

Approved March 27, 2009

**MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE MEETING
Ottawa, Ontario February 10 - 11, 2009
12:00 Noon EDT**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Canadian Section office in Ottawa, Ontario on February 10 - 11, 2009 with Jack Blaney in the chair.

COMMISSIONERS	
Herb Gray	Chair, Canadian Section
Irene Brooks	Chair, U.S. Section
Allen Olson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Jack Blaney	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Pierre Trépanier	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Sam Speck	Commissioner, U.S. Section
SECTION STAFF	
Murray Clamen	Secretary, Canadian Section
Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Al Arseneault	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Kay Austin	Ecologist, U.S. Section
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Section
Willem Brakel	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Valerie Brunette	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Antoinette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section (by phone)
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser to the Chair, 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
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Ted Yuzyk	Senior Science Adviser, Canadian Section
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF	
Karen Vigmostad	Director
Doug Bondy	Executive Assistant
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist (by phone)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of the following items under Other Business:
 - a. U.S. government reply to the IJC's Second Critical Air Issues Report
 - b. Great Lakes Days (Washington, D.C.; Feb 23 - 25, 2009)

- c. St. Lawrence River (Cornwall) Area of Concern
- d. Missisquoi Bay - draft reply to letters from MPs
- e. Stamp News - draft reply

MINUTES

- 2. Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the Commissioners' Conference Call of January 16, 2009.

APPOINTMENTS

- 3. Commissioners approved:
 - a. the re-appointment of Dale Henry as a Canadian member of the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers effective November 1, 2008 through to October 31, 2009; and

two appointments to the U.S. Section of the International Red River Board for three-year terms effective February 10, 2009 ending February 9, 2012: Col. Jon Christensen as Co-chair and Mr. Dennis Breitzman as member.

BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM

- 4. Commissioners noted no outstanding letters that required a reply from governments and a reply to the Chairman of the Board, Lake of the Woods County.

2008 SPRING SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

- 5. Commissioners approved the suggested Boards that will be asked to appear for the 2009 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

WORKSHOP ON EMERGING ISSUES IN THE USE OF NANOMATERIALS

- 6. Commissioners received a status report on plans for a March 30 workshop in Washington, D.C. and agreed that as many Commissioners as possible will attend. Commissioners noted that it would be important for the workshop to address the transboundary implications of nanomaterials.

BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY CENTENNIAL

- 7. Commissioners received an update on events associated with the 2009 centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty (BWT) including an update of the planning activities for the BWTweek in Niagara Falls ON/NY the week of June 10-June 15, 2009 and:
 - a. approved the appointment of two interns who will work jointly with the IJC and UNAC to develop a manual for conducting a Model IJC in collaboration with Nick Heisler and Frank Bevacqua;
 - b. agreed that Chairs Gray and Brooks and Commissioners Speck and Olson will attend the Case Western Canada-US Law Institute Conference closing dinner on April 4, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio to accept an award recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the BWT on behalf of the Commission. Secretary Clamen is to present at a workshop session on the BWT April 4, 2009;
 - c. approved a letter of invitation for the June 13, 2009 event on the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls ON/NY to be sent to the Prime Minister, President, Secretaries of State, Governor of NY and the Premier of Ontario inviting them to participate in the ceremony;
 - d. approved a similar letter of invitation be sent to all former Prime Ministers, Presidents, Secretaries of State, and former Commissioners inviting them to attend the ceremony,

- and that the Commission would cover the individual travel and accommodation costs for the invitees currently on the list;
- e. reviewed a draft of the new IJC Activities text and Map, and provided staff with comments for the production of another draft. Staff will provide a revised version of the map for Commission approval;
 - f. reviewed the draft BWT100 website and approved the design and structure. Commissioners received a printout of website text and will provide comments to allow staff to finalize the site. Commissioners requested that an announcement be prepared to be released when the site is launched;
 - g. approved the draft text, imagery and the expenditure of \$5,000 to produce a postcard promoting the Centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty; and,
 - h. authorized staff to suggest corrections and additions to the text that appears under the Wikipedia entries for both the "Boundary Waters Treaty" and the "International Joint Commission".

Commissioners were also presented with a proposal for making souvenir items of apparel (hats, tee shirts, etc.) with the Centennial logo and/or IJC Corporate logo available to IJC staff, Board members and other interested parties. The Commission would pay a contractor for the set up costs to print the logos and the contractor would make the souvenir items available for sale. Commissioners agreed in principle to the proposal, but requested that Secretaries provide the details of any financial arrangements in writing.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

8. Commissioners received an update on the IWI. Staff reported that several projects are nearing completion and there are plans to hold an informal workshop (suggested date Tuesday afternoon March 31) to give Board representatives an opportunity to present and discuss their projects. Staff also reported that advance copies of the draft 3rd IWI report had been sent to governments. The report is being finalized and will be ready for distribution by mid-March and a communication plan is being developed. The report is going to be broadly distributed. The U.S. Section has put in place several contracts to continue the GIS expertise for an additional three months and is currently working on a position description for a longer term appointment of a GIS Coordinator.

