

1 **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

2  
3 Minutes of the March 26, 2021 Meeting  
4 (Virtual Meeting)

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6 Mr. Durrett called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Those in attendance were:  
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UNITED STATES

CANADA

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BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Stephen Durrett, Chair  
Mr. David Capka, Member

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

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SECRETARIES

Mr. B. Carmichael

Mr. D. Beach

WORKING COMMITTEE AND ASSOCIATES

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12 LTC E. Adams, USACE

Mr. J. Staples, MNR

13 Ms. L. Schifferle, USACE

Mr. H. Ahmad, ECCC

14 Ms. C. Fisher, USACE

Mr. K. Kornelson, OPG

15 Mr. E. Tauriainen, USACE

Mr. S. Frick, SMC

16 Mr. M. McClerren, USACE

Mr. J. Schooley, OPG

17 Mr. K. Koralewski, USACE

18 Mr. M. Asklar, NYPA

19  
20 OTHER

21 Mr. A. Greeley, IJC

Ms. E. Klyszejko, IJC

22 Ms. L. Greer, USACE

23 Mr. L. Yohe, IJC  
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33 **Item 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions**

34 Introductions were conducted. All Board members and secretaries were in attendance.

35

36 **Item 2. Approval of Agenda**

37 The agenda was approved by the Board.

38

39 **Item 3. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes.**

40 Board approved posting of previous meetings minutes.

41

42 **Item 4. Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River Conditions**

43 The Board was provided with an update of levels, precipitation and net basin supplies for Lake  
44 Erie and the Niagara River. The level of Lake Erie was above average throughout the reporting  
45 period. It began the reporting period with a September mean level at 64 cm (25.2 inches) above its  
46 1918–2020 period-of-record long-term average level for the month. Between September and  
47 February, the monthly mean lake level on average lost 26 cm (10.2 inches), which is more than the  
48 average lake declines of 18 cm (7.4 inches) during this period. Lake Erie levels ended the reporting  
49 period with February mean water level 56 cm (22.0 inches) above average. Niagara River flows  
50 ranged from 6,930 m<sup>3</sup>/s (244,700 cfs) to 7,470 m<sup>3</sup>/s (263,800 cfs) due to above average levels on  
51 Lake Erie. Low flows on the Detroit River in February were due to an ice jam on the St. Clair River  
52 that significantly reduced inflows to Lake Erie.

53

54 **Item 5. Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom**

55 **a) 2019-20 installation and maintenance update**

56 NYPA requested the flexibility to begin boom installation as early as 30 November, 2020  
57 to accommodate any impacts from COVID-19 related delays. The Board agreed and made  
58 a formal request to the IJC on 23 November for approval of NYPA's early boom  
59 installation for 2020 only. On 27 November the IJC issued a temporary Supplemental  
60 Order of Approval to allow NYPA to begin installation of the ice boom as early as  
61 November 30, 2020. This Order only applied to the 2020-2021 ice boom season and  
62 expired on December 31, 2020. As required by the Order, the board issued a media  
63 advisory to the public on December 8, informing the public that installation of the boom  
64 would start as early as December 10. Installation of the ice boom was initiated starting  
65 from the Canadian side on December 10, with the first of the boom pontoon spans  
66 attached to the anchor buoys on Lake Erie. All twenty-two spans of the boom were placed  
67 by the end of day December 12.

68

69 **b) Status of 2020-21 Ice Boom Report**

70 The 2020-21 Ice Boom Report has just begun to be drafted and will be circulated for  
71 comment prior to the Fall Board meeting in September.

72

73 **c) 5 Year Review of Ice Boom**

74 Every 5 years a comprehensive review report is prepared and submitted to the Commission  
75 in order to meet this directive. The 5-year review of ice boom was finalized and sent to the  
76 IJC in July 2020. Next review to follow the 2023-24 ice season.

