

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the March 3, 2009 Meeting Chicago

Colonel Quarles called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in a conference room of the Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Those in attendance were:

<u>UNITED STATES</u>		<u>CANADA</u>
<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>		
COL V. Quarles, Alt. Chair		Mr. R. Moulton
<u>SECRETARIES</u>		
Mr. J. Kangas		Mr. L. Falkiner
<u>WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES</u>		
LTC D. Snead	Dr. H. Goertz	
Mr. S. Thieme	Mr. C. Southam	
Mr. G. Cotroneo	Mr. T. McAuley	
Mr. D. Harding	Ms. J. Frain	
Mr. P. Valeri		
Mr. J. Oyler		
Dr. M. Colosimo		

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

The Board approved the agenda as issued (Enclosure 1).

Item 2. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions

Mr. Falkiner provided the Board with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Precipitation over the Lake Erie basin was reported to be 24 % above average for the period September 2008 – February 2009. Lakes Michigan-Huron levels have risen over the past year but are still well below average and expected to stay below for the next 6 months. Lake Erie outflows were generally below average during September – November and above average the following three months. Lake Erie water levels were below average until January. The 6-month forecast indicates that Lake Erie levels and outflows stay slightly above average until early summer.

Item 3. Review of Ice Season Activities and Conditions

The Board was provided a summary of the 2008-2009 ice boom season to date. Under the Commission's 1999 Supplementary Order of Approval, installation of the spans may begin when the Lake Erie water temperature at Buffalo reaches 4 °C (39 °F) or on December 16, whichever comes first. This ice season, the water temperature reached 4 °C (39 °F) on December 5. Installation began on December 10 (12 spans) and was completed on December 11 (10 spans).

The December weather was cold until the end of the month when record high temperatures were recorded. Ice first appeared in the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool on December 22. Ice breakers were used at the Beck intakes on December 23 and 24. Ice began forming behind the boom on January 9. A storm at the end of the first week of the month resulted in a broken span, which was repaired on January 12. The ice bridge in the Maid-of-the-Mist Pool formed on January 12 and remained through to the end of the reporting period.

Satellite imagery showed Lake Erie to be almost completely ice covered by January 22. A helicopter flight is planned for 12 or 13 March to determine ice thickness and condition and a fixed-wing flight is planned around March 25 to determine the extent of ice cover on the eastern basin.

The Orders of Approval for the ice boom are reviewed by the IJC no less than once every five years, with the last review being in 2004. The Board will submit its assessment of the ice boom Orders of Approval to the IJC prior to the 2009-10 ice season in order to meet this review requirement.

Item 4 Chippawa-Grass Island Pool Operations

Mr. Falkner discussed the operation and maintenance of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool (CGIP) Control Structure during the reporting period. Tolerances for regulation of CGIP levels were suspended on September 20-21 for police activity, on December 19-20 for low flows, on December 21-22 for high flows, and for a number of days thereafter for ice management.

OPG reported that a problem with deteriorated hydraulic lines had been found during a recent inspection. The hydraulic lines go between each gate of the structure. The lines will be replaced. There is no danger of hydraulic fluid entering the river. A potential issue of electric power supply to the structure was addressed by having one line come in via underground and the other line come in via overhead line.

Item 5. Review discharge measurement programs for the Niagara River and Welland Canal

The Board was informed of the present schedule of measurements. No measurements were conducted in 2008; the next measurements are scheduled for the International Railway section later this year. The Board noted that the Power Entities would like to be notified of flow measurements and any request to maintain steady plant

discharges for the cableway section measurement about a year in advance. With measurements scheduled at the Cableway section in the fall of 2010, the Board Secretaries were directed to inform the Power Entities at least a year ahead of time. Accordingly, a letter will be sent after the fall 2009 Board meeting.

The Board also discussed removal of the overhead cable at the measurement section. The Board Secretaries were directed to send a letter to the Power Entities to request their cooperation in its removal. The Board's Working Committee will work with local agencies and interests for a coordinated removal plan and eventual removal.

Item 6. Implementation of new Ashland Avenue rating

Mr. Thieme provided the Board with the final report on efforts leading to the revised Ashland Avenue rating equation. The draft report was reviewed by the Board's Working Committee and by the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data. The Board approved the report and will request permission of the IJC at the Spring Appearances to release the report to other agencies and interested parties. The report will then be sent by the Board Secretaries to the Members of the International Niagara Committee for implementation and informing of the Governments. .

Item 7 OPG tunnel status

Ms. Frain reported on the tunnel status. As of March second, the Tunnel Boring Machine has progressed 3619 m (11,900 ft), and was behind schedule. About a third of the tunnel is now complete. The alignment was changed eastward to reduce the time required. The boring machine has passed the low point in the tunnel. Work at the upstream intake area had progressed to about 200 m (660 ft).

Item 8. 2009 Meeting with the Public

The Board discussed the preliminary plans for the September 2009 annual meeting with the public and agreed to hold it in the Niagara region. The Seaway will be approached about the possibility of using their visitor center at Welland Lock 3. A tentative date of September 16 was agreed to. The last meeting with the public was held on September 15, 2008, in Buffalo, New York.

Item 9. Review of 110th Semi-Annual Progress Report

The Board reviewed and revised the draft 112th Semi-Annual Progress Report to the International Joint Commission. Comments and suggestions were noted and a revised draft will be sent to the Commission.

Item 10. Other Business

LTC Snead noted that the centennial celebration for the signing of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 will be held in the Niagara region in early June. Board Members

were informed by IJC staff present that Board Members would be invited to activities. A centennial display has been put together by the IJC and is available for use by the Boards of Control at their annual meetings with the public.

Item 11. Next Board meeting and IJC appearance

The Board noted that its Appearance with the IJC is scheduled for the morning of April 1. The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for the September 15-17 period in the Niagara region. .

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

Approved Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions
3. Review of ice season activities and conditions
4. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool operations
5. Review discharge measurements program
 - a. Welland Canal
 - b. Niagara River
6. Implementation of new Ashland Avenue rating
7. OPG tunnel status
8. 2009 Meeting with the Public
9. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report
10. Other Business
 - A) IJC Centennial
11. Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance