

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

Conference Call

September 12, 2017, 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. Mark Gerald	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman (absent)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ford Waterstrat	Board Member, U.S. Section
Glen Davidson (absent)	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds (absent)	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 (absent)	Secretary, Canadian Section
Kevin Shaffer	Technical Assistant to Col. Mark Gerald

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Meeting was led by the U.S. Chair; meeting agenda was accepted with no changes and finalized.

WELCOME COL. MARK GERALDI

The Board welcomed Col. Mark Gerald who assumed command of the USACE, Seattle District in July following Col. John Buck's retirement. Kevin Shaffer is continuing to serve as the technical assistant to Col. Gerald.

DECISION ITEMS

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 13, 2017 conference call. The summary will be posted on the Board website.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

Heavy rains in April and May and the melting of an above normal snowpack in May and June resulted in high lake levels in Osoyoos and Okanagan Lakes during spring and early summer and high discharges within the Okanagan/Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers. As a result, drought conditions as outlined by Condition 8 of the IJC Orders, which depend on the forecasted net inflow to and level of Okanagan Lake and the forecasted volume of flow for the Similkameen

River between April and July, were not met. Low precipitation during the summer resulted in drought declarations by British Columbia in both the Similkameen and Okanagan basins. These declarations did not have any effect on Condition 8 of the IJC Orders.

Osoyoos Lake levels exceeded the IJC rule curve (912 ft) from May 4, 2017 through July 26, 2017 and peaked on June 2, 2017 at 914.87 ft. This exceedance resulted from high inflows from the Okanagan River and the backwater effect from the Similkameen River at the confluence with the Okanogan River downstream of Zosel Dam. On April 26, Zosel Dam's gates were opened such that Zosel Dam was passing as much water as possible making this exceedance compliant with Condition 9 of the IJC Orders. By May 8th, Osoyoos lake levels had further increased requiring the Zosel Dam operator to further raise the gates. Gate #1 became stuck on May 8th such that 10 inches of the gate was submerged below the water in Gate #1's spillway; the other three gates were able to be raised completely out of the water. Gears within the mechanism that allowed the gate to be raised and lowered were broken and the Applicant determined that the mechanism needed to be replaced, but sourcing for the parts was not immediately available. On June 12th a contractor for the Applicant disconnected the gate mechanism and raised Gate #1 completely out of the water. The Applicant is currently working with the contractor and regulating flow out of Zosel Dam with the other gates.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The IOLBC's Annual Meeting and Public Meeting are scheduled for October 17-18, 2017 in Osoyoos, BC and will be hosted by the Canadian Chair. The Canadian Secretary will finalize the logistics for a field trip to view the dams that form the Okanagan River system and learn more about these operations as they control inflow to Osoyoos Lake. The visit to the dams may also be combined with a visit to a salmon hatchery.

The Board reviewed and approved of the draft agenda for the Board and Public Meetings with several additions. The agendas will be updated with times for each agenda item, the name of the documentary film, "A River Film" be added to the Public Meeting agenda, the Applicant present, at the public meeting, an overview of the problems with raising Gate #1 out of the water during spring 2017, and enough time be allowed at the Public Meeting for the public to discuss their concerns with the Board.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

In June the documentary film working group and IJC staff reviewed the rough cut of "A River Film" and provided comments to the film makers. The film makers considered these comments as they finalized production and provided responses to each of the working group and IJC's comments. Overall, the documentary film working group and IJC staff had a positive impression of the rough cut. The film makers finalized the film in August; the final cut will be distributed to

Board members and the IJC for review prior to its first screening at the IOLBC Public Meeting in October.

The film currently does not have a distribution plan and the film makers proposed five options to the Board. Multiple options may be pursued for distribution, but the sequence of distribution should be considered along with the funding requirements for each option. The documentary working group will review the five options and make recommendations to the Board during the Annual Board Meeting in October. The Okanagan Basin Water Board, which contributed funds to film production, is in the process of renting a theater in Oliver on October 25 for the second film screening of the film.

CLIMATE CHANGE BIBLIOGRAPHY

A draft climate change bibliography was presented to the Board based on Appendix B from the report “Climate Change and its Implications for Managing Water Levels in Osoyoos Lake” by Summit Environmental Consultants (2011). The table was updated with entries from 2011 through 2017, which will be summarized and annotated by a working group of the Board. Working group will also make proposals to the Board about bibliography distribution.

IJC SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING: OTTAWA

The IJC Fall Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on October 25-26, 2017 in Ottawa, ON. One board member from the Canadian section will be attending in person and several board members from both the Canadian and U.S. sections will be joining via teleconference. The Canadian Chair will make a presentation to the IJC on behalf of the IOLBC during the afternoon of October 26.

ZOSEL STAFF GAGES AND WEBCAM

Limited funding from the IJC precluded funding of the staff gages during the 2017 Fiscal Year. The U.S. Secretary will work with the IJC to request these items again during the 2018 Fiscal Year.

WEBSITE REVISIONS

In May 2017, a box on the main page of the IOLBC website highlighting “High Water Levels on Osoyoos Lake This Summer.” This will be removed from the main page because Osoyoos Lake levels have returned to within the rule curve. Updates on the “Lake Level Status and Trends” subpage will be archived.

Once the agenda for the Annual Public Meeting at the Sonora Community Centre on October 17 has been finalized, it will be linked from the main page of the IOLBC website.

1894 OSOYOOS LAKE HIGH WATER MARK

The Board will put together a budget and proposal for establishing a high-water mark on the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border. Potential options for locating the monument include the park near the Community Center in Osoyoos and Veterans Memorial Park in Oroville.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

1. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will investigate funding of adding webcams to Zosel Dam.
2. **In progress:** Funds for staff gages at Zosel Dam has been requested from the IJC.
3. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will continue to look into availability of additional bathymetric data for Lake Osoyoos.
4. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will update IOLBC website with documentary film trailer.
5. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will prepare a bibliography to initiate the Organization step of the Preparedness Process proposed by CAWG.
6. **In progress:** Board members to consider feasibility of establishing a 1894 Osoyoos Lake record flood high water mark.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

1. Board Secretaries will remove references to 2017 spring high lake levels from the homepage of the IOLBC website and updates on the "Lake Level Status and Trends" subpage will be archived. Homepage will be updated with finalized agenda for October IOLBC Public Meeting.
2. Documentary film working group will assess options for distribution and report to Board.