

QUARTERLY - BOARD MEETING AGENDA
International Kootenay Lake Board of Control

USACE-Hosted Teams Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PST)

Membership (Bold indicates attendance)

	Canada	United States
Chair	Joel Trubilowicz (nominee)	Colonel Kathryn Sanborn
Members	Connie Chapman	Roy Bartholomay (late joining)
Secretariat	Martin Suchy	Sonja Michelsen
IJC Advisors	Rob Caldwell Catherine Lee Johnson Chrissy Chiasson	Adam Greely John Allis Jeff Kart David Hermann
Guests	Casey Brown	
Support	Kate Alexander Katie Slimmon	

Abbreviations

CCVA	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
CMIP	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
CSKT	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
IJC	International Joint Commission
IWB	International Watershed Board
IWI	International Watershed Initiative
KTOI	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
NWFRC	Northwest River Forecast Center
NRC	National Resource Council
RCP	Representative concentration pathways
RFP	Request for proposals
SNOTEL	Snow Telemetry
U.S.	United States
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	United States Geological Service

Agenda (all times PST)

Welcome & Introductions

The virtual meeting, held on the Microsoft Teams platform, was opened at 09:00 by Col. Kathryn P. Sanborn (Board Co-Chair, U.S. Section). She welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed that she is looking forward to meeting everyone in person at the annual Board and public meetings in May. Board member Mr. Roy Bartholomay was reported to be stuck in traffic and was expected to join late.

Approve Minutes from Fall Meetings

No concerns were brought forward regarding the 2023 board and public meeting minutes. Dr. Joel Trubilowicz (Board Co-chair nominee, Canadian Section) and Ms. Connie Chapman (Board Member, Canadian Section) concur. Both sets of minutes were accepted.

Hydrologic Update

Mr. Martin Suchy (Board Secretary, Canadian Section) provided the hydrologic conditions update. The Basin saw drier than normal conditions at the beginning of the water year, gradually increasing to near normal monthly precipitation by December. A dip in precipitation was observed in January, coinciding with a cold snap. The precipitation in February reached above normal levels. Air temperatures were generally above normal for the water year. The cold snap in January affected the monthly average statistics.

The snow pillow at the Redfish Creek station near Nelson has reported near historical low snowpack for much of the water year. Due to the precipitation in late February, it has risen from the 10th to approximately the 25th percentile (2001-2023 record). The snowpack at the Moyie Mountain station south of Cranbrook remains quite low and is still near the 10th percentile (1971-2023 record). The BC Snow Bulletin released by the Government of BC in early January and February have the East and West Kootenay Basins' snow indices well below the 30-year normal. The U.S. SNOTEL is showing similar numbers to the BC Snow Bulletin. The low snowpack conditions are expected to impact freshet timing and quantities. The NWRFC April-July water supply forecast for Kootenay Lake at Queen's Bay is significantly below the 30-year normal.

Mr. Suchy reviewed relevant hydrographs. The tributaries of Kootenay Lake have been below normal. However, they have started to increase. Kootenay Lake inflow has been below normal, except during a few storm events. These measurements have also recently crept up to near normal values. Lake Kooacanusa is being held higher than last year and is not being drafted as deeply in preparation of freshet. The Corra Linn forebay is also being kept above normal levels. Although high, Kootenay Lake elevation is below the rule curve and the Applicant remains in compliance. Recently the control of Lake outflow has fluctuated between Corra Linn Dam and Grohman Narrows.

Mr. Suchy reported on the seasonal outlook for temperature and precipitation. Both Canadian and U.S. forecasts are showing greater chances of above normal temperatures. The precipitation forecasts differ in the Kootenay/Kootenai basin as the U.S. is predicting better chances of drier conditions and the Canadian prediction is showing an increased chance of wetter conditions. He noted that precipitation

predictions aren't very reliable outside coastal regions. Dr. Trubilowicz asked what the period of record used is. Mr. Suchy responded saying he believes the U.S. climate data is for the period 1990-2021 while Canadian data is for 1980-2011.

The Board Secretaries will be tracking the hydrologic conditions more closely in preparation for the spring rise declaration.

