

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

13 October 2023 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Canadian PAG positions
 - ii. Provide document/information to add into the Indigenous section of the annual progress report - done
 - iii. Annual report to be sent to the IJC on Friday the 6th – done
 - iv. Provide a draft agenda for review for GF members in Great Falls – done
 - v. Send out a reminder of the semi-annual appearance meeting time –done
 - vi. Add in the summary of IAG events to the annual report – done
 - vii. Change some of the examples on the PI fact sheet – done
- II. Approval documents for board consideration
 - a. Annual progress report
 - i. Considered done and approved, will be sent to the IJC
- III. New business for board action
 - a. IJC semi-annual presentation – in development; to be completed by end of day today, reviewed and approved
 - b. Great Falls in-person meeting public, GF and Indigenous attendance status
 - c. Oct-Nov presentation updates – TWGs (progress?)
 - i. Will be addressed later in the meeting
- IV. Study board budget
 - a. Next full budget update to be provided November 24
- V. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. Semi-annual
 1. On Friday, there will be a meeting in which the governments have requested an update from the IJC; the IJC is expecting to have to provide information on study funding
 - b. Communications committee update
 - i. Newsletter #2 status
 1. Following the Great Falls meetings
 - ii. Future events, engagements, messaging
 - iii. Posting meeting minutes on IJC website
 - c. PAG update
 - i. Membership issue
 - d. Special liaison update
 - i. Emails have been / will be sent out to the Canadian and US side of the Government Forum
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. SEA report
 1. Moving along well; first report for the Canadian side has been provided by the consultant and they are in the process of addressing comments that have been made; US side is also progressing

- 2. A company is lined up to do the US side economic analysis; they are discussing to ensure that the methods used on the US side match the Canadian methods
 - ii. Planner App update and access approved
 - 1. We are discussing timelines with all TWG co-chairs and are having them help us evaluate whether feasible; trying to determine how timeline is shifting
 - a. Board approval was secured to give co-chairs full access to the planner app
 - b. Trying to move back to higher-level planning/content and giving access to the planning app should help managing activities
 - c. Once the TWG co-chairs have had a chance to go over the planner app, they may be able to give guidance to the Board regarding potential adjustments to the work plan
 - iii. One-pagers progressing, 5 of the 7 done by OFEG/TWGs, one is mocked up, last two about in review by TWG
 - iv. Working with IAG on Oct 24 to discuss how OFEG will help plan study guidance for PIs and scenarios from the IAG
 - 1. Meeting with them later today; trying to refine the scenarios using their guidance
 - f. IAG update
 - i. Working on IAG members to Great Falls, the spreadsheet will be updated as they confirm attendees
 - ii. Members who may not be able to attend have asked for pre-meeting materials – PI factsheets could be a good reference material to send
 - iii. A suggestion was made to have the PAG members give their perspectives along with IAG members at the Great Falls meetings; this would provide a good mix
- VI. Final reporting
 - a. Technical writer kickoff meeting – October 23 at 12:30 pm
 - i. Review of SOW and major tasks
 - ii. Summary and status of study board work to date
 - iii. Coordination to share foundational documents with LimnoTech
 - iv. Discussion of initial work tasks to be initiated
 - v. Governance and workflow coordination discussion
- VII. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Great Falls meeting updates
 - i. Logistics
 - ii. Performance indicators fact sheet
 - 1. Status and target date for distribution
- VIII. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. Upcoming meetings:
 - i. October 18; 1-3 PM ET – in-person meeting with those attending semi-annual
 - ii. October 27; 10 AM MT, 11 AM CT, 12 PM ET
 - c. IJC semi-annual appearance in Ottawa: October 19, 2023
 - i. Study board participation
- IX. Action items
 - a. Reach out to St. Mary Irrigation District to communicate the board's intentions of meeting

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

27 October 2023 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Reach out to the St. Mary Irrigation District to communicate the Board's intentions of meeting – to be completed later today
- II. New business for board action
 - a. IJC appearance overview and reactions – discussion
 - i. The consensus was that the appearances went well overall
 - ii. One takeaway that was mentioned was the question on Indigenous engagement on the Canadian side – there has been notably less engagement on the Canadian side when compared to the US side
 1. This can be due to the locations of each community
 2. It was suggested that the Board keep a record of proof of engagement and any communications
 - b. Great Falls in-person public meeting, GF, and Indigenous attendance status
 - i. Logistics and agenda
 - ii. Projected attendance looks good
 - iii. Any comments on the agenda need to be brought up today as they will be printed this afternoon
 - c. Initial discussion with technical writing team – updates
 - i. An initial discussion occurred, in which they went over the facilitation of the workflow process and reviewed processes that have been used in past IJC studies
 - ii. Will be continuing the conversation with them on a monthly basis and will be using them with the final report
- III. Study board budget
 - a. Next full budget update to be provided November 24
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. It is Pierre Beland's last day as commissioner and there is no news on his replacement, or any appointments of Canadian commissioners
 - b. Communications committee update
 - i. No meetings since last board meeting
 - ii. The new newsletter will be sent out in November
 - c. PAG update
 - i. The briefing material has been distributed to PAG members
 - ii. PAG agenda has been drafted, board members have been slotted into certain breakout meetings
 - d. Special liaison update
 - i. Agenda for Great Falls break out session
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. WAAO's "Description of Preferred WAAO Options" for initial board review before Great Falls
 1. New options to look over and review before the board meeting next week

- ii. SEA presence at the meeting; overall impressions and both PAG and IAG
 - iii. Preparation for TWG workshop
 - 1. Plans are coming together; meetings are taking place two weeks after Great Falls; a rough outline of the agenda has been sent out to the TWG co-chairs
 - iv. One-pagers of OFEG and TWGs (let us know if needing updates)
 - 1. Will be available next week
- f. IAG update
 - i. Agenda for breakout session is linked to the main Great Falls agenda
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update
 - i. Nothing new to add; awaiting technical writers' work
- VI. Old business: discussion items not needing approval
 - a. Performance indicator fact sheet – considered done
- VII. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Canadian Water Resources transboundary session for next summer in Saskatoon
 - ii. WRA on Nov. 7
 - b. One of the infrastructure options has a new reservoir (off site, upstream of the eastern crossing on a coulee) that was proposed by the PAG in Havre; looking into discussing it next week during the PAG breakout before it is passed to the IO TWG

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

2 November 2023 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
- II. New business for board action
 - a. WAAO groups co-chairs joining from 11 am – 11:30 am to answer board questions
 - i. Three options that the WAAO TWG has developed for the WMM TWG to model (six total options because they have requested the scenarios to be run with St. Mary canal capacity of both 600 cfs and 850 cfs)
 - ii. These options are a product of WAAO going back to the drawing board to ensure that they had considered the things that really mattered
 - b. Discussion: Great Falls meeting reactions, updates, items that were impactful the last two days
 - i. Final report timeline: due in June, final board copy
 - ii. Balancing periods
 - iii. Infrastructure recommendations
 - iv. There will be performance indicators attached to economics
 - c. Summary of action items from previous discussions
 - i. Performance indicators
 - 1. Working on organizing them, listening and digesting what was heard at these meetings
 - ii. Timeline and deliverables
 - 1. Talked about previously

2. What communication will be returned to PAG and IAG, request to help PAG plan their own meetings
 3. Three primary contacts were identified to iterate PIs
 4. Newsletter and webinar
 5. IAG to be sent summary for feedback
 6. Holistic approach to basin ecosystems, scope of project
- iii. Indigenous discussion – take away messages and follow-up
 - iv. Communication, outreach, and products
 1. What are we making available and to who?
 2. Focus right now is the newsletter, heard that fact sheets are well received
 3. Perhaps we do a fact sheet on the available options
 4. Public webinar instead of posting videos on the website for the public
 - v. Items identified in breakout sessions:
 1. GF
 2. IAG
 3. PAG
 - vi. Government Forum highlights
- d. Visualization tool discussion
 - i. What is the end goal for this tool and is it even needed?
 - ii. What will it look like?
 - iii. How will it be used?
 - iv. What do we need to do to ensure success?
 - e. Questions to address or think more about for discussion:
 - i. Course corrections that need to be made
 - ii. Were there any gaps identified
 - iii. What are the next steps
 - iv. Is there any new outreach that could be focused on
 - f. Reactions and comments on the week (suggested changes, improvements, or modifications for next meeting)
- III. Final reporting
- a. Status update
 - b. Recommendation on starting acknowledgements section now
 - c. SharePoint site updates
- IV. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
- a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Government Forum briefing (virtual) Dec. 11
 - ii. Webinar in March
 - iii. PAG meeting sequencing TBD
 - iv. Public meeting in Lethbridge (June)
 - v. Webinar to PAG and IAG in March
 - vi. Ask PAG if there is a need for a public webinar, is there enough public engagement

