

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

Jan. 7, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [Dec 22, 2021 meeting notes](#)
 - a. Notes considered approved as edited. Changes will be accepted as is
2. Background/Context
 - a. [AO Options and Recommendations](#)
 - b. Follow-up or questions
 - i. Have structural costs been looked at
 1. Yes and no, the costs have changed. Decisions will have to be made on how detailed this group will look into costs
 2. There was some idea from the join initiatives team
 3. Bureau of Rec study on canal rebuild (2004/5) has costs of rehab needs
 4. MR Watershed Alliance has done analysis of storage and costs
 - ii. Assume the storage being discussed is surface water? Are there recharge options
 1. There have been some geologic surveys in Canada that could be explored.
 - c. Discussion about [AOs letter and updated Project Estimates Nov 22 2019](#)
 - d. Discussion on [SMM plan](#)
 - i. Study objectives, executive summary and some costs
 - ii. Language review of what is and isn't in the 1921 order
3. Technical Working Group – carry over to 1/21
 - a. What groups
 - b. Membership
4. Future Action Items
 - a. Open Discussion

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

Jan. 21, 2022 8:00 – 10:00 AM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [Jan 7, 2022 meeting notes](#)
 - a. Approved by board
2. SharePoint and Agenda overview
 - a. [St. Mary - Milk River Study - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
3. [Draft Study plan](#)
 - a. Review Governance Section
 - i. Technical Teams
 1. Options Formulation & Evaluation Group
 - a. Membership
 - ii. Technical Working Group
 1. Climate
 2. Hydrology
 3. Socio-Economic
 4. Infrastructure
 5. Ecosystems
 6. Indigenous Knowledge
 7. Others?
 - iii. Advisory Groups
 1. Indigenous
 2. Public
 3. Resource Agency
 - iv. Government Forum
 1. Special Liaisons
 - b. Comments
 - i. TWGs are at the direction of the study board
 - ii. Irrigation is far more than infrastructure. They are the largest water users in the basin.
 - iii. Do we need an inventory of the water users?
 - iv. How do we ensure we aren't just including current expectations, but making sure the future (socio-economic, ecosystem) is also accounted for
 - v. How is there a link between AGs and TWGs
 1. Communications
 2. OFEG
 3. Whatever is best for this study
 - vi. Treaty was specific to water use of power and irrigation
 - vii. Outreach plan can contain info on how viewpoints are brought together
 - viii. Who is setting up the technical teams
 - ix. Advisory groups have to inform the technical teams
 - x. Can course correct with methodology document

- xi. TWGs are carrying out the perspective of the Study board, the advisory groups are providing perspective to the study board
 - 1. Information flow through OFEG
 - xii. Figure showing the connections is needed (location for it is after IRG)
 - xiii. Are there any legal requirements to include perspective from certain groups
 - xiv. How were the TWGs determined
 - xv. Could a water user advisory group be added
 - 1. Public and indigenous are required
 - xvi. Are there tribal irrigation issues?
 - 1. US side- two groups possible would be blackfeet and fort belknap, both represented on the government forum
 - 2. Canada-there are licensed water users, first in time first in right
 - xvii. Commission in collaboration with the SB sets up the PAG
 - xviii. PAG needs to be well balanced
 - xix. The more groups that are stood up, the more a draw of study resources
 - xx. IJC has a charter for the PAG, to clearly define what is expected
 - xxi. Communications Committee
 - 1. Will help the board with outreach activities
 - 2. Communication committee could help identify outlets for engagement
 - 3. Board agrees that the CC should be a sub group of the board.
- 4. Future Action Items
 - a. Open Discussion
 - b. Look at TWG's and determine break out; should it be 3 groups, 5? Or some other number.
 - 5. Proposed agenda items for next meeting
 - a. Formalize IAG and PAG members for submission to IJC for appointment

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

February 4, 2022 8:00 – 10:00 AM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [Jan21, 2022 meeting notes](#)
 - a. Meeting notes are approved
2. Introducing the Government Forum special liaisons (10-15 minutes)
3. Communications Team Discussion
 - a. Study managers will co-chair the communications committee
 - i. Study managers will work with the IJC to determine the most effective communication methods for the entire community
 - ii. PAG will likely organize the public meetings, communications committee will be involved in making sure the word gets out
 - b. Further discussion warranted regarding communications with indigenous groups and how it will be approached
 - i. Consistent terminology will be reviewed for documents (i.e. stakeholders, indigenous communities, etc.) and decided upon
4. [Draft Study plan \(working version is v1.1\)](#)
 - a. Review Governance Section (see section 6)
 - i. Technical Teams (pg. 11, 6 technical working groups)
 - a. Climate and Hydrology
 - b. Modelling (Water Management Models)
 - c. Socio-Economic Analysis
 - d. Infrastructure Options
 - e. Water Apportionment and Administrative Options
 - f. Aquatic Ecosystems
 - ii. Technical leads are required in Canada and USA.
 - Work plan will be finalized after Feb 10th, and a more granular methodology document will be created going forward
 - iii. Options Formulation & Evaluation Group (OFEG) - OFEG will coordinate TWG activities, board will select size of working groups and who will be members of the teams (agencies, academics, other experts at state/provincial or federal level), ideally, teams will be kept relatively small for purpose of meeting attendance and coordination. OFEG will ultimately dictate outcomes of the study.
 1. Technical Working Group – there will be a Technical Lead on the US and Canadian side, strong management and technical skills.
 - iv. [Advisory Groups](#)
 - a. PAG and IAG level of interest is currently being evaluated, these positions are voluntary, hoping for one or two members by next Thursday and to expand the group as time goes on
 - b. Hoping to have equal members from Canada and the US
 - c. Considerations of municipal governments

- v. Government Forum – 6 nominations, 3 from US and 3 from Canada – will be moving forward with these, others can be appointed later. This will allow special liaisons to begin organizing meetings.

5. Future Action Items

- a. Open Discussion
 - d. Need for a common, shared geodatabase of the study area – harmonized coverages, irrigation infrastructure, etc.
6. Proposed agenda items for next meeting
- a. Discussion regarding how deficits are traded off, natural flow rates (Balancing)

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

February 18, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [Feb 4, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Introducing the [special liaisons](#) (10-15 minutes).
3. [Indigenous Outreach and Engagement Framework](#)
 - Objectives reviewed to engage indigenous peoples in this framework (document is available in above link)
 - Keep indigenous nations in the basin informed of work in the basin
 - Opportunities for indigenous engagement (technical working groups)
 - Lay groundwork for lasting relationships between indigenous nations and IJC and accredited officers
 - Importance to be flexible when engaging with indigenous communities
 - Statement of guiding principles document will be set up
 - 18 Indigenous nations between Canada and the US
4. Review and discuss suggested individuals and agencies for [PAG](#), and IAG
 - a. PAG – US and Canadian nominees
 - i. 6 US nominees have been contacted and expressed strong interest
 - ii. Canadian members have been suggested as well
5. [Communication Plan](#)
 - a. Document is designed to help build an overall communication program for this project
 - b. Outlines opportunity to engage the public throughout the study
6. Future Action Items
 - a. Need for a common, shared geodatabase of the study area
 - i. Database is currently being maintained
 - ii. Create a repository on the sharepoint with this GIS data and information

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

February 18, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [Feb 18, 2022 meeting notes – 5min](#)
2. Commissioner feedback on work plan
3. Government Forum Status
 - a. Group of 8 members will be established shortly, next step is to set up a first meeting (ensure there is a note taker for these meetings – study managers will assist with this)
4. Board Appearance April 5
 - a. Appearances of the board with commissioners, in person participation if possible
 - b. Canadian members may be participating virtually due to travel restrictions
 - c. Several US board members expressed interest in attending in person
 - All Board members in agreement
5. Nominations for OFEG Technical Leads
 - a. USA
 - b. Canada
6. Technical Working Group
 - a. Sequencing
 - b. Budget may be a limiting factor
 - c. Commitment in work plan to make sure there is timely delivery by the TWG's to prevent hold ups (special liaisons to help mitigate this), commitments can be made in writing, must be prepared to inform individuals of exact details regarding commitment required
 - d. Outline clear boundaries for commitments and level of engagement to TWG's, resources are finite
 - e. Hydrology modeling effort will be intensive
7. Face-to-face meeting
 - a. Field trips and townhall to/in basin
 - i. Tour of the basin – how and when we will accommodate meetings into the tour, tour scenarios will be laid out in March 18th meeting

-----End of Meeting-----

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

March 18, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [March 4, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Water Balance Presentation and Discussion
 - a. Division on water – April 1-Oct 31
 - b. Letters of intent – agreement to make the greatest beneficial use of water
 - c. Milk River/St. Mary River:
 - i. Allows the US to accumulate a deficit from March 1 – May 31
 - ii. Canada can accumulate a deficit June 1 – Sept 15 (Milk River)
 - iii. Flexibility to work within the hydrographs due to variable levels of flow
 - d. Eastern Tributaries:
 - i. Shared equally between US and Canada
 - e. Natural Flow:
 - i. The quantity of water that would naturally flow at a location on a river had the flow not been affected by humans upstream
 - ii. Depletions – volume removed from the natural flow
 - iii. Natural flow is location specific, what we deem to be natural flow may not be what would have flowed several hundred years ago due to human impacts on the land
 - iv. The natural flow is calculated at 5 locations along the US/CAN border for every two week period (calculate accumulated natural flow), 16 times per year for each basin
 - v. Natural Flow = observed flow + estimated depletions by humans (reservoir storage changes, irrigation use estimates, evaporation)
 - f. St. Mary River natural flow
 - g. Milk River natural flow
 - h. Deficits: Generated when one country does not deliver their share to the downstream country
 - i. Payment: releasing water out of reservoirs, rainfall, deficit LOI (letter of intent)
 1. Can be carried over to the next period
 2. Sometimes accumulates within the LOI, sometimes outside of it
3. Status of [TWGs](#), [PAG](#), and [IAG](#)
 - a. Co-chairs will be appointed for TWG's
 - b. TWGs – should act as independent representatives vs. advocating for an organization
 - i. Small groups
 - ii. Aquatic ecosystems – appointment of a Blackfeet fisheries representative
 - iii. PAG update – reached out to list of potential members (12 total members), list will be confirmed next week
 1. Draft agenda for meetings has been created, timelines for feedback currently being discussed
 - iv. IAG update – reach out to the individuals involved with this for next meeting

4. Government Forum (Special Liaisons)
 - a. Next steps will be to set up and confirm meetings, and following up with recommended individuals, several members have been confirmed
 - i. All 8 members expected to be appointed by next week
5. Communications (IJC Comms)
 - a. Semi-Annual meeting invite sent out for meeting with commissioners
 - b. Comms events being planned
6. Board Appearance
 - a. Virtual appearances preferred for the Board Appearance
 - b. Length of time allotted is one hour (introductions, progress so far, contacts that have been lined up, technical working groups, work plan overview, overall study structure and governance)
7. Field trips and townhall to/in basin
 - a. Blackfeet meeting/Board meeting during the SMM tour
8. Proposed agenda items for next meeting
 - a. IAG update

