

**INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL**  
**Conference Call**  
**Tuesday December 10 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 AM PST**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Cindi Barton	Chair, U.S. Section
Dave Hutchinson	Chair, Canadian Section
John Arterburn	Board Member, U.S. Section
Col. Mark Gerald (start only)	Board Member, U.S. Section
Kris Kauffman	Board Member, U.S. Section
Arnie Marchand	Board Member, U.S. Section
Ted White	Board Member, Canadian Section
Sue McKortoff	Board Member, Canadian Section
Brian Symonds	Board Member, Canadian Section
Anna Warwick Sears	Board Member, Canadian Section

**BOARD STAFF and BOARD MEMBER ASSISTANTS**

Andy Gendaszek (absent)	Secretary, U.S. Section
Martin Suchy	Secretary, Canadian Section
Kevin Shaffer (absent)	Technical Assistant to Colonel Mark Gerald

**IJC REPRESENTATIVES and GUESTS**

Wayne Jenkinson (start only)	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Paul Allen	Communications, Canadian Section
Caron DeMars	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Adam Greely	Advisor, U.S. Section
Rebecca Koch	National Hydrological Services - ECCC

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting started at 9:35 and was led by Cindi Barton (US Co-Chair). The meeting agenda was accepted with no changes required, however, John Arterburn was asked to provide an update / findings on the September Osoyoos Lake Flushing event undertaken by the Applicant.

## **2. WELCOME OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

- Dave Hutchinson – IOLBC Canadian Section Co-Chair – Chief of West and North Hydrometric Operations, Water Survey of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- Arnie Marchand – U.S. Section Board Member – Colville Tribe member, but present on Board as private citizen of the Okanagan Valley.
- Rebecca Koch – Will be Acting as Canadian Section Secretary for Martin Suchy from February 24 to September 4, 2020. Environment and Climate Change Canada

## **3. APPROVAL SEPTEMBER CALL, ANNUAL BOARD AND PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the September 10, 2019 Board Quarterly Conference Call minutes, September 17, 2019 Annual Board Meeting minutes and September 17, 2019 Annual Public Meeting minutes. All minutes were approved them with no changes.

## **4. REVIEW OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS AND CLIMATE FORECASTS**

### **Hydrology and Weather**

Current Osoyoos Lake levels were 909.8 ft on December 8<sup>th</sup>, which is within the Condition 7 “normal rule curve”. Levels returned to the normal rule curve on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, after being granted Condition 10 variance to follow “drought conditions” on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Similkameen River discharge was 954 cfs on December 8<sup>th</sup>, which is near the mean for this time of the year. Okanagan Lake levels have been trending downward, were 1121.32 ft on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and remain above the historical mean. Okanagan River discharges at Penticton and Oliver, for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, were 353 and 396 cfs, respectively. They have been stable and mostly unchanged since late June. Both Penticton and Oliver flow has been close to the historical mean since late September. Okanagan River discharge at Oroville has been more variable for the same time period, but generally stable and close to the historical mean since late September.

### **Snowpack**

Mission Creek (Okanagan Basin) Snow Pillow data indicates snow water equivalent close to the historical mean and similar to 2018-2019 levels. Meanwhile, data from the Blackwall Peak Snow Pillow station (Similkameen Basin) show that is has been a drier than normal November, and December is forecasted to be dry as well. Data indicate snow water equivalent well below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, and currently below the dry 2018 levels. By contrast, Snotel data for Washington State’s Upper Columbia basin indicate 53% of Normal conditions.

### **Outlook**

Seasonal forecasts from Environment and Climate Change Canada favor an increased likelihood of below normal winter/spring temperatures (Jan-Feb-Mar), but will likely remain near normal. The forecast indicated a near-normal probability for precipitation for the same period. The Climate Prediction Center

forecasts an El Nino probability near 25% during the winter (January to March period), increasing to near 35% for the spring, meaning that ENSO neutral conditions are favored.

## **5. OTTAWA SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW**

U.S. Section Co-Chair Cindi Barton provided an update regarding the Ottawa board appearances. Outgoing Canadian Section Co-Chair Bruno Tassone, U.S. Section Co-Chair Cindi Barton, and Canadian Section Secretary Martin Suchy all attended the meeting. IOLBC was first to present to new Commissioners who asked lots of questions regarding the near drought conditions and provided favorable feedback to the Board. The Commissioners indicated they had been shown the documentary “A River Film” along with the short vignettes. They want to see what more the Board can do with them.

Because the IOLBC was the first to present to Commissioners, IOLBC representatives had to miss half the IWI communications workshop, scheduled at the same time. The workshop emphasized the use of multiple avenues for communications, to utilize the IJC communications staff for social media postings, and the use of eye-catching pictures.

## **6. IJC IWI 2020-2025 Work Plan**

Adam Greeley, IJC Advisor U.S. Section, made a presentation on the IWI 2020-2025 Work Plan. The presentation slides were provided to the Board before the meeting. The objective of the new IWI Work Plan is to continue to assist boards in the delivery of their Work Plans and how board challenges can be addressed through the IWI. The Plan addresses the pathway for current Strategic Initiatives, identifying next Strategic Initiatives, how to improve the program efficiency and effectiveness, and how to better communicate project outcomes. As before, there are two meetings a year where projects are solicited for IWI funding. There was discussion about the differences between non-watershed boards, which address flow and water level, and watershed boards, which have a holistic basin approach. Dr. Greeley described how the IJC hopes to incorporate IWI Work Plan comments from the boards, send the Work Plan to Commissioners for comments, send to the U.S. and Canadian government of reaction, and ultimately have the Commissioners approve the Work Plan.