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

1 December 2023 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda

- b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Follow-up regarding support from BIA
 - ii. Start acknowledgement section for the final report
 - iii. Start planning spring townhall and in-person meeting with Blood Tribe near Lethbridge, AB. Decide if a public webinar in March 2023 is required
 - 1. The next in-person meetings are currently set for the first week of June. Planning will have to begin soon
 - 2. Communications committee was given the task to decide whether or not March is too soon for the public webinar
- II. New business for board action
- a. Government Forum briefing memo – who is on first and how will this be disseminated?
 - i. GF liaisons note or IJC note – discussion
 - 1. IJC briefing materials
 - a. Drafted to be sent to Commissioners
 - 2. GF draft memo
 - a. A final draft of the memo, once a table has been inserted, is ready to send to the Government Forum
 - b. To reduce duplications, they are trying to get additional information as to what the GF are looking at and at what level is required
 - c. A suggestion was made to hold a meeting to first finalize the memo before sending it off, and that a meeting with the GF would follow
 - i. Meeting request sent for 2:30-3:30 on Tuesday Dec. 6
 - b. Timeline of progress (will be discussed in OFEG update) - discussion and potential need for no cost extension
 - c. November newsletter updates (approval?)
 - i. ISMMRS Newsletter #2 v1 (DRAFT)
 - ii. Newsletter will be sent out next week
 - iii. Board members: please offer edits or confirm approval by Dec. 5 COB
 - iv. Roadmap has been edited to include the meeting in June
 - v. Will have to edit the Government Forum meeting on Dec. 11
 - vi. The next newsletter will come out after the next in-person meeting happens in June; approximate timeline is July
 - d. Summary of Canadian engagement in the Canadian portion of the basin
 - i. This document has been created in response to a commissioner's question regarding the engagement with the Canadian First Nations in the basin
- III. Budget update
- a. Discussion/overview of current budget, going over the spending that has been associated with each TWG and other study funding
 - b. Some billing and invoicing for contracts have yet to be done
 - c. Increased spending is likely to happen before the end of the Canadian fiscal year in March
 - d. It was noted that there is some overlap between the WMM and CH groups and some of the funding associated with the WMM group is for the CH group
- IV. Study group special updates
- a. IJC updates
 - i. Canadian commissioners' contracts are set to expire at the calendar year; not updates on new commissioners yet
 - ii. For the US update it was reported that the socioeconomic study update has been signed internally and has been sent over to the contracting officer

- b. Communications committee update
 - i. Next meeting is Dec. 12, will focus on tasks that need to be worked out
 - c. PAG update
 - i. PAG meeting (Nov 21) updates
 1. Held because of a request that was made in Great Falls
 2. 4 PAG members present
 3. Debriefed on the scenarios and laps, the consensus was that the PAG approved
 4. There will be a follow up meeting on Jan 21
 5. Suggestion to send an email update to the PAG and IAG before the new year
 - ii. PAG member involvement
 - d. Special liaison update
 - i. None
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. Calgary meeting – discussion and highlights
 1. Consensus was that it went well and was a productive meeting
 2. Describe lap system being proposed
 - a. A number of laps have been outlined and a schedule has been assigned
 - b. TWGs are focusing on lap 1 now and they are hoping to have the model scenarios done by the end of January
 - c. Proof of concept was a practice lap
 - d. After the models have been run, the groups will have to do an analysis of the results from lap 1 before moving onto the subsequent laps
 - e. Study Work Plan
 - i. Structural and administrative options that are meant to be prioritized
 - f. Prioritized scenarios (round 1 modeling)
 - i. Went over current list of prioritized scenarios; planning on running the base case without the letter of intent - when the models have run with the letter of intent, they always create a US deficit, which is not what occurs in reality
 - ii. The last two options may pose some challenges as they may require the use of the southern tributaries model
 - 3. Updating results-based management matrix within Planner App (official workplan and possible future workplan)
 - a. The timeline to have this completed is before the new year
 - b. A new copy of the work plan has been made that will be modified with new due dates if the co-chairs identify more realistic timeframes
 - c. This could help identify the need for an extension, or a more realistic picture as to what can be completed in the initial timeframe
 - 4. General feedback from the TWG co-chairs and attendees
- f. IAG update
 - i. Followed up with the IAG and affiliate members that were present at Great Falls
 - ii. Will be doing this with those who were not present

- iii. It was emphasized that the board be understanding of the amount of work being asked of Indigenous groups, as they may be busy with other commitments
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update
 - i. A standing meeting with the technical writing team has been established
 - ii. Writers are hoping to have draft material by Dec 15
 - iii. A decision was made to hold off on the individual TWG fact sheets and focus on drafting the technical document first
 - b. SharePoint site updates
- VI. Anything else that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - b. IJC appearance in Washington, DC – April 9-11, 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. FOR BOARD MEMBERS: please offer edits on the November Newsletter or confirm approval by Dec. 5 COB
 - b. Follow up on BIA involvement

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

15 December 2023 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. FOR BOARD MEMBERS: please offer edits on the November newsletter or confirm approval by Dec. 5 COB
 - 1. Approval was received from all Board members
 - ii. Follow up with BIA involvement
 - iii. Government Forum briefing memo – has this been sent
 - 1. The newsletter, which was considered a comprehensive document, was sent out earlier this week
 - 2. Looking to have a follow up meeting with the GF; no responses to their latest email have been received so far; meeting will likely take place in the new year (date pending)
 - 3. Feedback from GF members on whether this type of memo is useful will be collected
 - 4. The next briefing could contain an update on how the results from model runs and performance measures match up; an April timeline may be appropriate for this
 - iv. Newsletter – distribution?
 - 1. Newsletter was posted
 - 2. A social media notification will be sent soon and that it is available on the IJC website
 - 3. Will be sent to board members and from there the members can forward it to anyone they see fit
- II. New business for board action
 - a. PAG

- i. Membership update by the IJC
 - b. OFEG update
 - i. We are progressing on creating a better estimate of the timeline
 - ii. Working on what we heard in Calgary and working to update MS Project
 - iii. Expect January 5 to have a much more solid plan
 - iv. Exploring options as to how the future laps will be coded and run
 - c. Communications committee update
 - i. Next in-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB – June 3-7, 2024
 - 1. Meeting held earlier this week to talk about the newsletter and any concerns that came out of Great Falls
 - 2. Planning for the June meeting and the townhall will begin soon
- III. Budget update
 - a. None
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC updates
 - i. None
 - b. Special liaison updates
 - i. Memo distribution
 - 1. Mostly covered in detail in the above meeting items
 - 2. It was suggested that they should start thinking about the next memo and that the memo should include information on performance measures
 - ii. Follow up meeting plans, as noted in Great Falls to be on Dec 11
 - c. IAG updates
 - i. Weekly Indigenous engagement meeting notes
 - ii. IAG and affiliates will be sent the November newsletter next week
 - iii. Planning on following up with the individuals that were hoping to have a formal appointment to the IAG
 - iv. A virtual meeting with Nekaneet First Nation took place on Monday December 11; main takeaway was that they are interested in getting involved and that they have suggested an elder to sit on the IAG
 - v. A meeting with the Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation has been set up for next week
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update – meeting this afternoon
 - b. Progress has been made on chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the final report
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. IJC appearance in Washington, DC – April 9-11, 2024
 - b. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon – June 17-19, 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. Forward PAG replacement suggestion
 - b. Inform PAG & St. Mary irrigation district of board's intention of meeting with the St. Mary irrigation district in the new year