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

April 1, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [March 18, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Status of [TWGs, PAG, and IAG](#)
 - a. TWGs – the immediate goal is to ID co-chairs, working to provide guidance for TWG co-chairs
 - i. Working on documentation to guide them regarding what their role will entail
 - ii. Timelines
 - iii. Would like to have inclusion/representation of indigenous folks in the TWGs
 - iv. Board members encouraged to engage with TWGs via Sharepoint
 - v. Board Member assigned to different TWGs? – will be an opportunity to engage and communicate TWG progress with Board (General positive feedback expressed from board regarding this – members in favour)
 - b. PAG
 - i. Appointment letters have been sent for all 6 US members and Canadian members that have been approved
 - c. IAG
 - i. Goals: keep indigenous folks informed about the study, provide them opportunity to participate in all aspects, provide collaboration opportunities
 - ii. Information sessions being prepared regarding what the study is about and why indigenous folks would like to engage in it
 - d. Government Forum
 - i. First meeting will be held in early May (US side)
 - ii. Canadian side – members will be reached out to on the Canadian side and meeting will be initiated in the near future, will report back after next meeting
 - e. [OFEG Working Docs](#)
 - f. Study timeline [Gantt chart](#)
 - g. TWGs
 - i. Will be up and running within the next week or so
 - ii. Input from them within a couple of weeks, will also focus on indigenous involvement – high level methodology documents can be prepared at this time
 - iii. Co-chairs will be identified by today
 - iv. Groups should know what they need to do working on/doing by the 22nd
3. Budgets and contracts
 - a. Costing out (Study Board budget, IJC budget)
 - b. TWG budget overview

- c. Project tracking
- 4. Review IJC [presentation](#)
 - a. April 5th, study board has an appearance in front of the commissioners
- 5. Face-to-face meeting
 - a. Field trips and townhall to/in basin
 - i. General itinerary uploaded
 - ii. Sherburne – extended lunch to engage with Blackfeet representatives
 - iii. Reach out to members (PAG, etc.) let them know where tour will be stopping, set up an informal style meeting during the tour
 - iv. Tour package will be put together for sharing in the next couple of weeks

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

April 29, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [April 01, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Status of Work plan
 - a. First draft by the end of the week for review (sent to Board), final draft two weeks from now
 - i. Workplan will be sent to advisory groups, publish dates should be set (for the purposes of public commenting), formal publishing will follow, opportunity for board to follow up on considerations
3. First PAG meeting – IJC
 - a. May 12th at noon MDT (Board members encouraged to join and participate)
 - i. agenda will be provided to anyone who would like to review. It will cover:
 1. Introductions
 2. Overall review of this work and what it is about (1st meeting)
 3. History of the basin, IJC, etc. (potential content for 2nd meeting)
4. First IAG meeting
 - a. Indigenous Engagement Team has proposed the week of May 16 for an introductory session to potential IAG members.
 - i. History of the boundary waters and the IJC will be important to discuss in relation to Indigenous Nations – from a different perspective, work that has been done in the past on Tribal Lands
 - ii. Will be able to confirm appointees to the IAG in this meeting
 - iii. A history lesson from a first nations perspective on the basin and treaty will hopefully be possible to arrange
5. Communications Committee
 - i. Study managers and co-chairs to sit on the communications committee
 - ii. Important to consider the intersection between scientific and “plain language” communication
 - iii. Motion passed to accept this arrangement for the communications committee
6. Update from Special liaisons
 - a. Appointments have been accepted on the US and Canadian sides
 - b. First meeting will be the week of May 16th for a one hour slot (introductions, becoming acquainted, question period)
7. TWG Updates
 - a. All co-chairs of 6 TWGs have been contacted and introduced to one another, all have submitted draft documents with activities, tasks, and output needed to compile a singular document. Work is being done to consolidate this document, TWG co-chairs will be consulted to confirm this document

- b. Some individuals in TWGs do not have a lot of experience with the watershed, it would be beneficial to provide them with geographic familiarity with the basin
 - c. Budget can be distributed accordingly in regard to the workload of each TWG
- 8. Future Action Items
 - a. Update on basin conditions

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

May 13, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [April 29, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Status of Workplan
 - TWG – workplan writing is underway
 - i. More context has been added in terms of the study background information
 - Gantt Chart
 - i. Sequencing to work out w/ respect to TWGs
 - ii. Reporting due by end date of study
 - iii. More detail in the matrices provided by the TWGs, current Gantt Chart is a general overview at this time
3. PAG meeting Update
 - First meeting has occurred
 - 11/12 PAG members were present, and it was passed onto the 12th member
 - Introductions, overall purpose and intent of the PAG was reviewed
4. IAG meeting Update
5. Government Forum Special Liaison Update
 - Feedback to be gathered from the group to determine next steps
6. TWG Update
 - Upcoming workshop – working to get expanded workplans
7. Communications Committee
8. Future Action Items

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

May 27, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [May 13, 2022 meeting notes](#)
2. Workplan Updates
 - a. Reviewed
 - b. Fixed issues flagged by board members
 - c. Imperial and metric unit added throughout
 - d. Have decided to keep current budget outlined in the workplan for the time being, will discuss with TWGs as we move forward
 - e. Workplan
 - i. No need for another meeting, motion to move forward with the workplan
3. TWG Update
 - a. TWG – first meeting has occurred, good participation at this meeting
 - b. Nearing final membership list, comments back from almost everyone
4. IAG Update
 - a. First IAG meeting happening soon, members still to be confirmed
5. Communications Committee
 - a. Schedule drafted to culminate around town hall meeting
 - b. Agenda will be available for study managers regarding the Town Hall
6. June IJC Tour
 - a. Briefing package
 - b. Vehicle shuttling
 - c. Tour agenda
7. Face-to-face & public meeting
 - a. Option to have concurrent meetings on either side of the border
 - b. Town Hall meetings
 - c. Communications committee will begin planning
8. PAG Update
9. IAG Update
10. Special liaison Update
 - a. Study workplan to be sent out and reviewed, information will be sent back to the study board
11. Letter of Intent Call (LOI)
 - a. Summary – begin in April
 - b. Purpose is to understand what water is available in a given year, what is being diverted, what is being stored and diverted
 - c. Collaboration b/w US and Canada

- d. Technical information is reviewed, water and climate forecasts are examined each given year
- e. Milk River – drought conditions, water let out from Lake Sherburne, deficit on the St. Mary has been built

