

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**Ann Arbor, Michigan**  
**September 11, 15-16, 2015**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session by conference call on September 11, 2015, from 10:05 AM to 12:45 PM EDT, chaired by Gordon Walker, and in person at the office of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 15, 2015, from 1:45 PM to 4:30 PM EDT, and on September 16, 2015, from 8:45 AM to 5:00 PM EDT, chaired by Lana Pollack.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Rich Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Dereth Glance	Commissioner, U.S. Section
<i>Benoit Bouchard</i>	<i>Commissioner, Canadian Section</i>
Richard Morgan	Commissioner, Canadian Section

**SECTION STAFF**

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau	Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian 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*
Jonathan Gerstell	Intern, U.S. Section*
Nick Heisler	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
Samantha Klaus	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section*
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section*
Shannon Runyon	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section*
Vic Serveiss	Ecologist, U.S. Section*
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section*
Cindy Warwick	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM/IT Services

## **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF**

Patricia Morris	Director
Shahbaz Ahmed	Visiting Scientist*
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Dan Berube	Senior Systems Analyst
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Ankita Mandelia	Sea Grant Fellow
Ellen Perschbacher	Co-Op Student
Aniqa Shams	Co-Op Student
Diana Varosky	Administrative Coordinator*
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist*

**\* Participated in the meeting via teleconference**

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of two items.

## **MINUTES**

2. *Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the June 4, 8 & 9, 2015, Executive Meeting and the July 24, 2015, Commissioners' conference call.*

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **3. A. International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control**

Commissioners approved the appointments of: 1) Mr. John Arterburn to be a U.S. member of the board and Dr. Anna Warwick-Sears to be a Canadian member of the board, each for a one-year term effective September 18, 2015, to September 16, 2016; and 2) Ms. Sue McKortoff to be a Canadian member of the board and Mr. Ford Waterstrat to be , a U.S. member of the board, each for a three-year term effective September 18, 2015, to September 18, 2018.

### **B. International Souris River Board**

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Nicole Armstrong as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective retroactively from August 14, 2015, to August 13, 2018.

**C. International Kootenay Lake Board of Control**

Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Kyle Blasch to be a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term effective September 11, 2015, to September 7, 2018.

**D. International Columbia River Board of Control, International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, and International Kootenay Lake Board of Control**

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Bruno Tassone as Canadian Member of the International Columbia River Board of Control, Canadian Chair of the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control, and Canadian Chair of the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control for a three-year term effective October 22, 2015, to October 26, 2018.

**BRING FORWARD**

4. Commissioners reviewed the listing of correspondence to and from the governments and approved one modification. Commissioners requested that Secretaries draft a letter to the governments prior to the fall Semi-Annual meeting inquiring about letters sent to the governments for which no response has yet been received.

**ACTION ITEM LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

5. Commissioners reviewed the latest Action Item list and Communications Activities calendar. Commissioners requested the Commission's coordinated schedule of meetings be added to this item for future meetings.

**IJC HUMAN RESOURCES**

6. Commissioners received an update on human resources issues. They noted that U.S. Section intern Jonathan Gerstell's last day is September 18<sup>th</sup>, and they thanked him for his work with the Commission.

**IJC IM/IT PLAN**

7. Commissioners received an update on the implementation of the Commission's IM/IT plan, noting that the U.S. Section is still in the process of procuring equipment for the necessary upgrades to the system. With regard to the LiveLink records management system, Commissioners will receive an update at the Fall 2015 Semi-Annual meeting.

**FALL 2105 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

8. Commissioners approved the overall agenda and the schedule of appearances of the boards, with the addition of an appearance by the International Columbia River Board.

## **LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

9. Commissioners received an update on the work of the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Technical Working Group and approved sending a letter to the TWG in which the Commission requests that the TWG submit its final report to the Commission by November 30, 2015. Commissioners requested that staff provide them with an overall time line and proposed next steps leading to the submission of the IJC's report to Governments.

## **RAINY AND NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES REVIEW**

10. Commissioners received an update on the initial work of the International Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board and noted that the board held its first meeting by conference call in late August and plans to hold initial meetings in the basin in late September.

