

**MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE MEEETING
Washington, DC
April 11-15, 2011**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session on April 11-12 and 14, 2011, and with its Boards, Task Forces and the Governments on April 13-15, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Washington, DC, with Lana Pollack in the chair.

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
Lyall Knott	Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Paul Pilon	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
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey	Senior Policy Adviser, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Michael Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Brian Maloney	Staff Assistant, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Gavin Murphy	Legal Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Robert Reynolds	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Russ Trowbridge	International Adviser, U.S. Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Adviser, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Ted Yuzyk	Senior Science Adviser, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief IM/IT Services, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Saad Jasim	Director
Doug Alley	Physical Scientist
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist

Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Doug Bondy	Regional Assistant
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Richard Delisle	Administrative Manager
Bruce Kirschner	Physical Scientist
John Nevin	Public Affairs Officer
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR BOARD MEMBERS

2. Commissioners reviewed and approved the draft “Public Affairs Policy and Procedures,” with modifications, for release to members of the Commission’s Boards, Councils, and Task Forces. This new document replaces the February 12, 1992, document entitled “Public Information Policy and Procedures” and the undated document entitled “Guidance on Annual Board Public Meetings.” The Commission delegated to Secretaries the authority to approve publication and release of minutes to the Public.

Commissioners also reviewed a draft “Immunity Guidelines for IJC Board, Council, and Task Force Members.” Pending further review of the draft, Commissioners approved release to members of the Commission’s Boards, Councils, and Task Forces of the January 4, 2002 version of the document, with updating of the IJC logo and contact information.

GUIDE TO APPLICATIONS

3. Commissioners approved a draft document entitled “Guidance in seeking approval for uses, obstructions, or diversions of waters under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909,” with modifications. Commissioners provided the governments with copies of the document on April 15 and requested that the governments provide the Commission with any comments they might have.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

4. Commissioners received an update on staff efforts to develop a conflict of interest policy for members of the Commission’s Boards, Councils, and Task Forces and agreed that staff would provide a draft document for Commissioners’ consideration at the June 2011

Executive meeting. Commissioners also requested staff to consider how the issues of conflict of interest might be incorporated as one element within a broader code of conduct.

2011 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT BIENNIAL MEETING

5. Commissioners received an update on planning for the October 12-14, 2011, Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Biennial Meeting, noting that the October 12 sessions will be held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission, the Healing Our Waters coalition, and U.S. and Canadian government agencies. Commissioners approved the following items:
 - (a) Commissioners will formally announce the Biennial Meeting at a press conference in Detroit in mid-June (to coincide with the Commission's June 13-15 Executive meeting in Windsor, Ontario),
 - (b) Commissioners will be panelists at the October 12 Great Lakes Town Hall session,
 - (c) invitations to senior government officials to be VIP speakers,
 - (d) no-cost registration for student who volunteer to work at the meeting and reduced registration fee for students who register to attend the meeting,
 - (e) partnering with the Great Lakes Commission to sponsor a dinner cruise on the Detroit River on October 13, and
 - (f) formation of a staff budget committee to oversee the meeting budget; the committee will provide Commissioners with an updated budget for review at the June 2011 Executive meeting.

Commissioners also received an update on staff efforts to undertake an assessment of how environmental conditions have changed since the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was last amended in 1987. Commissioners approved having poster presentations at the Biennial meeting to report on the assessment findings and noted that advisers would work in coordination with the Science Advisory Board in the development of those presentations and that some form of written report on the assessment after the meeting would be useful.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

6. Commissioners received updates on the following issues related to aquatic invasive species:
 - a) efforts to combat Asian Carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes;
 - b) updating of the 2004 brochure "Then and Now - Aquatic Alien Invasive Species and the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Ecosystem" in cooperation with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC). Commissioners approved text of the status of follow-up recommendations from the 2004 "Then and Now" report; and
 - c) activities of the Great Lakes Ballast Water Collaborative.

GREAT LAKES LEADERS ROUNDTABLE - MOWAT CENTRE-BROOKINGS INSTITUTION GREAT LAKES SUMMIT

7. Commissioners received an update on preparations being made for the Commission to organize a session at the June 2011 Mowat Centre-Brookings Institution Great Lakes Summit. Commissioners approved the list of candidate panelists for the session, which staff will provide to the summit organizers.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

8. Commissioners reviewed the status of membership on the Great Lakes Water Quality Board, particularly the current need for new Co-Chairs. Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Susan Hedman, Region V Administrator for the U.S. EPA, as U.S. Co-Chair of the Board for a three-year term from April 11, 2011 to April 10, 2014. Commissioners also approved a letter requesting that Environment Canada nominate a senior official to be Canadian Co-Chair of the WQB.

