

Executive Meeting Minutes
International Joint Commission
Windsor, Ontario
June 12-14, 2012

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Commission's Great Lakes Regional Office, Windsor, Ontario, on June 12-14, 2012, chaired by Joe Comuzzi and Lyall Knott.

COMMISSIONERS

Joe Comuzzi	Chair, Canadian Section
Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Dereth Glance	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lyall Knott	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Richard Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section

SECTION STAFF

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau	Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section *
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section *
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Adviser, U.S. Section*
Tara Buchanan	Administrative Assistant, Canadian Section*
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section*
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section*
Susan Daniel	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section*
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section *
Michael Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section*
Gavin Murphy	Legal Adviser, Canadian Section *
Paul Pilon	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section*
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Adviser, U.S. Section*
Cindy Warwick	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Saad Jasim	Director
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
John Nevin	Public Affairs Officer
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

***Participated in the meeting via video conferencing.**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the May 18, 2012, Commissioners' Conference Call minutes, as modified.

APPOINTMENT

3. **International Souris River Board**
Commissioners approved the re-appointments of Megan Estep as a U.S. member and Russell Boals as a Canadian member of the International Souris River Board, for terms effective July 14, 2012, to July 17, 2015. Commissioners agreed in the letters of re-appointment to thank the members for their exemplary work over the past year.

BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM FOR CORRESPONDENCE

4. Commissioners agreed to remove reference to the outstanding response from the U.S. government on the 14th and 15th Great Lakes Water Quality Biennial reports. Commissioners instructed the U.S. Secretary to contact State to inform them that the IJC considered the action closed. Secretaries were also instructed to remind both governments of the outstanding response to the Lake of the Woods-Rainy River Watershed report, sent January 30, 2012 and expected in June.

IJC ACTION ITEMS

5. Commissioners requested that an information note be prepared to provide them with an update on the status of the Report of Assessment on Great Lakes water quality and that staff finalize the letter to governments transmitting the 2009-2011 priorities reports. Regarding a proposed tour of Canadian Great Lakes science facilities and of an IJC Retreat on non-Great Lakes issues, Commissioners requested that communications/press components be included.

POLICY REVIEW - IJC POLICIES AND PRACTICES

6. **A. Conflict of Interest Policy**
Commissioners discussed the most recent draft of the Conflict of Interest Policy and requested additional modifications with respect to the application of the exceptions provision.

B. Executive meetings

i. Chairing of Windsor Executive meeting

Commissioners agreed to retain and implement the 1989 Policy which calls for the Chairmanship of the Windsor Executive meeting to alternate between the Canadian and U.S. Chairs. Consequently, the 2013 Windsor Executive meeting will be chaired by the U.S. Chair.

ii. Siting of other Executive meetings

Commissioners agreed, in principle, that one of the three executive meetings will be held, on an alternating basis, in a Canadian or U.S. location other than the GLRO or Section offices. Secretaries are to further develop a proposal for Commissioners' consideration.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE

7. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Great Lakes Regional Office, including work on: outreach, conferences, and publications.

2012-2015 GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES CYCLE

8. With approval of the Priority Area work plans during the Spring Semi-annual meeting and later confirmation of the availability of the required budgets by Section Secretaries, work has progressed in each Priority Area. Commissioners received an update on each of the Priority Areas. Renaming of one of the priorities was agreed upon: the new title will be: "Strengthening Capacity to Deliver on Great Lakes Science and Information". Commissioners requested that particular attention be paid to linking the work on Environmental Indicators with that being done on Human Health Indicators. It was agreed that a call would be held to clarify plans with respect to management and upkeep of the website once it had been launched.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9 A. Guidelines for Public Hearings

Commissioners reviewed guidelines of the public hearing process and of the respective roles of witnesses and Commissioners.

B. Video Conferencing for Public Hearings

Following extensive discussion, Commissioners concluded that they were not ready to formalize or approve an IJC policy on the use of Video Conferencing for Public Hearings and that additional discussion was required.

