



International Souris River Board

Conference Call

April 19, 2017

Board Members:

Russell Boals, Garland Erbele, , Frank Durbian, , Gregg Wiche, Jeff Woodward, Joe Goodwill, David O'Connell, Frank Durbian, John Fahlman, David Pattyson, Scott Gangl

Regrets: Scott Gangl, John-Mark Davies, Nicole Armstrong, COL. Samuel Calkins, David Glatt, Debbie McMechan, Lorinda Haman, Shelly Weppler, Mark Lee

Participants and Technical Support:

Lisa Nelson, Scott Jutila, Bob White, Steve Robinson, Girma Sahlu.

Agenda:

1. **Spring 2017 Runoff/Flooding Conditions in the Souris River Basin**
2. **Other Business**

Garland Erbele called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The main topic of the meeting was the spring 2017 runoff /flooding conditions in the Souris River Basin. G. Erbele asked each agency to provide an update from their respective jurisdictions.

1. Spring 2017 Runoff/Flooding Conditions in the Souris River Basin

Saskatchewan

John Fahlman reported things are looking good in Saskatchewan. Rafferty Reservoir is currently at 550.0 m (FSL). Receiving 2 m³/s from Boundary and releasing 5 m³/s downstream as inflows drop-off the release will be reduced and shut off after that. Alameda is 11 cm or about 4 inches below its FSL. Also, releasing 5 m³/s downstream. Probably will shut the release off by next week (Tuesday or Wednesday). Boundary is about 2 inches or 5 cm below its FSL with 2 m³/s diverted into Rafferty. All in all, this spring the system seems to be working well. WSA was able to store all reservoir inflows for three weeks until runoff started downstream. F. Fahlman mentioned the WSA did a quick calculation on natural flows. According to his estimation, WSA has delivered about 57% of the natural flow. This being a 60/40 year WSA is sitting in a good position to meet the apportionment obligations. All in all, it has been a nice spring so far. Garland Erbele noted flows were dropping off rapidly upstream; and J. Fahlman agreed.

North Dakota

Frank Durbian reported nothing major has changed since the last report. Flows are moving slowly through the system. Currently, the outflow from Lake Darling is 800 cfs which will be held for the next five days or so. Sherwood is at 705 cfs with Rafferty and Alameda releases dropping off. The outflow from Lake Darling could be significantly reduced, as well. Minot is currently at 1040 cfs. J Clark (Lower Souris) area has experienced some road and culver washout damages. Roads and culverts are still under water and people are waiting it out until the water levels recede to do repairs to roads, bridges and culverts.

Scott Jutila read a report prepared by Lisa Nelson and mentioned Lake Darling is at 1595.9 ft. The reservoir is below the flood control zones and waiting for inflows from Des Lacs to go down. Currently, the flow out of Des Lacs is 440 cfs. Projections show the flow out of Lake Darling could be reduced to 200 cfs with flows above Minot to fall to 500 cfs by the end of April. At this point, flood operations could be declared over and the controls will be returned back to the US FWS. G. Erbele asked the process to declare flood operations over. R. Boals replied it is when the flows at Minot reach 500 cfs. The Board would then declare flood operation to be over and pass the control back to the US FWS for normal day-to-day operations. The Board can take this action via an exchange of emails. G. Erbele noted Minot is at 1040 cfs and there is almost half way to go before declaring flood operations are over. R. Boals asked F. Durbian about the Westhope gage. G. Erbele instead replied the flow out of Westhope is 6,500 cfs right now. F. Durbian added the gaging station is well under water and could potentially be underestimating what is going through – not completely sure though.

Manitoba

Joe Goodwill reported the river crested about a week ago. Came close to within 3-4 feet of the 2011 levels. The dyke system through the populated areas worked well. There was some overland flooding. R. Boals asked about the forecast. S. Jutila mentioned the 7-day precipitation forecast for the upper end (Grand Forks heading north and then west towards Regina) shows $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch of precipitation which was considered nothing major.

The Board has agreed there is no need for another conference call unless there are major changes in precipitation conditions.

When the Souris River flow recedes to 500 cfs at Minot, the Board would then declare flood operations to be over via exchange of email.

R. Boals reminded Board members about the upcoming IJC appearance in Washington D.C. R. Boals also noted he would prepare presentation slides on behalf of the Board. G. Erbele agreed to make the presentation in Washington D.C.

The Board will write a clearance letter to the Ethics Committee of US FWS supporting Frank Durbian's appointment to the ISRB.

2. Other Business

None were identified.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. CST on April 19, 2017.