

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Washington, DC
December 3, & 10-11, 2015

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session by conference call on December 3, 2015, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM EST, and in person at the U.S. Section Office in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2015, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST and on December 11, 2014, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM EST, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian 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

Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau	Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian 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
Shannon Runyon	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Vic Serveiss	Ecologist, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
John Yee	Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section*
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section*

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Patricia Morris	Director
Shahbaz Ahmed	Visiting Scientist*
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist*
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist*
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist*
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Antika Mandelia	Sea Grant Fellow
Monique Myre	Administrative Officer*
Ellen Pershbacher	Intern
Aniqa Shams	Intern*
Diane Varosky	Administrative Officer
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist*
Jill Mailloux	Administrative Officer*

*** Participated in the meeting via teleconference**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as amended with the addition of two items under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved, as amended, the draft minutes of the October 22 & 26-30, 2015, Semi-Annual Meeting, and the November 10, 2015, Executive Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

3. A. Great Lakes Water Quality Board

Commissioners approved the reappointments of: Mr. James Wager and Mr. Mark Mattson as Canadian members of the Board and Mr. Matthew Thompson and Dr. Marvourneen Dolor as U.S. members of the Board, each for a three-year term effective February 27, 2016, to February 26, 2019; and Ms. Betty Matthew-Malone and Mr. Mark Wales as Canadian members of the Board and Ms. Sandra Bihn and Mr. David Mengebier as U.S. members of the Board, each for a two-year term effective February 27, 2016, to February 26, 2018.

B. International Souris River Board

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Todd Sando as U.S. Chair of the Board for a three-year term effective December 10, 2015, to December 9, 2018 and the appointment of Ms. Shelly Weppler to be a U.S. member of the Board for a three-year term also effective December 10, 2015, to December 9, 2018.

C. International Red River Board

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Randy Gjestvang as a U.S. member Board for a three-year term effective December 10, 2015, to December 9, 2018.

D. International Lake Superior Board of Control

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Jaymie Gadai as the Canadian member of the Board for a three-year term effective January 4, 2016, to January 3, 2019.

E. Board composition

Commissioners discussed their goal of achieving greater diversity on Commission Boards and Committees and instructed liaisons to communicate this goal to Board and Committee co-chairs.

BRING FORWARD

4. Commissioners reviewed and discussed correspondence to and from the governments, including if and when it would be useful to send follow-up letters to the governments on items for which the Commission has not received a response.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

5. Commissioners reviewed the latest action item list, communications activities calendar, and coordinated calendar. Commissioners requested that advisors include non-Commission meetings that might be of interest to the Commission on the calendars.

IJC HUMAN RESOURCES

6. Commissioners received an update on the three offices' human resources. Commissioners noted that the Great Lakes Regional Office interns, Aniqah Shams and Ellen Pershbacher, would be ending their time at the GLRO in mid-December, and they thanked both of them for their hard work and dedication during their time with the Commission.

LAKE SUPERIOR LAKEWIDE ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN REPORT

7. Commissioners reviewed and approved a process for the Commission's review of the governments' Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs). The process has two steps. In the first step, advisor will provide comments informally to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) staff on the parties' draft LAMP. In step two, after the governments' issue a LAMP, the Commission will provide formal comments on the final LAMP. Commissioners also reviewed and approved, with modifications, the advisors' comments on the draft Lake Superior LAMP.

IJC COMMENTS ON THE STATUS OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR BINATIONAL PROGRAM

8. Commissioners reviewed and discussed a draft letter to the governments concerning the status of the Lake Superior Binational Program and the governments' plan to end the program and incorporate elements that are still viable into the Lake Superior LAMP. Commissioners provided comments on the draft letter and requested that advisors provide a revised draft letter for Commissioners' review.

TALKING POINTS FOR DECEMBER 2015 GLEC MEETING

9. Commissioners reviewed and discussed draft talking points for use at the December 8-9, 2015, Great Lakes Executive Council (GLEC) meeting and the associated luncheon meeting that will be held in Toronto, Ontario.

BINATIONAL PHOSPHORUS MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR CHANGE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS LAKE ERIE BASIN NUTRIENT RUNOFF THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL MARKETING (CBSM)

10. Commissioners received an update on the status of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative-funded project entitled Binational Stakeholder Engagement for Nutrients in the Lake Erie Basin. Commissioners discussed the progress of the project, which has been slow because of several administrative hurdles that had to be addressed. Commissioners were encouraged that the project now seems to be on track, and they noted that the project should be completed in spring 2016.