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

19 January 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary

- a. Approval of the agenda
- b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
- c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. PAG replacement nomination
 - ii. St. Mary Irrigation District meeting
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Updates on past meeting topics
 - i. Government Forum briefing memo update
 - ii. BIA involvement in study
 - iii. CH TWG interest in attending CWRA and/or AGU WaterSciCon
 - b. PAG
 - i. Update on Milk River Water Users storage investigations
 - c. OFEG update
 - i. Modeling relationship diagram proposed fact sheet
 - ii. Timeline discussion (MS Project)
 - iii. TWG updates
 - 1. WMM modeling status
 - a. RiverWare
 - b. WRMM
 - 2. Hydrologic model memo now available
 - 3. IO spreadsheet description and cost estimate of structural options
 - 4. Virtual all co-chair meeting January 13. Updates and ensuring inter-TWG communication
 - d. Communications committee update
 - i. Last meeting January 10
 - 1. News on St. Mary Diversion Dam construction kick-off and potential for tour or on the ground meeting with stakeholders
- III. Budget update
 - a. Meeting for US budget on January 29
 - b. Plan for TWG spending
 - c. ECCC invoicing and IJC input
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. Update on Canadian Commissioners appointment
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. Follow up meeting plans in early 2024
 - c. IAG
 - i. Follow up meeting plans, as noted in Great Falls to be on December 11
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update and next steps for review process
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. IJC appearance in Washington, DC April 9-11 2024
 - b. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Records meeting in Saskatoon, SK
 - ii. Next in-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB
 - iii. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK
 - iv. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN
- VII. Action items
 - a. Set up meeting concerning Board's position on BIA involvement

- b. PAG member appointment by IJC

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

2 February 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. SMRID Board meeting
 - a. Introductions
 - b. SMRID Board – thoughts, hopes, what do you want to gain from the ISMMR study
 - i. Questions for the board to consider, specific items or topics that you would like to address
 - c. Study co-chairs overview of the study to date along with the resources available
 - i. Work plan
 - ii. Newsletter
 - iii. Factsheets
 - iv. Indigenous engagement
 - v. Public engagement
 - d. Next engagement, round table, adjourn
- II. ISMMRS Board previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Set up meeting concerning Board's position on BIA involvement
 - ii. PAG member appointment by IJC
- III. New business for board action
 - a. Update on past meeting topics
 - i. BIA involvement
 - ii. Attendance at CWRA and/or AGU WaterSciCon in Minneapolis/St. Paul
 - b. PAG
 - i. Met on January 23 and recorded
 - 1. Followed up on newsletter, road map, modeling emphasis (fact sheet)
 - 2. Discussed PAG outreach and interactions, webinar and townhall dates
 - c. OFEG update
 - i. Status of Lap 1. We are at the midpoint.
 - ii. WMMs
 - 1. RiverWare
 - a. Provided outputs for Lap 1
 - 2. WRMM
 - a. Waiting on Lap 1 results, should have them shortly
 - 3. PIs, AE and SEA TWGs
 - 4. Data Management Plan
 - a. Planner App and Microsoft Project to keep OFEG and TWGs on track and ensure that results can be replicated
 - b. PI development and presentation to GF
 - c. Update on Kimbal to Whiskey Gap option implications
 - d. Communications committee update
 - i. Modeling approach fact sheet development
 - ii. Technical key messaging/sound bites

- iii. Next meeting to plan June in-person meetings
- IV. Budget update
 - a. Update on US budget
 - b. Working on updated diagram to present at next board meeting
- V. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. none
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. none
 - c. IAG
 - i. Open invitation to anyone who wants to sit in on IAG meeting
- VI. Final reporting
 - a. Status update and next steps
 - i. Discuss sequencing or process for report review. Establish the order and time for each section of report to be reviewed
- VII. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. IJC appearances in Washington, DC April 9-11 2024
 - i. Who is planning to attend?
 - b. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Records meeting in Saskatoon, SK
 - ii. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB
 - iii. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK
 - iv. Water Science Conferences in St. Paul, MN
- VIII. Action items
 - a. BIA involvement as technical advisor to GF
 - b. IJC appointment letter
 - c. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
 - d. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
 - e. Put together schedule for reviewing final report
 - f. Send letter to IJC regarding timeline

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

16 February 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. BIA involvement as technical advisor to GF
 - ii. IJC appointment letter
 - iii. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
 - iv. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
 - v. Put together schedule for reviewing final report
 - vi. Send letter to IJC regarding timeline
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Updates on past meeting topics
 - i. BIA involvement

- b. PAG
 - i. Keeping lines of communication open with members
 - c. OFEG update
 - i. PI update
 - 1. Work is being done to make the scripts for the performance indicators
 - 2. Working on both the math and visualization components
 - d. TWG updates
 - i. Montana Farm Economics report
 - ii. Climate and Hydrology working to get models running and close to finishing reports on Type A models
 - iii. Outputs from RiverWare model have been received and in process of distributing RiverWISE licences
 - iv. WRMM modeling group is close to finishing the base case and will be starting on Lap 1 runs soon
 - v. Lap 1 progress and concerns
 - 1. Expected timelines
 - 2. WMM model delays
 - e. Communications committee updates
 - i. Modeling approach fact sheet development
 - ii. Technical key messaging/sound bites
 - iii. Purpose of June in person meetings
 - 1. Planning schedule, venue, etc.
- III. Budget update
- a. Update on US budget
 - b. Working on diagram to present at next board meeting
- IV. Study group special updates
- a. IJC
 - i. none
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. Make sure there are targeted objectives for engaging Government Forum during June meetings
 - ii. Trying to navigate conversations with GF members to keep them engaged
 - iii. Small briefing note useful in advance of face-to-face engagement
 - c. IAG
 - i. 2024 Round Table on the Crown of the Continent engagement
 - ii. Development of key messages document
- V. Final reporting
- a. Status update and next steps
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
- a. IJC appearances in Washington, DC April 9-11 2024
 - i. Who is planning to attend?
 - b. Past and upcoming events of interest to the board
 - i. Records meeting in Saskatoon, SK
 - ii. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB
 - iii. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK
 - iv. Water Science Conferences in St. Paul, MN
- VII. Action items
- a. Support from GF/priority of Study for technical work
 - b. Facilities for June meetings

- c. BIA involvement as technical advisor to GF
- d. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
- e. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
- f. Put together schedule for reviewing final report
- g. Send letter to IJC regarding timeline

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

1 March 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Support from GF/priority of Study for technical work
 - ii. Facilities for June meetings
 - iii. BIA involvement as technical advisor to GF
 - iv. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
 - v. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
 - vi. Put together schedule for reviewing final report
 - vii. Send letter to IJC regarding timeline
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Webinar planning – March 26
 - i. Confirm next steps and action items for discussion
 - ii. Discussions during webinar can be technical and may cover how laps are working, some of lap 1 results, and explanation of background information
 - 1. Get information to GF for participation
 - iii. Communications committee should create a news release about the webinar
 - b. Letter of extension for IJC Commissioners
 - i. How do we establish next steps and action items
 - c. Presentation prep
 - i. Timeline and due date discussion for IJC appearance
 - ii. Key messages that will want to be included in presentation
 - d. PAG
 - i. Do we want to schedule a separate meeting to go over Lap 1?
 - 1. Tentative plan is to have two separate meetings in May to get feedback on Lap 1 results before Lap 2 begins and before Lethbridge meetings in June
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. PI update
 - 1. Have a set of PIs to work with Lap 1 results
 - 2. Visualization tool is being worked on
 - ii. TWG update
 - 1. Meetings with TWG co-chairs occurring in next couple of weeks
 - iii. Lap 1 progress
 - 1. Working toward providing a short report to board by March 15
 - f. Communications committee update
 - i. Progress toward modeling approach fact sheet
 - ii. Newsletter for 2024 – proposed June

