



International Souris River Board
Virtual Meeting
June 18 and 19, 2020

Final Minutes

Board Members in attendance (18th):

John Paczkowski, Nicole Armstrong, Frank Durbian, David Pattyson, Gregg Wiche, Jeff Woodward, Col Karl Jansen, Scott Gangl, Dave Glatt, Shelly Wepler, David O’Connell, Russell Boals, John-Mark Davies

Board Member Regrets (18th) Debbie McMechan, Joe Goodwill, Lorinda Haman, John Fahlman

Board Members in attendance (19th):

John Paczkowski, Nicole Armstrong, Frank Durbian, David Pattyson, Gregg Wiche, Jeff Woodward, Col Karl Jansen, Scott Gangl, Dave Glatt, Shelly Wepler, David O’Connell, Russell Boals, John Fahlman, John-Mark Davies

Board Member Regrets (19th) Debbie McMechan, Joe Goodwill, Lorinda Haman

Attendees:

Maximum attendance at the board meeting on the 18th and 19th included 65 participants.

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks

Nicole Armstrong opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m. on June 18th and extended her welcome wishes to all attendees. John Paczkowski introduced himself to the Board and described his interim status as the State Engineer and U.S. Co-chair of the International Souris River Board (ISRB). John described that once an engineer is hired to become State Engineer for North Dakota, his interim status would end and the new State Engineer for North Dakota would be expected to take over as U.S. Co-chair of the ISRB, upon IJC appointment.

IJC Commissioners Jane Corwin, Lance Yohe, and Pierre Beland attended the meeting and provided introductory remarks including thanking the Board members for their service.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with minor modifications. Two sub-items were added to agenda item #4. The subitems included discussion of demand release approval and the need for interim natural flow computations. Several modifications were made to those presenting for their agencies for a number of agenda items.

Motion: David O' Connell moved to accept the agenda as modified. Shelly Wepler seconded the motion. Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 20 and 21, 2020 Face-to-face Meeting Minutes

Motion: Russell Boals moved to accept the minutes. Frank Durbian seconded the motion. Carried.

4. Determination of Natural Flows of Souris River at Sherwood to May 31, 2020

a. Discussion on Natural Flow Computations

Dan Selinger with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) provided an update on the natural flow computations and apportionment spreadsheet. The natural flow computations yielded a 50/50 split of the natural flow volume. There was a deficit of 4,554 cubic decameters (3,692 acre-feet) at the Sherwood Crossing for 2020 as of May 31st. The discharge at Sherwood did not go below 4 cfs during the January 01 to May 31 Period.

Nicole Armstrong asked for a motion to approve the determination of natural flow.

Motion: Frank Durbian made a motion to approve the determination of natural flow to May. 31, 2020. Greg Wiche seconded the motion. Carried.

b. Demand Release Approval

Jeff Woodward with Water Security Agency reported on some of the challenges in computing the apportionment release this year. Jeff mentioned the need to compute the demand release, the deficit situation, and how to pay off the deficit. Releases could be made later in the year. The Board needs to be informed. He noted that a conversation between North Dakota, the operators, the FFLC, and the Board would be beneficial. Tim Ma, ECCC, made a brief presentation on natural flow apportionment process for the Souris River. ECCC apportionment reports are provided three times per year: May 31, August 31, and December 31 (refer to Dan Selinger's report on "Determination of Natural Flows"). In addition, interim natural flows are provided when required to guide the management of reservoir operations.

c. Need for Interim Calculations.

Tim Ma also provided examples of computing Souris River natural flow using the existing Excel spreadsheet and the Python script that is being developed. ECCC continued testing Python in 2020 and communicated with partners to ensure appropriate data are used for interim apportionment. ECCC receives data from the cities of Weyburn and Estevan; Water Security Agency, and USGS.

Interim Apportionment Request Protocol- Historically, interim apportionment requests have been received by ECCC from both ISRB and, more recently, WSA. There is the need to update the documentation related to the interim apportionment requests and to include the process for interim apportionment requests in the Natural Flow Procedures Manual.

