and the consequential continued high outflows prescribed by Plan 2014. Lake St. Lawrence levels have been at or near record low values in recent months.

b. Minor Deviation for Boat Haulout

Because of the continued high outflows from Lake Ontario, Lake St. Lawrence levels remain near record lows. To assist with boat haulout, the Board agreed to minor deviations to lower the outflow of Lake Ontario temporarily for up to 48 hours twice over two weekends, starting on the afternoon of Friday, 5 October. A target level of 73.38 m at Long Sault Dam will be employed. The 2 cm increase of Lake Ontario will be paid back as soon as possible following the temporary flow decreases.

Action item: Secretaries to prepare a media release on the October short term flow reduction, and share with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management

Corporation (SLSMC), who will include it in their Pleasure Boating bulletin.

5 Communications Committee

a. IWI Communications Strategy Update

The draft findings by ECO Strategy consultants were summarized, and it was noted that Mr. Don Huff will provide a full report at the Board's October meeting. In general, communication efforts were found to be excellent, and the Communications Committee looks forward to adopting some of the consultant's recommendations in months to come.

Action item: Secretaries to circulate the ECO Strategy report to the Board.

b. Public Outreach Activities

Several media releases have been prepared in recent months, with one this week focusing on the Lake St. Lawrence haulout assistance and continued high Lake Ontario inflows and outflows. A shortened e-mail advisory will also be developed and sent to local residents, community leaders, and the media. A Board letter to community leaders focused on resiliency and adaptive management measures will be released soon. Board members and staff attended recent public meetings in Wilson Hill, NY and Long Sault, ON regarding low Lake St. Lawrence levels and in St. Anicet, QC regarding Lake St. Francis levels. A busload of journalists will visit Cornwall next week during a week-long tour of the River and Board members, staff and power entity experts will be making presentations and joining a dam tour with them.

The Communications Committee will develop a Wikipedia piece on Lake St. Lawrence to raise awareness of our regulatory operations and the control structures. Board members and staff plan to visit Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations again over the winter to continue to dialogue with residents, community leaders and conservation authorities.

Dr. Kuehn presented her findings and photographs following a guided tour of the south shore of Lake Ontario shortly after her appointment as Member.

Action item: Secretaries to publish special media release and e-mail advisory. Communications Committee to reach out to elected officials. Board representatives to meet with Lake St. Lawrence residents' associations over the winter.

c. Ongoing Support

Fisheries and Oceans Canada hired a summer student that supported the Canadian Secretary and the IJC. This support will continue part-time on Wednesdays going forward. Also, a hydrography expert is expected to be able to offer some limited assistance by the end of the year. USACE intends to hire a Public Affairs Officer by January. He or she will be available to support the Great Lakes Boards about half time.

6 GLAM Committee

a. Status of 2017 Annual Report

The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee provided an overview of the report, focusing on outstanding issues, key findings and next steps. The Committee will propose a stakeholder engagement strategy to the Board on 24 October, which will be presented to the IJC on 25 October. Low Lake St. Lawrence levels, changing ice conditions, and other key operational factors will be included. Key milestones and dates were noted including a final draft report by 5 October, GLAM member sign off is expected by 19 October, the Board's verbal endorsement was requested before or on 24 October (30 September for any substantive changes before the next draft), GLAM's report to the IJC on 25 October, and a final signed report is expected by 16 November.

Action item: GLAM to propose a stakeholder engagement strategy to the Board on 24 October, and this will be presented to the IJC on 25 October.

b. FY19 Work Plan Overview

The GLAM Committee provided a brief summary of the work plan and requested e-mail approval of the work plan by 24 October, as well as any review comments on the semi-annual progress report by 5 October. GLAM will provide an overview of their 12-year strategy at the March Board meeting.

Action item: Board members to e-mail comments on GLAM semi-annual report by 5 October and approve FY19 work plan by 24 October.

7 Power Generation Rejection System Use

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) officials greeted the Independent Electrical System Operator (IESO) experts and provided some background on this issue. OPG communicated with the Board in October 2017, indicating that the Generation Rejection system would be placed back in service and that it had been out of service since 2010. Recently, OPG and the IESO renewed the

Generation Rejection (GR) agreement, and the system is being prepared to be placed back in service. The GR system is a special protection system that, when armed, may be automatically activated to remove a number of selected generators from service for system abnormalities. System activation would result in reduced flow through the Moses-Saunders Dam. Without this system, the likelihood and magnitude of unplanned outages is larger, creating further challenges in maintaining planned flows. The IESO and OPG wished to review the operation of the system with the Board and answer any questions.

Further, New York Power Authority (NYPA) proposes a strategy to offer a 30-minute response time to initiate spill at Long Sault Dam in the event of an outage (such as of the L35P tie line between the US and Canadian sides of the dam, as Hydro One repairs the phase shifter issue over the next several years). NYPA will staff an operator at Long Sault Dam during any such outages. It was agreed that the OAG would review the strategic communication procedure proposals of both power entities, and then the IJC legal advisors would follow up with the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) and IESO experts thereafter.