- iii. Technical key messaging/sound bite development
 - iv. Progress on June in person meeting planning
 - 1. Drafting agenda
 - 2. Venue
- III. Budget update
 - a. Working on updated diagram to present at next board meeting
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. Presentation template coming out early next week
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. Date for next Government Forum meeting has yet to be set
 - c. IAG
 - i. Kainai lands visit in June
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update and next steps
 - b. Putting together a review process schematic
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Study Webinar MS Teams March 26 2024 at 7pm MT
 - b. IJC appearance in Washington DC April 9-11 2024
 - c. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB June 3-7 2024
 - d. Milk River Watershed Council hosting a celebration event on June 7 for their updated Transboundary State of the Watershed Report
 - e. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK June 17-19 2024
 - f. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN June 24-27 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. Board members to review draft letter requesting ISMMRSB extension
 - b. Webinar items: slide deck ready, communications committee regarding messaging/news release, webinar form sent out
 - c. Support from GF/priority of Study for technical work
 - d. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
 - e. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
 - f. Put together schedule for reviewing final report

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

15 March 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Board members to review draft letter requesting ISMMRSB extension
 - ii. Webinar items: slide deck ready, communications committee regarding messaging/news release, webinar form sent out
 - iii. Support from GF/priority of Study for technical work
 - iv. Discuss potential implications of Kimbal to Whiskey Gap infrastructure option
 - v. Develop draft agenda for Lethbridge meetings and circulate to board
 - vi. Put together schedule for reviewing final report

- II. New business for board action
 - a. Webinar planning – March 26 at 7 PM MT
 - i. IJC IT details
 - 1. Dry run and webinar
 - 2. Registration distribution
 - ii. Agenda and format in development
 - b. Letter of extension – approval of final version
 - c. Presentation prep
 - i. Timeline and due date discussion for IJC appearance
 - ii. Board to discuss the “Review Questions for Board Appearances”:
 - 1. Current opportunities related to mandated responsibilities?
 - a. Potential partnerships?
 - b. Areas for alignment with other institutions and boards?
 - c. Needed analysis or assessment?
 - 2. Longer term forward-looking considerations:
 - a. Do you see gaps in your mandate that need to be considered?
 - b. What is the most limiting/frustrating aspect of the board’s work (and how this could be addressed, if possible)?
 - c. Other?
 - d. PAG
 - i. MRWUA Feasibility report expected in late March
 - ii. Some members are expecting details on June meetings and any other relevant information; webinar link needs to be distributed
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. TWG updates
 - 1. Co-chair meetings – good discussions
 - 2. CH making progress on their efforts. Need about another month to complete tasks compared to Lap design
 - 3. WAAO working on evaluating Lap 1 output from RiverWare
 - 4. IO working on getting design work completed for Milk River Canada
 - 5. WMM
 - a. Alberta
 - i. Working on WRMM, hope to have base case next week
 - ii. Looking to prioritize scenarios where WRMM is critical due to the details
 - iii. Providing support to help with Southern Tributaries model
 - b. RiverWare
 - i. Lap 1 done – evaluating and debugging
 - ii. Meeting next week to discuss irrigation demand
 - iii. Exploring how to continue with additional scenarios
 - 6. SEA TWG moving along with their work. Cultural group making plans to be in Lethbridge
 - 7. AE TWG – wrote a memo. Getting bull trout curves together for OFEG to plug into PIs
 - 8. Data management – list created of data we plan to manage in the Study
 - ii. OFEG activities
 - 1. PIs and visualization ongoing. Presenting the very rough versions to TWGs for their info and feedback
 - 2. Fact sheet

- a. Working on all aspects of the fact sheet to describe sequencing and modeling effort in a plain language format. Fact sheet completed by Lethbridge. Creating a new figure
 - 3. Webinar: working on presentation
 - f. Communications committee update
 - i. Status/progress of modeling approach fact sheet
 - ii. Newsletter #3 for 2024 – to be issued in June
 - 1. Will work on after the appearances
 - iii. Progress on technical key messaging/sound bites development
 - 1. Ongoing progress
- III. Budget update
 - a. Canada: end of fiscal year is approaching; invoicing underway. After the fiscal year we will get tentative final numbers (in early April).
 - b. USA: meeting on May 20; will be getting updates then
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. Nothing additional
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. Planning a Government Forum meeting after the webinar (early April); based on the slide deck, they could draft a memo
 - ii. Another priority is to get the GF members ready to attend the Lethbridge meetings (having a one-day face-to-face)
 - c. IAG
 - i. Will be forwarding webinar link to members
 - ii. Letter requesting a visit to the Kanai Nation lands in June is almost ready to send
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status update and next steps
 - i. No update
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Study Webinar MS Teams March 26 2024 at 7pm MT
 - b. IJC appearance in Washington DC April 9-11 2024
 - c. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB June 3-7 2024
 - d. Milk River Watershed Council hosting a celebration event on June 7 for their updated Transboundary State of the Watershed Report
 - e. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK June 17-19 2024
 - f. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN June 24-27 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. All board members add notes in the spring appearances slide deck
 - b. Send out a note about proposed Lethbridge meetings' agenda when it is uploaded
 - c. Create a final report review schematic

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

26 April 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. All board members add notes in the spring appearances slide deck
 - ii. Send out a note about proposed Lethbridge meetings' agenda when it is uploaded
 - iii. Create a final report review schematic
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Webinar debriefing from March 26 (after last board meeting)
 - b. Letter of extension update from IJC
 - i. Need for extension was well articulated at the appearances
 - ii. Letter has been drafted and will be going to Commissioners soon
 - iii. Official response expected before June meetings
 - c. Semi-annual presentation debriefing for board
 - i. Showed good progress in the study
 - d. PAG
 - i. Milk River Water Users Association feasibility report now expected in late April
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. Update on PIs created and visualization
 - 1. Will be presenting to board and core management group before PIs are presented to public in June
 - ii. Update on WAAO efforts to create PIs
 - 1. TWG has given some input on PIs and will continue to do so while they are being developed
 - iii. Updated the timeline and sent to TWGs for review
 - iv. Definitions of dry, very dry, average water years
 - 1. Use the entire data set analyzed. Not just a 20 year period
 - 2. Extremely dry: < 10th percentile
 - 3. Very dry: 10th-24th percentile
 - 4. Dry (or drier than average): 0-50th percentile
 - 5. Average: 25-74th percentile
 - 6. Wet (or wetter than average): 50-100th percentile
 - 7. Very wet: > 75th percentile
 - 8. Looking for board agreement on definitions to make sure there is consistency
 - v. WMM update
 - 1. Modelers working on scenarios
 - 2. WRMM behind RiverWare but progressing
 - f. Communications committee update
 - i. Townhall news release and follow up email to contacts from previous townhalls
 - 1. Comment box at public townhall
 - ii. Status/progress of modeling approach fact sheet
 - 1. Draft has been reviewed and will be sent for additional review
 - 2. Have ready fore in-person meetings
 - 3. Two versions, one technical, one for public consumption
 - iii. Newsletter #3 for 2024 – to be issued in June before Lethbridge
 - iv. Progress on technical key messaging/sound bite development
 - 1. Document will be provided to board prior to townhall
 - v. Any other briefing information for townhalls such as PAG member bios
 - vi. Next meeting Tuesday
- III. Budget update
 - a. Canada: year end complete, preparing summary and budget for FY24-25

- b. USA: meeting on May 20, will be getting updates then
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. Commissioner timelines and budgets request for August
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. Figure out what updates to GF are on agenda at upcoming meetings and what material they need to be sent
 - ii. Want a better understanding as to what GF members are seeing and if there are any information gaps that can be filled
 - iii. Will be going through notes from Great Falls to see what has been said and previously suggested by members
 - c. IAG
 - i. No updates
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Ongoing, no major updates
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB June 3-7 2024
 - b. Milk River Watershed Council hosting a celebration event on June 7 for their updated Transboundary State of the Watershed Report
 - c. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK June 17-19 2024
 - d. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN June 24-27 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. Lethbridge meetings – finalize agenda/schedule before May 10 board meeting
 - b. Follow up with Canadian GF liaisons
 - c. Give update on information from Great Falls meeting notes
 - d. Create a final report review schematic

