



International Souris River Board

Conference Call
August 26, 2015

Revised Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Board Members: Todd Sando, Russell Boals, Nicole Armstrong, Gregg Wiche, John Fahlman, Mark Lee, Jeff Woodward.

Regrets: Col. Daniel Koprowski, Megan Estep, Scott Gangl, David Glatt, John-Mark Davies.

IJC Staff: Wayne Jenkinson, Mark Gabriel.

Observers/Participants: Tim Fay, David Ashley.

Support Staff: Scott Jutila.

Secretaries: Bob White, Girma Sahlu.

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

Draft Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting Held on June 19, 2015 in Estevan, SK
2. Appointment of Public Members to the ISRB
3. Plan of Study
4. Next face-to-face Meeting - Date and Place
5. Other

1. Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting Held on June 19, 2015 in Estevan, SK

John Fahlman suggested a couple of minor changes on pages 4 and 10. J. Fahlman will send his revisions with “track changes” for inclusion in the final minutes.

Motion: Gregg Wiche moved to accept the minutes as modified. Mark Lee seconded. **Carried.**

2. Appointment of Public Members to the Board

The IJC requested the ISRB to identify four members from the public, which would increase the Board membership from twelve to sixteen. Todd Sando mentioned that there is interest in North Dakota. Nicole Armstrong also added there are public members who come to the Board meeting regularly as observers and who may be interested in becoming a Board member. The newly established Assiniboine River Basin Initiative (ARBI) could be a potential source for nominations. Gregg Wiche asked how we define “public”. Wayne Jenkinson replied people living in the basin and who do not represent / not employed by state, provincial, or federal agencies would qualify. The City of Minot, Irrigation districts, Souris River Joint Water Resources Board, and watershed associations all qualify. Both Canada and the US have the opportunity to nominate two public members.

John Fahlman asked if there are terms of reference for the public members that he could present to his organization. Wayne Jenkinson replied that the IJC does not have any terms of reference regarding the appointment of public members, and it would be entirely up to the Board to decide. Gregg Wiche asked about meeting logistics for the public members. Wayne Jenkinson replied the IJC would cover per diems and travel costs incurred by the public members. Wayne Jenkinson requested the Board to make its recommendations by September 18, 2015 ahead of the October IJC fall hearings in Ottawa. Todd Sando stated the September 18 deadline was too short and requested for an extension until October 1st. Mark Gabriel suggested to plan for September 18, however to use the October 1st deadline as the last resort. Jeff Woodward requested to see the names of nominees before they are forwarded to the IJC.

There was discussion about engaging First Nations and Tribal Councils in the nomination process. Todd Sando mentioned that the US will not bring any Tribal representatives as they are not affected by operations the Board. Similarly, Saskatchewan and Manitoba stated that First Nations would be considered but that they will not bring nominations forward at this time.

The IJC reiterated the September 18, 2015 deadline to submit the nominations. Russell Boals stated that he will keep Mark Gabriel and Wayne Jenkinson posted and have the nominations ready for the IJC October meeting in Ottawa.

3. Plan of Study (POS)

Tim Fay led the discussion and provided a status report on the POS. Saskatchewan has been doing work on dam safety that could be incorporated in to Annex “A”, as the language in the Agreement allows for this. Tim noted that the Core Committee is proposing that the Board form a new group/team specifically tasked to:

- Examine the POS,
- Inventory the work done to date, and
- Identify what additional work might be required.

John Fahlman added Saskatchewan is preparing a Reservoir Operating Plan (ROP). John Fahlman also noted a basin-wide model is needed to address the various issues in the basin including addressing the needs of downstream Manitoba. More science and technical work is

needed. The make-up of the group should include Manitoba and USGS. Tim Fay agreed adding Manitoba and USGS would be beneficial to the group. Tim Fay suggested going back to the POS to determine what is relevant.

It was understood that the Core Committee would continue its work, which is mainly engaged in operations, separate from the POS. The Core Committee is working within the confines of the current Agreement.

A consensus was reached to establish a POS team to include IJC's science and technical staff in addition to Manitoba and USGS. Russell Boals agreed to prepare a draft terms of reference (TOR) for the new committee that he will share with Board for review.

Action: Russell Boals agreed to lead the process and to prepare the terms of reference for the new POS team for Board review and approval.

The Board also discussed the need for more resources to pursue the activities of the proposed committee. Mark Lee expressed his interest to join the new committee on behalf of Manitoba.

4. Face-to-face Meeting – Date and Place

The Board agreed to hold its next face-to-face meeting on February 24, 2016 in Bismarck, North Dakota. ND SWC will host the meeting.

5. Other

There was discussion on "Climate Change and its Impacts" in the Souris River Basin. Gregg Wiche mentioned the 4-page Fact Sheet that was prepared for Devils Lake. The Board agreed to add the topic to its agenda for discussion in February. There was a suggestion to include a discussion on droughts. Wayne Jenkinson reminded the Board about IWI funding opportunities. Communications was identified as being a priority in any IWI request for funding. Todd Sando asked Gregg Wiche for some ideas that could be put forward in the proposal. G. Wiche mentioned he would talk to Joel Galloway and will contact Mark Gabriel and Wayne Jenkinson for a revised IWI proposal template.

Todd Sando thanked all participants.

The meeting / conference call was adjourned by T. Sando at 10:05 a.m. CST on August 26, 2015.