

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

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3 Minutes of the September 24, 2015 Meeting
4 Montreal, QC

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6 Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm in the André-Robert Conference
7 Room, Place Bonaventure, 800 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 7810, Montréal
8 (Qc). Those in attendance were:
9

UNITED STATES

CANADA

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. S. Durrett, Alt. Co-Chair

Mr. A. Thompson, Co-Chair
Ms. J. Keyes

SECRETARIES

Mr. A. Heer

Mr. D. Beach

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12 WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES

13 LTC K. Jansen
14 Mr. K. Koralewski (WebEx)
15 Mr. M. Asklar
16 Ms. L. Gale
17 Mr. J. Oyler
18 Mr. E. Tauriainen
19 Mr. J. Allis
20 Mr. J. Scungio (WebEx)
21 Mr. A. Armstrong (WebEx)

Dr. F. Seglenieks
Ms. J. Frain
Mr. J. Staples
Ms. J. Fooks

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23 OTHERS

24 Dr. M. Colosimo, IJC
25 Ms. S. Runyon, IJC
26 Mr. K. McCune, USACE
27 Mr. A. Grodsky, NOAA

Mr. G. Walker, IJC
Mr. D. Fay, IJC
Ms. S. Lobrichon, IJC

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30 **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

31 The Board approved the agenda as distributed (Encl 1).
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34 **Item 2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

35 A review of past minutes was completed and Board comments provided. Meeting
36 minutes will be finalized.

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Item 3. Membership Changes, Roles and Responsibilities

Changes in membership included:

- No permanent changes to the membership of the Board and Working Committee occurred during this reporting period.
- Mr. Kyle McCune was replaced by Mr. Arun Heer as acting US Secretary, as both Mr. McCune and Mr. Heer took on new acting assignments.
- It was noted that Mr. Mike Asklar is scheduled to take over for Ms. Lori Gale as a member of the INWC in the spring.

Item 4. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions

The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies for Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Within the reported period, Lake Erie basin received approximately 41.9 cm (20.4 in) of precipitation, which is 5.2% above average for the period. The monthly net basins supplies were below average for March and August and above average for the rest of the reporting period. As a result of the record amount of precipitation in June the NBS for that month was also a record high for the period of record. Net total supply to Lake Erie was 15.3% above average for the period March through August 2105, contributing to Lake Erie’s level rising over reporting period. Lake Michigan-Huron’s level also increased over the reporting period resulting in above-average inflows from Lake Michigan-Huron into Lake Erie for the reporting period.

Niagara River outflow was close to average from March to May and then the higher lake levels from June to August resulted in outflow well above average for those months.

Item 4. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom

a) Review of 2014-15 Ice season

The Board was provided an update on the 2014-15 ice season. Two sampling periods for ice thickness were taken on February 13 and March 13. Satellite and RADARSAT, along with ice flights, were used to monitor ice coverage for removal of boom. Ice boom removal was delayed past April 1 due to cold winter and thick ice conditions. Ice boom removal began April 20, 2015 and the Board issued a media advisory. All 22 spans of the ice boom were removed by April 25, and all components of the ice boom were put in storage by May 6.

b) Status of 2014-15 Ice Boom Report

A final draft was distributed September 24, 2015 with final comments requested by October 1, 2015.

c) Procedural Document

77 An update was provided on the progress of the update of the Ice Boom procedural
78 document. A background documentation search was completed. Key areas needing
79 update were identified. A subgroup from the INWC was identified for review of the draft
80 document consisting of Peter Kowalski, Joan Frain, Mike Asklar, Lori Gale, Ed Barbario,
81 Eustace Menez, Keith Koralewski, Andrew Armstrong, Derrick Beach, Frank Seglenieks
82 and Hafiz Ahmad. It was noted that safety concerns for crew working on the boom need
83 to be covered in the new document. The first draft of the guide is being written.
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85 **d) Public Information Web postings of Boom Removal**

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87 An update of the procedures used to post information of the boom removal on the
88 Board web page was provided. Regular updates on the monitoring of Lake Erie ice
89 cover by the INWC for boom removal was completed in the spring of 2015 and posted
90 on the Board's Ice Boom Information web site. The INWC considered this a success at
91 proactively providing information on boom removal to the public and suggested that this
92 be continued for the next ice season. The Board agreed that similar information should
93 be posted for the 2015/16 ice season.
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95 **Item 6. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

96 The Board was provided a summary of the operation and maintenance of the
97 Chippawa-Grass Island Pool (CGIP) and International Niagara Control Works (INCW).