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

10 May 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Lethbridge meetings – finalize agenda/schedule before May 10 board meeting
 - ii. Follow up with Canadian GF liaisons
 - iii. Give update on information from Great Falls meeting notes
 - iv. Create a final report review schematic
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Recommendation from communications committee to prepare/release newsletter #3 after in-person meetings for the following reasons:
 - i. Resources to complete the newsletter are limited
 - ii. Expected news release on the extension expected in May
 - iii. Content for newsletter largely going to be created with in-person meetings, townhall and in-person board meeting (roadmap development)
 - iv. Board agrees as it gives opportunities to include information presented at the Lethbridge meetings; a June release is still being planned for

- b. Letter of extension update from IJC
 - i. Preparation of news release
 - c. GF
 - i. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas member
 - ii. ECCC
 - iii. Agenda review for June in-person meetings
 - iv. Filtered PI availability for GF members to review
 - 1. List of PIs to be sent out before May 31
 - 2. Plan is to give a presentation to the Board at the next meeting; if needed OFEG can turn the spreadsheet into a more refined list/messaging
 - d. PAG
 - i. No major updates
 - e. OFEG update
 - i. Update on PIs created and visualization
 - 1. Overarching ideas email
 - 2. Presentation of actual computation to the board
 - ii. Fact sheet discussion/approval
 - 1. Fact sheet was sent out mid-week for comments; board members and liaisons were encouraged to look over the document to make sure they were okay with it being sent to the IJC; PAG feedback has been received
 - 2. Consensus to proceed with fact sheet and figure
 - iii. WMM update
 - 1. Status of RiverWare
 - a. RiverWare is in the process of adjusting/editing the coding of Lap 1 scenarios
 - b. PIs generated from Lap 1 results will only be shown outside of the TWG if they are confident in the output used
 - c. WRMM starting to model some scenarios
 - d. RiverWare and WRMM are interconnected and because of the difference in detail on each side of the border both models are important to achieve study goals
 - f. Communications committee update
 - i. Status/progress of modeling approach fact sheet
 - 1. Previously discussed
 - ii. Progress on technical key messaging/sound bite development
 - 1. Progress has been made; previous discussions on what is expected to be asked at the townhall meetings
 - 2. Providing plain language around certain topics ahead of the meeting should help guarantee the Study is effectively communicated
 - 3. Have this document ready for the next board meeting to allow time for review
 - iii. Process of distribution of news releases, information out sequencing
 - 1. Working to formulate a distribution list and to build out distribution processes/sequences to be followed going forward
 - 2. This protocol identifies who gets notified about what and when, making sure that no one gets missed
- III. Budget update
- a. Canada: year-end complete, preparing summary and budget for FY24-25
 - b. USA: meeting on May 20th, will be getting updates then

- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. Commissioner timelines and budgets request for August
 - ii. New Commissioner Robert Gioia
 - 1. Transition of the study file will happen; an update will be given once the details are known
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. No further updates
 - c. IAG
 - i. Waiting for final confirmation about Blood Tribe lands visit
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Status updates and next steps
 - i. Nothing additional to report
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB June 3-7 2024
 - b. Milk River Watershed Council hosting a celebration event on June 7 for their updated Transboundary State of the Watershed Report
 - c. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK June 17-19 2024
 - d. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN June 24-27 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. Have key messaging document ready for the next board meeting
 - b. OFEG to present Lap 1 PIs at the next board meeting and following board approval may turn the list into a more succinct document
 - c. Give update on information from Great Falls meeting notes
 - d. Create a final report review schematic

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

24 May 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Have key messaging document ready for the next board meeting
 - 1. Information/wording needs to be adjusted/commented on – final edit needed
 - 2. Finish edits by Thursday
 - ii. OFEG to present Lap 1 PIs at the next board meeting and following board approval may turn the list into a more succinct document
 - 1. See later in the agenda; later next week will have PIs
 - iii. Give update on information from Great Falls meeting notes
 - 1. Ongoing – discussion from Great Falls, highlight scenarios and questions, any outstanding action items
 - iv. Create a final report review schematic
 - 1. Deferred – low priority
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Letter of extension update from IJC

- i. Draft prepared, shared with board; Commissioners need details on timeline and budget; Commissioners want to approve so that fall report can include these revisions and made available to public
 - ii. Create timeline draft for Commissioners and discuss at Lethbridge meetings; send out after Lethbridge meetings
 - iii. Preparation of news release
 - 1. Dissemination plan and next steps
 - b. Lethbridge plans
 - i. Meeting week logistics
 - 1. Details needed to confirm – tours (Blood Tribe), backup plans
 - 2. Discuss how to present technical information
 - a. Give overview of public meetings from March to provide background information for everyone to get them on the same level of understanding
 - b. Presenting PIs, have discussion on how that leads into last two scenarios that they will be doing, want each table to express their thoughts about this presentation, discuss results with groups in breakout sessions, discuss where they are in the review
 - 3. Update public presentation
 - 4. Provide GF liaisons with PI background information and briefing materials to provide to members before Lethbridge meetings
 - ii. Public meeting
- c. OFEG update
 - i. Update on Lap 1 PIs and Lap 2 scenarios
 - 1. Prioritized modeling scenarios – lap 1
 - 2. Preliminary list – by Wednesday next week will have true PIs showing data beyond base case and entitlements received
 - 3. Entitlements received across scenarios: Milk River as example of what might be, not actual data
 - 4. All preliminary model outputs
 - 5. Base case and % receipt and entitlement; want to show the change between scenarios and base case; examples of how to digest data
 - 6. Groups will be engaged to learn about the preliminary outcomes; concerns over members using this data and outcomes as final data, but this data is not 100% confident, approved, and reviewed
 - 7. This presentation shows a process and data digestion, not the final result
 - 8. More important for people to know what lap 2 scenarios are; might want to consider lap 1 as foundational since it is one out of four
 - 9. This is proving that models are working and providing results; robust and exciting material to come starting next lap
 - ii. Fact sheet completed and reviewed by OFEG
 - 1. Modeling fact sheet done and is now reviewed
 - 2. Bring to Lethbridge meetings
 - 3. Board in agreement to move forward with fact sheet and posted to IJC website
 - iii. RiverWare
 - 1. In process of contract with modelers; might have more confident figures by Lethbridge
 - 2. Contract for Lap 2 has gone out

3. All TWG meeting next week – good space to loop them into information on where they're at on Lap 1 and how the information is being used
- III. Budget update
 - a. Significant changes from December to May
 - b. Show how budget is divided amongst areas i.e. technical work and modeling
 - c. Note exchange rate
 - IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - i. No updates
 - b. Special liaison
 - i. GF
 1. Alberta Environment and Protected Areas member
 2. ECCC
 3. Agenda review for June in-person meetings
 4. Filtered PI availability for GF members to review
 - c. IAG
 - i. Getting material ready to have a feedback meeting later in the summer
 - ii. Document being drafted for GF can be helpful for IAG
 - d. Communications committee update
 - i. Next meeting is second week in June
 - V. Final reporting
 - a. Need to set up meeting with contractors
 - b. Extension of study, extension of contract needed
 - c. TWGs will create a memo at certain point in timeline; document will be available for technical writer; writing this as it is happening
 - d. Start creating final review schematic to assign authors and begin writing; deadlines
 - VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. In-person meetings in Lethbridge, AB June 3-7 2024
 - b. Study Board hosting Public Townhall at 6pm on June 5, 2024
 - c. Milk River Watershed Council hosting a celebration event on June 7 for their updated Transboundary State of the Watershed Report
 - d. CWRA Annual Conference in Saskatoon, SK June 17-19 2024
 - e. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN June 24-27 2024
 - VII. Action items
 - a. Finish key messaging document edits by Thursday
 - b. Ongoing – give a summary on what was found in the Great Falls meeting notes
 - c. Deferred – create a final report review schematic
 - d. Letter of extension – create timeline draft for Commissioners and discuss at Lethbridge meetings; send out after Lethbridge meetings
 - e. Update public presentation for Lethbridge
 - f. Provide GF liaisons with PI background information and briefing materials to provide members before Lethbridge meetings

