

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
February 6 & 9, 2015

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session by conference call on February 6, 2015, from 12:06 to 1:45 PM EST, and in person at the Canadian Section Office in Ottawa, Ontario, on February 9, 2015, 8:40 AM to 4:45 PM EST chaired by Gordon Walker.

COMMISSIONERS

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Gordon Walker | Chair, Canadian Section |
| Lana Pollack | Chair, U.S. Section |
| Rich Moy | Commissioner, U.S. Section |
| Dereth Glance | Commissioner, U.S. Section |
| Benoit Bouchard | Commissioner, Canadian Section |
| Richard Morgan | Commissioner, Canadian Section |

SECTION STAFF

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| 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 Science Advisor, Canadian Section |
| Frank Bevacqua | Public Information Officer, U.S. Section* |
| Antionette Cade | Special Assistant, U.S. Section* |
| Pierre-Yves Caux | Director, Sciences 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* |
| Dominique Guerin-Garnett | Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section |
| Nick Heisler | Senior Advisor, Canadian Section |
| Wayne Jenkinson | Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section |
| Samantha Klaus | Environmental Officer, Canadian Section |
| Sarah Lobrichon | Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section |
| Vic Serveiss | Ecologist, U.S. Section* |
| Shane Zurbrigg | Legal Advisor, Canadian Section |

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

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|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Patricia Morris | Director |
| Shahbaz Ahmed | Visiting Scientist** |
| Jennifer Boehme | Physical Scientist* |
| Mark Burrows | Physical Scientist* |
| Matthew Child | Physical Scientist* |
| Hugh McDiarmid | Public Affairs Officer* |
| Lizhu Wang | Physical Scientist** |

*** Participated in the meeting February 6, 9 via teleconference**

**** Participated in February 6th teleconference only**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as presented.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the January 16, 2015, Commissioners' conference call, as amended.

BRING FORWARD

3. Commissioners reviewed correspondence to and from the governments and agreed on the addition of the December 4, 2014 correspondence from DFATD to the Canadian Chair and Secretary concerning the St. Clair River Study recommendation in the International Upper Great Lakes Study. A response remains outstanding.

ACTION ITEM LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

4. Commissioners reviewed the latest Action Item list and Communications Activities calendar. Chair Pollack asked that Commissioners be provided with updates on implementation of the Information Management/Information Technology plan at each call or meeting. Commissioners Glance and Morgan agreed to be part of the planning committee for the 2015 Great Lakes Water Quality meeting being organized in Windsor, Ontario.

INTER-OFFICE TEAMWORK

5. Commissioners received an update on the mechanisms used by the three IJC offices to give effect to the One IJC approach and to facilitate inter office information sharing.

SPRING 2015 SEMI-ANNUAL BOARD APPEARANCES

6. Commissioners received an update on preparations being made for the April 27-May 1, 2015, Semi-Annual meeting to be held in Washington, DC. Commissioners approved the schedule of board appearances. Commissioners also discussed the timing of other meetings in 2015 and agreed: a) to move the dates of the June Executive meeting to June 8-9, 2015 and b) to move the dates of the fall 2015 Semi-Annual meeting to October 26-30.

RECOGNIZING BOARD MEMBERS AND SEMI-ANNUAL RECEPTIONS

7. Commissioners considered a proposal to recognize departing board members during the board appearances but decided to continue with the current practice of recognizing departing board members at the Semi-Annual meeting reception and also recognize departing members at the board appearances.

2012-2015 GREAT LAKES PRIORITY CYCLE

8. A) Commissioners received an update on the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority, which included a presentation on geospatial displays of selected scientific and jurisdictional data sets relevant to the issue of nutrient enrichment and harmful algal blooms. Commissioners instructed staff to further scope out a gap analysis, including the potential development of a binational GIS platform for visualization of harmonized data sets and key watershed attributes, and as assessment of policy and regulatory needs.
8. B) On the Assessment of Progress Towards Restoring the Great Lakes Priority, Commissioners agreed to the development of a summary high level report which should identify IJC recommended indicators and associated rationale. The report should also include a high level summary of the SOLEC indicators and a summary of the communication indicator project. With respect to Apex indicators for communications, the Commission will provide further guidance to the SAB regarding the need for the indicators to be directly associated with human activities and able to assess progress in Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement implementation. With respect to the two physical indicators, Commissioners believe these might best be considered in the context of a discussion on the impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes.

PIPELINE UNDERLYING STRAITS OF MACKINAC

9. Commissioners agreed that as part of the Commission's watching brief on pipelines that a pipeline safety expert from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be invited to provide Commissioners with a technical briefing on the Enbridge Pipeline underlying the Straits of Mackinac (Line #5). Options discussed for this briefing included a webinar or a face to face meeting. Commissioners also undertook to identify other experts who might help provide factual information to the Commission on this issue.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

10. Commissioners agreed to set January 2017 as the target date for submitting the Commission's triennial report to governments. They requested that staff regularly update the Commission on any delay associated with components of the report not within control of the IJC (e.g. receiving the progress report of the parties and the State of the Lakes (SOLEC) report).

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

11. Commissioners approved, as modified the directive on deviations from the regulation plan for the International Lake Superior Board of Control. Staff indicated that the directive on peaking and ponding and the consolidated order will be submitted for Commissioner consideration at the Spring Semi-Annual meeting. Secretaries will convey the approved directive to the Board.

RAINY AND NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVE REVIEW

12. Commissioners approved the proposal to undertake the review of the Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curve with a target completion date of April 2017 and instructed Secretaries to inform governments of the IJC's intention to fund this work using existing resources.

POPLAR RIVER

13. Commissioners directed liaisons to facilitate a discussion between the co-chairs of the International Red River Board and the St Mary Milk Accredited Officers regarding a proposed change in the reporting responsibilities for the Poplar River and Big Muddy Creek, and report back to the Commission.

2014 IJC ACTIVITIES REPORT

14. Commissioners provided numerous comments on the draft 2014 Activities Report and requested that a second draft be prepared prior to the next Commissioner call.

REVIEW OF THE REPORT "PROTECTION OF THE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES"

15. Commissioners approved sharing the revised draft of the document with the Great Lakes Regional Body for its internal review. Public posting of the draft IJC's review of the 2000 report "Protection of the Uses of the Waters of the Great Lakes" will occur following Commissioner review of a revised draft during the March Commissioners Conference call.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

16. Commissioners reviewed a draft of the fourth IWI report to governments and requested discussion of a revised draft prior to sharing with the Boards for comment in early March.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Great Lakes Research Proposal

On February 3, 2015, Commissioners approved a letter to researchers concerning a draft grant proposal on the topic of adaptive management governance in the Great Lakes to be submitted to the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Lake Superior Pollution

On January 27, 2015, Commissioners approved a letter responding to a report the Commission received on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Lake Superior.

Lake of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study

On January 26, 2015, Commissioners approved a communications plan and press release for the public release of the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section