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

June 24, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of [May 27, 2022 meeting minutes](#)
2. Tour Recap
3. July Board Face to Face
 - i. Town Halls: Would mid-October be a better time?
 - ii. Would it be feasible to include TWGs?
 - b. Location
 - i. Havre MT
 - c. Possible agenda/activities during face to face.
 - i. Meet with US irrigators
 - d. Webinar meeting date/dates for fall public meeting?
 - i. Webinar to begin discussion with the public – sharing of the study plan
 - ii. Fall meeting – End of September/Beginning of October
4. IAG Update
 - a. Roles and Responsibilities
 - i. Consideration for the IAG to be involved in design and interaction with the TWGs (co-development, IAG is part of the process)
 - ii. Engagement vs. information exchange (Formal consultation vs. Co-design)
 - iii. Basic principles: indigenous involvement on the TWGs and voices in the decision making process is essential
5. Communications Committee
6. TWG Update
 - a. Work plan has been sent to IJC
 - i. Quarterly calls with co-chairs have begun, questions answered
 - ii. Co-chairs have been contacted to update work plans
 - iii. Possible workshop – TWG face-to-face meeting being planned – primary consideration is to increase the pace of work via a face-to-face meeting and workshop to give it a boost and establish working relationships
 1. Will be doing virtual meetings for the time being, give folks an understanding of where they fit in the larger picture
 2. Expanded methodologies to be worked on
 3. Push to develop background material
 4. Performance indicator discussion
 5. Board is in favour of this meeting taking place
7. PAG Update
8. Special liaison Update

9. Proposed agenda items for next meeting
 - a. Role of the IJC in the Basin
 - i. Scope and limits of the study
 - ii. History and context of [Winters Doctrine](#)

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

July 8, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

1. Review and approval of June 24, 2022 meeting minutes
 - a. Minutes approved
2. Review final work plan that will be presented to commissioners
 - a. Public review period and process
1. July Board Face to Face
 - a. Updates/Agenda
3. IAG Update
 - a. Roles and Responsibilities
 - i. First meeting will occur by end of July or early August
 - ii. Finalizing members
 - iii. Additional members may be added as they become available (may also include member additions to TWGs)
4. Special liaison Update
 - a. Awaiting material to be approved by commissioners to begin the next steps, meetings will be scheduled following these approvals
 - b. Consideration to connect with indigenous members by asking if their governments are engaged in similar processes
5. Communications Committee Updates
 - a. ISMMRSB email list service for announcements including webinars and information sessions.
 - i. Comms. Committee working on an outreach plan
 - ii. Draft media release will be available as early as Monday to direct folks to the workplan
 - iii. Consideration to play a refined/recorded description/explanation of the workplan at the beginning of the public webinar
6. TWG
 - a. Updates
 - i. RBM Matrices have been received, as well as some revised workplans
 - b. Workshop plans

- c. Board in favour of the TWG workshop, **approved**

7. Set date(s) for next meeting

- a. July 22nd in person (Havre)
- b. August 12th will be the next board meeting after the face-to-face

Meeting Adjourned

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board Face to Face, Havre MT

DAY 1: July 20, 2022 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM MDT & July 20, 2022 4:00 – 5:00 PM MDT

DAY 2: July 21, 2022 8:00 – 10:00 AM MDT & July 21, 2022 1:30 – 5:30 PM MDT

DAY 3: July 22, 2022 8:00 – 10:00 AM (Board Discussions)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH, 2022

Morning Session (Introductions and major considerations):

1. Goals and Expectations
2. Introductions
3. SMM Apportionment 101-201
 - a. Lower St. Mary Diversion
 - b. Climate Data
 - c. Tributary Streams
 - d. Watershed History
 - e. Climate Change
 - f. Governance

Afternoon Session (Government Forum US Liaison presentation):

- Indigenous discussion
- Compact

THURSDAY, JULY 21ST 2022

- Visit Fort Belknap community
- Discussions around apportionment periods, canal operations, deficits, reclamation operations.
- Discussion with Milk River Watershed Alliance

Group Updates:

- IAG Update
- PAG update
- TWG Update

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

August 12, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Agenda

- Review and approval of [ISMMRSB Face to Face July 20-22, 2022 meeting minutes](#)
- Approve Webinar date and dry run date
 - a. Review draft webinar news release/announcement
 - b. Webinar execution
- IAG Update
 - a. Roles and Responsibilities
 - b. Board participation in the first IAG meeting
- Communications Committee Updates
 - a. Comments to the communications and outreach plan
- Information Flow Document Update
 - a. IJC Commissioners requested additional detailed regarding information flow
- TWG Update
 - a. Revisions to TWG workplans and methodology
 - b. Workshop plans
- GIS Update
- Special liaison Update
- Important Upcoming Dates
- Set date(s) for next meeting
 - a. Two weeks from today (August 26th 10am-12pm)

Meeting adjourned

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

August 26, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

Meeting Call to Order:

- I. Opening Remarks
- II. Previous Meeting Summary
 - a. Action item and Approval Reviews
- III. Study Board Budget
 - a. Overview and Summary
 - b. Discussion Items
- IV. Old Business: Discussion items
 - a. August Webinar feedback and Discussion
 - b. TWG background documents
 - c. TWG and Study Board Member assignments
 - d. Quarterly reports for groups of individuals involved in the study?
 - e. Plan future meetings with
 - i. Milk River Joint Board of Control
 - ii. Blackfeet have also requested a meeting following their elections
 - iii. Canadian irrigators
- V. Study Group Special Updates
 - a. IAG Update
 - b. Communications
 - c. TWG Updates
 - d. Special Liaison Update
- VI. New Business for Board Action
 - a. Havre, MT Board Meeting Approvals of Minutes
 - b. Discussion of October Public Meeting
 - c. Communications Committee Updates
 - i. Fact Sheets
 - ii. Infographics
 - iii. Other documents
 - d. Workplan Discussion
 - e. TWG
- VII. Next Meeting: *September 9, 2022; 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central), 12 PM (Eastern)*
- VIII. Meeting Adjourn