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

6 June 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary

- a. Approval of the agenda
- b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
- c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Finish key messaging document edits by Thursday
 - ii. Ongoing – give a summary on what was found in the Great Falls meeting notes
 - iii. Deferred – create a final report review schematic
 - iv. Letter of extension – create timeline draft for Commissioners and discuss at Lethbridge meetings; send out after Lethbridge meetings
 - v. Update public presentation for Lethbridge
 - vi. Provide GF liaisons with PI background information and briefing materials to provide members before Lethbridge meetings
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Lethbridge public meeting – discussion around what was learned
 - i. Audience engaged and prepared
 - ii. Desired collaboration between US and Canada was evident, this reassured the audience
 - iii. Want to be more clear on what the end goals are for each TWG
 - iv. Want to focus on working on how we communicate scientific findings; need to be clear how we communicate results in terms of uncertainty and what they are going to be used for
 - v. Focused on the delivery and efficiency – there was a lot of interest in it and we need to help people interpret these results; need to focus on times with limited access to water and the definition of ‘normal’
 - vi. What recommendations/decisions can we start forming now?
 - b. Timeline and budget plans for August
 - i. IJC requests the study to provide an updated timeline and budget for consideration by August 2024
 - c. Performance indicators and scenarios
 - i. Motion put forward and seconded to approve the initial list of categories of PIs; all in favour; final version with corrections will be coming
 - ii. At next board meeting we will discuss scenarios for Lap 2
 - iii. In the newsletter we will include a link to the PIs that were just approved
 - iv. Newsletter highlights to share
 - v. Roadmap for the next 8-10 months
 - 1. Engagement, plans, milestones
- III. Budget update
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. IJC
 - b. Communications committee
 - c. Special liaison
 - d. OFEG
 - e. IAG
- V. Final reporting
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board’s attention
- VII. Action items

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

26 June 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. News and status on the siphon failure; discuss implications
 - d. Action items from previous meeting in Lethbridge
 - i. Public meeting presentation
 - ii. Start considering which items need to be well explained in the final report
 - iii. Consider which recommendations the board can start thinking about now
 - iv. Government Forum
 1. Work with special liaisons to get material out to GF members well in advance of meetings
 2. GF requested a GANTT chart of when they will be expected to engage and react
 - v. Potential timing for next in-person meeting
 - vi. OFEG & TWGs: send out final version with corrections for the PI categories (board approved initial list of PIs)
 - vii. OEFG & TWGs: send information by next study board meeting regarding scenarios for lap 2
 - viii. OFEG & WAAO: produce a plain language factsheet describing capped credit system to send to PAG, IAG, GF
 - ix. Need an update on timeline, course correction, and budget changes at beginning-middle July to present to Commissioners by August
 - x. Send key messages document that was drafted and not finalized – recommend finalizing this document and agree on at the next study board meeting; need to agree on which document to maintain going forward
 - xi. Newsletter to include a link to PIs that were just approved
 - xii. Deferred to next study board meeting: board and advisory group meeting scheduling in the fall with a preliminary results package to give us feedback
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Timeline and budget plans for August
 - i. IJC requests the study to provide an updated timeline and budget for consideration by August 2024
 - b. Performance indicators and scenarios
 - c. Newsletter
 - i. Guidance required on road map diagram
 - ii. Focused on the in-person meetings, site visits, spring semi-annual, and the extension announcement
 - iii. Links to PI fact sheets included
 - iv. The consensus was the proposed edits
- III. Budget update
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Ongoing item; will be meeting to discuss the budget details ahead of the July deadline
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. OFEG
 - i. Lap 2 and the suggestion around prior appropriation – low priority for the study; what is in and out of scope and why?

- ii. OFEG found it helpful to have feedback from everyone at the Lethbridge meetings; they now have a better understanding on how long everything takes and are determining what is feasible
 - iii. Should have revised RiverWare lap 1 scenario results in a month
 - iv. WRMM has run 4 options and are currently working on completing the others
 - v. Have to prioritize options and be realistic as to what they can accomplish
 - vi. Emphasized Lap 2 scenarios are meant to enhance what was done in the JIT and address the missing US shares of the St. Mary River
 - vii. The fall in-person TWG meetings were cancelled to prioritize working on the study
 - viii. A conversation was had over the need for formal board approval of the options being modeled
 - b. IJC updates
 - i. The order and council for the new chairperson has been posted – Pierre Baril
 - c. Special liaison update
 - i. No updates; preparing for the fall meeting
 - d. IAG update
 - i. Planning to have a virtual meeting in August for those who didn't attend Lethbridge
 - ii. Expressions of interest from nations for involvement with IAG
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Contract updates
 - i. Debriefed after Lethbridge and are working on sequencing with the technical writer
 - ii. Next meeting with technical writer on July 7
 - iii. Agreement has been extended another year
- VI. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
 - a. Water Science Conference in St. Paul, MN – June 24-27, 2024
- VII. Action items
 - a. Present list of Lap 2 scenarios at July 12 meeting
 - b. Update public meeting presentation
 - c. Discuss timing of fall meetings at July 12 meeting
 - d. Work on an updated timeline, course correction, and budget changes at beginning-middle July to present to Commissioners by August
 - e. Consider which recommendations the board can start thinking about now
 - f. Work on key messaging document
 - g. OFEG & WAAO: produce plain language factsheet describing capped credit system to send to PAG, IAG, GF

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

12 July 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Update on the siphon failure; discuss implications and approach to acknowledging the failure in the context of the study
 - i. Demonstrates the need for the resilience that the study is targeting; this would be a different situation with alternative conveyance, storage in Canada, etc.
 - ii. Has highlighted the need for the study and for flexibility in the system

- iii. There is no temporary fix for the siphons, the goal is to have the canal repaired by next August
 - iv. Things should be ready for 2026 irrigation season
 - v. Canal sloughing is still going to be a major issue that doesn't allow the canal to run at full capacity
 - vi. Next year will be another one without additional water while repairs are ongoing
 - d. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Preliminary document sent by OFEG to the board on the options that will be run in Lap 2
 - 1. Document was sent to the board. Any comments/questions?
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Technical working group updates
 - i. Climate and Hydrology
 - 1. Initial model calibrations complete – want to ensure calibrations work for both low and high flow
 - 2. Further evaluations for low and average flows underway
 - 3. Determining water management models need from hydrology models so water management models can be run with outputs from hydrology models
 - 4. Having discussions about how to improve results
 - 5. Climate change runs pending
 - ii. Water management models
 - 1. Finalizing lap 1 scenarios – modeling will start next week
 - 2. Providing input on lap 2 scenarios
 - 3. RiverWare contracting for laps 2, 3, and 4 progressing
 - 4. Assisting with OFEG analysis
 - 5. Prioritizing models that are used for each scenario (using those that are most suited to each)
 - iii. Socio-economic
 - 1. Economic – Canadian economic report complete, US economic report wrapping up
 - 2. Social – working on contracting
 - iv. Infrastructure options
 - 1. Looped into and are reviewing Milk River Canada storage engineering designs
 - 2. Assisting with discussions regarding base case flow for St. Mary canal
 - v. Water apportionment and administrative options
 - 1. Meeting regularly to refine and define new ideas to move past the JIT
 - 2. New scenario using deficit trading is in the works
 - vi. Aquatic ecosystems
 - 1. PI completed for bull trout
 - 2. Follow up required with co-chairs regarding using their entire TWG to finalize the SoK report and Milk River walleye indicator
 - b. Performance indicators – category reminders: AOs, irrigators (including economic), cultural and ecosystem (irrigation, cultural and ecosystem PIs includes Indigenous interests)
 - i. In the works, nothing new to present at the moment
 - c. Scenarios – lap 2 sent on Tuesday
 - i. Will be sending out questions to get feedback from the board