98 **a) Compliance to directive**

99 During the reporting period the CGIP was operated within the criteria indicated in the
100 1993 Directive. The tolerances were suspended on several dates due to ice conditions
101 or life-saving/emergency operations.
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103 **b) Operations during reporting period**

104 The Board was provided update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,
105 International Control Dam (ICD) outages, ICD environmental issues, and ICD Bridge
106 Repair Project. Operations of the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting
107 period. Flooding of the Hornblower Niagara and Maid-of-the-Mist Steamship dock was
108 also discussed. The power entities are in dialogue with Hornblower Niagara and Maid-
109 of-the-Mist Companies. At this point the flooding is seen as an isolated incident. River
110 Control notifies the boat companies in advance of flow changes that would result in a
111 flooding incident at their docks so that they can modify their operations. The Board will
112 be updated by the Power Entities on further developments.
113

114 **c) Review of Directive**

115 The review of the Board's Directive for operation of the CGIP is ongoing by the Working
116 Committee.
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118 **Item 7. Falls Flow Violations**

119 Falls flow met or exceeded minimum Treaty requirements at all times during the

120 reporting period with the exception of April 22 and July 12, 2015 due to rescue
121 operations. In both instances the flow was below the Treaty requirement for only a
122 single hour before being restored.

123

124 **Item 8. Review discharge measurement programs**

125 a) Welland Canal

126 There was no new information to report to Board for this reporting period. Work on this
127 is ongoing by the Working Committee.

128

129 b) Niagara River

130 International Railway Bridge measurements were completed upstream and downstream
131 of the bridge on April 29, 2015 and a comparison of the measurements with the 2012
132 Buffalo Rating Equation. Preliminary results indicated that EC and USACE data
133 measurements compared well and the measurements taken compared will the existing
134 Buffalo Rating Equation.

135

136 Flow measurements were also taken on April 29, 2015 for Niagara River modelling
137 cross sections. Data for these will be available upon completion of post data collection
138 processing.

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140 c) Fort Erie Rating Equation

141 There was no new information to report to Board for this reporting period. Work on this
142 is ongoing by the Working Committee.

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144 **Item 9. 2015 Meeting with the Public**

145 An update on the Public Meeting held in Niagara-On-The-Lake, ON on September 10,
146 2015 was provided. The meeting was successful in addressing public concerns and
147 providing information to the public on Board activities. Four members of the public
148 attended in person and one participated on-line. There were no questions from the
149 public during the meeting or after the meeting.

150

151 **Item 10. Review Semi-Annual Progress Report**

152 All comments from the Board and Associates are to be provided by Thursday October
153 1, 2015. A final draft report will be provided to the Commission by the second week of
154 October.

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156 **Item 11. Other Business**

157 **a. Adaptive Management**

158 Board was updated with activities of the Adaptive Management Committee (AMC). The
159 presentation was provided to all other Boards. The purpose of the committee was
160 provided to the Board. Committee will be preparing annual work plans, semi-annual
161 progress reports and a 15 year assessment. Most of the issues are related to other IJC
162 Boards, and at this time the Niagara Board will keep up to date on activities of the AMC.
163 The Niagara Board to take a look at how the GLAM Committee is getting set up and
164 provide feedback to how our Board may fit in in the future.

165

166 **b. American Falls Bridge**

167 An update on the proposed planning for bridge construction was provided to the Board.
168 The final design has been delayed due to comments from Niagara Parks, anticipated
169 date for final design plans 2016, with regulatory review in 2017 and construction targeted
170 to start 2018. The Board will be kept informed of the project's status.

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172 **c. Frog Island**

173 Frog Island is located upstream of Grand Island in the Niagara River. The Board was
174 presented information in 2012 on rehabilitation work of Frog Island. The Board was
175 provided an update as follow-up on this item. The restoration work was completed over
176 2013, 2014 and is wrapping up this fall (2015) with plantings. No Board issues are
177 anticipated due to this construction.

