



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
July 26, 2012

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Russell Boals, Steve Robinson sitting for Gregg Wiche, Ed Eaton, Syed Moin, David Donald, Bob White, Dale Frink and 10 other people from BARR Engineering; Manager of City of Minot, City Engineer, Dave Ashley from SRJB, and Girma Sahlu.

R. Boals opened the conference call at 09:00 and mentioned that there were two main agenda items for discussion: 1) Plan of Study for the Task Force (POS); and 2) Discussion on last week's meeting in St. Paul (M. Estep to lead). R. Boals asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

1. Plan of Study for the Task Force

R. Boals stated Syed Moin will make the presentation, and Ed Eaton will introduce the subject. E. Eaton provided an update since the June 1012 Board meeting in. E. Eaton mentioned an outline for the POS was presented at that June 2012 meeting as background information. He noted that the IJC had offered the services of Syed Moin to facilitate and move the POS forward. Last week there was a two-day meeting in St. Paul organized by Tim Fay, ND SWC, with members of BARR Engineering. There was no representation from Saskatchewan or Manitoba. The main reason of the meeting was to bring agencies together to exchange information on flood risk reduction and avoid duplication of efforts. The meeting was excellent, according to E. Eaton. Issues like modelling and information gaps were discussed at the meeting.

E. Eaton mentioned two project proposals were submitted. The first was the Silver Jacket proposal that includes small to mid-size projects dealing with flood risk management. The second proposal was a hydrometric network improvement project which looks at the existing network, identifies gaps, and provides rationale for additional gauging stations in light of the 2011 Flood. E. Eaton also mentioned there were other smaller projects that were undertaken to raise dikes in North Dakota as interim measures until a permanent flood risk management mechanism has been put in place.

E. Eaton noted that the IJC has \$200, 000 in its IWI program that the Task Force could tap in to if we could identify a project proposal. The project would include Boundary, Rafferty, and Alameda Reservoirs and could be extended to include Lake Darling. For example, virtual reservoirs could be located on the Souris River or Long Creek. The proposal could include increasing the diversion from Boundary to Rafferty to determine impacts downstream.

E. Eaton suggested that the Board / Task Force should look at its resources, financial and human, and see what we can do with what we have. The TOR will enable the Task Force to review the current Operating Plan (1989). E. Eaton suggested that the Task Force should also look “outside the box” and examine other options/solutions and move away from target flows. The Task Force report should include what can be done with the existing operating plan and also what can be done outside the Agreement, i.e., exploring other options. Finally, E. Eaton suggested the Task Force should look at a report that is between a reconnaissance level and a feasibility study. The reconnaissance report would include supporting background information with recommendations to the Board.

R. Boals asked if there were any questions on the presentation E. Eaton made. There were none. R. Boals asked Syed Moin to take over and lead the discussion. S. Moin has previously sent a copy of his presentation titled, Strategic Framework, to Board members for discussion on this conference call. S. Moin went through his presentation explained the objectives of the Strategic Framework for the Task Force and the tasks for the Plan of Study (POS). S. Moin has identified six major tasks ranging from developing a POS and scope of work (SOW) to preparing progress reports, an interim draft report, and final report (refer to S. Moin’s presentation).

David Donald asked how virtual reservoirs could be used for flood storage or as flood controls. M. Estep also commented about downstream interests and impacts. There was also concern about upstream impacts. S. Moin responded all impacts would be considered. Dale Frink stated that the USGS record of 82 years is just a snapshot and we need to keep that in mind. R. Boals thanked S. Moin for his presentation. The Task Force has not met to review S. Moin’s presentation. The presentation is still work in-progress.

R. Boals explained the Board’s perspective. We need to look at environmental implications. He suggest that a scaled-back version of the POS might be needed which would address key elements, i.e., work that could be completed in 8-18 months. David Donald mentioned water quality issues and instream flow needs (IFN) could tangle up the project and require a comprehensive study.

R. Boals asked if attendees had additional comments or observations. Megan Estep preferred to wait. Steve Robinson (sitting for Gregg Wiche) had no comments. Dale Frink and City of Minot leaned toward a comprehensive study/review. Dale Frink asked if SWA was conducting any independent investigations. The answer was no. S. Moin mentioned he is looking forward to feedback. The next step is to articulate his presentation into a draft POS.

Timeline – the Draft POS will be ready middle to third week of August 2012. Conference call is planned for late August or early September 2012 to review.

2. Discussion on last week’s meeting in St. Paul

This agenda item was covered in the discussion under Agenda 1.

The call was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.