INTERNATIONAL
SOURIS RIVER
BOARD

CONSEIL
INTERNATIONAL
DE LA RIVIÈRE SOURIS

International Souris River Board

Grand Hotel - 1505 North Broadway
Minot, North Dakota -58703 - Phone: 1-701-852-3161
June 25, 2014
Final Minutes

Board Members:
Russell Boals, Megan Estep, John Fahlman, Nicole Armstrong, John-Mark Davies, Gregg Wiche, Mark Lee, Scott Gangl**.** Via conference call – Todd Sando. Regrets – Colonel Daniel Koprowski.

Attendees:
Lana Pollack, Rich Moy, Mark Colosimo, Susan Daniel, David Fay, Scott Jutila, Bob White, Girma Sahlu**,** Jim Olson – KXMC TV Station, Minot; Dan Jonasson, Steve Robinson, Allen Schlag, Tom Pabian, Tim Fay, Kristina Farmer, Ken Bottle, Cliff Hanretty, Darin Schepp, Heather Husband, Kim Fundingslend, Vern Kongslie, Andrea Travnick, Cliff Hanretty, Dave Ashley.

Via conference call – Glenn Benoy, Syed Moin, Jeff Woodward.

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks.

   Russell Boals opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed IJC Commissioners Lana Pollack and Rich Moy; IJC legal counsel Susan Daniel; IJC Advisors Mark Colosimo and David Fay; Board members; and other participants to the meeting. Todd Sando expressed his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting in-person and extended similar welcome notes to all attendees. R. Boals then invited Board members and other participants to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda.

   The agenda was approved as circulated.

   Motion: John Fahlman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Gregg Wiche seconded the motion. **Carried**.

3. Approval of Minutes:

   a. February 20, 2014 Face-to-face Meeting Minutes

Motion: Gregg Wiche moved to accept the minutes as circulated. Nicole Armstrong seconded the motion. **Carried.**

b. March 20, 2014 Conference Call Minutes – John Fahlman amended the minutes on page 2, paragraph 7, second sentence, replace "flood" with "runoff". On paragraph 4 the same page, last sentence, replace "Alameda" with "Rafferty".

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

c. April 15, 2014 Conference Call Minutes – John Fahlman made one minor change on page 2, 5th paragraph, to replace "POS" with "Study Board".

Motion: Megan Estep moved to accept the minutes as amended. Nicole Armstrong seconded the motion. **Carried.**

4. Review of Action Items

   Russell Boals noted that any outstanding action items will be discussed as part of committee reports later in the meeting.

5. Determination of Natural Flow of the Souris River at Sherwood to May 31, 2014

   Water Survey staff were unable to attend. The Board agreed to defer the discussion on apportionment to its conference call meeting scheduled for September 25, 2014.

6. Update from the Committee on Hydrology (COH)

   a. Report on activities of the Hydrology Committee

   Ken Bottle and Rob Kirkness were appointed as the new co-chairs of the Hydrology Committee at the February 2014 face-to-face meeting. K. Bottle mentioned that he's been in contact with R. Kirkness to discuss the outstanding work plan items. The co-chairs plan to prepare a short list of the outstanding items and share it with the rest of the committee members for discussion.

   b. Report on any changes to the current water quantity monitoring

   Steve Robinson reported that there were no changes to the monitoring program for North Dakota.

7. Review of the 2014 hydrologic conditions and operations and summer hydrologic forecast and planned operations

a. Saskatchewan

John Fahlman reported on the drawdown targets for the reservoirs in Saskatchewan. There was not significant runoff into Rafferty in the spring of 2014. Most of the water from Boundary was diverted to Rafferty. Inflow into Alameda was around 1:8 runoff event. Rafferty is still below its FSL. As a result, no releases were made from Rafferty. The water level in Alameda is rising. Water will have to be released to leave 1 m flood storage before February 1, 2015. The plan is to maintain a small flow throughout the fall. The Water Security Agency (WSA) will work with US FWS regarding maintaining a small live stream flow for as long as possible. There are no flows out of Rafferty and Boundary at the present moment.

