

INTERNATIONAL  
SOURIS RIVER  
BOARD



CONSEIL  
INTERNATIONAL  
DE LA RIVIERE SOURIS

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International Souris River Board

Conference Call  
September 25, 2014

**Revised Draft Minutes**

**Attendees:**

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

**Regrets:** Megan Estep, Nicole Armstrong.

**IJC Staff:** David Fay, Mark Colosimo

**Support Staff:** Scott Jutila, Jeff Woodward, Heather Husband, Kristina Farmer, Steve Robinson, Dan Selinger.

**Secretaries:** Bob White, Girma Sahlu.

Todd Sando called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Draft Agenda:**

1. Review of the Minutes from the June 25, 2014 Board face-to-face Meeting
2. Approval of Natural Flow Computations to May 31, 2014 (Water Survey of Canada)
3. IJC Appearance in Ottawa (October 21-24, 2014)
4. Winter face-to-face meeting (February 26, 2015) in Winnipeg, MB - logistics/location update
5. Other

The draft agenda was amended to include the review of the draft minutes from the June 25, 2014 Board face-to-face meeting held in Minot, ND.

**1. Review of the Minutes from the June 25, 2014 Board face-to-face Meeting**

Mark Lee requested for a change on page 6 - agenda 8, Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee. Change Fisaha Enduche's affiliation to Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT).

**Motion:** Mark Lee moved to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by John-Mark Davies.  
**Carried.**

## 2. Approval of Natural Flow Computations to May 31, 2014 (Water Survey of Canada)

Dan Selinger, WSC, presented the natural flow computations for the periods ending on May 31 and August 31, 2014, respectively. For the period ending on May 31, 2014, the total diversion in the Souris River Basin was 37,130 dam<sup>3</sup>. The recorded flow at Sherwood was 103,055 dam<sup>3</sup>; and the natural flow at Sherwood was 136,747 dam<sup>3</sup> which was greater than the 50,000 dam<sup>3</sup> criteria and therefore the apportionment for 2014 would be 60/40. The US received 104,786 dam<sup>3</sup>, which resulted in a surplus of 50,086 dam<sup>3</sup>.

Similarly, Dan Selinger presented the computed natural flow for the period ending August 31, 2014. The total diversion in the Souris River Basin was 50,932 dam<sup>3</sup>. The recorded flow at Sherwood was 201,501 dam<sup>3</sup>, and the natural flow at Sherwood was 242,921 dam<sup>3</sup>. The US share at 40% is 97,170 dam<sup>3</sup>; however, the US received 203,387 dam<sup>3</sup> which was a surplus of 106,217 dam<sup>3</sup>. Both the May 31<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 periods ended with surplus deliveries to the US.

Dan Selinger reported that Long Creek had a net gain in the US portion of the basin of 6,128 dam<sup>3</sup> and 15,234 dam<sup>3</sup> for May 31<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, respectively.

D. Selinger noted that the natural flow was well above the median in 2014.

**Motion:** John Fahlman moved to accept the Natural Flow Computations presented by Dan Selinger. Seconded by: Col. Dan Koprowski. **Carried.**

## 3. IJC Appearance in Ottawa (October 21-24, 2014)

Russell Boals mentioned the ISRB will appear before the Commissioners between 3-4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2014. R. Boals will lead the presentation on behalf of the Board. Todd Sando couldn't attend due to other prior commitments and scheduling conflict. Col. Dan Koprowski will attend the meeting since he will be there for the Red and Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board at the same time. R. Boals will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and share it with the Board for their comments and changes. The discussion with Commissioners will include recent developments. Both Mark Colosimo and David Fay mentioned that they have provided the latest developments including the Plan of Study (POS) to the State Department and Foreign Affairs, respectively.

John Fahlman gave a brief update on the Core Committee's work on the 1989 Agreement. They held a conference call on July 9, 2014 between Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA), US FWS, USGS, and US COE. The three major topics discussed were:

- Digitizing the current Annex A and having it ready for editing in MS Word. The US FWS has completed the digital version,
- Reviewing the language in Annex A; and by extension in the entire Agreement, and
- Developing a reservoir regulation manual.

The Core Committee held a follow-up call on August 7 and assigned each agency to compile a list of concerns that the agency wants to clarify. The Parties had agreed to finish this task by the

end of August. The lists will be sent to Saskatchewan for compilation. This activity has not been completed as of this conference call. Saskatchewan has identified 34-35 items that it would like to discuss and seek clarification on.

John Fahlman noted that the next step is to have a face-to-face meeting, which is planned for October 7-8, 2014 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The US FWS has prepared a draft agenda for the meeting and the Core Committee plans to move ahead on the language issues in the Agreement-Annex A and Annex B and work towards developing reservoir regulation manuals as a primary task. As well the regional hydrology and hydro-meteorological network will be reviewed. The Core Committee will prepare a draft plan to guide the work.

Bob White agreed with John Fahlman's report to the Board and he mentioned that ND SWC is also preparing its list of issues to be discussed by the Core Committee.

Todd Sando asked about the composition of the Core Committee, which is:

- John Fahlman, WSA
- Robert White, ND SWC
- Scott Jutila, US ACE
- Megan Estep, US FWS
- Tim Fay, ND SWC
- Vacant, EC

J. Fahlman added over and above the list shown, the Core Committee has additional technical support.

#### **4. Winter Face-to-face Meeting (February 26, 2015) in Winnipeg, MB - Update**

Girma Sahlu reminded the Board about the upcoming meeting on February 26, 2015 in Winnipeg, MB. Canada will be the host country for the meeting in 2015. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and Environment Canada will jointly coordinate hosting the meeting including the logistics and hospitality.

#### **5. Other Discussion**

John Fahlman asked for clarification regarding a recent news release about Senator Hoven providing funding of \$300,000. Todd Sando mentioned there is some money available for the POS for the first year from the US Government side. T. Sando asked others in attendance for additional information and clarification. Mark Colosimo and Bob White both replied they were not aware of the news release and the announcement. T. Sando suggested talking to Tim Fay and seeking clarification. Heather Husband mentioned the announcement made this past June was a combination of funding. The Governor announced some money for the City of Minot to help with the flood disaster relief effort in coordination with the Housing Urban Development (HUD) funding. The second part of the announcement was that as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Governor Hoven, has made \$250,000 available to help fund the Plan of Study (POS). The Governor has also spoken with the Canadian Ambassador, Garry Doer, to examine the status of the Canadian contribution.

J. Fahlman asked T. Sando to have Tim Fay contact him to clarify the available US funding. T. Sando agreed. T. Sando thanked Heather Husband for the clarification regarding the news release.

Gregg Wiche noted that he had called Tim Fay regarding the ND SWC project funded by the USGS. The first part of the project was the analysis of climate data in both Canada and the US. The USGS has the draft results and was planning to present them to T. Sando. G. Wiche also mentioned the results could be presented to the ISRB at the February 2015 meeting in Winnipeg. T. Sando was to decide whether the report could be presented to the Board.

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned by T. Sando at 9:35 a.m. CST on September 25, 2014.