



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
April 15, 2014

Final Minutes

Attendees:

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

Regrets: Megan Estep, Scott Gangl, Dennis Fewless.

IJC Staff: Ted Yuzyk, Mark Colosimo, Syed Moin

Support Staff: Scott Jutila, Tim Fay.

Secretaries: Bob White, Girma Sahlu.

Russell Boals called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The topic of discussion was the proposed Plan of Study (POS). The proposal is for the establishment of a Study Board to undertake the POS for the review of Annex “A” of the 1989 Agreement between Canada and the United States.

R. Boals asked Mark Colosimo or Ted Yuzyk to lead the discussion. M. Colosimo provided a brief explanation of the white paper that was circulated to Board members prior to the conference call. M. Colosimo discussed the study board approach used by the IJC and the compositions of the proposed membership. The white paper proposes that Canada and the United States would each have three members. In addition, there would be a Study Support (manager/coordinator) from each country. The proposed time commitments are 50% for manager/coordinator, 25% for the chairs, and 15% for each regular member. M. Colosimo also explained the mandate of the Study Board with examples from the Upper Great Lakes and the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence studies conducted by the IJC. M. Colosimo further stated the Study Board is an independent binational body with membership drawn mainly from the ISRB and other agencies.

R. Boals asked the type of expertise needed on the Study Board. Ted Yuzyk responded there is a technical board and as well people should understand the basin. It is also critical to have people

committed to the project. T. Yuzyk stated that the IJC prefers participating agencies to provide staff. T Yuzyk also noted that the IJC will appoint the study manager.

Ted noted that the IJC will select the chairs and Study Board members based on the nominations they receive. It is expected more than half of the members in the Study Board would be from ISRB. The Study Board primarily reports to the IJC and the ISRB will be kept informed with updates at Board meetings. R. Boals asked for a roundtable of suggestions from Board members:

- Manitoba – Nicole Armstrong agreed with the proposal and its approach.
- US ACE – Col. Daniel Koprowski supports the concept of the Study Board, but was unable to commit staff at this time.
USGS – Gregg Wiche is in agreement with the proposal.
- ND SWC –Todd Sando supports the proposed Study Board but cautioned about ISRB's position adopted at the last Board meeting. The Board had requested active and full participation and not just an advisory role on the proposed Study Board.

Ted Yuzyk mentioned the IJC is currently looking for funds internally to move the project forward. That is why the project has been spread out over a three-year period. He said Mark Colosimo and he have a directive. They are going to governments for costs but the IJC will go forward with its own funding if necessary. The IJC is still looking for a reference from governments. This will be a topic at the next IJC meeting in Washington D.C. on May 2, 2014. The discussion between Canada and the United States will focus on how to carry out the POS using existing resources.

J. Fahlman expressed his reservations and mentioned he would like to see the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the POS before making any commitment. J. Fahlman would like to see the ISRB engaged as an active and full participant in the proposed Study Board and not just as an advisor. T. Yuzyk responded the Study Board is an independent body and members are expected to act in their professional capacity without favouring their jurisdictions. J. Fahlman noted that the 15% and 25% commitment for members and chair of the Study Board might be problematic.

R. Boals summarized the discussions – there was general agreement with the proposed Study Board. Further details will be included in the Directive (TOR) under development and review by the IJC. The IJC would like to move the POS forward. ISRB Co-Chairs have the opportunity to explain the Board's position at the IJC appearance in Washington at the end of April.

R. Boals asked for final roundtable of comments and suggestions. There were no additional comments from the Board.

Other Discussion – T. Yuzyk mentioned IJC Commissioner would like to do western tour of the Sours and St. Mary-Milk basins in the second week of July 2014. The Board was asked if it would be possible to reschedule the next ISRB meeting from June 24/25 to the second week of July to coincide with the Commissioners tour.

The meeting was adjourned by R. Boals at 9:40 a.m. CST on April 15, 2014.