J. Fahlman also reported that the Fall 2013 rainfall totals were generally near normal aside from the lower part of the Souris River Basin below Rafferty and Alameda reservoirs which received above normal precipitation. Crop land and pasture soil moisture conditions were generally adequate. Snowfall accumulations in the basin during the winter of 2013/14 were generally near normal. Snow water equivalents were generally 40-70 mm (1.6-2.8 in.) across the basin.

The following are the highlights from the Water Security Agency Report:

Boundary Reservoir

- Reservoir was at an elevation of 560.09 m, 0.74 m (2.4 ft) below FSL prior to the start of snowmelt runoff.
- Peak snowmelt inflow of about 16 m^3/s (570 cfs) occurred on March 17 (about 1:3 event).
- Following snowmelt runoff, there were seven rainfall runoff events that resulted in increased inflows to the reservoir.
- The largest rainfall runoff event occurred in early June with a peak inflow of about 8 m^3/s (280 cfs), about 1:8 year event.
- Approximately 75% of inflow volumes to date have been diverted to Rafferty Reservoir, 15% has been spilled into Long Creek, and 10% has gone to Boundary Reservoir storage.

Rafferty Reservoir

- The normal minimum February 1st drawdown target of 549.50 m was achieved on January 18.
- The reservoir was drawn down further to 549.45 m prior to runoff to create additional storage in lieu of storage required in Boundary Reservoir.
- No further drawdown was required under the 1989 Agreement due to near normal runoff forecasted by the NWS and WSA.
- The peak snowmelt inflow of 3 m^3/s (110 cfs) was well below normal.
- Largest inflow into Rafferty, with a peak of about 5 m^3/s (177 cfs), was from the early June rainfall event.
- About 70% of 2014 inflow volumes has been from Boundary Reservoir diversions.
- The reservoir is not expected to fill in 2014 without further rainfall, even without releases.

Alameda Reservoir

- The normal minimum February 1st drawdown target of 561.0 m was achieved on January 15.
- No further drawdown was required under the 1989 Agreement due to a near normal runoff forecasted by the NSW and WSA.
- Snowmelt runoff began in late March but was not significant until April 6.
- Peak snowmelt inflow peak of 37 m^3/s (1320 cfs) was approximately 1:8 year snowmelt inflow peak.
- The largest peak inflow was following the late April rainfall event with a peak inflow of approximately 40 m^3/s (1420 cfs).

Sherwood Crossing

- Attenuation was provided for all flood events through the operation the Saskatchewan reservoirs, particularly the early April peak which was reduced by about 75% (45 m^3/s to 10 m^3/s).
- Saskatchewan has worked with its US partners (State of ND and US FWS) to ensure downstream interests are considered in all major operating decisions and has coordinated with the NWS on forecasts.

Expected Operating Plan for Remainder of 2014

Boundary Reservoir

- As long as there is excess inflow, WSA will continue to divert inflows to Boundary Reservoir over to Rafferty Reservoir until Rafferty Reservoir reaches Full Supply Level. If and when Rafferty Reservoir fills, pass excess inflows to into Long Creek.
- Terminate diversions or passing of inflows when Boundary Reservoir is at or near its Full Supply Level and evaporative losses exceed inflows.

Rafferty Reservoir

- Maintain 0.5 m^3/s (18 cfs) release out of Rafferty Reservoir through the summer months and until the normal, minimum drawdown elevation of 549.5m is reached.

Alameda Reservoir

- Continue to maintain Alameda Reservoir near or slightly below Full Supply Level by approximately passing inflows.
- Once inflows to Alameda have returned to normal summer levels, a small live outflow will be maintained throughout the summer until the normal, minimum drawdown elevation of 561.0 m is reached.

b. North Dakota

Steve Robinson, USGS, provided a summary of 2014 flow conditions for the US portion of the Souris Basin. According to S. Robinson's report, the total volume of flow past the Long Creek at Noonan gage through May 31, 2014 calendar year was 15,106 acre-ft (18,633 $dam^{3)}$. This volume is about 1% greater than the median flow for the last 54 years. Flows for the current year are in the near normal to above normal range. The peak discharge for the period January 1 to May 31, 2014 is 219 ft^3/s which ranks 42 in 55 years of record.