AIR QUALITY AGREEMENT

9. Commissioners approved a plan for inviting public comment on the 2010 Progress Report of the U.S.-Canada Air Quality Committee, including the Commission holding two public meetings in Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario in June 2011. Commissioners also approved a draft letter to the Air Quality Committee inviting it to participate in the public meetings; and a draft news release, advertisement, and letter inviting public comment.

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

10. Commissioners received an update on activities of the LOSLR Working Group and noted that the next meeting will be held in Quebec City, Quebec April 27-28, 2011. Commissioners approved holding a meeting with advisers May 16-17, 2011 (extended from one day of May 16th that was agreed to on the April 8th call), in Washington, DC, for a detailed briefing on the issues that the Working Group is considering.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

11. Commissioners received an update on the IWI, including: 1) planning for the April 12 IWI workshop during the Semi-Annual meeting; 2) the substantial progress being made by the Transboundary Hydrographic Data Harmonization Task Force; and 3) the activities of the IWI Modeling Initiative, including plans for a May 25-26 workshop on the application of the U.S. Geological Survey SPARROW water quality model to transboundary watersheds.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. Facebook

Commissioners reviewed a proposal to establish a Commission Facebook page for enhancing public outreach through that social media. Commissioners noted that the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board currently uses Facebook and other social media to expand public engagement and that a number of the Commission's Boards are considering doing the same. Commissioners had questions about: financial and human resources needed to establish and maintain a Facebook page; who would be responsible in doing various tasks; how would this initiative be controlled; and how translation between French and English and vice-versa would be handled satisfactorily. Commissioners requested that staff develop a more detailed plan on implementation of Facebook and how an IJC Facebook page would function, addressing the questions and concerns Commissioners raised. They also requested that staff prepare a letter to the Commission's Boards, Councils, and Task Forces, should the Commission decide to proceed with use of Facebook, seeking their input on the use of Facebook and other social media and their views on its implementation by the Commission.

13. Pipeline Spills Report

Commissioners reviewed progress in researching the issues of oil and gas drilling and pipeline spills and approved having the report focus solely on pipeline transboundary crossings and related spills and directed staff to develop recommendations on that aspect for the June Executive meeting.

Discussion and Decisions made during appearances of Boards/Task Force/Council reporting on Wednesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 14.

NOTE: Commissioners agreed that, subject to any final edits by staff and Boards, all submitted Board Reports could be released to the public and posted on the IJC website. Those Boards submitting reports included: the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board, the International Lake Superior Board of Control, the International Niagara Board of Control, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, the International Red River Board, the International Rainy Lake Board of Control/International Rainy River Water Pollution Control Board, and the International St. Croix River Watershed Board.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TASK FORCE

14. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Health Professionals Task Force, noting that the Task Force's current mandate expires in October 2011 and that the Task Force recommends that the Commission considering upgrade its status to a Health Professionals Advisory Board.

INTERNATIONAL AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

15. Commissioners received an update on the International Air Quality Advisory Board's activities, including its work on northern air quality issues and a third report on critical air quality issues. Commissioners noted that they will consider the Board's mandate at June 2011 Executive meeting. Commissioners reviewed the Board's recommendation for next steps regarding of oil refinery emissions in the Great Lakes region and directed that an independent review be first undertaken to validate information that the Board has received about this subject

COUNCIL OF GREAT LAKES RESEARCH MANAGERS

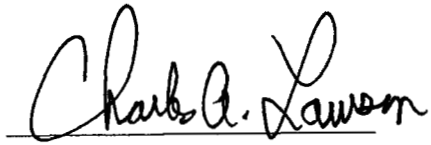
16. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Council of Great Lakes Research Managers and discussed the Commission's letter to the Council regarding research on wind energy in the Great Lakes. Commissioners approved the Council's proposal that it work with the Great Lakes Commission Wind Collaborative on the Wind Collaborative's proposed Great Lakes wind power report and provide an assessment of this report to the Commission once it is published.

INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

16. Commissioners received an update on the International St. Croix River Watershed Board's activities. Commissioners approved a draft letter to governments providing an update on the Commission's and the Board's efforts to reopen the river to alewives passage and requesting staff level meetings to discuss next steps.

INTERNATIONAL MISSISQUOI BAY STUDY BOARD

17. Commissioners received an update on the International Missisquoi Bay Study Board's activities and approved the Study Board's request to postpone the deadline for submission of its final report to the Commission to February 15, 2012. Commissioners noted that with the new deadline, the Commission would then not be able to provide its report to governments until summer 2012. Commissioners therefore decided to request an appropriate extension from governments.

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Charles Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul Pilon", positioned above a horizontal line.

Paul Pilon
Acting Secretary
Canadian Section