



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members: Russell Boals, Todd Sando, Dennis Fewless, Gregg Wiche, Megan Estep, John Fahlman, Nicole Armstrong, Scott Gangl, Col. Michael Price, and David Donald.

IJC Staff: Ted Yuzyk and Syed Moin

Support Staff: Mark Lee (MC&WS), Scott Jutila (US ACE) and Bruce Holiday (EC)

Secretaries: Bob White and Girma Sahlu

Todd Sando called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CST and asked if there were any changes to the draft agenda that was circulated before the conference call . No changes were made to the draft agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2013 Face-to-Face Meeting.

The following changes were made:

- On page 5, second paragraph- the numbers should read 8,000 - 10,000 feet.
- On page 5, third paragraph from the bottom, delete the last sentence that reads, "*ISRB is currently looking at nutrient loading issues in the basin*".
- On page 7, third paragraph, second last sentence should read, "*Nicole Armstrong proposed to make a presentation to the Board on the development of nutrient management strategy.*"
- On page 8, third paragraph, remove the reference to "*the new water legislation within a year.*" Also, edit *Coco-Raz* to read *Coco Rahs* and *Mitigoshe* to read *Metigoshe*.

Motion: Col. Price motioned to accept the minutes as modified. Megan Estep seconded.
Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 2013 Board Conference Call

The minutes were accepted as circulated.

Motion: Gregg Wiche motioned to accept the draft conference call minutes as circulated. Col. Price seconded the motion. **Carried.**

3. Discussion on Spring 2013 Flow Forecast

The Co-Chair asked the Flow Forecasting and Liaison Committee (FFLC) to lead the discussion. However, the discussion first focussed on membership on the three committees under the Board. There was consensus that committee chairs would update their membership list and send it to the co-secretaries for distribution. John Fahlman, WSA, mentioned that John-Mark Davies is a candidate for IJC appointment to replace Thon Phommavong and will join the Aquatic Ecosystem and Health Committee (AEHC). Similarly, Mark Lee from MC&WS has been recommended to join COH, FFLC, and the Souris River Task Force. Mark Lee is also a candidate for IJC appointment to the Board, but has not been confirmed yet.

Motion: Nicole Armstrong motioned to accept Make Lee to the COH, FFLC and Souris River Task Forces. Megan Estep seconded the motion. **Carried.**

John Fahlman made a brief statement about the flow forecast in 2013. Alameda is currently at 559.5 m and releasing 20 m³/s. The release will be reduced once the reservoir reaches 558 m. This elevation creates an additional 1.5 m of storage capacity in Alameda. Rafferty is at 549.3 m and will be lowered to 548.3 m to allow for an additional 1.0 m storage capacity. The release from Rafferty is 40 m³/s. Boundary Reservoir is at 558 m and will be drawn down to 557.6 m. The peak flow is into Boundary is expected to be some 150 m³/s with diversion of 50-55 m³/s into Rafferty Reservoir. The uncontrolled flow of 60-70 m³/s is expected at the Sherwood Crossing. Releases from the reservoirs will be stopped once local runoff starts.

Russell Boals asked about the total storage available. John Fahlman agreed to prepare a short report summarising the volumes, flows, and storage available in the three reservoirs for the Board.

Action: John Fahlman to prepare a summary report to show inflow estimate and available storage for Canadian reservoirs.

It was reported that inflows into Lake Darling were 2300-2400 cfs. The release from Lake Darling is currently set at 2800 cfs. Two weather systems are expected to bring more precipitation to the area on the weekend.

The June 1st target elevations for the reservoirs was discussed including dam safety issues as the reservoirs approach their respective full supply levels (FSL). The Flow Forecasting and Liaison (FFLC) is communicating with its members and the flow of information has been smooth. Martin Grajczyk, Tom Pabian, Al Schlag, and other members of the FFLC have good communication.

A question was raised how to inform basin residents during extreme flood events. Col. Price volunteered to inform the Governor of North Dakota regarding Lake Darling (US ACE operates Lake Darling during extreme flood events). US ACE is developing a process to inform people

downstream of Lake Darling about inflows and outflows from Lake Darling. Todd Sando mentioned that Al Schlag from the National Weather Service is the responsible contact for forecast information in the United States portion of the basin. Megan Estep stated that Al Schlag has informed her that he has volunteered to be the official contact person for weather forecasts.

Action: Col. Price will follow-up to ensure Al Schlag is the official contact person for forecasts and report back to the Board.

4. Plan of Study and Board Input to the IJC Presentation in Washington on April 17, 2013

It was agreed Todd Sando would make the presentation to the IJC. Russell Boals would participate via conference call. Syed Moin, IJC, provided a summary of the Plan of Study (POS) that was presented during the three successive presentations to stakeholders/agencies and the public.

- The first presentation, in the form of a webinar, was held on March 14, 2013 to agencies and stakeholders. Around 25 people attended the webinar. Russell Boals made the presentation.
- The second presentation was a face-to-face public information session that was held at the Grand International Hotel in Minot, ND. The presentation was made by Col. Price. Approximately, 50 people attended the information session. Col. Price also gave an interview. The public asked a number of questions. The public and Mayor Curt Zimbleman, Mayor of Minot, supported the full scope study option among the three options that were presented in the POS.
- The third and final webinar was held on March 26, 2013 for the public. Scott Jutila, US ACE, made the presentation. Attendance was estimated at 25 people. Media personnel also attended the webinar.

A total of 23 comments were received – 3 from public officials, 16 from the general public and 4 in the form of video and paper reports that were extracted from media websites.

Russell Boals noted that the public supports the fully scope study. The Board agreed to make two separate presentations: a stand-alone POS, and regular Board presentation. Public feedback and next steps will be discussed by the Board in the near future.

5. Other Business

Ted Yuzyk, IJC, asked when the 2011 annual report would be available. Bob White is busy with his office duties and unable to spend time to complete the report. Russell Boals indicated he would try to find help to complete the annual report.

The next face-to-face meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 11-12, 2013 at the Ramada Hotel in Weyburn, SK. The Board will determine if these dates should change given the potential for a significant spring flooding which may last into to June. The next conference call has been called for April 25, 2013 at 10:00 CST (11:00 CDT) to discuss the spring flood. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.