S. Robinson also reported that the total volume of flow past the Souris River near Sherwood gage through May 31, 2014 calendar year was 83, 547 acre-ft (103,055 dam^3). This calendar's year's total flow is approximately 74% greater than the median flow for the last 83 years. Flows

for the current year, based on the last 83 years of data are in the normal to much above normal range. The peak discharge for the period January 1 to May 31 was 1,270 cfs (36 m^3/s).

Flows recorded at the Souris River near Westhope gage, according to S. Robinson, exceeded the long-term mean for most of the period. The minimum discharge for the period January 1 to May 31 was 32 ft^3/s (0.9 m^3/s) from February 6-7. The peak discharge for the period January 1st to May 31st was 2,550 cfs (72 m^3/s) on May 25 and ranks 23rd out of 84 years of record.

The ND State Water Commission and the USGS low-flow monitoring program on the Souris River main stem in the vicinity of the Eaton Irrigation Project near Towner, North Dakota, was discontinued in Spring 2014.

S. Robinson also reported that there was good agreement between the joint measurements taken by the USGS and Environment Canada (WSC). The difference in measurements at the Sherwood Crossing was 2%, at Noonan 6% (windy day), respectively. The difference in measurements at Short Creek near Roche Percee was 11% (wading); and Long Creek at Western Crossing was 4.8%, respectively.

Allen Schlag, NWS, mentioned it was a modest year for water; nothing really major encountered. There was lots of runoff from a relatively low snowfall. The frost depth at places was around 6 feet which led to freezing of waterlines. December 2013 was below 14 degrees Fahrenheit which is below normal for this time of year. The winter was remarkably cold and caused long and extended runoff. A number of flood warnings were issued, but nothing major happened. Therefore, there was discussion with local people (Towner, Bantry, etc.) to redefine the flood situation and explain how flood warnings are issued. J. Fahlman added as a result of the continuous wet periods in Saskatchewan, wetlands were filled with water and the soils have become saturated in areas above Alameda.

Allen Schlag also provided both the short and long-term climatic look for the southern Souris River Basin. A. Schlag noted El-Nino is expected before next winter (roughly 80% probability) resulting in a warmer December. As a result, winters in the Souris River Basin are going to look remarkably different from overall averages and we don't know why this is happening.

c. Manitoba

Mark Lee reported the Manitoba portion of the basin has received between 100-150 mm (4 to 6 inches) of precipitation since May 1st which is 110-150% of normal for the area.

The 2014 spring runoff on the Manitoba tributaries began the last week of March. Tributaries had multiple peaks in response to the snow melt and rainfall events. Tributaries peaked in early May with a flood peak of about 1:5 year events. The flood outlook for March for the tributaries was normal to slightly above normal flood potential.

The Souris River peaked at the North Dakota-Manitoba border at approximately 70 m^3/s (2,500 cfs) on May 20th.The flows coming into Manitoba have greater than normal throughout the spring and early summer.

The Souris River had two significant peaks at Wawanesa on April 10 and May 10, respectively. The peak on April 10 was generated from local runoff and very sharp with an approximate value of 178 m^3/s (6, 290 cfs). The second peak of 152 m^3/s (5,370 cfs) was a combination of water entering Manitoba from the main stem and the early May peaks of local tributaries. The two peaks were characterized as 1:5 year events. Flows at Wawanesa have remained well above

normal throughout the summer, but slowly receding back to normal range. Presently, the flow at Wawanesa is 92 m^3/s (3, 250 cfs). The normal flow in June is between 15 to 30 m^3/s (500 to 1,000 cfs).

On-farm water supplies are adequate as there was sufficient runoff to fill dugouts. Groundwater aquifers also have good supply levels. Since flows on the tributaries and the main stem of the Souris are above normal, there are no water supply concerns at the present time.

d. US FWS

Tom Pabian presented a summary of refuge operations and flows for the period January 1 to May 31, 2014. The US FWS operates three national wildlife refuges within the US portion of the Souris River Basin which include:

- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge near Foxholm, North Dakota, upstream of the City of Minot,
- J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge located near Upham, North Dakota, downstream of the City of Towner, and
- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge on the Des Lacs River (a tributary of the Souris River) near Kenmare, North Dakota.

Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge - The total provisional inflow measured at Sherwood for the first five months of the year was 82,068 ac-ft (101,231 dam^3). This inflow was 98% of the historic January-May inflow, which was 83, 506 ac-ft (103,005 dam^3) for the period from 1938 through 2014. The total Upper Souris Refuge pool volume increased an estimated 6,699 ac-ft (8263 dam^3) during the first five months. The provisional outflow measured at Foxholm on the south end of the Upper Souris Refuge for the first five months of 2014 was 81,810 ac-ft (100,913 dam3). This outflow was 115% of the historic record for the January-May outflow, which was 70,938 ac-ft (87, 502 dam^3) for the period 1938 to 2014. Lake Darling elevation increased 0.70 ft (0.21m) from 1596.09 ft (486.49 m) on January 1st to 1596.79 ft (486.70 m) on May 31, 2014. Lake Darling was at 1596.79 ft (486.70 m) on June 1st 2014.

J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge - The total provisional flow measured from the Souris River to the J. Clark Salyer Refuge from January 1 through May 31 was 169, 929 ac-ft (209,607 dam^3). This was 159% of the historic January-May inflow, which was 106,806 ac-ft (131, 745 dam^3) for the period 1938-2014. Pool elevation on May 31 was 63,861 ac-ft (78,773 dam^3). This was 34,345 ac-ft (42,365 dam^3) above the January 1 volume. Approximately 234,323 ac-ft (289,037 dam^3) was passed to Manitoba during the five month period.

8. Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee

John Fahlman reported the Committee was active in May. Communications worked well with the US FWS after the spring freshet. The Committee had its last communication on May 27. There was some confusion as to who the co-chairs were. Mark Lee mentioned Fisaha Enduche from Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) will join the FFLC.

9. Update from the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee (AEHC)

a. Terms of Reference (ToR) for AEHC (see attachment 1)

Heather Husband provided an update on AEHC and its Terms of Reference (refer to her handouts).

Date was added to the header to identify any future amendments. Under membership, deleted list of members, added "Committee will provide list". Deleted the reference to term maximum of two years. Added minimum of two years to the frequency of meetings. Kristina Farmer from Environment Canada will become the new Canadian Co-Chair of AEHC replacing Bruce Holliday (pending EC approval).

Motion: Scott Gangl moved to accept the new Terms of Reference (ToR) for the AEHC. Nicole Armstrong seconded the motion. **Carried.**

b. E. coli Water Quality Objectives Support (carried over)

AEHC has put together a draft document for the support of adding E. coli to the Water Quality Objectives. Since numeric standards vary slightly by jurisdiction, the Committee met last night to decide on the appropriate numeric value. That number is being circulated throughout the representative agencies for comment and will be given to the Board when a consensus is reached. The Board was asked if it would approve the change by e-mail. The Board decided to wait until the September 25, 2014 conference call to approve the request.

c. Review of Water Quality Objectives

The Committee has just started looking at the existing Water Quality Objectives. Given the IWI possibilities, AEHC was hoping to submit a proposal for project funds under the IWI for a literature review of current objectives for all uses, including aquatic life and human health, and an assessment of appropriateness of each objective for the Souris River. Mark Colosimo, IJC Washington, mentioned the IJC would consider the review as an IWI proposal if the Board supports it. The Board was reminded that the IJC US section funding ends in September (US budget year). David Fay, IJC Ottawa, encouraged the Committee to submit its proposal as soon as possible. Rich Moy, IJC Commissioner, also supported the IWI funding request by the AEHC and mentioned that topic would be on the IJC agenda for discussion.

Action: Mark Colosimo will send the IWI template to Heather Husband for submission to the IJC.

d. ISRB/IJC Website

At its meeting last night, the AEHC discussed ways of sharing information with the general public as well as Committee members. AEHC asked the Board if there was a way to have a portion of the website available for the Committee to post information as well as projects and accomplishments. In light of the public meeting the previous night, it would be beneficial if the goal is to garner more public involvement, to have the presentations, or at least links to the presentations along with contact information for the speaker in a place the public can access. It would also be helpful if there was a sort of intranet for the committee to access to allow a greater ease in both sharing information as the Committee works on projects as well as storing information like meeting minutes. Along with this it was suggested that if possible, the current website might be re-organized into a more search/user friendly manner. It was suggested to Contact Jeff Kart, IJC, for assistance.