Interim Apportionment Frequency – The provision of more frequent apportionments would require assessment by ECCC with respect to the implications on ECCC operations and how partner agencies would be able to respond. There is potential for ISRB to submit a proposal through the International Watersheds Initiative (IWI) to facilitate increased interim apportionments. Russell Boals mentioned this is a great learning opportunity for the Board regarding procedures during drier years and how “Annex B” is applied. There was consensus that further discussion should take place at the February 2021 winter meeting since the frequency of natural flow determination and the status of the apportionment is a Board responsibility. Curtis Hallborg suggested adopting a process especially for non-flood years with updates every two weeks or every month. FFLC or COH could handle this individually or jointly. Ken Bottle mentioned FFLC and COH could work together for non-flood years and this could be a good opportunity for the two committees to jointly monitor apportionment. Chris Korkowski provided some background (email from Curtis Hallborg) about the deficit and the conversation on a process of making operational decisions in the future. Jeff Woodward explained the complexities of the Yellow Grass Ditch and Tatagwa Lake Drain (both drainage projects) and their impacts on apportionment.

Action: An Ad-hoc Working Group that includes Russell Boals, Curtis Hallborg, Chris Korkowski, Frank Durbian or alternate, Ken Bottle, Shelly Weppler, Mark Lee, and Tim Ma was struck to develop the process for apportionment reporting and the delivery of delayed entitlements.

Nicole Armstrong asked Russell Boals to chair the working group. Russell accepted the request. There was further discussion about this year’s deficit. NDSWC and USFWS expressed that they might need to act quickly. It was noted that the Board needs to be involved how to address the deficit in the meantime for this year. The request should come to the two co-chairs and co-secretaries to address the issue.

Bruce Davison, ECCC, mentioned that Tim Ma will represent ECCC in the discussions. However, resource limitations (time and effort needed) to compute interim apportionment should be considered. Jeff Woodward noted Board could make a formal request to ECCC to do the calculations.

5. Review of 2019 Hydrologic Conditions, Summer 2020 Hydrologic Forecast and Planned Operations
 - a. Saskatchewan

Curtis Hallborg, Water Security Agency (WSA), gave a presentation that included a review of the 2019-2020 hydrological conditions, the forecast for summer 2020, and the 2020 reservoir operating plans for Saskatchewan.

Curtis H. noted that fall precipitation in 2019 resulted in wet topsoil moisture conditions, with precipitation percentiles ranging from the 95th to 100th throughout the Saskatchewan portion of the basin. Overall, the snowpack following freeze up was below to well below normal, with snow water equivalent observations ranging from 0 to 49 mm (1.93 in). The March 1st spring runoff forecast predicted below normal runoff, resulting in non-flood operations. No additional drawdowns were required and the apportionment for the year would be best on a 50/50 split, as the Sherwood natural flow was expected to be less than 50,000 dam³ (40,536 acre-feet).

Curtis H. showed illustrations of the stage hydrographs for Rafferty, Boundary, and Grant Devine Reservoirs. Each reservoir was below full supply level on June 1st with Rafferty at 1.5 m (2.9 ft), Boundary at 0.38 m (1.3 ft), and Grant Devine at 0.5 m (1.6 ft) below full supply level. Curtis H. provided an illustration of the Sherwood hydrograph showing that the reservoirs operations reduced the spring freshet by approximately 50-percent. The freshet began in early March and was well below normal, with runoff yields 15-60 percent of median.

Curtis H. then described how the basin is currently dry due to well below precipitation following the freshet, with only about 20-60 percent of normal rainfall occurring throughout the basin. With the dry conditions, WSA indicated that any additional operations would be related to meeting apportionment (including 4 cfs requirement under natural conditions), requests from water users, or drawdown operations needed to meet the February 1, 2021 normal drawdown obligations.

b. North Dakota

Brent Hanson, United States Geological Survey (USGS), presented a summary of 2020 flow conditions for the US portion of the basin from January 1st to May 31st. According to Brent's report, the total volume of flow past the Long Creek at the Noonan gage for this period was 7,945 acre-ft (9,800 dam³). This volume is about 53% of the median flow for the past 60 years. The peak discharge for the reporting period January 1 to May 31, 2020 was 340 ft³/s (9.63/s) on March 10, which ranks 41th in 60 years of record.

The total volume of flow past the Souris River near Sherwood gage from January 1st to May 31st was 9,910 acre-ft (12,224 dam³). The total flow is 21% of the median flow for the past 89 years. The peak discharge for the period January 1 to May 31 was about 152 ft³/s (4.3 m³/s), which occurred on March 12th and ranks 80th in the last 89 years of record.

