

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE MEETING
Washington, DC
April 23 & April 27 - May 1, 2015

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session by conference call on April 23, 2015, from 2:05 PM to 4:05 PM EDT; and in person at the U.S. Section Office in Washington, DC, April 27 and 30, 2015, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT. The Commission met with its Boards on April 28-29, 2015, and with the Governments on May 1, 2015, in Washington, DC. U.S. Section Chair Lana Pollack chaired the meetings chair.

COMMISSIONERS

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

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 Affairs Advisor, 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	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Dominique Guérin-Garnett	Public Affairs Advisor, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Talante Henderson	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section*
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section

Cindy Warwick
John Yee
Shane Zurbrigg

Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
Legal Advisor, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Trish Morris	Director
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Hugh McDiarmid	Public Affairs Officer
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

*** Participated in the meeting via teleconference**

Note: Items #2-11 below were discussed during the Commissioners' conference call of April 23, 2015. Other items were discussed during the April 27 and 30, 2015, Executive session.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of several items under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the March 20, 2015, Commissioners' conference call, as amended.

APPOINTMENTS

3. A. International Souris River Board

Commissioners deferred decision on ISRB appointments requesting that staff provide commissioners with options regarding possible future board size, composition, length of term, and other considerations relating to board membership.

B. International Red River Board

Commissioners approved the re-appointments of: Mr. Gregg Wiche as a U.S. member of the Board for a three-year term effective May 1, 2015, to April 30, 2018; Mr. James Ziegler as a U.S. member of the Board for a three-year term effective retroactively from January 13, 2015, to January 12, 2018; and Ms. Patricia Ramlal as a Canadian member of the Board for a three-year term effective April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2018.

C. International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Ms. Lori Dowling-Hanson as a U.S. member of the Board for a three year term effective April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2018.

D. International St. Croix River Watershed Board

Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. Ralph Abele as a U.S. member of the Board for a three year term, effective April 30, 2015, to April 29, 2018.

E. Great Lakes Water Quality Board

Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Jessica Dexter to be a U.S. member of the Board for a three year term effective April 24, 2015, to April 23, 2018.

BRING FORWARD

4. Commissioners reviewed the list of communications between the Commission and the governments that are awaiting responses and requested deletion of some elements for which no further action is expected. One item was added concerning the IJC's pending response to the December 8, 2014 request by DFATD concerning the St. Clair River Study.

ACTION ITEM LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST

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

IJC HUMAN RESOURCES

6. Commissioners received an update on the three offices' human resources and noted the need to conduct a recruitment process for the GLRO public affairs advisor position.

IJC STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

7. Commissioners received an update on the development of the Commission's strategic communications plan and approved a set of core communications messages.

COMMISSION GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY EVENT

8. Commissioners received an update on planning for the Commission's upcoming Great Lakes Water Quality Event, which will be held in Windsor, Ontario. Commissioners agreed that the title of the meeting will be *Water Quality Matters*. They also agreed on the structure and themes for the meeting; suggested that staff try to work into the schedule a general break out session where participants could raise any Great Lakes issues; and directed staff to move forward with planning the meeting sessions.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

9. Commissioners received an update on activities of the staff management team guiding the development of the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT ANNEX WORK

10. Commissioners received an update on staff activities regarding Annex 1 (Areas of Concern - AOC) of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. They approved an updated staff work plan for Annex 1 activities. They noted that the Canadian government is working to delist two Canadian AOCs this year, the Nipigon Bay AOC and the St. Lawrence River AOC. They also noted that the St. Lawrence River AOC is a binational AOC. They agreed that they should consider the issue of how only one side a binational AOC could be delisted and also the issue of possible new AOCs.

2012-2015 GREAT LAKES PRIORITY CYCLE

11. Commissioners received updates on the activities underway in the 2012-2015 priorities areas: Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP); Assessment of Progress; and Strengthening the Capacity to Deliver Great Lakes Science. On LEEP, Commissioners approved having staff develop details for a project that would investigate the relative contribution of sources to the overall non-point nutrient load to the western Lake Erie basin.

REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR WATERSHE BOARDS AND PILOT WATERSHED BOARDS

12. Commissioners approved having IJC staff lead a review of water quality objectives for the International Souris River Board, the International Red River Board, the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, and the International St. Croix River Watershed Board and endorsed the proposed timeline.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL PEAKING AND PONDING DIRECTIVE

13. Commissioners reviewed and approved, as modified, the Peaking and Ponding Directive for the International Lake Superior Board of Control, including a requirement to review and report periodically on the peaking and ponding practices.

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD WATER LEVELS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HIGH WATER LEVELS IN JUNE 2014

14. Commissioners approved release of the Water Levels Committee report on High Water Levels in the Rainy River Watershed for public comment and requested preparation of a press release for approval by the Commission. Commissioners also requested details on a number of follow up action, including a face-to-face post flood report with affected communities and other actions to give effect to the WLC recommendations re clarification of roles and responsibilities within the watershed.

POPLAR RIVER

15. Commissioners took notice of the April 27, 2015, letter from the Accredited Officers of the Saint Mary-Milk Rivers, confirmed their desire for continued reporting on the Poplar River, and agreed that the International Red River Board should be relieved of the responsibility to report on the Poplar River once a new reporting mechanism is in place. Commissioners instructed staff to hold discussion with water quality and water quantity monitoring authorities in the watershed to further develop options for Commission consideration.

RAINY AND NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVE REVIEW

16. Commissioners provided additional comments on the draft Directive and Terms of Reference, which will now be shared with the Board and legal advisors for review. Final approval for both documents is to be sought at the June Executive.

IJC AUTHORITIES

17. Commissioners reviewed progress achieved in the documentation of IJC standard operating procedures for adoption and amendments of Orders of approvals and suggested modifications to the flow chart for Article IX References.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

18. During discussion of this item, Commissioners reaffirmed their desire, where staff, Secretaries and the director of the GLRO cannot reach consensus on an issue that Commissioners be provided with all views. Commissioners requested legal advisors review the directive to reflect the differing responsibilities of Secretaries and of the GLRO Director depending on whether the Board's activities were within or beyond the GL basin and share the revised draft with the GLRO Director, HPAB Secretary, and liaisons.

IJC GEOSPATIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

19. Commissioners received an overview of the draft Geospatial plan, of the challenges faced by the Commission, and of proposed ways forward to meet these challenges. Commissioners approved the governance structure and the draft Geospatial Strategic Plan and endorsed the next steps outlined by staff. Commissioners have requested a progress report at the June executive.

PROTECTION OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES

20. Commissioners approved the timeline and critical path for public consultation and posting of the consultant's report. Commissioners also approved the proposed key messages

AIR QUALITY ISSUES

21. Commissioners discussed the staff report entitled *Atmospheric Deposition of Toxic Substances to the Great Lakes* and agreed to provide comments to staff by May 14, 2015. Commissioners also received an update on progress being made on the staff report entitled *Review of Air Pollution and Human Health outcomes in Selected Great Lakes Urban Regions*, provided comments, and directed staff to provide further ideas on how to proceed with the report.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

22. A. Fourth IWI Report to Governments

Commissioners agreed to the sharing of individual sections of the revised report with specific boards for their review and comment. A summary of comments received to be provided at the June Executive.

B. Update of IWI Activities

Commissioners provided feedback on the proposed path forward and draft priority IWI themes for Action requesting removal of the designation priority and endorsement of the outreach priority. Commissioners requested that additional details on the priority themes be provided at the June Executive with particular attention to proposed actions and an elaboration on the path forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

23. A. Great Lakes Regional Office Charter

Commissioners agreed to meet to review the GLRO charter protocol one year after signature. Co-Chairs will prepare an agenda.

B. Great Lakes Regional Office Budget

Commissioners reviewed the Canadian year-end expenditure for the Great Lakes Regional Office and requested that GLRO staff prepare an 18 months combined U.S. and Canadian budgets for the period of April 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 .