H. Husband mentioned there is a good working relationship among Committee members. Tom

Pabian asked what to do with parameters that exceed the current water quality objectives frequently. H. Husband responded that is part of the review that the Committee would undertake during its assessment. Russell Boals stated the Board has laid down the foundation for meaningful objectives. The other option is using the SPARROW Model to promote best management practices and protection of the aquatic ecosystem. The State of North Dakota is currently setting up and working with local groups to restore and improve water quality. The Board takes preventative measures as well as encourages best practices throughout the basin.

10. Compliance with Water Quality Objectives for 2014

Souris River at Westhope - Water Quality

H. Husband presented a summary of the water quality monitoring program at Westhope. A total of nine samples were collected by Environment Canada in 2013 – eight samples were collected at Westhope and one joint sample was collected with the USGS at Sherwood.

The highlights included:

- Total Phosphorus exceeded its Water Quality Objective 0.10 mg/L for 7 of the 8 samples collected in 2013.
- Sodium exceeded its objective of 100 mg/L for 4 of the 8 samples reported to date
- Sulphate exceeded its objective of 450 mg/L in one of the eight samples collected in 2013.
- Total Dissolved Solids exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 1000 mg/Lin 2 of the 8 samples collected in 2013.
- Total iron exceeded its water quality objective of 300 µg/L on April 29, 2013 with a value of 682 µg/L.
- pH exceeded its Water Quality objective of 8.5 units in 2 of the 8 samples collected in 2013.
- The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) concentration was above the 5 mg/L Water Quality Objective for all samples in 2013.
- Fecal coliform exceeded its Water Quality Objective of 200 no. /100mL once in 2013 with a value of 300 on June 17, 2013. This was the first exceedance since 2010.
- Chloride did not exceed the Water Quality objective of 100 mg/L in 2013, and
- Total Boron did not exceed its objective of 0.50 mg/L in 2013.

Organics – Pesticide samples were collected in April, May, June and July of 2013. Similar to 2012, 2,4D, Atrazine, Bromoxynil, MPCA, and Picloram had positive results, but were below their respective Water Quality Objectives.

General Observations

Most of the median values of the parameters in 2013 are lower than those in 2012. The exceptions are Nitrate, Phosphorus, Boron, Molybdenum, Selenium and Atrazine. The Dissolved Oxygen was higher in 2013 which is a good sign. The flow at Westhope appeared to be higher than normal for most of the year. This may be partially responsible for the drop in median values compared to 2012. This year is the first time since 1999 that a Total Phosphorus value has been below the WQO of 0.10 mg/L. Since April 2010, Chloride has not exceeded the WQ Objective of 50 mg/L.

Souris River at Sherwood Water Quality

H. Husband also presented a summary of the water quality monitoring program at Sherwood. The USGS collected a total of eight water quality samples from the Souris River in 2013 at the Sherwood site. The following is a summary of the monitoring program:

- Total Phosphorus exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 0.10 mg/L for 8 of the 8 samples (100%) collected in 2013, though the median value is down from 2012. The Total Phosphorus values ranged from 0.15 mg/L on October 30 to 0.33 mg/L on August 26 at Sherwood.
- Sodium exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 100 mg/L for 4 of the 8 samples (50%) in 2013. This was down from an 83% exceedance in 2012. The results ranged from 69.5 mg/L on July 8 to 154 mg/L on October 30.
- Total Iron exceeded the Water Quality Objective of 300 µg/L in all 8 samples in 2013, with only one value measuring below 1000 µg/L (January 3). The maximum value was 3010 on June 12 with the median of values for 2013 being 1860 µg/L.
- Sulfate met the Water Quality Objective of 450 mg/L on all occasions in 2013. The minimum sulfate value in 2013 was recorded July 8 with a value of 192 and a maximum value recorded on May 22 with a value of 381. There has only been one exceedance of the sulfate standard in the last five years, and the values remain fairly consistent in the 300's throughout the year.
- Total Dissolved Solids met the Water Quality Objective of 1000 mg/L in all samples collected in 2013.
- pH met the Water Quality Objective of 8.5 on all occasions in 2013.
- Dissolved Oxygen concentrations remained well above the 5 mg/L Water Quality Objective in 2013. Concentrations ranged from 7.3 mg/L on June 12 to 12.4 mg/L on October 30.
- Chloride met the Water Quality Objective of 100 mg/L in 2013.
- Total Boron met the Water Quality Objective of 0.50 mg/L in 2013.