Flow recorded at the Souris River near the Westhope gage from January 1st to May 31st was 92,570 acre-feet (114,185 dam³). This is about 77% of the median flow for the past 90 years. The peak discharge for the period January 1 to May 31 was 792 ft³/s (22.43 m³/s) on May 20th, which ranks 53rd in 90 years of record. No flows were below 10 ft³/s during this reporting period.

c. US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Frank Durbian, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) presented a summary of refuge operations and flows for 2020. The total provisional inflow measured at Sherwood for the first five months of the year was 9,906 acre-ft (12,219 dam³). This was only 12% of the historic January-May inflow, which was 80,975 acre-ft (99,883 dam³) for the period

1938 through 2020. Total Upper Souris Refuge pool volume increased an estimated 3,845 acre-ft (4,743 dam³) during the first five months. The total provisional outflow measured at Foxholm on the south end of the Upper Souris Refuge for the first five months of 2020 was 4,566 acre-ft (5,632 dam³). This was only 7% of the historic record for the January-May outflow, which was 69,212 acre-ft (85,373 dam³) for the period 1938-2020. Lake Darling elevation increased 0.40 ft (0.12 m) from 1596.20 ft (486.52 m) on January 1st to 1596.60 ft (486.64 m) on May 31, 2020.

The total provisional flow measured at J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge from the Souris River to the Refuge from January 1 through May 31 was 46,636 acre-ft (57,526 dam³). This was 44% of the historic January-May inflow, which was 105,621 acre-ft (130,284 dam³) for the period of 1938-2020. Total Pool volume on May 31 was 34,628 acre-ft (42,714 dam³). This was 17,350 acre-ft (21,401 dam³) less than the January 1st volume. Approximately 93,361 acre-ft (115,161 dam³) was passed to Manitoba during the five-month period.

Release plans for the summer months include adjusting pool levels to maximize wildlife habitat quality and availability as specified in the 2019 final report operating plan. Adjusting will be made to compensate for inflow conditions and local habitat conditions, while meeting the mandatory 20 cfs (0.57 cms) flows into Canada.

d. Manitoba

Mark Lee, with Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, presented a summary of the hydrologic conditions for the Souris River in Manitoba. Mark L. stated that his update of hydrologic conditions echoes the previous presentations in that the fall was extremely wet, but little snow accumulation over the winter. The Souris River peaked at approximately 85 cms (3,001 cfs) on April 8th. This corresponds to slightly above a 1-in-2 year flow event.

Mark L. reported that flow at Wawanesa has been steadily declining since the last week of May, with the flow on June 11th being approximately 7.5 cms (265 cfs). This is in the middle of the “normal” range for this time of year.

At the end of May, the Canadian Drought Monitor had classified the areas in the Manitoba portion of the basin as abnormally dry. This is drier than normal, but less dry than the same time in 2018 and 2019.

6. Update from the Hydrology Committee

Ken Bottle, U.S. Co-chair of the Hydrology Committee, provided a brief update on the Hydrology Committee. Ken B. presented a brief report that he and the Canadian Co-chair of the Hydrology Committee, Martin Grajczyk, had prepared which summarized the committee’s activities in 2020. Ken B. noted that the plan of study has placed significant demands on those participating in the Hydrology Committee, so the committee has had limited activity.

Ken B. also stated that since the February ISRB meeting, Dan Selinger with Environment and Climate Change Canada, has replaced Corey Hein on the Hydrology Committee.

7. Update from the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee

Curtis Hallborg, with WSA and Canadian Cochair of the Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee (FFLC), presented an update and provided the ISRB a report on the FFLC's activities in 2020. Operational changes were communicated through the FFLC including operational gate testing in May.

Curtis Hallborg also mentioned that Frank Durbian has accepted a new position with the USFWS and acting project lead, Gary Williams, will replace Frank on the FFLC until a permanent replacement is named.

8. Update from the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee (AEHC)

a. Report on activities of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee

Heather Husband with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ), provided an update on the activities of the AEHC. Heather mentioned that Dorothy Lindeman, Canadian Co-chair of the AEHC, retired from her position with ECCC and vacated her position as Canadian Co-chair on the committee. Paul Klawunn is currently replacing Dorothy Lindeman's duties with ECCC and was proposed as a new Canadian Co-Chair of the AEHC.