178 **d. Temporary Gauge at MoM**

179 The "Temporary Maid-of-the-Mist Gauge", is located on the Canadian side of the River at
180 the tour boat dock (now Hornblower dock). OPG has installed for last three seasons and
181 it is determined that it is not a long-term solution for gauging flow in the Niagara River.
182 OPG plans to discontinue the use of the gauge. An alternative location will be sought.

183

184 **e. Falls Recession**

185 The Board was updated on monitoring the Falls crest for rock movement. No
186 significant changes in the crestline of the Falls was noted over the last reporting period.

187 **f. Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake**

188 An update on the issues with the Ashland Avenue gauge was presented to the Board.
189 Field surveys continue to provide a better understanding of the maintenance issues at
190 the gauge and to provide information on mitigation alternatives. NYPA, NOAA and
191 OPG will continue to work on mitigation to keep the Ashland Avenue Gauge
192 operational.

193 Alternative locations for a back-up gauge to the Ashland Avenue location also continue
194 to be examined. Environment Canada – Water Survey of Canada are planning to look
195 for other potential locations on the Canadian side of the river.

196 The Board will continue to be updated on this issue.

197

198 **g. Multi-Board International Watershed Initiatives Workshop**

199 The Board discussed attendance at the upcoming IJC IWI Workshop. The IJC is
200 proposing a two phase workshop one in October and one in April. Mr. McCune to
201 check with BG Kaiser for his availability, Mr. Staples will check with check with Ms.
202 Keyes and Mr. Heer to check with Mr. Allerton's availability.

203 **h. Recent Media on Niagara River**

204 The Board was provided an update on several media articles that have suggested
205 reopening the Niagara Treaty and/or reexamining the optimization of the use of water in
206 the Niagara River. The Board will continue to monitor.

207 **Item 12. IJC appearance**

208 The Board noted that its Appearance with the Commission is scheduled for the morning
209 of October 29 (Thursday) between 8:30 – 10:30 AM; the Reception is scheduled for the
210 evening of October 28.

211 It was noted that the Commission is taking a new approach to the hearings and is
212 asking for updates on issues only. Board issues to present at the upcoming IJC
213 hearing are 1) 5 Year Review of Ice Boom Operations, 2) Ashland Avenue Gauge, 3)
214 Welland River Watershed, 4) AM Committee, and 5) Public Outreach Initiatives.

215 **Item 13. Next Board Meeting**

216 The next Board meeting was scheduled in Detroit, March 31, 2016.

217 The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

September 24, 2015
1:00 – 3:30 p.m. (est'd.)

André-Robert Conference Room
Place Bonaventure, North-East Portal
800 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 7810
Montréal (Qc) H5A 1L9

Teleconference/WebEx Instructions Below

Final Agenda

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Approval of Agenda | 1:00-1:05 |
| 2. | Review of Previous Meeting Minutes | 1:05-1:10 |
| 3. | Membership Changes, Roles and Responsibilities | 1:10-1:15 |
| 4. | Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions | 1:15-1:25 |
| 5. | Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom | 1:25-1:45 |
| | a) Review of 2014-15 Ice season | |
| | b) Status of 2014-15 Ice Boom Report | |
| | c) Procedural document | |
| | d) Public Information Web postings of Boom Removal | |
| 6. | Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update | 1:45-2:00 |
| | a. Compliance to directive | |
| | b. Operations during reporting period | |
| | c. Review of Directive | |
| 7. | Falls flow violations | 2:00-2:10 |
| 8. | Review discharge measurements program | 2:10-2:20 |
| | a) Welland Canal | |
| | b) Niagara River | |
| | c) Fort Erie rating equation | |
| 9. | 2015 Meeting with the Public | 2:20-2:25 |
| 10. | Review of 125 th Semi-Annual Progress Report | 2:25-2:30 |
| 11. | Other Business | 2:30-3:15 |
| | a) Adaptive Management | |
| | b) American Falls Bridges | |
| | c) Frog Island | |
| | d) Temporary M-O-M Gauge | |
| | e) Falls Recession | |
| | f) Ashland Avenue Gauge Intake | |
| | g) Multi-Board International Watershed Workshop | |
| | h) Recent Media on Niagara River | |
| 12. | IJC Appearance | 3:15-3:25 |
| | Next Board Meeting | 3:25-3:30 |