Organics

- Pesticide samples at the Sherwood site were collected as a part of an intensive statewide study conducted by the ND Department of Agriculture. Samples were collected at Sherwood in April, May, June, July, August, and October.
- 98 Pesticides were tested for and none were above the Water Quality Objectives, or for those not part of routine testing, none were above either aquatic life benchmarks or human health limits.
- Of the pesticides Water Quality Objectives are established for, 2, 4-D, Atrazine, Bromoxynil, Dicamba, MPCA, and Picloram had positive, though very low, results.

General Observations

Only three parameters, total phosphorus, sodium, and iron were above water quality objectives in 2013. Most of the median values were lower than last year except for sulfate, iron, molybdenum, and total suspended solids. It is likely that the increased flows of 2013 over historic, along with the flushing that occurred during the flood of 2011, are partially accountable for the improved water quality in 2013.

Dissolved oxygen stayed above the limit of 5 mg/L throughout the year as well, which meant no winter kill of fish. It is believed that the continual flow throughout the winter played a role in this positive outcome.

11. International Watershed Initiative Projects

a. Strategic Projects Supported by IWI Initiatives - Data Harmonization

Mike Laitta, IJC, made a presentation on the progress of his work and mentioned that the Souris River Basin data harmonization work has been completed in April 2014.

The Data Harmonization Task Force will explore how the IJC could provide data stewardship beyond IJC involvement.

b. Aquatic Ecosystem Objectives Review

Discussed previously.

c. SPARROW Model

Glenn Benoy, IJC, made a presentation via conference call. G. Benoy stated eutrophication is a water quality issue across the transboundary. The major impacts are harmful algal blooms, algal infestations and fish-kills.

Driving Force and Pressures:

- Intensification of agriculture (fertilizer and manure applications on farmlands,
- Livestock operations (highly concentrated animal feeding operations),
- Landscape hardening (reduced soil infiltration),
- Aging urban and rural infrastructure,
- Climate change, and
- Historical legacy of human activities (sediment burial).

H. Husband commented the SPARROW Model could be used to review the proposed Water Quality Objectives for the Souris River Basin. SPARROW is a large scale model that utilizes long-term data. Russell Boals noted data sufficiency is an issue but, the model still can be used for the Souris River Basin (refer to G. Benoy's presentation for details – attachment 2).

d. Discussion on ISRB becoming an IWI Board

The Board discussed some of the issues/concerns in having the ISRB designated as an IWI Board. There was discussion at the last Board meeting where some issues were raised regarding nominations and public representation on the Board. Locals and agencies like the Souris Joint Water Board (SJWB), NGOs, and individuals could be nominated to serve on the Board on rotational basis (for example - The Great Lakes Water Quality Board). Nicole Armstrong cited the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board as another example where

stakeholders are represented as “public advisors”. The Board could send its nominations to the IJC for approval.

Action: Co-Chairs to work with Secretaries to identify stakeholders/citizens representing all major stakeholders in the basin for nominations to serve on the Board.

12. Update on Water Management Projects

a. NAWS

Dan Jonasson, City of Minot, mentioned the Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) has been completed by the US Bureau of Reclamation (proponent of the NAWS Project). The SDEIS is expected to address Canada’s/Manitoba’s concerns expressed in the initial EIS that led to the court case. The SDEIS is expected to be released June 22-27 for the public. On August 11, 2014, there will be an open house at the Comfort Inn in Minot for public input. The report is expected to be sent to the judge this coming fall.

b. Lake Metigoshe

There was nothing new to report. The Board decided to remove it from future agenda.

c. Other Planned Developments

There were none identified.