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

September 9, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

- I. Opening Remarks
- II. Previous Meeting Summary
 - a. Action item and Approval Reviews
 - b. Approval of meeting minutes
- III. Study Board Budget
 - a. Overview and Summary
 - b. Discussion
- IV. Old Business:
 - a. Planner App
 - b. Blackfeet Follow-up
 - c. Communication Plan
 - d. GIS and Database Update
- V. New Business for Board Action
 - a. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – presentations and Q&A
 - b. Townhall Event Draft Agenda
 - c. PAG Co-Chair assignments
 - d. Summary of IRG comments
 - e. Draft Annual Report Prep
- VI. Study Group Special Updates
 - a. IAG Update
 - b. Communications
 - c. TWG Updates
 - d. Special Liaison Update
- VII. Next Meeting: *September 23, 2022; 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central), 12 PM (Eastern)*
- VIII. Meeting Adjourn

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

September 23, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

- I. Opening Remarks
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Reminder that we are starting the recording of the meeting (IJC Staff). Confirm permission with guests from Bureau of Reclamation.
 - c. Agenda Overview
- II. New Business for Board Action
 - a. Budget and meeting note approval
 - b. Planning for Townhall Meetings
 - c. Public website and media training
 - d. Summary of IRG comment [responses](#) and public comment [responses](#)
 - e. Draft Annual Report Prep
 - f. Updates on Semi-Annual Appearance
 - g. Communications group updates – [fact sheet](#), meeting prep, essential graphics (approval needed), [outreach](#) plan, etc.
 - h. Review of Calendar and Important [dates](#)
- III. TWG update
 - a. Plans for TWG workshop are proceeding well.
- IV. IAG update
 - a. Preparing a 'lessons learned' document.
- V. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – presentations and Q&A (1 hour)
- VI. Next Meeting: *October 7, 2022; 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central), 12 PM (Eastern)*
- VII. Meeting Adjourn

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

October 7, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

- I. Opening Remarks
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review meeting minutes from last meeting
 - Minutes approved by board members
 - c. Agenda Overview
- II. New Business for Board Action
 - a. Planning for Townhall Meetings
 - b. Public website and media training – session planning
 - c. Summary of IRG comment responses and public comment responses
 - d. Annual Report to IJC: Submitted September 30th
 - e. Updates on Semi-Annual Appearance – presentation prep, virtual attendance from TWG Workshop
 - Communications group updates
 - Review of Calendar and Important dates
 - TWG Workshop
- III. TWG update
 - a. TWG workshop planning
 - b. Data policy/data plans to be presented on October 25 for Board approval
- IV. IAG update
 - a. Further input for Annual Report?
- V. GF update
- VI. Next Meeting: *October 25, 2022 in/from Shelby, MT; 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central), 12 PM (Eastern)*
- VII. Meeting Adjourn

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

October 25, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

- I. Previous Meeting Summary
 - a. Action item and Approval Reviews
 - b. Approval of meeting minutes

ISMMRSB Friday, October 7th – notes [here](#)

- II. Study Board Budget and Schedule
 - a. Overview and Summary
 - b. Discussion Items

- III. New Business for Board Action
 - a. Summary of first Town Hall meeting – overview
 - b. TWG Discussion
 - 1. Feedback, reactions, concerns, scoping (Aquatic Ecosystems, Modeling, etc.)
 - c. Montana and Alberta – water management modelling cost estimates are available. We would like to use these models to the best of our abilities to find the best path forward in relation to the study objective.
 - d. Critical Path discussion
 - e. Performance Indicator Discussion
 - f. Glossary Review and Approval – next step-provide definitions to IJC for approval
 - g. Contacting and budget for the water management modeling (Canada and United States)
 - h. Discussion on the use of water management models, how are they currently used, how can they be tailored to this study
 - i. IRG Review
 - 1. Expectations, technical writer, contacting, glossary
 - 2. IJC Style and report framework
 - j. Data policy (OSF) review and approval ([here](#))
 - k. TWG questions and discussion ([here](#))
 - l. PAG discussion and handoff – next steps

- IV. Study Group Special Updates
 - a. IAG Update

Deferred

- b. Communications
 - 1. Primer (101) - Videos and outreach for TWGs
- c. TWG Updates
- d. Special Liaison Update

- V. Old Business: Discussion items not needing Approval

- a. Website Training
- b. Fact Sheets finalized

VI. Anything to be Brought to the Board's Attention

- a. Important Upcoming Dates

VII. Next Meeting: *November 04, 2022; 10 AM (Mountain), 11 AM (Central), 12 PM (Eastern)*

VIII. Meeting Adjourn

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

4 November 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MDT

1. Review and approval of ISMMRSB October 25, 2022 meeting notes
 - a. Review of action items from Oct 25 meeting
 - i. Review meeting notes and arrange for them to be uploaded to the website
 - ii. Discuss plans for budget updates, will present at next board meeting
 - iii. Pls – information to be presented at a later time (clarification of study bounds to be discussed at this time as well)
 - iv. Glossary terms to be reviewed are highlighted in yellow, Board to review these terms
 1. Will be reviewed and approved at next Board meeting
 2. Important for TWGs to be aware of these terms and how we are using them
 - v. OSF to be reviewed by the Board by November 4, data policy (OSF) review
 - vi. Date policy (some changes have been made) will be reviewed at next Board meeting and sent out for review today
 - vii. PAG to be invited to next Board meeting for an update regarding how things are going on their end
 1. Study managers to send email inviting them
 - viii. Discussion regarding ways to meet with the IAG other than virtually to be had at next meeting
 - ix. Progress report will be posted, opportunity for Board to review if they wish
 - x. All previous action items to be posted on future meeting agendas (at the top) until they are complete
 - xi. Compose IRG response
 - xii. Follow up with modelling TWG regarding what periods the models are set up for and what their boundaries are
 - xiii. Presentation at next meeting (Nov. 18): discussion of which scenarios will be run in modelling proof of concept
 - xiv. Study questions for TWGs to be finalized by Board at Nov. 18 meeting, please review and comment before then
 - b. Review of action items from Oct 25 meeting
2. Study Board budget and schedule
 - a. No update to budget, in progress
 - b. TWG schedule overview
 - i. Water management modelling TWG: two models being reviewed, data being gathered
 1. November 18 – discussion with Board: WRMM vs. RiverWare model