- ii. After feedback from groups, this document includes the prioritized modeling scenarios; many are similar, but there are varieties that are quick to run and compare
 - iii. Would like feedback from the board on what is the most important scenario to run in lap 2; will ultimately refine this with the TWGs after we receive feedback
 - iv. Board to respond on this document by next Friday so that the lap 2 scenarios can be provided to the TWG
 - v. Lap 2 scenarios to be officially approved by the board at the next meeting
 - d. Timeline updates
 - i. Finishing lap 1 and continuing lap 2
 - ii. Plans to start lap 3
 - 1. Assuming an October presentation of PIs to PAG/IAG/GF; results from alp 1 and likely some lap 2
 - 2. Discussion regarding lap 3 scenarios can be started with those results
 - e. Budget and timeline memo for Commissioners – early August deadline
 - i. Review the plan for this, meeting to be arranged to write memo
 - f. Proposal for next meeting structure; board at 10am, all at 11am
- III. Final reporting
 - a. Discuss document flow from study TWG's to the technical writers
 - i. Memos, reports
 - b. Discuss internal document flow from the study TWG's to the board
 - i. Memos, briefings, presentations
- IV. Action items
 - a. Data mining for aquatic ecosystems group
 - b. Lap 2 scenarios to be officially approved by the board at the next meeting; board to provide input on document
 - c. Strategize how to address the natural conditions in the Milk River over the coming year
 - d. Review budget and timeline, meeting to be arranged to write memo
 - e. Next public meeting details to be discussed at our next meeting

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

26 July 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Data mining for aquatic ecosystems group
 - ii. Lap 2 scenarios to be officially approved by the board at the next meeting; board to provide input on document
 - iii. Strategize how to address the natural conditions in the Milk River over the coming year
 - iv. Review budget and timeline, meeting to be arranged to write memo
 - v. Next public meeting details to be discussed at our next meeting
- II. New business for board action
 - a. AO updates for board awareness
 - i. Natural flows continues to decline; tools are flawed when there is no canal running

- ii. Fresno deliveries are also ramping down and this timeline matches when irrigation will be shut down on the US side; this will not have a massive effect on irrigators as only a couple are irrigating at this time
 - iii. Primary concern is getting everything shut down; things continue to get worse, 4 cfs last night on Milk River at Eastern Crossing
 - iv. Municipal water supply is something the treaty doesn't consider; this is an eye-opener in that there isn't enough storage to supply the town without the diverted water
 - v. This is included in Patterson's numbers; it is a small portion of water; it is critical and we were not tracking it; there are actions that will need to be taken to adjust priorities going into next year when there will not be any water
 - vi. When the drops failed, the US has a water system that was intended to provide water to Sweetgrass; the governments need to look at this and work with each other to resolved these sorts of issues
 - b. Lap 2 discussions and board approval to move forward (action item from last meeting)
 - i. Scenarios – lap 2 sent on Tuesday
 - ii. Review – should we move forward with the feedback from everyone
 - iii. Many suggestions are similar, this has allowed everyone to get engaged
 - iv. Sequencing is critical, options are not mutually exclusive
 - c. Groundbreaking for St. Mary Diversion Dam
 - i. August 20
 - d. Public meeting plans (action item from last meeting)
 - i. Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 - ii. Time: 5-7 PM
 - iii. Location: Havre, MT
 - iv. Logistics: study board co-chairs and co-managers participate in the public meeting
 - e. Technical study board meeting plans (action item from last meeting)
 - i. Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Friday, November 8, 2024
 - ii. Travel dates Tuesday and Friday
 - iii. Meeting days: Wednesday (half day) and Thursday (full day)
 - iv. Location: Denver, CO
 - v. Logistics: study board and working groups participation welcome; discussion will be focused on lap 2 and what is next for lap 3
 - f. Timeline updates and progress
 - i. Met with technical writers, we have put together a document that we will give to technical writers for writing the final document
 - ii. Technical writer scope management is being worked on by looking at the final goal and working backwards; this is an update to the technical writer's scope of work, we are a good path
- III. Budget update
 - a. Many discussions in progress, information due to Commissioners in early August, we are preparing a document for them
- IV. Study group special updates
 - a. OFEG
 - i. WMMs
 - 1. Model updates and results – have 4 scenarios for WRMM, working on RiverWare, Pls being completed for lap 1, will be in place in 2 weeks to present on these

- 2. Dual model approach is allowing us to see if results look similar; developing a process to ensure people have confidence in our outputs
 - 3. Data/model review compared to measured data
 - ii. PIs – next meeting
 - b. IJC
 - i. New Canadian co-chair of the Commission; news release was posted
 - c. Special liaison
 - i. No updates
 - d. IAG
 - i. Set a date for next virtual IAG meeting, August 19 at 10am MT
 - ii. Will open this event to observers in the community
 - iii. Objectives are to open discussion on siphon failure and get Indigenous perspectives
 - iv. Doing a high-level overview of laps and what the TWGs are doing, modeling updates, and end with an open discussion
 - e. Communications committee
 - i. Will begin planning for Havre public meeting
- V. Final reporting
 - a. Report review – first step
 - i. August 7 – board will receive first draft of final report for review
 - 1. Folder is set up and document will be prepared for board comments and edits
 - 2. Due date to receive comments from the board will be August 21
 - 3. Discussion at the August 23 board meeting will review
 - b. Document timeline
- VI. Study Board Discussion
- VII. Action items
 - a. Organize WestWater Presentation
 - b. Planning to be initiated for public townhall in Havre and Denver meetings

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

9 August 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Provide updates on the memo to Commissioners
 - 1. Letter has been drafted, will be sent to Commissioners shortly
- II. New business for board action
 - a. Research presentation: Economic Benefits Analysis of Milk River Irrigation Water in Montana
 - i. Study was conducted from a federal perspective to estimate the economic value of irrigation-use surface water delivered to farms
 - ii. Quantifies the net public economic benefits to the national account
 - iii. Irrigation water for 140,000 acres of basin lands; study focuses only on MRP-irrigated lands
 - iv. Irrigation season considered: May 1 – Sept 15

- v. Two farms were modeled in the study with and without the project; total benefit calculated with and without project
 - vi. Annual MRP irrigation water benefit with project: \$14 million USD+ with each metric
 - b. Research presentation: Assessing the Value of Irrigaion Water in the St. Mary River Sub-Basin and Milk River Basin (Alberta)
 - i. Study aimed to assess the value of irrigation water based on crop and livestock revenues relative to the volume of irrigation water used for crop production
 - ii. Considered irrigated and dryland crops
 - iii. St. Mary: 223,555 ha irrigation area, ~60% of conveyance in pipelines, 60 different crops grown, many food processing companies (beef, potatoes, sugar beets)
 - iv. Milk River: 3,240 ha licensed for irrigation, water from the Milk supports only half of this, no storage reservoirs, no major food processing facilities, has irrigated and dryland crops and livestock
 - c. OFEG update
 - i. Presentation of WMM results and data analysis
 - 1. Modeling dates: 1981 to 2015
 - 2. Major difference between models: WRMM is weekly timestep, RiverWare is daily
 - 3. We process RiverWare weekly to compare the models to one another
 - 4. So far, models are performing as we would expect
 - 5. Graphs shared to show the base case output with the actual data
 - ii. Presentation of initial PIs
 - 1. PIs: does entitlement change with an 850 cfs canal? - results showed for US and Canada
 - 2. The 850 cfs canal scenario makes sense, results are looking resonable
 - d. Public meeting updates
 - i. Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 - ii. Time: 6-7:30 PM
 - iii. Location: Malta, MT
 - iv. Logistics: study board co-chairs and co-managers participate in the public meeting
 - e. Technical meeting updates
 - i. Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Friday, November 8, 2024
 - ii. Travel dates Wednesday and Friday
 - iii. Meeting days: Wednesday and Thursday
 - iv. Location: Denver, CO
 - v. Logistics: study board and working groups participation welcome; discussion will be focused on lap 2 and what is next for lap 3
 - f. Semi Annual appearance planning
 - i. Due date: Sept 27
 - ii. Update board progress report and presentation – work starting now
 - g. Board appearances (week of Oct 21)
 - h. Technical working group updates (5 min each) - progress, plans, problems
 - i. Data mining – aquatic ecosystems updates
- III. Final reporting
 - a. Request for review by the board
 - b. Technical writer has been working to get this ready for review, please review before next meeting
 - c. Looking for feedback on organization and level of detail; content-focused; not looking to edit text too much