Timeline Discussion – IWB, Plan of Study, Expansion

Sonja Michelsen (30 min)

Ms. Sonja Michelsen (Board Secretary, U.S. Section) went over the proposed timeline that was created during an informal meeting between the Board co-chairs and the IJC advisors at the end of January.

Item	Lead	Est. Start	Est. End	Comments
CCVA	Dr. Casey Brown	Oct 1 2023	Jan 31 2025	Overall project delayed due to contracting. Phase I to be completed by May.
Indigenous & Public Outreach	IKLBC Secretaries	Mar 1 2023	Sept 31 2024	Additional time to continue developing stakeholder relationships.
Board Membership Expansion	IKLBC and IJC	Sept 1 2024	Feb 28 2025	Priority to happen before Plan of Study Development. Looking to identify prospective US Section members this Spring.
IWB Scoping	IJC Advisors	May 1 2024	June 30 2025	Proposed kick-off at the 2024 public meeting.
Plan of Study	IKLBC and/or contractors	Jan 1 2025	Dec 31 2025	Must be delayed until after the completion of the CCVA, and preferably following Board expansion.
Order Review	IKLBC	Jan 1 2026	TBD	Follows the completion of the Plan of Study.

The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) is in progress and the project kickoff occurred in late 2023. The project is slightly delayed due to contracting issues but is projected to be completed by February 2025.

Work on Indigenous and public outreach has been happening for approximately a year. Updates on the progress and Yaqaan Nukiy participation were given later in the meeting (see Board Expansion - Outreach, Roles, Participation, etc.).

Ms. Michelsen emphasized that Board expansion is a priority, and they would like it to happen sooner than the IJC has it scheduled. The Board is suggesting that the IWB scoping process begin after the annual meetings in May. The Board is also proposing to push the Plan of Study to start in late 2024 or early 2025. The IJC had sent information to the Board Secretaries the week prior to this conference call. Both secretaries have yet to look over the documents in detail.

Mr. John Allis gave an IJC perspective and mentioned that the proposed timeline is hopefully a compromise that will meet the Commission's perspective. Mr. Allis explained that the Board expansion being pushed back by the IJC was done to give the Board more time and that the Commission should be happy to have it completed earlier. He also agreed that having the IWB scoping start after the public meeting coordination is sensible and that he doesn't foresee push back from the Commission. However, the IJC may need to begin preparations in advance of the annual meetings to capitalize on IJC staff being in the Basin. It was suggested the Board present the IWB scoping at the spring appearances, acknowledging some of the required front-end tasks. Mr. Rob Caldwell thought Mr. Allis's summary was good and had nothing else to add.

Mr. Suchy mentioned he had yet to send the Board the document Mr. Allis had sent the Secretaries. He made note that the IJC indicated that the Indigenous and new Board members will be a part of the plan of study process. He was hoping to talk about contracting during this meeting and wanted information on other boards who have gone through a plan of study process.

Mr. Allis spoke to the Osoyoos Board's process and said that they had proceeded with a local contractor and had given them prescriptive check-in points. The process had seemed to work well. Mr. Caldwell had no information on the Souris Board's process but mentioned that some eastern boards had also used contractors. Mr. Suchy asked if there was an option for the IJC to fund ECCC or USACE staff to do the work. Mr. Caldwell responded that he is not familiar enough with the Prairie work to provide an answer but has the intention of figuring this out. Ms. Michelsen seconded Mr. Suchy's questions and stressed that knowing the details will help the planning process. Ms. Chapman and Dr. Trubilowicz support taking influence and knowledge from other boards' experiences.

Ms. Michelsen asked what the IJC had in mind for the IWB scoping front-end work ahead of the May meetings. Mr. Allis said that they would be trying to identify any groups that they can meet with while in the region. Mr. Suchy agreed that it would make sense to capitalize on IJC staff in the region but stressed the potential for confusion on the different initiatives (i.e. Board Expansion, the Order Review, and IWB). Mr. Allis reassured the Board that the IJC will be conscious of this risk and will make sure to meet ahead of time to strategize how to properly communicate the scoping process. Col. Sanborn suggested having talking points and to be direct in the messaging.

Mr. Suchy asked Mr. Allis if he was thinking of traveling up to Nelson in addition to Bonners Ferry (for the IWB scoping). Mr. Allis said that he had not thought through the details but that it would make sense to leverage both. Ms. Michelsen cautioned that there are two three-day weekends book-ending the annual meetings that may impact IWB meeting logistics.

