

# INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

## Conference Call

March 13, 2018, 9:00 – 11:00 AM PST

### BOARD MEMBERS

Cindi Barton	Chair, U.S. Section
Bruno Tassone	Chair, Canadian Section
John Arterburn (absent)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Col. Mark Gerald (absent)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ford Waterstrat	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ted White	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff (absent)	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds	Board Member, Canadian Section
Anna Warwick Sears (absent)	Board Member, Canadian Section

### BOARD STAFF and BOARD MEMBER ASSISTANTS

Andy Gendaszek	Secretary, U.S. Section
Gwyn Graham	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.

### DECISION ITEMS

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the December 12, 2017 conference call. The minutes will be posted on the Board website.

### HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

Osoyoos Lake levels remained within the rule curve through March. Outflow from Okanagan Lake was reduced in late February to allow for bank protection work on the Okanagan River near Oliver. During this time, Osoyoos Lake levels fell to about 909.5 feet. Outflow from Okanagan Lake is expected to increase following completion of the bank protection work in order to lower the level of Okanagan Lake in anticipation of high inflows during the spring from the melting of a deep snowpack. Snowpack in both the Similkameen basin (as measured at the Blackwall Peak snow pillow) and the Okanagan basin (as measured at the Mission Creek snow pillow) are both above average (144% of normal for Similkameen and 141% for Okanagan). Above average runoff is expected resulting in similar (or higher) level effects on Osoyoos Lake compared to 2017. The magnitude and timing of the peak lake level of Osoyoos Lake in spring

2018 will be largely determined by how quickly the snow pack melts and the combined effects of outflow from Okanagan Lake and Similkameen flows. The Board noted that fish emergence (timing) will be a likely constraint on flow release from Okanagan Lake. NOAA forecasts that the La Nina conditions that contributed to the accumulation of the deep snowpack in winter 2017-2018 will transition to ENSO-neutral during spring 2018.

#### **ZOSEL DAM LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE**

Gate 1 at Zosel Dam became inoperable in spring 2017 due to a malfunction of the opening mechanism. The Applicant hired a contractor to fabricate and install a new drive screw rod for Gate 1, which is scheduled to be installed during the week of March 19. As of March 13, Gate 1 is in the closed position. Regarding long-term maintenance, the Applicant is planning to solicit bids in 2018 for a long-term maintenance agreement from a qualified contractor to visit Zosel Dam each spring, make maintenance recommendations, and perform a series of regular maintenance items. In the interim OTID performs slammer scale maintenance issues as part of their agreement with the Applicant.

#### **A RIVER FILM DISTRIBUTION/OUTREACH AND IWI PROPOSAL**

The Board discussed a response to comments received from the IJC on the funding proposal (IJC -IWI program) to support film distribution. Clarification was provided that the IJC did not intend to restrict distribution to within the Okan(o)agan Basin, but that their funding support is geographically limited in this context given the limits to Board mandate area to the transboundary Okanag(o)agan Basin and certain adjacent areas (e.g. Similkameen River Basin, etc.). It was confirmed that the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) would be the primary recipient of IJC funding to support film distribution. Board members described their level of activity in supporting film screening venues (in-kind), the associated administrative and contracting costs incurred by the OBWB and the range of venues where the film has already been screened and is currently planned to be screened through the year. The Board secretaries agreed to revise the project proposal, seek further Board member review and re-submit to the IJC.

#### **FLOOD MARKER IWI PROPOSAL**

In response to comments by the IWI reviewers, a proposal to fund two high-water markers in lakeside parks on the Canadian and U.S. side of Osoyoos Lake is being revised and will be resubmitted to the IWI. The markers will include a description of the IJC Orders for Osoyoos Lake and the Board's role in implementing them as well as show the elevation of high water in 1894, 1972, 1974, and 1997.

#### **BOARD WEBSITE UPGRADE**

The Canadian Board secretary provided an update of the IJC's current website modernization process. While the new website architecture indicates a restructuring of the content fields (web page content) for the IOLBC website, there is no anticipated loss of current content. Added functionality will offer certain improvements and efficiencies for Board secretaries in updating web content and creating contact lists for information notifications through the website (currently done externally). Board members sought to ensure that content formatting will allow for photos to be imbedded with text and that the timing of website migration seek to avoid the spring freshet period to minimize interference with public notifications, etc. Text

### **WORKPLAN UPDATE**

The IOLBC workplan will be updated to include new Board activities including the installation of staff gages and webcam at Zosel Dam, distribution of A River Film, and improving the Zosel Dam operation model.

### **IJC SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC**

The IJC spring semi-annual meeting will be held in Washington, DC. The U.S. Chair will present an update of the Osoyoos Lake Board's activities to the IJC commissioners on behalf of the Board. U.S. Board Member Col. Mark Geraldi and U.S. Secretary Andy Gendaszek will be in attendance and other Board members will be joining via teleconference.

### **OTHER**

It was noted that the Columbia River Treaty Operations Committee may be planning a summer meeting in the Osoyoos/Penticton area which could include a site visit to Zosel Dam. A number of Board members have already been contacted with invitations to attend. The Board clarified that while it would of interest for Board members to attend, that the Okanagan is not part of the Columbia River Treaty operations (despite some CRT operations interests for management of anadromous Okanagan sockeye salmon, etc.).

### **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

1. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will continue to look into availability of additional bathymetric data for Lake Osoyoos.
2. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will update IOLBC website with documentary film trailer.
3. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will prepare a bibliography to initiate the Organization step of the Preparedness Process proposed by CAWG.
4. **Completed:** Board Secretaries will request update from Applicant regarding plan for short-term and long-term maintenance of Zosel Dam.

5. **Completed:** Board Secretaries will provide a draft update of the IOLBC workplan for the March call.
6. **In progress:** Board Secretaries will investigate the possibility of funding short excerpts of “A River Film” about focused themes through the spring IWI request for proposals.

#### **NEW ACTION ITEMS**

1. Secretaries to revise, seek review and submit IJC-IWI funding proposal for support to film distribution activities.
2. Canadian secretary to communicate Board questions/concerns re. website migration to IJC project lead.