- ii. Critical path timeline discussed: interdependencies
 - 1. Proof of Concept to see what models can do will be completed by TWGs in the primary study are (up to St. Mary and Fresno Reservoirs)
 - a. Presentation to Board will follow in February and decision regarding which model to use will be made, options run, and Performance Indicators developed
- iii. River reaches proposed
- iv. Recommendation to Board: Proof of Concept/Pilot Study using both models to inform decision about which modelling platform to use (final decision needed by Feb 2023)
- v. Questions
 - 1. How difficult will it be to run these models concurrently?
 - a. They are currently operational, we just need to specify the outputs we need
 - b. Will be no need to develop a brand new model
 - 2. How will climate change issues be accommodated?
 - a. Pilot study will only be for historical data, climate change scenarios will be run through at a future time
 - 3. What data sources are being used to drive the models, do the two modelling groups agree upon the source (compatibility between both systems)?
 - a. Both require the same information and data, they are similar but likely differ farther downstream
 - 4. Should we prescribe a specific scenario we want both models to run?
 - a. Ex. What are the results if we increase conveyance, change apportionment, etc.?
 - b. Compare results from both models in each case
 - 5. Do the systems include operating rules for the dams, diversions, etc.? How do changing parameters affect operating procedures?
 - a. AB model does not include US section of St. Mary River, so likely takes canal inputs and border inputs
 - b. Montana model includes both
 - c. Follow up required to ask TWGs if the models include these procedures/parameters
 - d. St. Mary Reservoir is relevant if it becomes an alternate source of conveyance
 - 6. Consideration of Eastern Tributaries?
 - a. Depends on study bounds, apportionment time periods

7. How does the model deal with extremes? Is there a way to test these within it?
 - a. Low-flow is a major concern
 - b. What are the boundary conditions for the extremes, how will these be determined and tested?
 - i. Determined based on the historic time period? Wet and dry extremes.
 - c. US Army Corps of Engineers contacted to see if they have any existing models in the basin (waiting to hear back)
 - d. Key point: Timeline – can we get results in the timeframe we need, deadlines must be recognized
 - e. Board in agreement of pilot study trial – to make a decision regarding what to run in the pilot study (what results the Board wants, what options to consider)
3. Study Group Special Updates
 - a. Communications
 - i. Meeting training upcoming on November 29
 - ii. Session set up with contractor on background info, syllabus being developed, determining if meeting can be recorded for those who cannot attend
 - iii. 15 members can attend – Board members and liaisons
 - b. Board to approve key messages document
 - c. TWG updates
 - i. TWGs were asked to evaluate study questions – Board to review their feedback to finalize questions
 - d. Government Forum Special Liaison Update
 - i. Would like input from Board regarding what the Government Forum should be providing feedback on
 1. Should the Government Forum review the study questions?
 2. Would like to provide useful information to Government Forum members and receive useful information for Board in return
 - ii. Important to update the Government Forum on where we are at with the study, what their contributions have been/will be, what staff have been working on the study
 - iii. Week of TWGs discussion helped identify demands
 - iv. Comms. Products will be forwarded to Government Forum as they are prepared, keeping them in the loop at all times
 - e. IAG update
 - i. 3 appointment letters out this week (2 US side, 1 CAN side)
 - ii. Looking to confirm additional members
 - iii. Planned communication going out this month (resource packet & welcome for appointed/potential members)

- iv. Electronic survey developed for Indigenous Nations to gather info on what parts of the study fit their interests, what their goals are, and what parts they are most interested in/what they think will provide them the most benefit
 - 1. Also asks how they would like to receive future communications from the study
 - 2. Survey will be sent out when info is compiled
 - v. Next meeting set up for January
 - vi. In-person meetings being arranged throughout the winter
 - vii. Looking to communicate the value of participation in the study to Indigenous Nations
- 4. New business for Board action
 - a. Data policy presentation moved to next meeting
 - b. Review, synthesis, and presentation overviews of TWG workplans moved to next meeting
 - c. TWG questions and discussion
 - d. PAG discussion and handoff – next steps
 - i. One PAG meeting has taken place, next steps are to organize the next
 - e. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - i. Website training
 - f. Anything to be brought to Board's attention
 - i. Meeting to be set up between PAG and Board
 - ii. Identification of individuals who will be taking the Media Training
 - iii. Townhall review

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

18 November 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous meeting
 - i. Review past meeting notes and arrange for them to be uploaded to the website
 1. Notes are ready for posting (sort by year)
 - ii. Discuss plans for budget updates, will present at next board meeting
 1. Brief overview – not a full detailed review ready at this time, work in progress
 - iii. Glossary terms to be reviewed, Board to review these terms
 1. Board has reviewed
 - iv. Data policy (some changes have been made) will be reviewed at next board meeting and sent out for review today
 1. Later in agenda
 - v. Thank-you note to the PAG will be drafted, sent for review (will include invite to future board meeting)
 1. Letter has been drafted, changes being made. Should we add the communications link to the note?
 - a. Press release/news release to be reviewed and posted before being added to the letter
 - vi. Progress report will be posted, opportunity for board to review if they wish
 1. Was approved by the board, to be sent for posting
 - vii. Follow up with modelling TWG regarding what periods the models are set up for and what their boundaries are
 1. Lots of news regarding this to get the pilot study started (will be discussed later)
 - viii. Presentation at next meeting (Nov. 18): discussion of which scenarios will be run in modelling proof of concept
 1. Will be presented today
 - ix. Study questions for TWGs to be finalized by Board at Nov. 18 meeting, please review and comment before then
 1. Has been completed
2. Approval documents for Board consideration
 - a. IRG response review
 - i. Comments have been added
 - ii. Approved by Board

