

September 25, 2007
PIAG Conference Call
Minutes

Kay Felt and Jim Bruce convened the call at approximately 10:05 am.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mary Muter noted that she sent an email (attached) 30 minutes prior to the meeting and would like the issues she raised regarding priorities for the study added to the agenda. Her suggestion was added as item "h" in section V.

II. Roll Call

PIAG Members Present: Kay Felt (U.S. Co-Chair), Jim Bruce (CA Co-Chair), David Powers, William Hryb, James Anderson, Doug Cuddy, Don Marles, Kenneth Higgs, Mary Muter, John Jackson, Dan Tadgerson, Roger Smithe, Alan Steinman. Sam Speck joined the call in progress. Dick Hibma did not participate.

Non-PIAG participants: Gene Stakhiv, Ted Yuzyk, Tony Eberhardt, Syed Moin, John Nevin

III. Minutes from Ann Arbor meeting

Minutes were accepted

Minutes – were circulated, incorporated all comments, all in order, posted on website. Were accepted with no objections

IV. Status of action items.

- a. Syed and Tony reported on the action items from the Ann Arbor meeting.
- b. The revised organization chart is complete and arrows have been added showing two-way communications.
- c. Interviews have been completed for public information officers. In the process now of finalizing contracts for a full time officer (Tom Black) with part time assistance from Susanne Traskowski. Also noted that John Nevin is being detailed half time from the IJC for three months in order to develop the communications strategy and fill the PIO role until full time staff is on board.
- d. Information protocol is being formalized.
- e. Conveyance of information procedure is being developed.
- f. Issues and locations of public meetings to be discussed later in the meeting under item VI(d)
- g. PIAG Liaison roles to be discussed under item V(c, d, e)
- h. Syed is working on collecting 1962 information. There is a contract with USGS to pull together this information and is part of our revised strategy to compile dredging history, compensation measures, etc. a complete historical overview. Earliest date for this document would be the end of this year.

- i. A copy of the Boundary Waters Treaty has been provided to all PIAG members.
- j. Mary Muter said she will make CDs with information regarding animation products
- k. The development of a list of related sites for linkage to Study website is ongoing.
- l. Development of model PIAG presentation – draft to be ready in October and will be discussed at Nov. 3 meeting.
- m. Attendance Superior board meeting. Several PIAG members and chairs did attend. (Minutes of board meeting being finalized; these will be on the web soon).
- n. All members invited to attend at hydroclimate workshop in Toronto
- o. Attendance at PIAG meeting in Toronto – PIAG members expected to attend if they can. It was explained that PIAG members can't just go to the workshop alone – have to attend both to get expenses covered.
- p. Teleconferencing Service Information has been provided by John Jackson. Study has to look at several because government contracting rules.
- q. A list of study activities already underway was provided previously and will be provided in the progress report to be provided for the November 3 meeting.

V. Topics for Discussion

- a. Communications officer for study discussed above.
- b. Status of appointments to the PIAG

Comments:

- IJC makes appointments because that is their responsibility. Has identified Jim Weakley from Lake Carriers' Association and is negotiating with others representing anglers, recreational boating and tourism, Michigan sea grant. Committed to fill out the U.S. PIAG soon.
- These folks are very busy and some are dragging their heels. We need to move on and get this done.
- Everything will be done by the November 3rd PIAG meeting.
- One vacancy remains on the Canadian side for aboriginal people, dealing with issues of land claims, etc. Meetings are ongoing to resolve this issue. Looking at different angles, can't let this drag on because it will be more difficult later.

- c. Role of PIAG on TWGs

Comments:

- Valuable to have PIAG member as liaison with TWGs. The role of PIAG is to provide advice to the Study Board on the major direction of the study, not to have the PIAG second guess how the objectives of the TWG are being met.
- Role of PIAG liaisons to TWGs to provide feedback and comments on the specific TWG competency that could be further rounded out.
- Jim – to provide feedback to the study about the direction and objectives of the TWGs and to provide outreach assistance to the TWGs as needed.
- Comments invited on wording of how PIAG might be involved in TWG decision-making, based on their level of expertise.
- Wording in this regard instead of “cannot” but maybe “are not expected to” or “should not” be decision-makers.

- However, PIAG liaisons need to be more than just observers. Role could be clarified simply by saying that PIAG members are not part of the decisions. PIAG play an advisory role not a decision-making role.
 - Don't put in negative context. Clearly state the TWG is responsible for scientific decisions; however the PIAG can be consulted with respect to them.
 - John Nevin to solicit more comments and to provide new draft for discussion and to finalize at November 3 meeting.
- d. Syed listed all the TWGs and noted that with 20 PIAG members, we will have to work out who will be where. Task Teams will meet twice a year with all the TWGs under them, setting the work of the teams. Plan Evaluation and hydro-climatology will be critical, feeding information to everyone else. Three groups under St. Clair River Task Team. Six work group on the Regulation Task Team
Some of the Work Groups are not populated yet, and we are still looking to fill them out. Some folks have shown interest but are not confirmed yet. Focus right now in St. Clair River issues. Seeking PIAG input on who will go where. Conducted a scoping exercise with TWGs two weeks ago.
- e. PIAG members to identify TWG of interest
Comments:
- Good if PIAG members get engaged, especially on the Superior regulation side.
 - Impossible to decide today, ask each of you to send an email within the next week or so indicating which TWG, then we will sort it out on November.
 - Send a note out to everyone and then everyone can simply reply. List top three choices in order of preference. Need to distribute PIAG among the TWGs, could be an imbalance.
 - Terms of reference are available on the website.
 - Much work has been done on the terms of reference, critiqued several times, not set in stone, those who are going to liaise with particular TWG. If you spot anything that is missing, please let us know.
- f. Update on studies approved to date. – every six months, must be a report to the IJC.
Comments:
- At the semi-annual, Gene and Ted will present Progress Report. Shortly after it will be posted on the website.
 - PIAG has been provided with a portion of that report.
 - Workshop was held in Burlington back in February to solicit opinions on how to define the hydraulic component
 - Other workshop to better define what's happening in the St. Clair River and Lake Michigan Huron
 - These documents describe those workshops.
 - Probably be having another mini-workshop to look at issues on 2.2
 - Regarding St. Clair River conveyance changes, have awarded many contracts over the last six months to better define this.
 - Contracted with the USGS for development of one dimensional model of St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, work will be done by the middle of next year. Will determine later if 2 and 3 dimensional models need to be developed.