13. Status Report on the Plan of Study (POS) submitted to the IJC

a. Report from the IJC

Mark Colosimo and David Fay reported there was no response from governments to date. Board members expressed their desire to move forward with the POS. J. Fahlman assured the Board that Saskatchewan is not stalling the approval process Saskatchewan has interest in the POS. J. Fahlman added Saskatchewan provides 1:100 year flood protection to downstream Minot, ND. Saskatchewan has to balance its water supply needs with flood protection. While waiting for governments approval, some work could done under the current Agreement such as:

- Clearing up the language of the Agreement,
- Developing reservoir regulations, and
- In addition to snowmelt runoff, include summer rainfall events which have become more problematic in recent years.

N. Armstrong suggested agencies to work together on the activities listed above and bring them back to the Board. As a first step, the four agencies (US ACE, WSA, US FWS, and ND SWC) need to meet and work towards the POS. The Board was in agreement with this approach. The POS will be kept as “standing item” on the Board’s future agenda.

b. Discussion by the Board on Next Steps

Action: Dan Selinger, WSC, to provide the Board with the missing report on “Determination of Natural Flows to May 31, 2014”. D. Selinger’s report will be discussed at the next conference call on September 25, 2014.

14. Next meeting

The Board will hold a conference call on September 25, 2014 at 10:00 am CDT /9:00 a.m. CST.

The next Board face-to-face meeting is scheduled to be held on February 26, 2015, in Winnipeg, MB. Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MC&WS) will host and coordinate.

Action: MC&WS to coordinate and host the next face-to-face meeting in February 2015.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on June 25, 2014 (Minot, ND).

List of Attendees,

International Souris River Board Meeting, Bismarck, ND

June 25, 2014

Board Members in Attendance

Russell Boals, Canadian Co-chair, Retired, Regina, SK
Todd Sando, U.S.A. Co-chair, ND State Water Commission, Bismarck, ND (conference call)
John Fahlman, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, Moose Jaw, SK
Nicole Armstrong, Member for Canada, Manitoba Conservation & WS, Winnipeg, MB
Gregg Wiche, Member for the United States, U.S. Geological Survey, Bismarck, ND
John-Mark Davies, Member for Canada, Saskatchewan Water Security Agency, Saskatoon, SK
Megan Estep, Member for the U.S.A, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, CO
Mark Lee, Member for Canada, Manitoba Conservation & WS, Winnipeg, MB
Scott Gangl, Member for the United States, ND Game & Fish Department, Bismarck, ND

Regrets

Dennis Fewless, Member for the U.S.A., ND Department of Health, Bismarck, ND (retired)
Col. Daniel Koprowski, Member for the U.S.A, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul, MN

IJC Staff

Commissioner Rich Moy, IJC, Washington, D.C.
Susan Daniel, legal counsel IJC, Washington D.C.
David Fay, IJC Liaison, Ottawa.
Mark Colosimo, Engineering Advisor, IJC, Washington, D.C.

Support Staff in Attendance

Robert White, U.S. Co-secretary, ND State Water Commission, Bismarck, ND
Scott Jutila, US ACE, St. Paul, MN
Heather Husband, ND Department of Health, Bismarck, ND
Steve Robinson, USGS, Bismarck, ND
Kristina Farmer, Environment Canada, Winnipeg, MB
Kim Fundingdand, Minot, ND (observer)
Vern Kongslie, Souris River Basin Preservation Coalition, Towner, ND (observer)
Andrea Travnick, ND Governor's Office, Bismarck, ND (observer)
Dave Ashley, Souris River Joint Board, Velva, ND (observer)
Tim Fay, ND State Water Commission, Bismarck, ND
Allen Schlag, NWS, Bismarck, ND
Cliff Hanretty, Eaton Irrigation District, Towner, ND (observer)
Jeff Woodward, Water Survey of Canada, Environment Canada, Regina, SK (conf. call)
Dan Jonasson, City of Minot, ND (observer)
Ken Bottle, US FWS, Lakewood, CO
Tom Pabian, US FWS, Minot, ND
Darin Schepp, ND SWC, Bismarck, ND
Syed Moin, IJC Ottawa (conf. Call)
Girma Sahlu, Canadian Co-secretary, Environment Canada, Regina, SK