The Board would prefer the IJC to wait until the annual meetings to start the scoping process, but they acknowledge time restrictions. Col. Sanborn emphasized making sure the messaging is clear before sending meeting invitations.

The Board circled back to the plan of study discussion. Mr. Suchy stated that the contracting route is likely the most time efficient but made note that some work such as the Scope of Work (for the Plan of Study) could be prepared by secretaries. The IJC will have to confirm this funding option. The Board is planning to kick off the Plan of Study scoping at the beginning of 2025, coinciding with the end of the CCVA.

Dr. Trubilowicz enquired about the type of contract that would be used. Mr. Suchy said it would depend on which section of the IJC is paying, as there are different rules and requirements. Mr. Allis noted that this level of detail has not been discussed yet and the timeline for sorting out funding details is the summer to fall of 2024. Mr. Suchy added that he likes the idea of a local contract, noting that it could help with public perception. Dr. Trubilowicz mentioned if a January 2025 start is desired, information would be beneficial to have soon. Mr. Allis stated that they should have more information in May.

Board Expansion - Outreach, Roles, Participation, etc.

Sonja Michelsen (30 min)

Ms. Michelsen provided some background information and details of the progress before opening the discussion on this topic. Both U.S. Tribes, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), have indicated that they would like to proceed with observer status. Dr. Shawn Young has been selected by the KTOI as their observer. He attended the in-person meetings in Nelson and will attend the meetings in Bonners Ferry. The CSKT has yet to put forward a specific person but did send two lawyers to sit in on the 2023 Board and public meetings. On the Canadian side, the Ktunaxa Nation identified Mr. Isaac Dekker from the Yaqan Nukiy to be their representative. He attended the 2023 public meeting in-person and has been in contact with the Secretaries. Mr. Suchy and Ms. Michelsen met with Mr. Dekker and Mr. Curtis Wullum two weeks prior to explain what it means to be a Board member, as the Yaqan Nuki have indicated their interested in Board membership. They understand the binational parity component of the Board and are willing to continue to sit as observers until the Board can identify a U.S. counterpart. Mr. Suchy and MS. Michelsen shared that the Board composition may change following the Order Review.

Mr. Suchy and Mr. Evan Friesenhan (previous Canadian co-chair) had been in contact with staff representing the Sinixt Confederacy. The staff are Canadian and reside in Canada but are funded by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, one of which is the Arrow Lakes Tribe (Sinixt)., In Canada the Sinixt Nation doesn't have a band or council structure and had been declared extinct by the Canadian government in the 1950s. However, a 2021, Supreme Court of Canada decision gave hunting rights to Lakes People from the U.S. to hunt in Canada. James Baxter, a fisheries biologist living in Nelson, BC, Mr. Cody Desautel and a lawyer from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation indicated the Sinixt Confederacy would like to have similar levels of participation with the IKLBC as other First Nations and Tribes.

Mr. Caldwell suggested creating a document outlining who everyone is and what level of participation they will be pursuing. Where a person is located shouldn't be an issue if sitting as an observer, but that could be a concern if membership is pursued. Mr. Suchy suggested the Board have a discussion on this topic. Col. Sanborn agreed that it was a complex situation and acknowledged that the Indigenous groups consider themselves sovereign nations. She asked if any of the other Boards had previously experienced this situation. Mr. Caldwell said that he doesn't think so but did bring up the example of a Chief in the St. Croix Basin who transitioned from an observer to a Board member. He also mentioned the Souris Indigenous Advisory Committee and how the co-chairs of that committee are appointed as Board members.

Ms. Chapman asked how Indigenous groups would determine who acts as the Board member. She has experienced situations where a subject-matter expert was given authority to act on behalf of a Nation

and then the Nation's council later indicated that they are not in support of what the representative had said. Col. Sanborn suggested the Board ask for documentation indicating the Nations' support for individuals to avoid similar situations. Ms. Michelsen indicated that the Board has received confirmation in writing from the KTOI that they would like Dr. Shawn Young to be involved in the Board as an observer. The Yaqan Nukiy have also stated in writing that Mr. Isaac Dekker is their preferred participant.