Motion: Nicole Armstrong moved to replace Dorothy Lindeman with Paul Klawunn as Canadian Co-Chair of AEHC. John Mark-Davies seconded the motion. Carried.

Heather H. also updated the Board that the water quality tables for 2019 had been provided to Chris Korkowski for incorporation into the 2019 Annual Report. Heather stated that the AEHC will meet within the next two weeks to discuss the AEHC and water quality sections of the 2019 Annual Report.

b. Update on IWI project

Joel Galloway with the USGS provided an update and presentation on the Souris River Continuous Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Monitoring IWI project. The monitors were installed on May 15, 2019 at Sherwood, Minot, and Westhope. The sensors are only removed during the freeze up period and breakup period to avoid damage and will continuously monitor DO for 5-years. Joel G. reported that minimum daily DO was at or below the ISRB's water quality objective of 5 mg/l for:

- 96 days at Sherwood – 51 days in summer and 45 days in the winter (under ice) in 2019.
- 18 days at Minot – all during the summer.
- 92 days at Westhope – all during ice cover period.

Data collected as part of this IWI project can be viewed at: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nd/nws/rt>

The Board proceeded to discuss the project and the approval of the water quality trends analysis IWI project. Mark Gabriel, IJC, mentioned that he is currently drafting the scope of work for the water quality trends analysis project.

9. Compliance with Water Quality Objectives for 2019

Heather H. presented a summary of the water quality monitoring program for the Sherwood site and Paul K. presented data for the Westhope site:

The USGS collected eight regular water quality samples from the Souris River near Sherwood in 2019.

The following provides a summary of water quality at the Sherwood site:

Sherwood-USGS/ND Department of Health (NDDOH)

- **Total Phosphorus** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 0.10 mg/L for all samples in 2019, with a maximum value of 0.497 mg/L in July.
- **Sodium** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 100 mg/L a total of 3 times in 2019, in July, September and October. The maximum value recorded in 2019 was 219 mg/L.
- **Chloride, Sulfate, and Total Dissolved Solids** had exceedances throughout the monitoring history. In 2019 there were no values over the water quality objectives.
- **Total Iron** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 300 µg/L in 50% of samples in 2019. The maximum concentration of iron recorded was 609 µg/L in February of 2019. These values are lower and with a smaller range than the values of 2011-2016 which were 1000-4000 µg/L.
- **pH** exceeded the upper Water Quality Objective of 8.5 pH units once with a maximum value of 8.6 recorded on July 16. There were no exceedances of the lower objective (pH 6.5).
- **Dissolved Oxygen** concentrations only went below the minimum of 5 mg/L Water Quality Objective once, with a value of 3.7 mg/L on February 2, 2019.
- **E-coli** analysis was changed to the Quanti-Tray method by North Dakota Laboratory Services in 2017, and with it the units changed from Colony Forming Units (CFU)/100 mL to Most Probable Number/100 mL. Information on how the units compare will be provided in the annual report. *E. coli* values for 2019 ranged from 20 MPN on July 16 to 190 MPN on September 4. There were no sample values above 400 MPN. After discussion with the IJC and USEPA, analysis will consist of rolling 90-day geomeans, May-September, and the seasonal geomean will not be included in the final version of the objectives. For consistency with US EPA national objectives, 90-day rolling geomeans are as follows:
 - May-Jul 57.18 n=3
 - Jun-Aug 41.23 n=2
 - Jul-Sep 61.64 n=2

 - All geomean calculations are well below the geomean objective of 126 colonies per 100 mL.
- **Pesticide** sampling in North Dakota is conducted by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDOA). In 2019, NDDOA tested for 103 pesticides at the Sherwood site. No exceedances of the ISRB water quality objectives were observed. Eleven pesticides were detected, only three of which have water quality objectives including:
 - **2-4-D** with a water quality objective of 4.0 µg/L and detected values less than 0.028 µg/L.
 - **Atrazine** with a water quality objective of 2.0 µg/L and detected values less than 0.0054 µg/L
 - **MPCA** with a water quality objective of 0.20 µg/L and a detected value of 0.0048 µg/L.

Westhope –ECCC

ECCC collected ten (10) regular water quality samples from the Souris River near Westhope in 2019. A joint sampling event with the USGS occurred at the Westhope site in September 2019.