- d. Due by Sept 6; please add comments and use track changes in the documents
- IV. Anything additional that needs to be brought to the board's attention
- V. Action items
 - a. Board to review report development document

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

23 August 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - c. Action items from previous meeting
 - i. Updates on memo to Commissioners
- II. New business for board action – technical updates
 - a. OFEG update and discussion
 - i. Data mining – aquatic ecosystems updates
 - b. Any additional technical working group updates – progress, plans, problems
 - i. TWGs are moving along, getting a lot accomplished
 - ii. Expect future climate modeling in late October
 - iii. WAAO has a new combination balancing option; vetting through TWG right now; hope to add to lap 2 modeling
 - iv. Moving forward with RiverWare contracting
- III. Final reporting
 - a. Request for review by the board – due today
 - b. Discussion on comments, how sections were well written
 - c. Good idea to point out why this study is different than previous/other efforts and why it might be more effective; we need to make sure this language is clear and conveyed well in the report
 - d. Want to continue to establish the sequence so it doesn't become a waste of the board's time to review more than once; there is value here in getting these comments back to the technical writers
- IV. Upcoming engagements
 - a. Public meeting updates
 - i. Oct 2
 - ii. Malta, MT
 - b. Technical board meeting update
 - i. Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Friday, November 8, 2024
 - ii. Travel dates Wednesday and Friday
 - iii. Meeting days: Wednesday and Thursday
 - iv. Location: Denver, CO
 - v. Logistics: study board and working groups participation welcome; discussion will be focused on lap 2 and what is next for lap 3
 - c. Board appearances (week of Oct 21)
 - i. Semi-annual appearance planning
 - ii. Update board progress report and presentation – work starting now
- V. Study board discussion
- VI. Action items

- a. Send save the dates out (public meeting, technical meeting, IJC appearances – Oct 21)

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

6 September 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
- II. New business for board action – technical updates
 - a. Technical action items from previous meeting
 - i. Updates on the memo to Commissioners
 - 1. Complete
 - ii. Send save the dates out (public meeting, technical meeting, IJC appearances – Oct 21)
 - 1. Complete
 - b. Public meeting updates
 - i. Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024
 - ii. Time: 6-7:30 PM
 - iii. Location: Malta, MT
 - iv. Logistics: study board co-chairs and co-managers participate in the public meeting, possibly IJC staff
 - c. Technical meeting updates
 - i. Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Friday, November 8, 2024
 - ii. Travel dates Wednesday and Friday
 - iii. Meeting days: Wednesday and Thursday
 - iv. Location: Denver, CO
 - v. Logistics: study board and working groups participation welcome; discussion will be focused on lap 2 and what is next for lap 3
 - d. Semi-annual appearance planning
 - i. Due date: Sept 27
 - ii. Update board progress report and presentation – work starting now
 - 1. Want to cover all the details of the extension
 - e. Board appearances (week of Oct 21) Ottawa
 - i. Slides
 - ii. Annual report
 - iii. Updating website with meeting minutes
 - iv. Need for meeting space
- III. Study group special updates
 - a. OFEG updates
 - i. Have our project management tools up to date and working well
 - ii. Will present performance indicators at November meetings based on the results-based management framework
 - iii. In terms of the critical path, we are still working on completing lap 1 through the WMM TWG
 - iv. For WMM we are relying on RiverWare outputs as a boundary condition for WMM
 - v. Using one model to obtain the numbers for the other to increase efficiency; want to focus on lap 1 being completed; laps 1 and 2 are being completed together

- vi. Evaporation and evapotranspiration rates are being developed for use in the models
 - vii. Hydrologic model outputs from input into WMM based on historic and climate predictions for the historical time period
 - viii. Preliminary results from models being reviewed, looking at how to visualize outputs
 - ix. Developing input files from WMM to simulate future conditions
 - b. IJC updates
 - i. Room reserved for semi-annual meetings
 - c. Special liaison update
 - i. Final reporting document looks good
 - d. IAG update
 - i. Great discussion at our last meeting, most recent newsletter sent out to everyone; working on involvement of Eastern Tributaries Indigenous groups
 - ii. Cultural event has happened recently
 - e. Communications committee update
 - i. IJC newsletter coming out, there is an article on the Lethbridge public meetings
- IV. Final reporting
 - a. Focus on getting the socioeconomic section written – will highlight at next meeting
- V. Action items
 - a. Set up meeting with technical writers to work on socioeconomic section for final report
 - b. How do we want to deal with conflicting comments/how can we make them a consensus?
 - c. Highlight work with IAG in semi-annual appearance presentation
 - d. Review meeting minutes to get them ready for posting publicly on the website

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

20 September 2024 10:00 – 12:00 MT

- I. Previous meeting summary
 - a. Approval of the agenda
 - b. Approval of previous meeting minutes
- II. Reminders and actions needed
 - a. Review meeting minutes to get them ready for posting publicly on the website - ongoing
- III. New business for board action – technical updates
 - a. OFEG update and discussion
 - i. WMM
 - 1. RiverWare contract
 - 2. WRMM is farther ahead at this time, anticipate RiverWare will catch up
 - 3. While the models are separate, they are intertwined; will make sure they are aware that we will need to make decisions
 - 4. If we need to cut WRMM, we will have to cut other things that the RiverWare model can't accomplish; board will have to understand what they would be losing if it is cut
 - 5. Want to be inclusive of all of this, but be clear on what is doable versus what isn't
 - ii. CH TWG – need one extra week
 - iii. WAAO option awareness

1. Was sent out for your awareness; this type of scenario should be prioritized for lap 2; may give us results we haven't seen before; can tweak as we move to lap 3 and 4
 2. Board to review this for next meeting (WAAO option email)
- b. Any additional technical working group updates – progress, plans, problems
 - i. SEA TWG plans to attend Malta and schedule interviews with PAG members
 - ii. Brainstorming ideas to promote the public meetings as they are reaching out to people
 - c. Board appearance prep
 - i. Slides – discussion and plans for approval (due Sept 27)
 - ii. Drafts of documents are available
 - iii. Lap 1 is a very important part to highlight in the presentation
 - iv. Board to review draft deck for appearances, make comments and edits as you see fit before Wednesday of next week
 - v. Annual report – next steps and plans for approval (due Sept 27)
 1. Overall feedback is that report is looking good
 2. Review and include your edits and comments by Monday of next week
 3. Want this submitted by Friday the 27th to the IJC
 - vi. Website updates with meeting minutes (see above)
- IV. Final reporting
- a. How do we want to deal with conflicting comments/how can we make them a consensus?
 - b. Starting to work on the socioeconomic section
 - c. Draft figures produced by technical writers – comments?
 - d. Have meeting on Monday with technical writers; want comments back on these figures
- V. Upcoming engagements
- a. Public meeting updates
 - i. October 2
 - ii. Malta, MT
 - iii. Slides – technical details to be added to these slides if new ones are available by that time
 - iv. Meeting to be set up for Dec/Jan to review results
 - b. Technical board meeting update
 - i. Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – Friday, November 8, 2024
 - ii. Travel dates Wednesday and Friday
 - iii. Meeting days: Wednesday and Thursday
 - iv. Location: Denver, CO
 - v. Agenda being worked on; scenario results, PIs to be reviewed; more formal agenda coming
 - c. Board appearances (week of Oct 21)
 - i. Semi annual appearance planning
 1. Due date: Sept 27
 2. Update board progress report and presentation – work starting now
- VI. Study Board discussion