77

78 **Item 6. Chippawa-Grass Island Pool update**

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

81 **a) Compliance to directive**

82 The water level in the CGIP is regulated in accordance with the Board's 1993 Directive. During the  
83 reporting period, one exceedance of the board's Directive occurred on November 15, 2020 at  
84 2300 hours, when the elevation of the Chippawa-Grass Island Pool went above the abnormal flow  
85 conditions limit of 171.77 metres (563.55 feet) by 5 cm (1.97 in). The INWC recommended to the  
86 Board that operation of the CGIP during exceedance of Nov 15, 2020 and the limits of the  
87 Directive are satisfactory. It was noted that during the event all gates were in the wide-open  
88 position and were not holding water back. The Board concurred.  
89

90 **b) Operations and maintenance**

91 The Board was provided an update on regulatory gauge outages, regulatory reporting,  
92 International Niagara Control Works (INCW) outages, and INCW environmental issues.  
93 Operations of the CGIP and INCW were satisfactory for this reporting period. No  
94 extraordinary circumstances were noted and the Board had no questions or issues with  
95 the update.  
96

97 **Item 7. Falls Flow Violations**

98 During this reporting period, there were no flow violations and flows over Niagara Falls did not  
99 fall below the minimum Treaty requirements.  
100

101 **Item 8. Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing**

102 **a) OPG** – COVID-19 restrictions have impacted maintenance schedules and all  
103 scheduling projections are subject to changes. OPG continues a unit  
104 rehabilitation program began in 2007, with Sir Adam Beck 1 unit G5 overhaul  
105 scheduled from January 2020 to June 2021 is still ongoing. Currently the G10  
106 Gibson draft report is undergoing revision due to a conditional change.

107 **b) NYPA** – NYPA continues to improve the Lewiston Pump Generating Plant with PG 10  
108 back in service in December 2020. PG 1 will be undergoing an 8 month replacement  
109 outage started January 2021, and returning to service August 13<sup>th</sup>. This is the last of the  
110 12 LPGP unit upgrades. Starting September 2020, maintenance is returning to Units  
111 PG5, PG7, and PG2 for motor generator re-work due to conditions discovered on the  
112 upgraded units.  
113

114 **Item 9. Review discharge measurement programs**

115 **a) Overall Schedule** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all measurements across border  
116 (Upper Niagara) postponed for 2021.

117 **a) American Falls** – The last set of measurements were completed in May 2017 and the report  
118 has been finalized. The next measurements are scheduled for Spring 2022.

119 **b) International Railway Bridge** – The regularly scheduled discharge measurements near the  
120 International Railway Bridge were taken in May 2018. The regularly scheduled  
121 measurement at the International Railway Bridge has been postponed due to COVID-19  
122 travel restrictions and is now scheduled for spring 2022.

- 123 c) **Welland Canal** – Measurements were made in the Welland Supply Canal in May 2018.  
124 These measurements are currently under review. The scheduled measurements for fall  
125 2021 will be explored using Canadian crew only.
- 126 d) **Ashland Avenue Rating Section** – Measurements taken in September 2019 have been  
127 compiled in a final report currently awaiting review from the INWC. The next  
128 measurements at this location are scheduled for September 2022.

129  
130 **Item 10. 2021 Public Outreach and Engagement**

131 The Board discussed different opportunities to hold an outreach event and it was decided that  
132 the Board would coordinate with the other Great Lakes Boards to hold a tri-Board/ IJC webinar  
133 sometime in the summer of 2021.

134  
135 **Item 11. Review 136<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Progress Report**

136 The first draft was distributed to the Board on and comments requested by April 6<sup>th</sup>. Clean-up  
137 and finalization of report will be completed prior to the April IJC Appearances.

138  
139 **Item 12. Other Business**

140 a. **5 Year Welland Canal Review Report**

141 INC Business to be discussed at INC meeting.

142  
143 b. **Adaptive Management Update**

144 The GLAM committee is not currently engaged in any work to support the Board.

145  
146 c. **Falls Recession**

147 The Board was updated on monitoring the Falls crest for rock movement. No significant  
148 changes in the crest line of the Falls were noted over the last reporting period. It was  
149 suggested that master's student project, canvass universities and IWI funding  
150 May be possible to get existing helicopter flights to provide pictures.

151  
152 d. **American Falls Bridge Project**

153 The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks), in  
154 conjunction with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and  
155 their contractor Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI), have been developing a feasible  
156 path towards the reconstruction of the Goat Island Road bridges. Recent  
157 discussions with the New York State agencies and their contractor indicate they will  
158 be preparing a permit application for submittal to the US Department of State  
159 sometime later this year.

160  
161 e. **Grass Island Pool Restoration**

162 The Board was presented with the details of the Grass Island Pool restoration project. This  
163 project has no impact on water levels and no notable adverse impacts to the area. The  
164 Board agreed there was no issue with the project as planned.