- **Total Phosphorus** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 0.10 mg/L for all samples in 2019. The maximum record total phosphorus values at Westhope ranged from 0.608 mg/L on March 27.
- **Sodium** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 100 mg/L in 9 of 10 samples for 2019. The minimum value was 66.7 mg/L on April 25 and the maximum concentration was 409 mg/L on March 27.
- **Sulfate** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 450 mg/L on 2 occasions in 2019. The maximum value was 1060 mg/L on March 27, and the minimum was 171 mg/L on April 25.
- **Total Dissolved Solids** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 1000 mg/L three times in 2019, once each in January, March and December. The highest value, 2577 mg/L occurred on March 27, and the lowest value was 462 mg/L on April 25.
- **Total Iron** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 300 µg/L five times in 2019. The maximum detected value of 1260 µg/L in March of 2019.
- **pH** exceeded the upper Water Quality Objective of 8.5 pH units in 4 of 10 samples in 2019. The maximum value of 9.10 occurred on September 4. The minimum value of 7.38 occurred on December 3. The lower pH objective (pH 6.5) was met by every sample in 2019.
- **Dissolved Oxygen** concentrations were below the minimum Water Quality Objective of 5 mg/L on three sampling occasions: January 30, March 27 and December 3, 2019.
- **Fecal coliform** values for 2019 ranged from less than 2 on January 30, April 25 and May 30 to 70 on October 3. The objective of 200 colonies/100 mL in one sample was not exceeded.
- **E-coli** values for 2019 ranged from less than 2 on January 30 to 38 colonies per 100 mL on September 4. There were no exceedances of the single-sample objective of 400 colonies/100 ml. For consistency with US EPA national objectives, 90-day rolling geomeans are as follows:
 - Apr-Jun 2.8 (n = 3)
 - May-Jul 2.8 (n = 3)
 - Jun-Aug 5.1 (n = 3)
 - Jul-Sep 7.7 (n = 3)
 - Aug-Oct 17.6 (n = 3)
 - All geomean calculations are well below the geomean objective of 126 colonies per 100 mL.
- **Chloride** exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 100 mg/L twice in 2019. The maximum value of 114 mg/L occurred on March 27.
- **Pesticide** sampling in Canada is conducted by ECCC. In 2019, ECCC tested for 62 neonicotinoids, organochlorines, acid and neutral herbicides at the Westhope Site. Six

pesticides were detected at the sample site. Pesticides with a water quality objective that were detected include:

- **2-4-D** with a water quality objective of 4.0 µg/L and detected values less than 0.128 µg/L.
- **Atrazine** with a water quality objective of 2.0 µg/L and detected values less than 0.182 µg/L.
- **MPCA** with a water quality objective of 0.20 µg/L and a detected value of 0.021 µg/L.
- **Picloram** with a water quality objective of 0.05 µg/L was exceeded three times with a maximum value of 0.1730 µg/L.

The Board proceeded to discuss the addition of *E. coli* as an ISRB water quality objective. Heather H. requested clarification from Mark G. about using a 90-day geometric mean for *E. coli* and asked for more clarification in the future on decisions regarding objectives that are formally added by the two federal governments, especially when the approved objective is different from the objective recommended by the ISRB.

The Board proceeded to discuss the difficulties with collecting water quality samples in 2020 due to Covid-19. Heather H. indicated that the Sherwood site is on track to collect all samples. Paul K. reported that sampling for the Westhope site had stopped, but hopes that it will begin again shortly.

10. Update on the Communications and Outreach Committee

Russell Boals provided a presentation on the Communication and Outreach Committee. The presentation included the committee's terms of reference, outreach activities, communication activities, and the next steps for the committee. The committee's next steps include review of the ISRB microsite, updating the hydrology infographics, outreach, and placing members on the committee.

11. Work Plan

Nicole Armstrong asked the Board if anyone had comments relating to the latest version of the workplan. Nicole requested that Chris K. send the Board the updated workplan and that Chris K. and Nicole will work to finalize the workplan.

Action: Chris K will send the ISRB the most updated version of the workplan.

The meeting adjourned on June 18th at 4:15 pm and reconvened at 9:32 am on June 19th.