Action items: OAG to review strategic communication procedure proposals of power entities. IJC legal advisors will follow up with NYISO and IESO experts thereafter to finalize the path forward.

Canadian Secretary to provide members a copy of IESO presentation.

8 Gauging Committee

a. 2017 Gauging Committee Report and Water Level Audit

Although the Audit has been under way since February, OPG officials indicate that they will be unable to complete their portion before year end. The remaining two sections of the report are either complete or expected to be completed by the end of September. The Committee expects to be able to complete the report within one month of receiving all three parts.

b. 2018 Inspections

The Inspection Team conducted the annual water level gauge inspections on behalf of the Committee from 11 to 15 June. A closeout meeting with Committee and Power Entity representatives was held on 18 June. The Committee commends OPG and NYPA on the quick actions taken following the Inspections to correct a number of minor findings. The Committee will meet in late 2018 to discuss remaining action items.

c. Precision Survey Update

The precision survey was to take place in 2018, but is currently tentatively scheduled for Fall 2019. NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) office is developing a final scope of work and cost estimate, and these should be completed and available within the next month. NGS will follow the same survey route as the previous precision survey, and newer, stricter procedures related to the new horizontal and vertical datum, Geoid 2022. This datum will be the base relationship for the new International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD 2020), with emphasis on GPS observations factored in. The Committee appreciates the work NYPA has done to coordinate the precision survey work with NGS. NGS/NOAA expressed an interest in discussing the importance of the Precision Survey and the upcoming IGLD (2020) conversion to the Board. NGS expects that the precision survey report will be available in the spring of 2020..

9 Semi-Annual Report Review

The Board reviewed its Semi-Annual Report for the period 1 March to 31 August 2018. A cover photo showing the crowd at the Long Sault public meeting will be used in lieu of the one of Member David speaking in Wilson Hill.

Action item: Canadian Secretary to change cover photos relating to public meetings.

10 IJC/Board Website Renewal

The new Board website was made available to members, staff, and associates for a two-week review from 24 September through 5 October. There are some known bugs, some of which appear to be browser-related. The landing page is considered a priority.

Action item: Everyone is to provide comments on the new website to the IJC liaisons by 5 October.

11 Other Business

a. Next Board Meeting, Appearance, Reception

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 to 5:00 pm on 24 October in Ottawa. An International Watersheds Initiative (IWI) workshop is scheduled from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm that day too. The IJC reception will be held at 6:30 pm that evening. The Board Appearance is from 8:30 to 9:30 am on 25 October. The GLAM Committee's Appearance runs from 10:45 to 11:30 am.

The Canadian Secretary provided a summary of expected agenda items for the next Board meeting, as well as the key topics for the Appearance presentation.

b. Next Board Meeting

The Spring 2019 Board meeting will be held in Detroit on 5 to 6 March. Member David and the Canadian Regulation Representative will host workshops on 5 March, and the meeting will be on 6 March.

c. GLAM Meetings

The GLAM Committee expects to hold meetings in Burlington in February and in either Buffalo or Detroit in June.

12 Action Item Review

The Canadian Secretary reviewed each of the action items (see list throughout these minutes).

13 Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Ms. Pollack, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Fay were commended and thanked for their work at the IJC as this was expected to be their last Board meeting. Mr. Durrett was also commended and thanked as this may be his last meeting too. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

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2500B Second Street West, Cornwall, ON

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Roll, Opening Remarks, Objectives [Béchar] 9:00 am
2. Approval of Agenda [Béchar] 9:10 am
3. Previous Action Items [Caldwell] 9:15 am
4. Current Conditions & Regulation Overview [Dickhout] 9:20 am
 - a) Regulation Overview
 - b) Minor Deviation for Boat Haulout
- BREAK (15 min) 10:15 am**
5. Communication Committee [Hudon] 10:30 am
 - a) IWI Communications Strategy Update [Caldwell]
 - b) Public Outreach Activities [Hudon]
 - (1) Tour of western Lake Ontario with community leaders/county legislators [Kuehn]
 - c) Ongoing Support [Béchar, Heer]
6. GLAM Committee [Leger, Heer] 11:10 am
 - a) Status of 2017 Annual Report
 - b) FY19 Work Plan Overview
- LUNCH (1 hr) [sandwiches/salads from Love Love Food, compliments of OPG] 12:30 pm**
7. Power generation rejection system use [Morton] 1:30 pm
8. Gauging Committee [McNiven] 2:30 pm
 - a) 2017 Gauging Committee Report and Water Level Audit
 - b) 2018 Inspections
 - c) Precision Survey Update
9. Semi- Annual Report Review [Caldwell] 3:00 pm
- BREAK (15 min) 3:20 pm**
10. IJC/Board Website renewal [Dickhout] 3:35 pm
11. Other Business [Caldwell] 4:00 pm
 - a) Next Board Meeting, Appearance, Reception - Week of 22 October [TBC]
 - b) Next Board meeting: TBD March 2019
 - c) GLAM meetings: Canada Feb. 2019; US June 2019
12. Action Item Review [Caldwell] 4:30 pm
13. Closing Remarks and Adjourn [Béchar] 4:45 pm