## **POPLAR RIVER**

11. Commissioners reviewed the proposed Poplar River reporting options and instructed advisers to draft a letter to governments endorsing Option 4 - review of the Bilateral Monitoring Committee's Annual Report by IJC staff - in the short term and recommending adoption of Option 2 - the establishment of an International Poplar River work group - as the longer term solution.

## **IJC REPORT ON PROTECTION OF THE USES OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES**

12. Commissioners agreed to transmit the consultants' report to Governments under the cover of a Commission letter which endorses the report. The draft letter will be submitted for Commissioners' approval via polling.

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD**

13. Commissioners confirmed the mandate text in the draft directive, specified modifications to other sections of the directive and requested that alternate wording for the section on Responsibilities of the co-chairs be developed, noting a possible redundancy with text in the Commission section. Staff is also to focus on new wording for the Liaison section to better distinguish between the engagement with Great Lakes water quality boards and other boards.

## **LAKEWIDE ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW GUIDANCE**

14. Commissioners approved the guidelines for IJC review of Lakewide Action and Management plans, congratulated staff for the initiative and requested that the guidelines be shared with the Annex 2 Co-Chairs and the Great Lakes Advisory Board Co-Chairs.

## **LAKE ERIE ECOSYSTEM PRIORITY**

15. Commissioners reviewed the results of two LEEP related studies on the economic benefits of reducing harmful algal blooms and health impacts of harmful algal blooms. Commissioners agreed to meet November 10, 2015, in Windsor to discuss potential next steps with the LEEP priority.

## **TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT**

16. **A. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report Preparation**  
Commissioners agreed to submit, by January 2017, a draft of the Commission's TAP report to governments and to the public for review. Commissioners further agreed that public consultation on the draft TAP report would follow after January 2017 with the final version of the report to be submitted to governments later in 2017. The draft to be submitted to the governments in Jan 2017 would not include the synthesis of the public input on the Governments' Progress Report of the Parties.

### **B. Communications Planning for the TAP report and the Progress Report of the Parties**

Commissioners approved in principle the proposed consultation schedule for Public Input on the Progress Report of the Parties in October 2016 and requested that a detailed budget for collecting this public input be prepared. Commissioners requested that staff develop options for receiving public input on the Progress Report of the Parties and consulting on the Commission's draft TAP report, in consultation with the Public Engagement workgroup of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

## **FEBRUARY 2016 GREAT LAKES MEETING**

17. Commissioners were informed of the steps taken to follow up on the Commission's decision not to hold the planned February 2016 meeting.

## **GREAT LAKES MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION**

18. Commissioners agreed in principle to joint funding of a microplastics expert workshop. The workshop is to be held by April 2016 to inform the Commission's TAP report. Commissioners directed staff to provide details on proposed participation, agenda, and budget for Commissioners' consideration.

## **GLRO FINANCES**

19. Commissioners congratulated staff from the three offices for developing the framework needed to support a combined Canadian-US budget planning process and requested that the GLRO Director provide quarterly financial GLRO reports.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **20. A. International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species**

Commissioners approved having the Commission be a sponsor of the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 10-14, 2016.

### **B. Schedule of 2016 Commission Executive Meetings and Conference Calls**

Commissioners approved the schedule for Commission Executive meetings and conference calls for 2016.

## **DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

### **Schedule of 2016 Commission Executive Meetings and Conference Calls**

On August 29, 2015, Commissioners approved the schedule for Commission Executive meetings and conference calls for 2016.

### **19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species**

On August 29, 2015, Commissioners approved having the Commission be a sponsor of and participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, which will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 10-14 2016.

### **International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control**

On July 28, 2015, Commissioners approved the Board's recommendation that the Applicant be allowed to regulate the level of Osoyoos Lake within the drought rule curves specified in Condition 8 of the 2013 Order.

### **International St. Lawrence River Board of Control**

On July 28, 2015, Commissioners authorized the Board to allow hourly flow variations when the regulated daily flow is above 7930 m<sup>3</sup>/s to enable electrical switching subject to the several conditions.

---

Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section

---

Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section