



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
March 20, 2014

Final Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members: Todd Sando, Col. Daniel Koprowski, Gregg Wiche, John Fahlman, Mark Lee, John-Mark Davies, Nicole Armstrong.

Regrets: Russell Boals, Megan Estep, Scott Gangl, Dennis Fewless.

Support Staff: Scott Jutila, Tim Fay, Heather Husband, Jeff Woodward.

Secretaries: Bob White, Girma Sahlu.

Todd Sando called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. CST and asked if there were any changes to the agenda that was circulated prior to the conference call. No changes were made and the draft agenda was accepted as presented.

Draft Agenda:

1. 90-day volume estimate - Souris River at Sherwood
2. Determine the return period/ flood event for spring 2014
3. Approve the Communications Protocol for Fish Kills
4. IJC Appearance in Washington- Spring 2014
5. Other

1. 90-day volume estimate / Determine the return period/ flood event for Spring 2014

Agenda 1 and 2 were combined for the purpose of this meeting. John Fahlman gave a brief report on the 90-day volume estimate at Sherwood. The March forecast was 45,000 dam³ which results in a 50/50 sharing of water between Canada and the United States.

Runoff has occurred in the lower portion of the basin in Saskatchewan although there is still more snow in the upper reaches of the Souris. The next step is to discuss with North Dakota and Fish and Wildlife Service what the 50% share would be before June 1st. It is still too early to make the actual determination.

J. Fahlman proposed to meet with the FFLC next week and discuss the forecasted natural flow and determine North Dakota's share. Less runoff is expected.

J. Fahlman also reported that Rafferty is at 549.5 m and has come up only 8 cm with another 40,000 dam³ from being full. Current release is set at 1 m³/s. Boundary is almost full and WSA is currently diverting 5 m³/s into Rafferty. Releases from Alameda have been closed as the reservoir is well below its FSL.

Spring 2014 is considered to be a non-flood year. WSA plans to meet with Environment Canada next week to discuss an interim apportionment report.

On the US side, Gregg Wiche reported that the weather has warmed up quite rapidly in February with the ground still frozen. Todd Sando mentioned Lake Sakakawea level was going up half a foot every day. A similar phenomenon was also observed in southwestern Saskatchewan with rapid melting.

The FFLC suggested starting with 0.5 m³/s and then going to 1 m³/s to meet the apportionment requirements. The flood event is expected to be less than 1:10 this year.

John Fahlman noted that the forecast calls for cold weather with expected precipitation of 5-10 mm. Heather Husband mentioned on the US side, 2-3 inches of snow is expected for today and most of it will be to the east. Mark Lee stated in Manitoba, the weather is just above freezing and nothing has started moving yet.

Todd Sando asked if there was consensus to declare the type of flood event for spring 2014.

Declaration - The Board agreed to declare the spring 2014 as a non-flood year (less than 1:10 event). FFLC will do a follow-up.

3. Approve the Communications Protocol for Fish Kills

Heather Husband made a brief statement about the draft Communications Protocol flowchart that was previously presented at the Board meeting on February 20, 2014 in Bismarck, ND. Frank Durbian has been included in the distribution list in the revised version as per his request.

Motion: Gregg Wiche moved to accept the revised Communications Protocol. Seconded by John Mark-Davis. **Carried.**

Gregg Wiche questioned about future revisions and updates to the Communications Protocol. Heather Husband responded that the Aquatic Ecosystems Committee will be responsible to revise and update the Protocol.

4. IJC Appearance in Washington - Spring 2014

One of the issues the Board would like to raise is the status of the Plan of Study (POS). There was some discussion about a “Study Board” led by the IJC. The Co-Chairs will discuss the POS with the IJC Commissioners. Russell Boals and Todd Sando will work out the details of the presentation.

T. Sando asked participants if they had any additional issues they would like to raise at the IJC appearance. There were no further issues.

Col. Daniel Koprowski will be at the IJC appearance as he is attending as the Co-Chair of the Red River Board.

5. Other Business

T. Sando asked if Board members and participants have any other business they would like to raise. There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned by T. Sando at 9:30 a.m. CST on March 20, 2014.