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Review of the Report on Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes

On April 24, 2015, Commissioners approved the final version of consultant's report reviewing the Commission's 2000 report Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes.

International Lake Superior Board of Control

On April 14, 2015, Commissioners approved the International Lake Superior Board of Control's request that it be authorized to implement deviations from Plan 2012 flows during the period May to December 2015.

NOAA Sea Grant Fellow

On April 3, 2015, Commissioners approved engaging a NOAA Sea Grant Fellow for a one-year assignment at the GLRO.

The following Boards appeared before the Commissioners on Tuesday, April 28 and Wednesday, April 29.

*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 Lake Superior Board of Control; the International Niagara Board of Control; the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control; the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board; the International St. Croix River Watershed Board; the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control; and the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control. *See attached Board Appearance Agenda.*

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

24. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River basin. They noted that the Board's communications committee is developing a strategic communications plan for the Board in cooperation with IJC communications advisors. The Board requested that the Commission provide guidance on who has responsibility for support of the inspection of gauges on the lake, and Commissioners agreed to look into the issue. Commissioners thanked the Board for its support of the GLAM Committee.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

25. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in Lake Erie and the Niagara River and the falls. Commissioners noted that the start of the Lake Erie ice boom removal was delayed due to the amount of ice cover on the lake. Based on the Board's five-year review of ice boom operations, Commissioners approved the continued use of the ice boom. Commissioners thanked the Board for its support of the GLAM Committee.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

26. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron. They noted that Lake Michigan-Huron water levels and outflows from Lake Superior are expected to be above average for the next six months. Commissioners informed the Board that they had recently approved the Board's request for authorization to implement deviations from Plan 2012 flows during the period May to December 2015. Commissioners thanked the Board for its support of the GLAM Committee.

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 24-26. In conjunction with the appearances of the three Great Lakes board of control, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM) Committee, which the Commission established in January 2015, provided Commissioners with an update on its activities. Commissioners noted that the GLAM Committee is developing its work plan and outreach strategy and thanked the Committee for its initial efforts.

INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

27. Commissioners received an update from the Board on the conditions in the St. Croix River basin and noted that 2014 was an above average year for water levels in the basin. The Board reported that the March 2015 pipeline leak of treated effluent at the Woodland Pulp facility had been investigated by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and that DEP had not considered it to be detrimental to the overall water quality of the river. The Board also reported that the 2014 alewife run was the third highest return in sixteen years but still lower than expected.

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD

28. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin. Commissioners thanked the Board and its Water Levels Committee for its diligent work on the 2014 High Water Levels Report and the associated flood damage survey that the Board conducted in December 2014. Commissioners discussed with the Board the upcoming review of the Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curve review, which is scheduled to start in August 2015.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

29. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in the Red River basin and noted that the river currently is experiencing moderate drought conditions. Commissioners informed the Board that they had agreed the IJC should continue to monitor the Poplar River and that the Commission was now in the process of determining how best the monitoring should be done.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD

30. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in the Souris River basin. The Board noted that the winter of 2014-2015 had near normal snow accumulation and the spring freshet was slightly above normal. Commissioners and the Board discussed the work of the committee formed by the operating parties under the 1989 Agreement to review the 1989 operation plan. Commissioners asked that the Board bring forward nominations for local members to the Board.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

31. The Board presented an update on its proposed work plans for approval. Commissioners approved the work plans for the indicators and public engagement work groups. Commissioners also approved the work plan for the legacy issues work group, including the PBDE and Lake Erie projects, with the caveat that the Lake Erie project should not spend significant resources on historical analysis. Commissioners requested that the Board revise and resubmit the emerging issues work plan with changes to the proposed budget and scope of the climate change project.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - SCIENCE PRIORITY COMMITTEE

32. The Science Priority Committee provided an update on its current activities, including work on communications/apex indicators, emerging issues, information coordination, LEEP phase II, review of recommendations from the 15th and 16th biannual reports, and assisting with review of areas of concern reports. The Committee also discussed two proposed projects with Commissioners: 1) information coordination and flow, and 2) implications of a changing energy environment.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE

33. The Research Coordination Committee provided Commissioners with an update on its activities, including: identifying emerging monitoring technologies; integrating data for ecosystem and human health indicators; supporting the binational Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative; and assessing methods for evaluating research capacity in the Great Lakes region. The Committee also noted it is developing work plans to: use integrated data to help evaluate progress in achieving GLWQA objectives; evaluate importance of indicators/measures for future assessments of progress; and identify data gaps for indicators/measures considered important for future assessments.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

34. The Board provided Commissioners with an update on the Board's ongoing activities. The Board discussed activities related to the 2012-2015 Great Lakes priorities; nitrate levels in the Sumas Blaine aquifer in groundwater; human health risks associated with selenium in drinking water; and a proposal to work with the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board on water quality issues.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

35. The Technical Working Group provided Commissioners with an update on its activities. Commissioners noted that the Working Group will give a presentation at the May 25-29, 2015, International Association of Great Lakes Research meeting and that the Working Group is on track to provide its report to the Commission in September 2015.

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

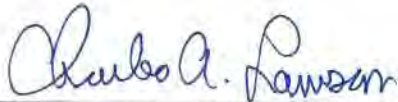
36. The Board provided Commissioners with an overview of conditions in the basin and an update on the Board's activities. The Board noted that snowpack in Washington and British Columbia was below average but that it was not clear if drought conditions would have to be declared. Commissioners noted preparations by the Board for the October 8-9, 2015, Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum. Commissioners thanked the Board for its efforts to identify local people in the basin for possible membership on the Board and indicated that they looked forward to receiving a slate of nominees.

INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

37. The Board provided Commissioners with an overview of conditions in the basin, noting that 2014 was a fairly average year for hydrology in the basin. The Board reported that the FortisBC acted appropriately to try to avoid exceedances of the rules curve that resulted from two extraordinary rain and snowmelt events in February and March 2015.

ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS

38. Commissioners received an overview of conditions in the St. Mary and Milk Rivers and of the activities of the Accredited Officers and Field Representatives. Commissioners noted that the A.O.s were receptive to the idea of taking on responsibility for monitoring of conditions in the Poplar River basin. Commissioners informed the A.O.s that they had agreed the IJC should continue to monitor the Poplar River and that the Commission was now in the process of determining how best the monitoring should be done.



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section

BOARD APPEARANCES AGENDA

International Joint Commission Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

**Embassy of Canada
501 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001**

April 28-29, 2015

TUESDAY, April 28

- 8:30-10:00 am*** *International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, International Niagara Board of Control, and International Lake Superior Board of Control*
- 10:00-10:15 am*** *Health Break*
- 10:15-11:15 am*** *Continuation of International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, International Niagara Board of Control, and International Lake Superior Board of Control*
- 11:15-12:15 pm*** *International St. Croix River Watershed Board*
- 12:15-1:15 pm*** *Lunch*
- 1:15-2:15 pm*** *International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board*
- 2:15-3:15 pm*** *International Red River Board*
- 3:15-3:30 pm*** *Health Break*
- 3:30-4:30 pm*** *International Souris River Board*
- 4:30 pm*** *Adjourn*

WEDNESDAY, April 29

- 8:30-9:30 am*** *Great Lakes Water Quality Board*
- 9:30-10:30 am*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Science Priority
Committee*
- 10:30-10:45 am*** *Health Break*
- 10:45-11:45 am*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination
Committee*
- 11:45-12:45 pm*** *Lunch*
- 12:45-1:45 pm*** *Health Professionals Advisory Board*
- 1:45-2:45 pm*** *Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Technical Working Group*
- 2:45-3:00 pm*** *Health Break*
- 3:00-3:45 pm*** *International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control*
- 3:45-4:30 pm*** *International Kootenay Lake Board of Control*
- 4:30-5:15 pm*** *Accredited Officers of the St. Mary - Milk Rivers*
- 5:15 pm*** *Adjourn*