

**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE CALL
March 4, 2011
12:00 Noon EST**

The International Joint Commission met by conference call on March 4, 2011, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Joe Comuzzi	Chair, Canadian Section
Irene Brooks	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lyall Knott	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Sam Speck	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Pierre Trépanier	Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Ted Yuzyk	Acting Secretary, Canadian Section
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Section
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey	Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Gavin Murphy	Legal Adviser, Canadian Section
Robert Reynolds	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Adviser, U.S. Section
Russ Trowbridge	International Adviser, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE

Saad Jasim	Director
Bruce Kirschner	Physical Scientist
John Nevin	Public Affairs Officer

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of several items under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the Commissioners' conference call of February 4, 2011, and the Executive Meeting of February 8-9, 2011, as modified.

LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WORKING GROUP

3. Commissioners received an update on progress in the Working Group, including outcomes of the February 15-16, 2011, Working Group meeting. Commissioners approved the expenditure of \$75,000 for a contractor to analyze coastal data for five counties in Ontario and requested that they be provided with a draft of the contract for review before it is finalized. Commissioners agreed to meet for a one day session with advisers to get fully briefed on all the LOSLR issues, and they asked advisers to propose possible dates in May for such a session.

WATER QUALITY BOARD

4. Commissioners noted that the Canadian Co-Chair of the Water Quality Board retired several months ago and that the U.S. Co-Chair is retiring this week. Commissioners agreed that new Co-Chairs should be appointed as soon as possible. They asked advisers to draft letters to Environment Canada and the U.S. EPA in which the responsibilities of the Co-Chairs are described and nominations are requested.

GREAT LAKES LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

5. Commissioners reviewed the activities of the Steering Committee of the Great Lakes Leaders Roundtable (GLLR) since it was formed in late 2009. They agreed that it was no longer necessary to engage an outside contractor to support the committee. Commissioners approved continued participation in planning for a possible GLLR-organized session at the June 2011 Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region Summit being organized by the Mowat Centre and the Brookings Institution. They requested that advisers provide a more detailed plan for the session, including if there is going to be a cost associated with participating in the summit.

ACTION ITEM LIST

6. Commissioners reviewed the items in the latest version of the Action Item List (dated February 25, 2011) and agreed to provide Secretaries with any questions or comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. **A. 15TH Great Lakes Water Quality Biennial Report Release** - Commissioners noted that the 15th Biennial Report will be released on March 9, 2011, and they thanked staff for all their hard work to produce the report. Commissioners reviewed and approved a draft media release, draft transmittal letters to the governments and elected officials, and a draft background paper.

B. Great Lakes Regional Office Funding - Commissioners requested that the Secretaries and GLRO Director provide a report on current GLRO funding activities by March 22, 2011.

C. International Watersheds Initiative - Commissioners noted that letters were being sent to senior officials in the agencies that have representatives on the Transboundary Hydrographic Data Harmonization Task Force inviting them to participate in the Spring 2011 Semi-Annual Meeting.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

8. Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum

On February 25, 2011, Commissioners approved a request from the International Rainy Lake Board of Control & International Rainy River Water Pollution Board for the Commission to support the March 9-10, 2011 Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum with a \$2,000 sponsorship.

9. Council of Great Lakes Research Managers Appointment

On February 21, 2011, Commissioners approved the reappointment of John Lawrence to be Canadian Co-Chair of the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers for a three year term effective from February 3, 2011 through February 2, 2014.

Ted Yuzyk
Acting, Secretary
Canadian Section

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section