

*Approved October 28, 2008*

## MINUTES

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE CALL  
September 15, 2008, 4:00 PM EDT  
and continued on  
September 19, 2008, 12:30 PM EDT**

The International Joint Commission met by conference call on September 15 and September 19, 2008 chaired by Irene Brooks.

<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	
Irene Brooks	Chair, U.S. Section
Herb Gray	Chair, Canadian Section
Jack Blaney	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Allen Olson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Pierre Trépanier	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Sam Speck	Commissioner, U.S. Section
<b>SECTION STAFF</b>	
Murray Clamen	Secretary, Canadian Section
Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Kay Austin	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Section
Valerie Brunette	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section (Sept 15)
Willem Brakel	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section (Sept. 15)
Jim Chandler	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section (Sept. 19)
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Jim Houston	Environmental Adviser, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney	Administrative Specialist, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
John Nevin	Policy Adviser, U.S. Section
Paul Pilon	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Russ Trowbridge	International Adviser, U.S. Section
Michael Vechsler	Legal Adviser, Canadian Section
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section (Sept 15)
<b>GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF</b>	
Karen Vigmostad	Director, Great Lakes Regional Office

## **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

(Sept. 15) Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of two items under Other Business:

- A. Dredging in the upper St. Marys River
- B. Commissioners' oral reports on recent Board Meetings

(Sept. 19) Commissioners approved including one additional item under Other Business:

- C. Draft schedule for 2009 Commissioners conference calls

## **2. MINUTES**

(Sept. 15) Commissioners approved the draft minutes of the July 28 conference call.

## **3. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

(Sept. 15) Commissioners reviewed a draft agenda for the October 27-31, 2008, Semi-Annual meeting and approved it with edits.

## **4. APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioners approved:

### **C. International Red River Board**

(Sept. 15) The appointment of Mr. Robert Bezek as a U.S. member of the Board.

### **D. Council of Great Lakes Research Managers**

(Sept. 19) The appointment of Dr. Carl Richards as a U.S. member of the Council.

## **5. LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (LOSLR)**

- . (Sept. 15) Commissioners reviewed and commented on draft media guidance to address inquiries related to the September 4, 2008 IJC letter to governments on LOSLR and agreed that it should be revised based on their comments.
- A. (Sept. 15) Commissioners reviewed the September 3, 2008 letter from the Province of Ontario in which Minister of Natural Resources Canfield provided its position on Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River regulation and agreed it should be posted along with other comments on the IJC website.
- B. (Sept. 15) Commissioners reviewed and approved a draft rapid communications policy on LOSLR issues when quick turnaround is needed.
- C. (Sept. 15 and 19) Commissioners reviewed draft Terms of Reference (TOR) to establish an International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Working Group with the Governments of Canada, the United States, the State of New York, and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and asked that a revised draft be prepared. The proposed group would provide advice to the Commission on issues of mitigation and adaptive management measures that would, when combined with an IJC Order of Approval and regulation plan developed

by the Commission, meet a revised set of goals, objectives and criteria in the Order. (Subsequently Commissioners approved a final draft of the TOR and provided it to the U.S. State Department and Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on September 22, 2008).

#### **6. INTERNATIONAL MISSISQUOI BAY STUDY BOARD**

- . (Sept. 15) Commissioners approved the following appointments to the International Missisquoi Bay Study Board: U.S. members Mr. Erik Beck and Mr. Eric Smeltzer; and Canadian member Mr. Daniel Leblanc. Commissioners also approved the draft Directive to the Board.
- A. (Sept. 19) Canadian Secretary Clamen and U.S. Adviser Brakel briefed Commissioners on their participation in the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee meeting that was held in West Brome, Quebec September 9-10, 2008.

#### **7. INTERNATIONAL UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners reviewed letters from the Georgian Bay Association Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation concerning the International Upper Great Lakes Study and provided guidance on a response.

#### **8. BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM**

(Sept. 15) Commissioners discussed an invitation they each received to participate in a Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Symposium to be co-hosted by Wayne State University and the University of Windsor in February 2009. Commissioners agreed that their participation would be useful and requested that the details be worked out with the Symposium organizers and reported back to Commissioners.

#### **9. INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES"**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners reviewed the invitation from organizers of an international workshop on "Institutional Capacity Development in Transboundary Basins" to be held in Bonn, Germany in November 2008 and approved the participation of one IJC staff member and asked Secretaries to recommend who should participate.

#### **10. U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) Evaluation of Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Report**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners received a briefing on the history of the ATSDR report, originally requested by the IJC in 2001, and approved draft media guidance and the recommendation to send a letter to the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) of the ATSDR urging release of the report.

#### **11. INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL (ISLRBC)**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners reviewed a letter from the International Water Level Coalition concerning membership on the ISLRBC and approved a draft response.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Dredging in St. Marys River**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners received an oral report on the status of dredging done by the Essar Steel Algoma Inc. in the upper St. Marys River and agreed the matter should be raised at the meeting with governments at the October semiannual meetings.

### **B. Commissioners Oral Reports**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners reported on the following recent Board meetings in which they participated: the St. Croix River Watershed Board meeting, August 19-20, 2008; the combined meeting of the International Rainy Lake Board of Control and the International Rainy River Water Pollution Board, August 26-28, 2008; the International Air Quality Board meeting, September 8-9, 2008; the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control meeting, September, 9, 2008; the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control, September 10, 2008; the International Lake Superior Board of Control, September 15, 2008; the International Niagara Board of Control, September 15-16, 2008; and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, September 17-18, 2008.

### **C. Draft Schedule for 2009 Commissioners Conference Calls**

(Sept. 19) Commissioners approved the draft schedule for 2009 Commissioners conference calls.

Chuck Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section

Murray Clamen  
Secretary  
Canadian Section