- b. TWG questions
 - i. Comments have been added
 - c. Data policy review and approval
 - i. No concerns, approved by Board, will be reviewed every 6 months
- 3. New business for Board action
 - a. TWG link to the Glossary for their review and approval
 - i. Stakeholders – Board to review this definition
 - ii. Natural vs. naturalized flow – do we need two distinctly different terms?
 - iii. Revisit these terms for approval at next meeting
 - b. Draft ISMMRSB Key Messages discussion
 - i. Approved by Board, comments to be addressed by Comms. Committee
 - c. PAG discussion and coordination – invitation to Dec. 16 Board meeting
 - i. Discussion regarding what we would like to discuss with PAG to be had before this meeting
 - d. Late public comments – discussion
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. Overview and summary
 - i. Need an estimate of funding that is being requested by TWGs and which people are requesting it
 - b. Discussion items
- 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IAG update
 - i. IAG appointments made will follow up with information packet
 - ii. FBIC updates on Water Compact
 - iii. Discussion regarding ways to meet with IAG other than virtually
 - b. Communications
 - i. Media training
 - c. TWG updates
 - i. Invitations are being sent out for several meetings
 - ii. Funding request
 - d. WMM modelling questions update
 - i. Pilot Study authorized by Board
 - e. Government Forum Special Liaison update
- 6. Anything additional that needs to be brought to Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
- 7. Action items
 - a. Progress report to be sent for posting
 - b. Revisit glossary terms for approval at next meeting
 - c. Stakeholders – Board to review this definition
 - d. Discussion regarding what we would like to discuss with the PAG to be had before Dec. 16

- e. Get together a tracking spreadsheet for public comments
- f. Business cards printed by Comms. Committee
- g. Review ethics requirements in Canada regarding surveys
- h. Key messages document to be reviewed by everyone attending media training on Nov. 29th
- i. Reviewing technical questions in advance
- j. Comms. Committee will be meeting in the near future
- k. Discuss with to get all TWGs on Board will what their roles and work will be in conjunction with the pilot study
- l. Touching base with Gov. Forum in a short email

International St. Mary Milk Rivers Study Board

2 December 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous meeting
 - i. Progress report to be sent for posting
 - ii. Revisit glossary terms for approval at next meeting
 - iii. Stakeholders & Rights Holders – Board to review this definition (will be refined)
 - iv. Estimated natural flow – use derived natural flow? (no use of naturalized and natural)
 - v. Discussion regarding what we would like to discuss with the PAG to be had before Dec. 16
 - vi. Get together a tracking spreadsheet for public comments
 - vii. Business cards printed by Comms. Committee – printed and coming soon
 - viii. Review ethics requirements in Canada regarding surveys
 - ix. Key messages document to be reviewed by everyone attending media training on Nov. 29
 - x. Reviewing technical questions in advance
 - xi. Comms. Committee will be meeting in the near future
 - xii. Discuss to get all TWGs on Board will what their roles and work will be in conjunction with the pilot study
 1. Will be discussed at TWG update
 - xiii. Touching base with Gov. Forum in a short email
 1. Will be completed shortly
2. Approval documents for Board consideration
 - a. TWG link to the Glossary for their review and approval
 - b. TWG Questions document approved by Board
3. New business for Board action
 - a. PAG meeting participation discussion regarding goals and objectives for PAG members joining the call. How much time to allow? Is there value in a future face to face PAG meeting in the basin?
 - i. Letters to be sent out to PAG for Jan 13, will ask them to think about what they would like to discuss/review in this meeting
 - b. Discuss scope of study to communicate this to the PAG (narrow down the hydrology and modelling)
 - i. Intent to cover whole geography of basin during meetings, listen to their ideas and concerns, summary of what the TWGs are working on, summary of our progress so far, refinement of study area, aske about

- timing and locations of public meetings, ask how they would like to be engaged with the study, what help do we need from them going forward?
- ii. Examples of where their input has shaped and refined the work we have done/will do
- iii. Present what we have done so far and what we will be doing in the coming year
- 4. Study Board budget
 - a. Discussion items
 - i. Mechanisms for study funding being discussed
- 5. Study Group special updates
 - a. IRG Process (for review and input)
 - i. State of Knowledge reports will not require an independent review, update to workplans coming
 - ii. Timelines for technical reviews to be set, flow of documents needs to be coordinated
 - iii. Board is responsible for all of the information produced by the study
 - b. Consideration for public events in 2023, when/where should board hold its next public meetings or town hall
 - c. TWG updates
 - i. State of Knowledge reports being reviewed, pilot study has begun, working on a process for other documents
 - ii. Matrix being created with all tasks, aiming to have next version with all tasks identified and cross-referenced by the end of the calendar year
 - iii. Meetings with WMM group have occurred, initial scenarios for pilot study will be: baseline scenario, admin option scenario, infrastructure option scenario
 - 1. Riverware not set up to use letter of intent for each year at this time
 - 2. Recommending looking at different balancing periods (both models already set up to do so)
 - 3. Both models are in the process of being set up, discussions occurring regarding how money will be put in place to get pilot studies done
 - 4. Some TWGs might need to expand their geographic boundaries for certain analyses, the study area may have to be flexible within each TWG to some extent
 - 5. Focus on when inputs/outputs will be needed
 - d. Special Liaison update
 - i. Will be sending information out to Government Forum
 - ii. Revisit workplan on Jan. 13 at PAG meeting
- 6. Old business: discussion items not needing approval

