

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Washington, DC
December 5, & 10-11, 2014

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session by conference call on December 5, 2014, from 12:15 to 1:45 PM EST, and in person at the U.S. Section Office in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2014, 9:25 AM to 5:00 PM EST and on December 11, 2014, 8:50 AM to 2:00 PM EST, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Acting Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Dereh Glance	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Benoit Bouchard	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Richard Morgan	Commissioner, Canadian Section+

+ Commissioner Morgan made his declaration at the start of the meeting on December 10 and participated in the meeting December 10 and 11.

SECTION STAFF

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau	Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Joe Babb	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Glenn Benoy	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey	Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
Wayne Jenkinson	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Samantha Klaus	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section*
Mike Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section*
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Alice Ross	Administrative Officer, U.S. Section
Vic Serveiss	Ecologist, U.S. Section
Paula Todorovic	Policy and Communications Advisor, Canadian Section*

Cindy Warwick
John Yee
Shane Zurbrigg

Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
Legal Advisor, Canadian Section*

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Patricia Morris	Director
Shahbaz Ahmed	Visiting Scientist*
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist*
Marty Bratzel	Contractor*
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist*
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist*
Hugh McDiarmid	Public Affairs Officer*
Monique Myre	Administrative Officer*
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
Jill Mailloux	Administrative Officer*
Amy Yang	Intern*

* Participated in the meeting via teleconference

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved, as amended, the draft Minutes of the November 14, 2014 Commissioners' conference call.

APPOINTMENTS

3. **A. International Red River Board and the International Souris River Board**
Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. David Glatt as a U.S. member of the International Red River Board and the International Souris River Board for a three-year term effective December 10, 2014, to December 9, 2017.

B. International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Nolan Baratonio as a U.S. member of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and its Water Levels Committee for a three-year term effective February 2, 2015, to February 1, 2018.

BRING FORWARD

4. Commissioners reviewed correspondence to and from the governments and noted that several issues raised in correspondence will be discussed in the context of the agenda item on strategic planning. Chair Walker noted that the Canadian section had received input for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada on the recommendation regarding the St. Clair River from the Commission's report on the International Upper Great Lakes Study, which he suggested be discussed during the December 10-11 in-person Executive session.

ACTION ITEM LIST

5. Commissioners reviewed the latest Action Item list and Communications Activities calendar.

IJC STRATEGIC PLAN

6. Commissioners received an update on the development of the strategic plan and noted that the steering committee had made revisions to the draft document. Commissioners reviewed the letter from the governments concerning the draft document that the Commission had provided to the governments and directed the Secretaries to draft a response for Commissioners' approval.

GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

7. Commissioners received an update on preparations being made to develop the Commission's Great Lakes Triennial Assessment of Progress report, noting that advisors are currently developing Gantt charts to depict timelines for the development of the report. Commissioners directed the GLRO Director and the Secretaries to establish by the end of 2014 the staff management team that will guide the development of the report and to meet with the staff who have been coordinating the report effort to discuss the progress to date. Commissioners agreed that the management team should provide Commissioners with options on the report's proposed purpose and the audience for the report.

GREAT LAKES - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (GLAM)

8. Commissioners received an update on staff efforts to identify candidates for membership on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee, noting that the target for reviewing a slate of nominations for the committee is January 2015. Commissioners discussed whether committee membership should be limited to governmental technical experts. Commissioners agreed that the key selection criteria should be the relevance of the technical expertise of the candidate and that, therefore, nominations of non-government experts could be considered.

REVIEW OF THE REPORT “PROTECTION OF THE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES”

9. Commissioners received an update on the work being carried out to review the recommendations of the Commission’s 2000 report “Protection of the Uses of the Waters of the Great Lakes” and noted that the project was on track to have a draft ready for Commissioners’ consideration on the January 16, 2015, Commissioners conference call.

2012-2015 GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES CYCLE

10. Commissioners reviewed a draft report prepared by staff on program effectiveness indicators. Commissioners agreed that the information in the report would provide useful input for the Commission’s 2017 Triennial Assessment of Progress report but that the report itself should be considered internal and not be released at this time. They also requested to be provided with any comments received from the WQB and the SAB.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

11. Commissioners reviewed and approved a work plan and the associated 15K budget submitted by the Water Quality Board’s Work Group on legacy issues to study polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in the Great Lakes basin. Commissioners noted that the board plans to hold four meetings in 2015 (two in-person meetings and two teleconference meetings). Secretaries to all GL advisory boards were reminded to flag the boards’ directives with respect to the participation of alternates.

COMMISSION 2015 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY EVENT

12. Commissioners considered possible options for holding a Commission event in 2015 on Great Lakes water quality issues and directed staff to develop a scenario for a two-day meeting with draft agenda and budget for presentation to Commissioners on the January 2015 Commissioners’ conference call.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER TECHNICAL WORK GROUP

13. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Technical Working Group. They noted that the working group had its first face-to-face meeting December 1-2, 2014. They also noted that the U.S. LIDAR surveys, which began in November as planned, had to be cut short due to weather.

