



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
November 18, 2013

Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members: Russell Boals, Gregg Wiche, Megan Estep, John Fahlman, Mark Lee, John-Mark Davis, Scott Gangl.

IJC Staff: Ted Yuzyk, Mark Colosimo, Syed Moin.

Support Staff: Scott Jutila, Chanel Miller.

Secretaries: Bob White, Girma Sahlu.

Russell Boals called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. CST and stated that there were three items for discussion – the key item was Syed Moin’s White Paper dealing with priority activities, followed by the webinar on Stochastic Hydrology; and the final item was other business.

1. Priority Activities

R. Boals asked if Board members had any comments on S. Moin’s White Paper. Most Board members have scanned the report but not in any detail. There was a discussion about the review of the language the 1989 Agreement. Project 1A in the White Paper deals with operating rules and how to move the POS forward. Projects 1A and 1B could be collapsed into one project and could start now. John Fahlman asked about the timelines and what process is warranted.

Ted Yuzyk mentioned IJC has some funds through its IWI program to fund activities while the Board is waiting to hear from governments about the POS. Mark Colosimo echoed similar remarks regarding the funding. R. Boals added that the decision from governments could be delayed and suggested moving forward with some activities using IWI funds from the IJC.

There was agreement that all activities related to the POS have to be vetted though the Board before proceeding. As well, the Board was in agreement with the following general approach:

- Agencies are free to do studies unencumbered using their own resources. However, if the study is intended to feed into or replace formal actions presented in the POS, then a process needs to be in place to ensure input from the affected agencies.
- The process would be developed by the Task Force who would assess the proposed study in light of the POS and advised the Board of the required involvement of affected agencies.
- The Board would review and approve the study prior to any work being conducted.

2. Webinar

It was noted that Tim Fay has been working on the Stochastic Modeling project and the Task Force should meet face-to-face to discuss the next steps.

The Board needs to be informed about the various activities conducted by participating agencies to ensure that there is coordination. Task Force members will be advised about the need for engagement and coordination by the Board. If IJC is funding any of the activities, the ISRB should have input. S. Moin mentioned the POS is related to activities undertaken by various agencies (e.g., the Stochastic Modeling) and should be coordinated to avoid unnecessary duplication. Bob White also noted that the Task Force will be advised about the need for Board engagement.

Gregg Wiche mentioned Skip Vecchia has written a proposal that will be discussed by the Task Force. There was a question as to when the Task Force will meet face-to-face. J. Fahlman mentioned Martin Grajczyk from the Water Security Agency will be available for a meeting. Gregg Wiche also added it would be better to have the meeting as soon as possible to make use of the USGS funds that could be constrained by the sequestration. Megan Estep said she will be available for the meeting except on December 12, 2013. Mark Lee also agreed to attend the meeting. Date and location will be determined later.

R. Boals reviewed the potential agenda for the Task Force, which included discussion on priority activities, Stochastic Modeling, and collapsing Projects 1A and 1B into one project. S. Moin will email his report to ensure all have a copy prior to the meeting. Ted Yuzyk suggested to S. Moin to use a spreadsheet as a template to indicate who is doing what in the basin. The spreadsheet is also good for identifying leveraging opportunities. S. Moin will participate in the face-to-face meeting.

Gregg Wiche mentioned if a face-to-face meeting is not possible, the Task Force could meet by a webinar, preferably before the fall IJC appearance in Ottawa.

Girma Sahlu will set-up the Task Force face-to-face meeting.

3. Other Business

IJC appearance and the IWI Workshop – Ted Yuzyk reminded the Board that the ISRB fall IJC appearance in Ottawa will be held on December 10, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The IWI

Workshop will be held from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the same date. Both Co-Chairs will not be available at the appearance and workshop due to other prior commitments. Megan Estep volunteered to present on behalf of the Board. R. Boals will join by a conference call to answer any questions that might be raised by Commissioners.

Round-table – Ted Yuzyk re-stated the significance of the Strategic Projects and requested the Board to send a brief written report. The Board has previously identified a number of strategic projects that it would like to undertake. These include assessment of the current Water Quality Objectives that have become out-dated (look at methodology and approach for assessment), the SPARROW Model, and Data Harmonization (resolving the elevation datum across the International Boundary). S. Moin mentioned the Data harmonization issue has been identified in the POS for boards west of the Great Lakes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. CST on November 18, 2013.