- a. Get together a tracking spreadsheet for public comments
- 7. Anything additional that needs to be brought to Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
- 8. Action items
 - a. Get together a tracking spreadsheet for public comments
 - b. Touching base with Gov. Forum in a short email
 - c. Letters to be sent out to the PAG for Jan 13th, will ask them to think about what they would like to discuss/review in this meeting
 - d. Ask if there is anything PAG members would like to hear/learn more about during this meeting
 - e. Board to review IRG Process document by next week – provide comments

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

16 December 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM MST

1. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items identified in previous meeting
 - i. Get together a tracking spreadsheet for public comments
 1. Complete – on SharePoint
 - ii. Touching base with Gov. Forum in a short email
 1. Email to be sent out shortly
 - iii. Letters to be sent out to the PAG for Jan 13th, will ask them to think about what they would like to discuss/review in this meeting
 1. Has been sent out
 - iv. Ask if there is anything PAG members would like to hear/learn more about during this meeting
 1. Have input from a F2F conversation with another PAG member to discuss later
 - v. Board to review IRG process document by next week – provide comments
 1. Approved
2. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. None to approve at this time
3. New business for board action
 - a. PAG meeting planning
 - i. Idea is to have PAG members attend next Board meeting in January, invitation has been sent
 1. Have a presentation that has been prepared (study progress, 2022 accomplishments, how PAG will be involved in 2023)
 - ii. Will meeting be recorded and shared with PAG members?
 1. Yes, will be available for the Board and the PAG for those who cannot attend
 2. Sending out links to the Sharepoint will be beneficial for collecting information all in one place (Gov. Forum folder should be used for this)
 - iii. PAG can be directed to a folder on the Sharepoint to review meeting agenda, PowerPoint, etc. in advance of meeting
 - iv. Discussion regarding next meetings for PAG attendance – when they will be, where they will be, what will the frequency be
 1. Build this discussion into the meeting, allow the PAG to have input on this

- v. List of questions that Board members that have for the PAG – Board to brainstorm and contribute to this document before the meeting
- vi. We should clarify with the PAG what the co-chair commitment looks like and what the PAG role will entail throughout the study
 - 1. Co-chairs are part of the Comms. Committee
- vii. Major topic summary for PAG meeting:
 - 1. PAG Roles and Responsibilities, Study Key Messages
 - 2. Study progress update, including a summary of 2022 accomplishments
 - 3. Future plans for 2023, including determining a location and timing for the next town hall gathering and face-to-face PAG member meeting
 - 4. PAG tasks for 2023 – how you can become involved and engaged in the study going forward
- b. Updated workplan in Feb – plans to update this, who is on first?
 - i. Will need to revisit this
 - ii. Pilot study – model to be run by end of January, decisions for which model to use by the end of February, written reports by spring, workplan to be updated to reflect this
 - 1. Workplan will be updated as the pilot study evolves
 - 2. When will the Board have enough information to create an updated workplan?
 - a. Late April/May?
 - b. Minimal iterations of the workplan will be beneficial in terms of efficiency and use of time
 - c. A timeline would be helpful
- c. Gantt chart overview to present to the Study Board
 - i. What do things look like for the next year?
 - 1. When are the next progress reports needed?
 - 2. Next version of the workplan
 - 3. Dates for public meetings (next 2 years ideally)
 - 4. January 5 – 1 hour Board meeting to prepare for the meeting with the PAG on the 13, review study plans for 2023 and progress from 2022
 - ii. Water licensing fact sheet development
 - 1. Would be good to have this available as a fact sheet
 - 2. How the licensing works, who is responsible for it, the process of allocating licenses
 - 3. Licensing vs. the role of water right holders
 - 4. AB vs. MT

5. Prominent thoughts regarding what the study does and does not do – not necessarily a fact sheet, but used internally to help the Board have concise messaging (separate from the water rights fact sheet)
 6. Complete these documents by end of January
 - iii. Water rights discussion – messaging considerations
 1. Will be useful to have in a condensed document, how Indigenous rights are handled, etc.
 - iv. Facebook page considerations
 - v. Next townhall event or face-to-face with PAG members
 - vi. Need to develop a missions statement for the study
 - vii. PAG fact sheet ideas – need to ask PAG members what they would like to see
 - viii. Spreadsheet to track public comments
 - ix. PAG communication
 - x. Opportunity to meet as a board in Feb with Records management meeting
 1. Face-to-face might be useful for a small group with a virtual option for others that are interested
4. Study Board budget
 - a. Discussion items and updates
 - i. Previous IJC tracking sheets have been viewed
 - ii. USGS money is starting to move around
 - iii. 20% of US money has been budgeted out
 5. Study group special updates
 - a. IRG process
 - b. Communications
 - c. TWG updates
 - i. Pilot study – WMM group – ensuring models have same inputs and parameters, 3 scenarios being run (structural and non-structural)
 - d. Special Liaison update
 6. Anything additional that needs to be brought to Board's attention
 - a. Important upcoming dates
 - i. International Records Meetings (week of February 14, 2023)
 - ii. Semi-Annual Appearances in DC (week of April 24, 2023)
 7. Action items
 - a. PowerPoint for PAG meeting to be reviewed by Board for comments and edits – have these complete by Jan. 6
 - b. Follow up with PAG 2 weeks before meeting asking for questions they have for us (they have been asked this in the initial meeting invite)

- c. List of questions that Board members that have for the PAG – Board to brainstorm and contribute to the linked document
- d. January 5th – ~1hr Board meeting to prepare for the meeting with the PAG on the 13th, review study plans for 2023 and progress from 2022
- e. Board – Let Comms. Committee know if you have any thoughts or comments on the creation of documents regarding what the Board does/does not do, water licensing, and water rights (Complete these documents by the end of January)
- f. IRG Process document will be cleaned up and sent