

Approved January 14, 2011

**MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE MEETING
Washington, DC December 6-7, 2010**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Commission's U.S. Section office in Washington, DC on December 6-7, 2010, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS	
Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Joe Comuzzi	Chair, Canadian Section
Irene Brooks	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Pierre Trépanier	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Sam Speck	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lyll Knott	Commissioner, Canadian Section
SECTION STAFF	
Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Ted Yuzyk	Senior Science Adviser, Canadian Section
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section*
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Section
Murray Clamen	Secretary, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser to the Chair, Canadian Section*
Brian Maloney	Staff Assistant, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section*
Gavin Murphy	Legal Adviser, Canadian Section
Paul Pilon	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Robert Reynolds	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Adviser, U.S. Section
Russ Trowbridge	International Adviser, U.S. Section
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF	
Saad Jasim	Director
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist*
John Gannon	Limnologist
Bruce Kirschner	Physical Scientist*
John Nevin	Public Affairs Officer
* Participated in the meeting via video conferencing	

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda.

SCHEDULE OF 2011 IJC MEETINGS

2. Commissioners approved the schedule of 2011 IJC meetings, which includes: a) holding the February 2011 Executive meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia and inviting the IJC's western Boards to appear before Commissioners at that meeting; and b) starting the June and December 2011 Executive meetings on Monday, rather than on Tuesday.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

3. Commissioners discussed the status of the governments' negotiations to revise the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and approved a draft letter requesting that the governments' lead negotiators meet with Commissioners in February 2011 in Ottawa to provide an update on progress in the negotiations and that Environment Canada and U.S. EPA staff meet with Commission staff in advance of the February meeting to develop an agenda for the February meeting.

15TH BIENNIAL REPORT ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

4. Commissioners discussed the draft report that was provided to them in advance of the meeting and the U.S. Co-Chair's revisions to the draft Executive Summary. They agreed to provide advisers with specific suggestions and edits by Friday, December 10 and asked advisers to provide them with a revised draft as soon as practicable thereafter.

OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND PIPELINES IN THE GREAT LAKES

5. Commissioners received an update on the drafting of the report on oil and gas drilling and pipelines in the Great Lakes and noted that, due to staff limitations, a draft will not be ready for their review until late January 2011.

BALLAST WATER COLLABORATIVE

6. Commissioners reviewed the progress made to date by the Ballast Water Collaborative and its activities planned for 2011. They approved the request to provide IJC support for travel of U.S. participants (from U.S. Section funds) to the next meeting in January 2011 and possibly one subsequent meeting, with the provisos that staff approve the specific participants whose travel the IJC will support and that the IJC should get appropriate recognition for its support of the collaborative.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

7. Commissioners approved the reappointment of Dr. William Bowerman as a U.S. member of the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board (SAB) for a two year term from December 31, 2010, to December 30, 2012, during which time he will serve as U.S. Co-Chair of the Board. They also approved the appointments to the SAB of Dr. Carol Miller to be a U.S. member, and Drs. Sue Watson (pending Environment Canada approval), Don Jackson, and John Casselman to be Canadian members, all for two years terms from December 31, 2010, to December 30, 2012. Commissioners also noted the completion of current U.S. Co-Chair Dr. Michael Donahue's term on the Board as of December 31, 2010, and recognized his long and distinguished service to the Commission as a Board member.

OFFSHORE WIND POWER IN THE GREAT LAKES

8. Commissioners received background briefings from Kerry Duggan, U.S. Department of Energy, and Skip Pruss, former Director of the State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth, on the prospects for offshore wind power in the Great Lakes. Commissioners agreed that they would need to have more information before they could determine what role, if any, might be appropriate for the Commission on the issue. They requested that advisers arrange for Canadian experts to provide briefings on the issue at the February 2011 Executive meeting. Commissioners also asked advisers to draft a letter to the Council of Great Lake Research Manager requesting that the Council assist the Commission in its efforts to more fully understand the issues surrounding offshore wind power.

OCTOBER 2011 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BIENNIAL MEETING

9. Commissioners received an update on planning for the October 2011 Biennial meeting and noted that if the meeting is held October 12-14, 2011, instead of the originally approved dates of October 4-6, 2011, the Commission would be able to coordinate with meetings being held that week by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Great Lakes Commission and, possibly, other groups. Commissioners asked advisers to pursue the October 12-14 meeting dates. Commissioners also agreed that it would be appropriate to encourage the governments to use the Biennial meeting as the venue for signing a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

INTERNATIONAL UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY (IUGLS)

10. Commissioners received an update on progress in the IUGLS and asked advisers to provide a list of any outstanding issues that the Study Board has raised with the Commission but have been not answered. Commissioners also discussed the question of Commissioner attendance at the Study Board meetings. Commissioners agreed that it is up to each Commissioner to decide how he or she will fulfill his or her responsibilities under the Boundary Waters Treaty, including whether or not to attend Study Board meetings. They also agreed that Commissioners attending Study Board meeting should do so as observers. Commissioners asked advisers to draft a note to the Study Board providing further guidance on public consultations on water level restoration and multi-lake regulation.

LAKE ONTARIO – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (LOSLR) WORKING GROUP

11. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the LOSLR Working Group (WG) and noted that the WG is developing a potential new approach for managing water levels and flow regulation in the LOSLR system and that the next meeting of the WG is scheduled for February 15-16, 2011, in Ottawa. Commissioners approved a draft letter to Mr. Pete Grannis, former New York State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, thanking him for his service to the Working Group.

LAKE OF THE WOODS RAINY RIVER WATERSHED TASK FORCE

12. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Lake of the Woods Rainy River Watershed Task Force. They agreed to provide advisers with comments on the Task Force's draft work plan by Friday, December 10, 2010, otherwise the work plan would be considered to be approved. (Note: No comments were received as of December 10, so the work plan was approved as presented). Commissioners also asked advisers to draft a letter to governments to transmit the work plan. They also reviewed a letter from the Grand Chief of the Grand Council Treaty #3 First Nation, commented on a draft response, and asked advisers to prepare a revised draft for Commissioners' review and approval.

RED RIVER-DEVILS LAKE

13. Commissioners received an update on Red River and Devils Lake activities, including the Devils Lake fish pathogens and parasites study being carried out by the International Red River Board, noted that the Board plans to complete the fish analyses and initial risk assessment by March 31, 2011, and discussed what the Commission's next steps would be once it receives the Board's report. Commissioners asked advisers to draft a letter to governments providing an update on the Board's progress on the study and the anticipated timeline for its completion.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. **Commissioner Responses to Staff Requests for Decisions**

Commissioners agreed that when they receive briefing notes and recommendations electronically from staff with a request for a decision (or decisions) by polling, they will respond within three working days. If staff do not receive a response from a Commissioner within that time, they can assume that the Commissioner approves the recommendation (or recommendations).

Ted Yuzyk
Acting Secretary
Canadian Section

Charles Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section