IJC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT/INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

14. Commissioners reviewed a draft information management/information technology (IM/IT) plan for the Commission. They agreed that the Commission needs to modernize its IT/IM infrastructure and better integrate IT/IM infrastructure and services amongst the three Commission offices. Commissioners approved the draft plan as presented, directed that a steering committee consisting of the two Secretaries, the GLRO Director, and the staff IT team, be established to oversee implementation. Periodic progress updates are to be provided to Commissioners with particular attention to implementation costs that might deviate from the cost estimates in the plan. Commissioners also discussed the Commission's effort to develop a common records management system for the three offices and directed the Secretaries and the GLRO Director to work with staff to fully implement such a system.

IJC GEOSPATIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

15. Commissioners received an oral read out of the geospatial strategic planning workshop that took place December 8-9, 2014, and noted that the workshop discussions helped lay the foundation for developing a plan. Staff will provide an update on plan development at the February 2015 Executive meeting and will present a draft plan for Commissioners' consideration at the April 2015 Semi-Annual meeting.

IJC STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

16. Commissioners received an update on the development of a strategic communications plan for the Commission and directed staff to move forward with further development. The U.S. Chair asked that staff develop ideas for expanding engagement with government officials.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

17. Commissioners discussed the Commission's role on water quality issues along the boundary, noting that the Commission has, in accordance with references provided by governments in the past, specific water quality responsibilities in the Great Lakes under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and in four basins outside the Great Lakes: the St. Croix River, the Lake of the Woods - Rainy River, the Red River, and the Souris River. Commissioners directed staff to compile background information on: how the Commission received the water quality mandates in the four basins outside the Great Lakes; what the scope of the mandates are; and whether the water quality objectives being monitored are current or could use updating.

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED FORUM

18. Commissioners approved having the Commission provide support to the 2015 Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum, which will take place March, 2015. Commissioners also approved providing support for members of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board's Citizen's Advisory Group to participate in the forum.

LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY PLAN OF STUDY

19. Commissioners received an update on the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study. They noted that the public comment period ends December 12, 2014, and that staff plan to provide recommendations for Commissioners' consideration by early in the new year.

OTHER BUSINESS

20. **A) Declaration of new Canadian Commissioner Richard Morgan**
Commissioner Richard Morgan, having previously been appointed on December 4, 2014, formally declared that he, as prescribed by Article XII of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, would faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed on him under the Treaty.
- B) Canadian Chair Gordon Walker**
Canadian Commissioners informed U.S. Commissioners and Commission staff that they, in accordance with Rule 2(2) of the IJC Rules of Procedure, had selected Commissioner Walker to be Chair of the Canadian Section of the Commission.
- C) Commission Electronic Holiday Card**
Commissioners directed staff to develop a Commission electronic holiday card that would be sent to the Commission's contacts.
- D) Spring 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting Dates**
Commissioners reviewed a request from the U.S. State Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada that the dates of the Spring 2015 Semi-Annual meeting be moved from the week of April 13-17, 2015, to the week of April 27-May 1, 2015. Commissioners agreed to the change of dates.

E) Government Funding for Binational Fora for Lakewide Management

Commissioners discussed the issue of funding for the binational lakewide public stakeholder groups (called Forums) that had been established under the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement. These forums have served as a mechanism to educate forum members and the general public on lake issues, priorities, and programs, and to promote opportunities to engage in governmental processes for meeting objectives under the agreement. Commissioners noted that the U.S. EPA and Canada's EC had both discontinued funding for the forums. Commissioners agreed that the public engagement is a critical element to achieving the purpose of the Agreement and directed the GLRO Director to reach out to EPA and to Environment Canada to get more details on the agencies' plans for public engagement. Commissioners approved a response to the Lake Superior Binational Forum member who had written them about the funding issue.

F) Great Lakes Regional Office Canadian FY 2015-2016 Budget

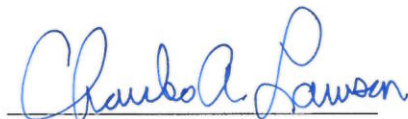
Commissioners reviewed and approved the Great Lakes Regional Office budget for the Canadian Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

G) St. Clair River Study Recommendation in the International Upper Great Lakes Study

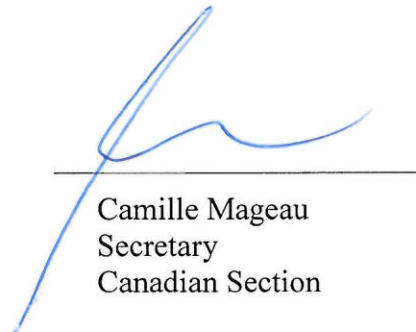
Commissioners reviewed a request from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada that the Commission proceed with implementing the recommendation in the International Upper Great Lakes Study to undertake further investigation of structural options in the St. Clair River to restore water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron by 13 to 25 cm. Commissioners noted that the Commission had not received a similar request from the State Department. Commissioners discussed various aspects of the matter but delayed further consideration pending the drafting of a response letter that the Secretaries undertook to provide and circulate.

H) Upcoming Speaking Events or Publications

The Canadian Chair informed Commissioners that he had been invited to sit as a judge in a moot court, organized by the University of Western Ontario and Case Western Reserve University, to be held in Washington, DC, in February 2015. The U.S. Chair informed Commissioners that she would be speaking at the Red River Basin Commission meeting and to a retirement conference, both in January 2015.



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section