International Souris River Board
ACTION ITEMS – progress updated June 25, 2014

PERSONS OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	TOPIC	MINUTE	ACTION	STATUS As of June 25, 2014
Doug Johnson	Development of an International Souris River Board Procedures Manual	Sep 25/09-3 Feb 27/09-10a.	Doug Johnson to coordinate and call a meeting of a Canadian team for production of a draft procedures manual. At the Feb 23, 2010 meeting, Doug reported this was incomplete.	Doug noted that the action item should be kept open.
Bob Harrison Martin Graczyk Ed Eaton	Report on the spring 2009 flood.	Sep 25/09-3 June 18/09-10d.	SRFFLC to write a report on the spring 2009 flood. The report is to document what happened, provide a chronology of events, examine why the forecast (at Minot) was too high, lessons learned, and make recommendations for improvements for the future.	Ongoing Ed Eaton reported that he has spoken with Brian Connelly. Funding to do the work is available. Ed estimated that the report would be drafted by the end of September. Allen Schlag reported that Brian Connelly is working on a critique of the 2009 flood estimates produced by various organizations. Ed noted that he would like to incorporate Brian's report into his flood report.
AEHC	Compliance with Water Quality Objectives	September 14, 2011	AEHC to recommend actions to be taken by the Board to address exceedances of water quality objectives	Closed
John Fahlman	Winter release from mid-level outlet for better water quality	June 20, 2012	J. Fahlman to check with his staff if releases could be made from the mid-level out of Rafferty Reservoir to improve water quality downstream and respond to Mike Sauer.	Closed
Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee	New Communication Strategy	June 20, 2012	The Flow Forecasting Liaison Committee will create a formal communication strategy	ongoing
AEHC	New E. coli objective	June 20, 2012	AEHC will prepare a short report detailing the justification/reasons for adding E. coli to the ISRB Water Quality Objectives	Closed
AEHC and HC	Varying flow rates for winter releases	June 20, 2012	AEHC and HC will develop a plan for testing various winter release rates to determine the optimum flow rate to maintain DO levels	Closed
ISRB	Engaging the Upper Souris Watershed Association with Board activities	June 20, 2012	As an IWI Board, the ISRB would continue to seek opportunities to engage watershed associations and the public	Closed
AEHC	Terms of Reference	February 20, 2013	AEHC Co-chairs to send their TOR to the Board	completed
Water Security Agency	90-day volume - Souris River at Sherwood	February 20, 2014	WSA will prepare an estimate of the 90-volume for the Souris River at Sherwood for March 20 meeting	completed
ISRB	Flood event determination	February 20, 2014	The Board will determine the return period/flood event for Spring 2014	completed

International Souris River Board
ACTION ITEMS – progress updated June 25, 2014

PERSONS OR COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	TOPIC	MINUTE	ACTION	STATUS As of June 25, 2014
Co-Secretaries	Membership update	February 20, 2014	Co-Secretaries will send an updated list of all committees to the Board	completed
ISRB	Communication Protocol	February 20, 2014	Board to review and approve the "Communication Protocol for Fish Kills in the Souris River on March 20, 2014	completed
Co-Chairs	Mike Laitta's support	February 20, 2014	Co-Chairs will send a joint letter requesting the IJC for Mike Laitta's assistance.	Closed
ISRB	Potential Public Board members	February 20, 2014	Board will prepare a list of potential NGOs to establish a pool to draw public candidates for Board membership	Closed
ND SWC	Next Face-to-Face Meeting	February 20, 2014	ND SWC will host the June 2014 Public and Board meeting	completed
IJC	IWI template	June 25, 2014	Mark Colosimo will send the IWI template to H. Husband for submission of the proposed changes to the Water Quality Objectives.	ongoing
ISRB Co-Chairs and Co-Secretaries	Public membership on Board	June 25, 2014	Board will prepare a list of potential NGOs to establish a pool to draw public candidates for Board membership	ongoing
Dan Selinger	Determination of Natural Flows to May 31, 2014	June 25, 2014	Dan Selinger, WSC, to submit his calculations to the Board for review and approval at the Sept. 25 conference call	ongoing
Manitoba Water Conservation & Stewardship	Next face-to-face meeting	June 25, 2014	Manitoba Water Conservation and Stewardship will coordinate and host the next Board meeting.	ongoing

Note: When two or more meetings are referenced to an item; that indicates a carry-forward of an action item from previous meetings.