IJC 14th BIENNIAL REPORT ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

9. Commissioners received an oral update on the drafting of the 14th biennial report and agreed that the two contractors' reports will be used as a basis for the Commission's report and that a draft will be provided to Commissioners for review prior to the Washington semiannual meeting.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT 2009 BIENNIAL MEETING

10. Commissioners received an oral update on the planning for the 2009 meeting in Windsor including information on the white papers scheduled to be completed by June and the Stakeholders Forum and agreed:
 - a. to authorize a Forum longer than three hours, if the scope of the agenda requires;
 - b. to consider changing the name of Stakeholders Forum;
 - c. that the Forum take place before the Biennial Meeting begins, possibly on the afternoon before rather than the morning of;
 - d. that a modest reception for Stakeholder participants at which all IJC Commissioners would be present should be planned;
 - e. that only two IJC Commissioners will attend the Forum - the U.S. and Canadian Co-Chairs;

- f. that decisions about the agenda and the question of whether the Forum should be open to observers will be taken after advice is received from the Great Lakes Futures Roundtable and considered by the staff working group; and
- g. that staff should provide its advice at the March 31 Executive Meeting in Washington, in conjunction with the Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT PRIORITIES

- 11. Commissioners received an oral update on the 2007 - 2009 priorities and approved a draft memorandum to all GLWQA-related Boards requesting nominations for the 2009-2011 priorities

GLRO OPERATIONS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 12. Commissioners received an oral update on the work of the Committee noting the next meeting by conference call is scheduled for March 6. It was also reported under this item that the review of the International Air Quality Advisory Board as discussed previously is underway with a draft report expected for the Washington semiannual meeting.

ELECTRIC FISH DISPERSAL BARRIER IN THE GREAT LAKES

- 13. Commissioners approved a draft joint letter from the IJC and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard. It was also agreed that a complete listing of all IJC work on this matter and alien invasive species in general should be compiled.

2005-07 PRIORITY REPORT: IMPACT OF URBAN AREAS ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

- 14. Commissioners agreed that staff should consult with the Great Lakes Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards' Co-chairs to develop advice on next steps to be taken by the Commission and report back at the Washington semiannual meeting.

LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER STUDY

- 15. Commissioners received an oral update noting that neither federal government has provided comments on the revised Terms of Reference for the proposed Working Group, although New York State had submitted some comments to State Department.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

- 16. Commissioners received an update on plans for a Board workshop concerning deviations and the aquatic environment scheduled for March 17 - 18, 2009 in Oswego, New York and agreed that both federal governments should be kept informed of this workshop. Commissioners also requested that staff recommend a response to the Board's request for Communications support, which was submitted in March and discussed again at the October Semi-Annual Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY

- 17. Commissioners received an update on aspects of the study concerning the St. Clair River noting the very complicated nature of the issues being studied and that a draft report for public comment is expected to be released by May 1, 2009, and agreed that staff should draft a reply to a February 6, 2009 letter just received by email from the Georgian Bay Association Foundation.

ST. MARY-MILK RIVERS

18. Commissioners noted that Terms of Reference establishing a twelve member Joint Initiative Team of local waters users and government officials from Montana and Alberta had been approved by the Governor of Montana and the Premier of Alberta and that the team will explore and evaluate options for improving both Montana's and Alberta's access to the shared waters of the two rivers and make joint recommendations to both jurisdictions on preferred options by the fall of 2010.

SHANKERS BEND

19. Commissioners received an oral update on the Shakers Bend Dam proposal and agreed that it should be on the agenda for the meeting with governments at the Washington semiannual.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Devils Lake

Commissioners received an oral update on the pathogens/parasites study briefing to governments scheduled for March 10, 2009.

B. A.Second Summary of the Critical Air Quality Issues Report

Commissioners noted the U.S. government response to the report and agreed that both governments' responses should be provided to the IAQAB.

C. A.Great Lakes Days in Washington

Commissioners discussed participation and agreed that Chair Brooks and Commissioner Speck would attend with the US Section Secretary and the Director of the GLRO.

D. A.Area of Concern - St. Lawrence River (Cornwall)

Commissioners noted an update report on Stage 2 had been received and agreed that staff should draft a reply thanking the governments of Canada and Ontario and noting that the Commission does not review updates but looks forward to receiving the Stage 3 Report.

E. Missisquoi Bay

Commissioners approved replies to Canadian Members of Parliament concerning the recent Public Hearings held in the area.

F. Canadian Stamp News

Commissioners approved a reply to an editorial in the May 2008 edition concerning recognition of the centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty and the IJC.

Charles Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section