165  
166 f. **IGLD 2020 update and GNSS Campaign**

167 The Board was given a status report on the IGLD 2020 update. COVID has delayed the  
168 2020 and 2021 campaigns. It is now scheduled to start in 2022. The intent is to aim for  
169 2025 completion.

170

171

**g. Information Articles for IJC**

172

The Board discussed preparing an article on the history and benefits of the ice boom for the IJC's newsletter.

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174

175

**Item 13. Next Board & INC meetings and IJC Appearance**

176

The next IJC Appearance is currently scheduled for 21 April virtually. The next Board meeting will be scheduled for September 2021 virtually.

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178

179

**Item 14. Closing Remarks**

180

The closing remarks were made and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

181

**International Niagara Board of Control**  
**Board Meeting, 26 March, 2021, 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm**

Virtual meeting details below

**Agenda**

- |     |     |  |             |
|-----|-----|--|-------------|
| 182 |     |  |             |
| 183 |     |  |             |
| 184 |     |  |             |
| 185 |     |  |             |
| 186 | 1.  | Opening Remarks, Introductions (Durrett)                                   | 12:00-12:05 |
| 187 | 2.  | Approval of Agenda (Durrett)   | 12:05-12:10 |
| 188 | 3.  | Review of Previous Meeting Minutes (Beach)                                 | 12:10-12:15 |
| 189 | 4.  | Update on Lake Erie/Niagara River conditions (Schifferle)                  | 12:15-12:25 |
| 190 | 5.  | Lake Erie – Niagara River Ice Boom   | 12:25-12:45 |
| 191 |     | a) 2020-21 installation and maintenance update (Schifferle/Asklar)         |             |
| 192 |     | b) Status of 2020-21 Ice Boom Report (Armstrong)                           |             |
| 193 |     | c) 5 Year Review of Ice Boom (Beach)                                       |             |
| 194 |     |  |             |
| 195 | 6.  | Chippawa-Grass Island Pool   | 12:45-1:00  |
| 196 |     | a. Compliance to Directive (Schifferle/Beach/Schooley)                     |             |
| 197 |     | b. Operations and maintenance (Schooley)                                   |             |
| 198 |     |  |             |
| 199 | 7.  | Falls flow violations (Schifferle)   | 1:00-1:05   |
| 200 |     |  |             |
| 201 | 8.  | Plant Upgrades and Unit Testing  | 1:05-1:25   |
| 202 |     | a) OPG (Kornelson)   |             |
| 203 |     | b) NYPA (Asklar)   |             |
| 204 |     | Break (15 min)   |             |
| 205 | 9.  | Review discharge measurements program (Beach/Taurianen/ McClerran)         | 1:40-1:50   |
| 206 |     | e) Overall Schedule  |             |
| 207 |     | f) American Falls  |             |
| 208 |     | g) International Railway Bridge (Buffalo and Fort Erie)                    |             |
| 209 |     | h) Welland Canal   |             |
| 210 |     | i) Ashland Avenue Rating Section/ Niagara River                            |             |
| 211 |     |  |             |
| 212 | 10. | 2020/ 2021 Public Outreach and Engagement (Carmichael/Beach/Greer)         | 1:50-1:55   |
| 213 | 11. | Review of 136 <sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Progress Report Draft (Carmichael) | 1:55-2:00   |
| 214 |     |  |             |
| 215 | 12. | Other Business   | 2:00-2:30   |
| 216 |     | a. 5 year Welland canal review report (Beach)                              |             |
| 217 |     | b. Adaptive Management (Carmichael/ Staples)                               |             |
| 218 |     | c. Falls Recession (Beach)   |             |
| 219 |     | d. American Falls Bridge Project (Schifferle/ Carmichael/ Koralewski)      |             |
| 220 |     | e. Grass Island Pool restoration (Schifferle)                              |             |
| 221 |     | f. IGLD 2020 update and GNSS survey (Oyler)                                |             |
| 222 |     | g. Information articles for IJC – 19 May, 2021 (Beach)                     |             |
| 223 |     |  |             |
| 224 | 13. | Next Board Meeting and IJC Appearance (Carmichael)                         | 2:30        |
| 225 | 14. | Closing Remarks and Adjourn (Durrett)                                      |             |
| 226 |     |  |             |