- Development of GIS tool with 100 years of historic St. Clair River data will be done by next July. This will allow us to have a tool to see how it has changed over the last 130 years. USGS is looking at all the historical data.
- Looking at 1954 data, trying to make that information comparable to other years up to now,
- Looking at how the entire basin has changed geologically with respect to isostatic rebound.
- With respect to Net Basin Supply Component Sensitivity, we should have results by April.
- Sedimentation studies – started project with NWRI – several studies within one large study, looking at a sediment balance, what has changed and to what extent. What is the load of sediment coming into the system? Also taking cross section for mobile hydraulics especially in areas where sediment is moving. Also doing videography of the river bottom. Taken four trips already since 2005, especially in the deeper channels, sent a video camera down 65 feet. Output is just now coming out. Basic objective is to look at the river from every different angle and reduce uncertainties. Videography includes the deeper part of the channel that extends into Lake Huron. It was noted that placement of bed load impacts must be considered.
- Regarding gauging stations, there have been issues getting permits to put the gauges in. Will have a full hydrometric station in the St. Clair River for the first time in November. Propose to have another one up in the St. Marys and another will be near Niagara Falls. Bureaucracy has been a challenge. Hope these will remain after the study. Questions were raised regarding what the gauges will be monitoring -- water levels, discharge measurements, velocity, calibrated to give us flow at a particular site (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler). Another question about how gauges could be accurately located without having done the studies. Sites were picked based on the available hydraulic information and other variables, including logistics –in the narrowest section where it is about 300 feet across.

Consensus view reached that PIAG should send a letter in support of permanent funding for the gauges.

- Regarding outreach activities, first round of brochures was provided at the Ann Arbor meeting. PIO will take this over at the end of October. Printed 2000 brochures and can be provided to PIAG. Members have already used them. Generic poster has been developed that has been used to good effect. Poster and brochures will be used at the AD Latornell Symposium.

g. Planned activities

- Hydroclimate conference in Toronto will bring in noted experts from around North America to talk about what has happened to date (since 1997). Addressing the question -- to what extent can changes in lake levels be accounted for by hydroclimatic factors? Very fortunate to have some of the very best people in North America coming. Designed to have the scientists interact with each other. PIAG can attend, but this is not a general interest workshop but an opportunity for letting scientists work through these issues. Regarding public meetings, we all must have our antenna out for where and when they should. Questions that must

be addressed include whether they need to be in person or can they be via electronic hookup? How soon do they need to be – in the next two months or six months? Offer was made of facilities in Thunder Bay and Muskegon.

h. Study priorities

- Mary Muter noted that US ACOE says that by January, water levels will be 10 inches lower than last January in Lakes Michigan Huron. There is interest in this and the need to move quickly has increased significantly. There are folks out there who know hydrology who think that something should be placed in the St. Clair River immediately to hold water back.

Dr. Moin responded that the modeling we are doing is looking at all different avenues. We are taking a structured approach, collecting bathymetric data, etc. to calibrate models, and started development with a one-dimensional model. Plan is then to develop rational for going into a 3D model. We have a two-dimensional model and can use that at any time. We are trying to move of these projects faster. In fact, even before board was formed, performed a scoping exercise to get the process moving forward as soon as possible. Mary Muter said we must accelerate the process to develop the 3D model. Dr. Moin responded that he would pass that request on to the technical work groups and the task team.

VI. Other Business

a. Response to IJC letter to expedite the study.

Comments:

- IJC has been getting a lot of feedback from public and media. We recognize that there is a lot of concern. Letter went from IJC to Lake Superior Board asking if there is anything that they can do and to the Study board as to what they can do to speed up the study. Question was raised whether that would include recommendations regarding the St. Clair River? It was noted that previous work in the St. Clair was between the governments and the IJC was not involved. Also noted that Michigan legislature was possibly writing a letter to the IJC regarding the study.

b. Response to letter from Great Lakes Senators

Comments:

- Senators asked the IJC to expedite the study, make sure public is included and that overall mission to revise the regulation plan is not forgotten. Response to the Senators covers those points and will be provided to PIAG.

c. Strategic Planning

Comments:

- Study team is working on six month work plan, focusing on expediting the work and will be presenting this to the commission at the semi-annual

d. Communications Plan

Comments

- John Nevin will develop a communications plan for IUGLS that he will outline at the November 3rd meeting which will include a discussion of how to involve various interest groups so that the study can understand the criteria used to value lake levels. We need these criteria for the study evaluation process.

e. PIAG comments:

- Roger Smithe – Will be at the climate change conference, will be requesting Coastal Zone TWG. Thank Mary for responding to my email regarding the Baird report.
- Doug Cuddy – Concern about the Chicago diversion and its impact on Lakes Michigan and Huron.
- Kay Felt – believes it is helpful to put out information about what is the level of the outflow is at Chicago. We should know the inflow from Long Lac and Ogoki and need a fact sheet explaining this.
- Mary Muter – will we get the documents to be presented to the IJC? Yes.