12. Update on Dam Safety issues

a. Lake Darling Probable Maximum Flood Update

Michael Bart with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided an update on the Lake Darling Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) Study. Michael B. stated that the study

is a result of information that was received from WSA. The study used the 2011 and 2014 storms as well as transposition studies to evaluate Lake Darling's new PMF. The original and draft new PMF studies for Lake Darling concluded that a PMF event would occur during the freshet, which contradicts the studies that were conducted on Grant Devine and Rafferty Reservoirs. Michael B. stated that the initial estimates for the new PMF have much higher peaks and total volumes, but they do not plan on finalizing the results until USACE can meet with stakeholders within the basin. Similar to WSA's PMF study, Michael B. noted that there are some significant dam safety concerns with Lake Darling Dam based on these draft results. Michael B. stated that there will be some need to determine if there will need to be physical modifications to the dam or operational changes to mitigate risk will be required.

b. Dam Safety Discussion

John Paczkowski opened the discussion stating that this agenda item was added due to a motion from the February 2020 ISRB meeting to have the reservoir regulators update the ISRB on efforts to develop an interim operating plan. Col. Jansen provided an update on behalf of the U.S. reservoir regulators noting that the U.S. regulators had some concern with the engagement routes identified and that the dam safety issue may be outside of the ISRB's mandate. The U.S. regulators were concerned about exceeding their responsibilities as regulators identified in the 1989 Agreement and had updated the U.S. State Department, the U.S. party to the 1989 Agreement, on the dam safety issues. Col. Jansen noted that the USACE and USFWS received draft Reservoir Regulation Manuals from WSA in January and that the USFWS and USACE have recently provided comments to WSA. Col. Jansen also noted that the State Department was available during the call to update the ISRB.

Dan Kachur with the U.S. State Department expressed his gratitude to be able to speak to the ISRB on this issue. Dan stated:

We appreciate the long history of bilateral cooperation since our 1989 Agreement to develop the Souris Basin to provide both flood control benefits to the United States and water supply benefits to Canada. We also appreciate the opportunity to have discussions on dam vulnerabilities. While we welcome technical exchange on this issue, we feel it is important to note that we have significant concerns that the changes proposed in the WSA's draft "interim" water manuals would not be consistent with the 1989 Agreement. And we would note that any potential changes to the operating plan of the Agreement itself are a matter to be agreed by the parties themselves – i.e., the governments. The USG plans to reach out to WSA shortly with more detailed technical feedback.

John Fahlman with WSA stated that they have just received the comments from the USACE and USFWS on the draft Reservoir Regulation Manuals and will respond. John F noted that we don't know what next year is going to bring and that an interim plan needs to be in place prior to next year's freshet.

Jeff Woodward with WSA asked the Board what the latest status was with respect to the dam safety subgroup that was discussed following the February ISRB meeting.

Wayne Jenkinson with the IJC reported that the IJC wrote to governments to receive direction on next steps on this issue, particularly with respect to the linkages with the ISRSB. The IJC had received a letter from the Study Board Co-chairs on the study timelines and the dam safety issue and the IJC is currently waiting to hear from governments.

Nicole Armstrong requested that Wayne supply those letters to the ISRB and follow up with the ISRB Co-chairs on the dam safety issue.

Action: John P. and Nicole A. will meet with Wayne J. and Mark G. in two months to determine where the dam safety issue is at and provide an update to the ISRB on the dam safety issue.

13. International Souris River Study Board Update

a. Update on the Plan of Study

Michael Bart, U.S. Co-Chair of Plan of Study, provided an updated on the Plan of Study. Michael B. stated the Covid-19 has significantly impacted the study. Based on the delays due to trying to understand the dam safety issues and dealing with delays related to Covid-19, the Co-Chairs of the Study have asked for more time to complete the study. The IJC had requested that the Co-Chairs provide three options to complete the study, including a no cost/time option on finalizing the study. The three options are as follows:

- Option 1 - 8 months of time and additional funds to review information and restart paused efforts, including more engagement with the PAG, RAAG, and Indigenous peoples.
- Option 2 – 10 months of time and additional funds to finish everything in option 1 plus utilization of the stochastic modeling and determining if additional changes need to be made to the alternatives due to the stochastic modeling results.
- Option 3 – No new time or money. There would be significant limitations with this option, and it would require scaling back engagement in order to wrap up where the study is at this time.

The POS Co-Chairs of the study noted that the study has provided strong technical work that their desire is to complete the POS in its entirety.