ARGO BARGE LEAK

11. Commissioners received an update on the efforts to remove the remaining hydrocarbons from the Argo tank barge. Commissioners requested that the IJC GLWQA Annex 5 liaison verify whether there exists an inventory of sunken Great Lakes vessels with particular attention to any cargo which might constitute an environmental risk.

AIR QUALITY ISSUES

12. Commissioners agreed that they wish to have the draft GLRO staff report reviewed by the HPAB and SAB before completing their own review. Following an external peer review, the Commission will decide whether the document will be transmitted to governments or remain as an internal IJC document. Commissioners requested that the SAB and HPAB be formally requested to review the report and that a letter from the secretaries be prepared to inform the governments that the Commission is studying this issue.

GLRO BUDGET

13. Commissioners discussed the draft FY 2016-2017 budget proposal for the GLRO, provided guidance on overall budget levels, and requested that a revised budget proposal be submitted for their consideration at the earliest possible date in the New Year.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (TAP)

14. Commissioners discussed the progress achieved by Commission staff in developing the TAP report and requested that the Agreement principles and approaches be reflected in each chapter of the TAP report. Commissioners summarized the highlights of the GLEC meeting in Toronto, including an update on plans for the October 2016 Public Forum and Summit, as well as the three commissions' (IJC, GLFC, and GLC) discussion with the GLEC co-chairs regarding LAMPs, Nutrients, indicators, and information management.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

15. Commissioners agreed in principle with the concept of the proposed Great Lakes Strategy. Commissioners reassigned some of the proposed functions and activities to Section Offices, as they would pertain to Commission activities along the entire boundary. Commission staff was requested to revisit the draft strategy within the revised notional budget discussed for the GLRO.

LAKE ERIE ECOSYSTEM PRIORITY

16. A. Water Quality Modelling Session

Commissioners received a thorough briefing on the SWAT, CANWET, and MapShed water quality models. Following an extensive discussion of each model and of the potential of a multiple model approach, which would also include binational SPARROW models, Commissioners reflected on the need to translate the findings of the scientific community into recommended policy and regulatory actions. Commissioners requested that staff consider what follow up might be useful for the Commission to consider.

B. Two-year Anniversary of 2014 LEEP Report

Commissioners agreed to recognize the two year anniversary of the 2014 LEEP report by issuing a news release and a newsletter article that will report not only on progress achieved but also profile the need for specific management strategies, policy changes, and associated timelines needed to address both Harmful Algal Blooms and persistent dead zones.

PROTECTION OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES

17. Commissioners approved the IJC report and the transmittal letter, as amended. The staff recommendation to provide an embargoed copy to the Council of Great Lakes Governors and Regional Body and to governments was endorsed with a targeted public release in mid-January.

2015 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

18. Commissioners reviewed draft text for the 2015 Annual Activities Report, committed to providing detailed comments on the draft within a week, and provided staff with suggestions for additional sections that could be developed.

IRLWWB REQUEST FOR IJC SUPPORT AT THE MARCH 2016 LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY FORUM

19. Commissioners agreed to annual joint funding up to a maximum total of \$1,000 for ten members of the IRLWWB's Community Advisory Group and Industry Advisory Group to participate in the 2016 Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum. Commissioners also approved providing support to the Lake of the Woods Sustainability Foundation to be a co-sponsor of the Forum.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHED INITIATIVE

20. Commissioners received an update and discussed IWI activities, noting the November 12, 2015, public release of the IWI 4th report to governments. They discussed the proposed Spring 2016 IWI workshop and confirmed their participation for a half day IWI workshop to be scheduled to coincide with the Spring 2016 Semi-Annual meeting.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER

21. Commissioners requested that the technical and communication staff amend the draft transmittal letter and that both the draft news release and revised transmittal letter be resubmitted in anticipation of a December 18th target release date of the Commission's International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River report.

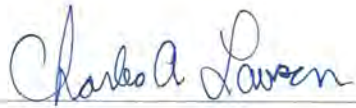
OTHER BUSINESS

A. Energy in the Great Lakes

Commissioners agreed to have staff review the potential environmental impacts on Great Lakes waters of various energy generation technologies. Commissioners requested that staff provide a briefing note including options for consideration during the February Executive meeting.

B. Commission Policies and Procedures

Commissioners discussed and clarified a number of internal policies and procedures relating to decisions by polling, correspondence signatories, and other matters.



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section