OSOYOOS LAKE

10. Commissioners approved posting of the Board's Report "Recommendations for Renewal of the International Joint Commission's Osoyoos Lake Order," conditional on removal or clarification of the last sentence of the top paragraph of page 18. Commissioners approved a draft press release on the public hearings and confirmed whether they would attend the public hearings in person or participate via video conference. Commissioners agreed that Boards should make a presentation at the onset of the hearings and be available to answer any questions from the public that Commissioners want to direct to them. Commissioners approved sending a letter to the Board recognizing its work and the importance of its report.

INTERNATIONAL UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY

11. Commissioners received an update on planning for the International Upper Great Lakes Study public hearings, including the proposed schedule of Commissioner participation. U.S. Commissioners confirmed their attendance, and Canadian Commissioners identified those sites where they would be present and those sites where they would participate by video-conferencing and or teleconferencing, as follows: US Commissioners will participate in all hearings in person; Chair Comuzzi will participate in person in Thunder Bay (July 9), Sault St. Marie (July 14), and Little Current (July 15) and the rest by Video Conferencing; Commissioner Knott will participate in person in Parry Sound and Midland (July 16) and Collingwood (July 17), Sault St. Marie (July 14), and Little Current (July 15) and the rest by Video Conferencing. Commissioners instructed staff to inform anyone who might request a meeting with Commissioners during the hearing process of the dates and locations of the IUGLS hearings and the comments period so that they might attend and voice their views.

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

12. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the LOSLR Working Group, including the 12 public information sessions held in the basin, and were informed of recent developments that affect the timeline for completion of the LOSLR process. Commissioners requested a conference call on June 29th, to receive a further update after several key events, including: a) a LOSLR Working Group conference call; b) a U.S. Interagency briefing on LOSLR; c) a briefing on LOSLR for New York State officials in the Governor's office; and d) the status of documents needed for public hearings.

INTERNATIONAL AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

13. Commissioners agreed to conclude the service of the current members of the International Air Quality Advisory Board and thank them for their excellent service and longstanding commitment to the International Joint Commission. Commissioners agreed that this

action did not signify an intent to eliminate the IAQAB. Commissioners requested that staff explore options and approaches for fulfilling the Commission's role on transboundary air matters. A proposal to establish a Task Group to examine air born contaminant deposition was discussed as one of the potential options Commissioners approved web posting of the two IAQAB reports regarding northern air quality issues.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

14. A. Health Professionals Advisory Board Activities

Commissioners discussed the proposed Salish Sea scoping study and directed staff to organize a presentation by the Board to provide Commissioners with additional background information on the potential impacts of salt water intrusions into transboundary fresh water bodies. The presentation should also include an overview of work currently being undertaken by EC and EPA in this area.

B. Legal Memo on Authorities

Commissioners reviewed a memo from the legal advisors on the jurisdiction of the IJC with respect to its Health Professionals Advisory Board.

IJC MEETING WITH THE U.S. AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

15. Commissioners were briefed on the May 23, 2012, visit by U.S. Chair Pollack, US EPA Susan Hedman, and IJC staff to the U.S. ATSDR to discuss projects of potential joint interest. Commissioners endorsed strengthening the relationship with the ATSDR, including its potential involvement in current IJC priority projects. Commissioners also supported consideration of an ATSDR nomination to the HPAB, and directed staff to contact equivalent Canadian federal or provincial agencies for possible membership on the Board.

LETTER FROM THE CHIPPEWA OTTAWA RESOURCE AUTHORITY

16. Commissioners discussed a draft letter to the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority responding to the Authorities letter on fish consumption benefits and risks. Commissioners directed staff to revise the draft response and provide a new draft for Commissioner's consideration that include the Commission's views on fish consumption risks and benefits, as outlined in the 15th Biennial Report.

BALLAST WATER COLLABORATIVE

17. Commissioners approved the expenditure of \$6000 U.S. of U.S. Section Office funds to support delegates to an August 2012 meeting of the Ballast Water Collaborative.

OTHER BUSINESS

18. Commissioners were informed of a sighting of invasive snakehead in a water body in the Fraser River basin with a note that the rapid response efforts needed improvements.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Task Team

On May 29, 2012, Commissioners approved a revised directive for the Great Lakes Adaptive Management task team.

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section