Action: Wayne J. will provide the letter the Study Board Co-Chairs sent to the IJC to the ISRB. Wayne will also cc' the ISRB on the IJC's response.

b. Plain Language Review of the Operating Plan

Rebecca Seal-Soileau with USACE provided a brief update on the Plain Language Review of the Operating Plan (Annex A). Ken Bottle with USFWS is reviewing the latest version and is planning on sending it to the Study Board soon. Nicole A. asked if the ISRB will be given an opportunity review the document prior to the February 2021 ISRB Meeting, to which Jeff Woodward confirmed that the ISRB would have such an opportunity.

c. Transition from the ISRSB to ISRB

Rebecca S. also provided an updated on the transition team to help facilitate the transition of documents and information from the ISRSB to the ISRB. Rebecca S. provided the ISRB with the transition document that was prepared by the Study Team that lays out the process for transitioning numerical models, performance indicators, study reports, engagement activities, and operating plan formulation tasks to the ISRB. The Board discussed the document in some detail and decided upon a review period for the ISRB to review the transition document.

Action: the ISRB is to review the ISRSB/ISRB transition document and provide comments to Girma and Chris by July 24th. Chris will compile the Board's comments and resend the document to the ISRB and ISRSB Study Managers the following week.

d. Visualization Tool

Gregg Wiche provided a brief update on the ISRSB's hydrologic visualization tool. The tool was demonstrated for the ISRB to see its functionality and understand its nuances. The ISRSB Study Managers noted that without the tool it would have been difficult to adequately engage with the public and interested parties. The tool can be found at <https://dev-webapps.usgs.gov/ndijc/>.

14. Update on Water Management Projects

a. Northwest Area Water Supply Project

Chris Korkowski provide a brief report on NAWS. Currently, there are five construction contracts in place. Four are pipeline projects and one is for improvements to the Minot Water Treatment Plant. The improvement will raise the current treatment capacity of 3.2 million gallons per day to 18 million gallons per day.

There are also six other contracts which are in their design phase. The two larger contracts are the Biota Treatment Plant and modifications to the Snake Creek Pumping Intake, which are making good progress.

b. Other Planned Developments

A new interbasin water transfer project has recently been proposed called the Eastern North Dakota Area Water Supply Project (ENDAWSP). The ENDAWS project would be part of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) and would move water from the Missouri River to the Sheyenne River in the Hudson Bay basin. A draft environmental impact statement for the project was released for review in May 2020. The comment period ends on July 6, 2020. The project is led by the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

15. Update on Indigenous Engagement

Catherine Lee Johnston provided an update on indigenous people's engagement with the IJC and the Study Board. The presentation detailed the engagement the IJC and ISRSB have had to date and detailed the next steps to further engagement activities. The Study Board is planning on having a virtual meeting in September and would like to have ISRB members participate.

Action: *Chris K will send Catherine's doodle poll to the ISRB for the September indigenous peoples engagement for ISRB members to assist in the selection of a date.*

16. Update from the IJC

a. Update on International Watershed Initiative Projects

Wayne Jenkinson with the IJC expressed that the IWI projects were discussed earlier in the agenda and used this time to talk about the issues moving forward with Covid-19 and going forward with public meetings. The IJC postponed their semi-annual meetings due to feedback related to agency issues and staffing due to Covid-19. Jane Corwin, U.S. IJC Commissioner,

expanded on issues with public meeting and discussed virtual public meetings and some of the successes they have had with the Lake Ontario's public meeting.

Mark Gabriel with the IJC stated that the ISRB only has two current IWI projects which include the DO Continuous Monitoring Project and the Water Quality Trends Analysis.

a. Update on IJC's five-year IWI plan and strategic initiatives

Catherine Lee-Johnston provided an update on the IWI plan. The IJC's IWI team has been working on the IWI plan for 2020 to 2025 to incorporate the IJC's strategic initiatives.

The second document the IJC is working on is its 5th report to governments. Catherine stated the 5th report is currently being drafted and is near the point that they will begin asking for feedback from the ISRB. The IJC will be looking for feedback on this document sometime in July.

17. Other Business

No other business was discussed at this meeting.

18. Next Meeting

The ISRB had a discussion on the 2020 Public Meeting and next winter's ISRB meeting in light of Covid-19. Nicole A. had mentioned that the last few public meetings have been held in conjunction with the ISRSB's public meeting and that the next public meeting was due to be held in Canada. Nicole A. asked Michael B. is there would be desire from the ISRSB to hold a public meeting in conjunction with the ISRB. Michael B. stated that any path forward in regard to a public meeting for the ISRSB won't be made until the ISRSB hears back from the IJC and governments on the three options presented to complete the study.