## **7. IWI PROPOSAL UPDATE**

The Board was updated on the progress of the Phase 1 Similkameen Hydrologic Model RFP that is being prepared to distribution to potential proponents. A sub-committee comprising of the Board Members Anna Warwick Sears and John Arterburn, and the two Board Secretaries have drafted a Scope of Work (SOW) for the project. A review committee comprising of subject matter experts reviewed the SOW and evaluation rubric, and will later on review the project proposals from the proponents. SOW has been provided to the IJC and they have provided some feedback, the sub-committee hopes to have the

questions answered and returned to the IJC this week. The RFP will then be prepared by IJC staff and reviewed by IJC legal, with the hope to get it out mid-December.

## **8. ESTABLISHING QUARTERLY CALLS AND ANNUAL MEETING**

Possible dates for the quarterly conference call meetings were discussed. It was decided that Wednesdays from 10-12 am Pacific Time would work best for Board and IJC members. The other consideration was that meetings should take place following the monthly release of the BC Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin, which is to take place on the following dates: Jan 8, Feb 7, Mar 9, Apr 8, May 8, May 21, Jun 8 and Jun 19. Proposed 2020 quarterly call meeting dates are as follows: Mar 11, Jun 10, Sep 9 and Dec 9. Additional tentative call schedules were proposed to take place this spring during the height of freshet. Monthly spring calls in 2019 were deemed highly effective considering the near-drought threshold conditions that were experienced. For the Annual Board and Public meetings, the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> was determined to be the only acceptable option, and will be conferred with the Kootenay Lake Board of Control (IKLBC). Secretaries to confirm all dates before calendar year-end.

## **9. ROUND TABLE**

### **Flushing Trial**

During the 2019 Annual Board meeting in September, the Applicant proposed a plan to use the excess stored water in Osoyoos Lake to benefit river ecology and spawning salmon by providing a flushing flow. John Arterburn (U.S. Section Board Member and a Fisheries Biologist) clarified that he was not available at the time, and was not conducting any fine grain monitoring, but that Colville representatives would be conducting fall stream surveys around that time. Initial assessments indicate that the disturbance regime (release of water) was not sufficient to turn any gravel and mobilize fine grain sediments. John Arterburn indicated that modelling recommended releases of 2,000-3,000 cfs, but the Applicant limited the release to only 1,100 cfs, and that objectives to displace gravels were not achieved. The release did supplement flows downstream and was a benefit to spawning, which showed the benefit of not limiting flows during the October spawning season. The limited release was able to mobilize the fine sediment on the top layer of the gravel, but this is about the same result that a fish can do with its tail. With more time a better to experiment could have been designed, but it would need coordinate with Canada to get enough water. It was determined that further discussions with stakeholders should be done in future.

### **OBWB update**

Anna Warwick Sears indicated the OBWB Okanagan Hydrologic Model project delivery is on schedule for completion by end of March 2020.

## A River Film

Arnie Marchand indicated that the Santa Fe Film Festival had specifically requested that the documentary “A River Film” be shown at the festival, and that he would be attending.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Completed (since last quarterly call – September 2019)

1. Board Secretaries to update Reports and Meeting Minutes on webpage
2. Board Secretaries will investigate the possibility of funding short excerpts of “A River Film” about focused themes through the spring, IWI request for proposals. Vignettes were edited without additional IWI funding.
3. 2019-20 Work Plan has been approved by the Board and sent to the IJC
4. Dave Hutchinson IOLBC webpage profile updated

### In Progress

1. IWI Similkameen Hydrologic Model RFP to be sent to consultants in December.
2. Board Secretaries will continue to look into availability of additional bathymetric data for Lake Osoyoos. Lidar has been sent to Kevin Shaffer, and Joe at the department of ecology. Previously discussed option for IWI project of bathymetric survey of the low level elevations.
3. Guidelines for U.S. Department of State (DOS) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) participation as observers for quarterly conference calls and meetings. Board Secretaries waiting for official guidance document for IJC, which is being delayed due to lack of Commissionaires. Continue with interim guidance. Updated guidance document being prepared.
4. Board Secretaries will update IOLBC website with documentary film trailer, vignettes. Working with IJC consultant to upload videos. Could also just add YouTube link to board website.
5. Board Secretaries will prepare a bibliography to initiate the Organization step of the Preparedness Process proposed by CAWG.
6. Board Secretaries will add Osoyoos Lake inundation maps to IOLBC webpage. Inundation maps are in the process of being created. Will need to link to those maps once they are completed.
7. Board Secretaries to add update on Board website to indicate installation of new High-Water Monuments. Waiting for the US Veterans Memorial Park in order to update the website. Town of Oroville is ready to do whatever they need to do to assist with this.

### New Items

1. Tidy up the website (i.e. News releases on water level this past summer)
2. Arnie Marchand details need to update on the IOLBC website.
3. IWI 2020-2025 Work Plan proposal process needs feedback.
4. Update the website with the meeting minutes that were approved at the December 2019 call
5. Develop a sub-committee for 2021 Osoyoos Lake Science Forum, and start looking for funding.
6. Investigate setting up automatic email notifications to Board Members when USGS discharge/level thresholds are exceeded.
7. Improve knowledge of the Osoyoos lake water balance (both US and Canadian side)