Dr. Trubilowicz mentioned that during his nomination process, it is made clear that Board members must serve in their personal and professional capacity. The secretaries indicated that in their previous meeting, Mr. Dekker acknowledged that a Board member does not serve as a representative of their Nation.

Ms. Michelsen asked if the seat always sits with a specific Nation. Mr. Suchy explained that the seats on the Osoyoos Board are not necessarily tied to a certain Nation and that it is up to the Board to decide who to nominate. Mr. Caldwell clarified that an Indigenous member seat is reserved for an Indigenous person, but that the seat is not necessarily filled from the same Nation each time. A public Board seat can also be filled by an Indigenous person.

The IKLBC Directive will have to be edited to specify the type of seats once the expansion happens. Mr. Suchy made note of the non-indigenous participation in the Basin and liked the idea of keeping the seats un-assigned (ie as indigenous or public) for now. Col. Sanborn agreed that the more flexible the Board keeps the seats, the better it may be for Board longevity.

The Board discussed on how observers will engage at the conference calls and annual meetings. Observers were not invited to this meeting but will be sent an invite for future conference calls. It was determined that there may be topics (e.g. membership discussions) that are designated as Board members only. Mr. Bartholomay agreed with this approach.

Ms. Michelsen reiterated the Board know that if they want to explore membership with Mr. Dekker, they will need to find U.S. member for parity. The U.S. Section may start reaching out to agricultural interests in the region. This may result in an observer in future meetings.

Mr. Caldwell gave a heads-up to the Board that they should expect to get questions from the Commission on their rationale to this (flexible) Indigenous approach.

Review 2023 Annual Report

Martin Suchy (10 min)

Ms. Michelsen had included the current draft of the 2023 Annual Report in the briefing package for this call. The IJC has asked for the annual report and spring appearances presentation to be sent in by March 18th. Mr. Suchy mentioned that Mr. Friesenhan, the former Canadian Section Co-Chair, had looked over a rough draft in early January. Col Sanborn indicated her intentions of reading through it more thoroughly but said that it had looked good on first pass. Mr. Bartholomay had yet to look over it. Any remaining comments and edits are to be sent in by the following week.

BREAK

A 15-minute break was observed.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) Update

Casey Brown (30 min)

Dr. Brown provided an update on the progress of the CCVA. He gave an overview of the project and reviewed the objective from the Statement of Work. The timeline is 14 months, 4 for the design and 10 for the execution. The project implements the IJC's Climate Change Guidance Framework and is a bi-national effort between the University of Massachusetts and the National Research Council (NRC). Dr. Brown went on to provide examples of previous studies that his team has completed (St. Croix River, and the Lake Champlain Richelieu River). He explained uncertainties exist in the possible future climates (large range) and the effect of climate change on the operational objectives of the system (reducible). The range of results may impact the Board decisions when planning for future conditions, as planning for the full range of predictions can make for more robust solutions. His previous studies have shown that different lakes are sensitive to different changes in conditions.

Phase one of the IKLBC CCVA includes hydrologic and hydraulic data identification and selection, model framework identification, additional criteria identification, and study plan development. They are currently looking at model information and other studies that have been completed in the Columbia River Basin and the Kootenay Basin.

Col. Sanborn thanked Dr. Brown for the presentation and commented that she liked how he used other studies as examples. The presentation will be added to the Board's SharePoint site. Dr. Trubilowicz asked who is working on the project. Dr. Brown said he has a PhD student working on this and that they will attend future meetings.

Dr. Trubilowicz then enquired about extending the study period past 2049. The simulations go to 2100 and Dr. Brown agreed that extending the simulation period would be beneficial if it makes sense for planning objectives.

Mr. Caldwell raised the question if the vulnerability analysis will inform the Board of changes in water quality. Due to the current scope of the project and the time limitations, Dr. Brown reported that the study will likely be limited to quantity.

Mr. Suchy asked if they would be looking at CMIP 5 or CMIP6. Dr. Brown explained that they would be using CMIP6 and that their goal is to understand the response of the system under a range of conditions first, and then investigate likelihood with climate predictions. The next phase of the assessment may be to look at which RCPs and CMIPs cause which responses in the system.