Gregg Wiche proposed blocking out 2 to 3 days in the fall and as that date approaches the Board could identify what to present on and whether or not that presentation would be with the ISRSB.

Action: Chris K will send out a doodle poll for a public meeting for late October/early November.

The Board proceeded to discuss the winter meeting and whether or not it should be scoped as a face-to-face or virtual meeting. The Board identified that the week of February 1st, 8th, and 22nd would be ideal weeks for holding the winter meeting. The decision on a virtual or face-to-face meeting will be made once Covid-19 restrictions are known.

Action: Chris K will send out a doodle poll for the ISRB winter meeting the week of February 1st, 8th, and 22nd. The doodle poll will look for a 2-day block to hold our winter meeting.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. on June 19, 2020.

International Souris River Board
ACTION ITEMS – progress updated June 22, 2020

PERSONS OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	TOPIC	MINUTE	ACTION	STATUS AS OF 02/26/2020
Joel Galloway	Discrepancies of results of water quality sampling	24-Feb-16	Joel Galloway will investigate the reason for the discrepancies of the results of the joint water quality sampling between Canada and the USGS	Ongoing
Pascal Badiou	DU Nutrient Project	24-Feb-16	Pascal Badiou to present the results of the DU Nutrient Project to the Board	Ongoing
COH and COC	Coordinate and determine infographics for the Souris	26-Jun-19	COH and OCC coordinate and determine the necessity of generating a Souris Basin Hydrology Infographics and generate an IWI Proposal if deemed necessary.	Ongoing
COH	Natural Flow Reporting	26-Jun-19	The Hydrology Committee to investigate the Natural Flow reporting dates and make recommendations for adapting them to provide more guidance based on existing basin conditions for quicker responses to apportionment needs. An Ad-hoc Working Group was formed at the June 2020 Board meeting that will take over this responsibility	Ongoing
ISRB	Provide Comments on 2020-2025 IWI Plan	21-Feb-20	The ISRB is to provide comments to Catherine Lee-Johnston on the IJC's 2020-2025 IWI Work Plan by March 10th, 2020	Complete
ISRB Secretaries	Reach out to the Dr. Don Flatten for presentation at the next upcoming meeting	21-Feb-20	Reach out to Dr. Don Flatten with the University of Manitoba in regards to presenting his water quality presentation to the ISRB.	Ongoing

International Souris River Board
ACTION ITEMS – progress updated June 22, 2020

ISRB Committee Co-chairs	Provide comments on ISRB work plan	21-Feb-20	Committee Co-chairs are to provide comments to Nicole Armstrong on the ISRB's workplan by March 6th, 2020	Complete
ISRB Canadian Co-Secretary	Hosting of next meeting	21-Feb-20	Girma is to coordinate the upcoming ISRB meeting in Manitoba	Complete
ISRB Committee Co-chairs	Meet with IJC advisors about dam safety	19-Jun-20	John P. and Nicole A. will meet with Wayne J. and Mark G. in two months to determine where the dam safety issue is at and provide an update to the ISRB on the dam safety issue	Ongoing
Wayne Jenkinson	Provide the letter the ISRSB cochairs sent to the IJC to the ISRB.	19-Jun-20	Provide the letter the ISRSB cochairs sent to the IJC to the ISRB. Wayne will also cc' the ISRB on the IJC's response	Ongoing
ISRB	ISRB review of ISRSB/ISRB transition document	19-Jun-20	the ISRB is to review the ISRSB/ISRB transition document and provide comments to Girma and Chris by July 24th. Chris will compile the Board's comments and resend the document to the ISRB and ISRSB Study Managers the following week.	Ongoing
ISRB U.S. Co-Secretary	Send Indigenous engagement meeting doodle poll to ISRB	19-Jun-20	Chris K will send Catherine's doodle poll to the ISRB for the September Indigenous peoples engagement meeting.	Complete
ISRB U.S. Co-Secretary	Send doodle poll for public meeting	19-Jun-20	Chris K will send out a doodle poll for a public meeting for late October/early November.	Complete
ISRB U.S. Co-Secretary	Send doodle poll for winter meeting	19-Jun-20	Chris K will send out a doodle poll for the ISRB winter meeting the week of February 1st, 8th, and 22nd.	Complete