Ms. Michelsen asked if they are looking at precipitation and temperature (i.e. rain vs. snow and snow melt) in their simulations. Dr. Brown explained that so far, they have looked at simulations from the University of Washington Columbia River Study which include a variety of increases in temperature and changes in precipitation. Once run through a hydrologic model, the differences in snow melt and timing of runoff will be captured.

Mr. Suchy asked about the division of work between the NRC and Dr. Brown's group. It was reported that phase one has a work allocation plan and there is no update on NRC's involvement in phase two.

Dr. Brown will provide an update to the Board at the annual meetings in May and will be providing some slides for the appearances in April (8th). There will likely be technical meetings held before May. Mr. Suchy thanked Dr. Brown for the update.

Finalize 2024 Workplan

Martin Suchy (15 min)

Mr. Suchy recapped the changes that had been made to the Workplan since the last meeting. He noted that the Core Priorities were left un-changed but that there were changes to the 2024 priorities. The 2024 priorities had been reordered and the completed tasks deleted. Mr. Suchy asked the Board to submit any edits before the middle of next week (March 13). Once all comments have been addressed, they will be making a new final copy.

IJC Spring Appearance Prep

Sonja Michelsen (10 min)

Ms. Michelsen discussed ideas for what the Board wants to present to the Commission in April. The IKLBC's slot is during the afternoon of April 8. It was suggested to spend a little time giving an overview of the Basin for the new commissioner. Other topics include the proposed timeline and the reasoning behind it and the importance of the activities going on in the basin (Indigenous outreach, Board expansion, Plan of Study, etc.).

Mr. Caldwell explained that this year the Board will be given 20 minutes for the presentation and 40 minutes for a discussion. He also made note that the IJC Appearance invitation gave guidance on what Commissioners would like discussed. It was confirmed that that Boards may listen in on other Board's presentations.

Ms. Michelsen emphasized trying to be as clear as possible as sometimes the IJC and Board leave the appearances with different interpretations of the discussions.

Mr. Allis acknowledged certain information will not be available or up-to date if the PowerPoint is sent in on Marcy 18th (i.e. hydraulic conditions and CCVA update). He suggested that the Board send in key questions by the deadline to give the Commission more time to prepare. Col. Sanborn asked if there was a chance to resubmit the slide deck closer to. Mr. Allis responded yes it can be and he suggested indicating which slides have been updated.

Ms. Michelsen brought attention to the other sessions and workshops occurring during the D.C. spring appearances. Mr. Suchy indicated he is looking forward to the Indigenous workshop.

Board / Public Meetings & Field Trip

Sonja Michelsen (10 min)

Ms. Michelsen gave a brief update on the planning for the meetings in Bonners Ferry. The Board and Public meetings are scheduled to take place 6 weeks after the spring appearances. Meetings will be held on May 22nd and the field trip on May 23rd. The Board and public meetings are going to be at the same hotel. Details of the field trip have yet to be finalized, but the current plan is a visit to Libby Dam. Agendas for both meetings were sent out with the invitation for this conference call.

A screen share of both the public and Board meeting agendas was done to show what topics of discussion have been suggested. Mr. Suchy made note that the timing of these meetings falls between phase one and two of the CCVA and that an opportunity for inter-lap feedback is possible. The Secretaries may rearrange the Board meeting afternoon topics in the agenda, so the end items are Board members only. In past years there have been guest presentations, but the Board has decided to forgo these this year due to the high volume of Board material and activities to discuss.

Mr. Suchy enquired about the use of the IJC's daisy chain microphone and camera system for the meetings. The system is complicated to set up but would provide better video and audio for the virtual attendees. Chrissy Chiasson will look into the logistics of shipping it to British Columbia for the required dates.

Round Table

All (10 min)

Col. Sanborn thanked Mr. Suchy and Ms. Michelsen for all the work they do for the Board.

Mr. Caldwell asked about the status of Dr. Trubilowicz's Co-Chair nomination letter and asked him to send over his CV and a biography. It was reported that the letter has been sent, and the IJC should get the nomination from ECCC soon.

Ms. Michelsen mentioned that they will be changing the second virtual meeting to the Fall now that the Annual meeting is being held in May. It was suggested by Mr. Suchy to also hold a call in December or January as it will coincide with the end of the CCVA.

The meeting was adjourned by Col. Sanborn at 11:57 PST.