

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Spring Semi-Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
Executive Meeting
April 18-22, 2016

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Hilton Garden Inn in Washington, DC, April 18-22, 2016, with Lana Pollack in the Chair.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	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

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
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
Michael Toope	Communication Advisor, Canadian Section
Cindy Warwick	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM/IT Services
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Counsel, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

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

*Participated by teleconference

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the February 9-11, 2016, Executive meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

3. A. International Red River Board

Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Keith Mykleseth as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year, two-month term, effective from April 11, 2016, to June 11, 2019.

B. International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

Commissioners approved the reappointments of Mr. Marc Hudon as a Canadian member of the board, and Mr. Robert Company and Dr. Frank Sciremammano as U.S. members of the board, each for a two-year term, effective June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2018.

BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM

4. Commissioners reviewed recent correspondence between the Commission and the governments.

ACTION ITEMS LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST, AND COORDINATED SCHEDULE

5. Commissioners reviewed the updated Action Item List, communications activities List, and Coordinated Schedule and made further amendments to the Coordinated Schedule.

GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

6. Commissioners received an update from the TAP inter-office team, identifying the key issues to be raised with the GLEC co-chairs during the April 19, 2016, informal meeting.

GREAT LAKES COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

7. Commissioners received an update on implementation of the Great Lakes communication strategy and provided feedback on plans for the IJC's session during the Great Lakes Public Forum and on the proposed TAP/PROP public hearings, open houses and electronic media options to solicit public feedback on both documents. Commissioners confirmed their agreement to the TAP/PROP public hearings being scheduled around Commission Executive meetings.

LAKE ERIE ECOSYSTEM PRIORITY

8. Commissioners discussed potential IJC activities designed to assist government efforts in addressing eutrophication in Lake Erie. They supported a proposal to conduct a review of Canadian and US policy and regulations regarding ethanol and renewable fuels providing GLRO funds are available. Commissioners also discussed the proposed development of maps depicting sources of nutrients in pilot watersheds in Canada and the US and the hosting of an expert workshop to assist with the development of advice and recommendations to governments on the restoration of Lake Erie. The project was approved in principle providing Regional Office funds are available.

GREAT LAKES MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION

9. Commissioners reviewed the agenda for the April 26-27, 2016, workshop on microplastics and thanked staff for the information provided and for their efforts in organizing the workshop. Commissioners who planned to participate in the workshop confirmed their attendance.

GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10. Commissioners discussed the desired outcomes of the informal lunch with the GLEC co-chairs and discussed the key issues to be raised with them.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

11. Commissioners were provided with updates on the status of current IWI projects and of the timing for new project submissions. Commissioners were given detailed information on the multi-board strategic workshop scheduled for April 20, 2016.

AIR QUALITY ISSUES

12. A. Air Quality Report and other Issues

Commissioners discussed the draft staff report entitled “Review of air pollution and human health outcomes in Windsor-Detroit and Sarnia-Port Huron Areas” and noted that the draft has been sent for peer review. Commissioners should expect to see a revised draft at the June Executive meeting. Commissioners accepted staff’s recommendation not to reopen a dated draft Refinery report given significant developments in both countries. Commissioners were apprised of current air quality files in the Detroit-Windsor area, including the Southwest Detroit Refinery Permit and the storage of coal-based by-products on the riverfront.

B. U.S.-Canada Air Quality Agreement

Commissioners were informed of preliminary discussions being held between the signatories to the Canada-US Air Quality Agreement, noting that formal negotiations are not yet underway.

REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

13. Commissioners received an update on progress being made by staff to review the water quality issues for the four boards outside the Great Lakes that have water quality responsibilities. Staff outlined the key messages to be communicated to the governments to ensure that the focus of the report under development is well understood.

IJC IM/IT PLAN

14. Commissioners received an update on progress being made to implement the IJC’s IM/IT plan and noted staff anticipate that the equipment for the section offices and the regional office will be configured by mid-May. Next steps involve common data migration and implementation of the single email address and common ECM.

SAINT JOHN RIVER

15. Commissioners received information on the St. John River Watershed International Cross-Boundary Summit that was hosted by the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council, with the support of the U.S. EPA on April 6, 2016. In addition to the Maliseet, representatives from US and Canadian federal agencies, the IJC and members of the ISCRWB attended the Summit.

PIPELINES-GREAT LAKES

16. Commissioners discussed current developments concerning fossil fuel transportation via pipelines in the Great Lakes basin and directed staff to draft a letter for Co-chairs signature, inviting the PHMSA and NEB to attend the June Executive meeting in Windsor. Representatives from these agencies will be invited to brief the commission on government measures intended to avoid ruptured or leaking pipelines, including pipeline inspections, monitoring and reporting from both domestic and bi-national perspectives.

IJC GEOSPATIAL STRATEGY

17. Commissioners received an update on recent activities and discussions of the inter-office geospatial team including: i) the need to scope out and plan for GIS needs associated with the potential implementation of the Souris, Lake of the Woods, Lake Champlain-Richelieu River plans of study and Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River adaptive management work being carried out by the three boards of control; ii) the potential use of GIS as a communication tool in the Great Lakes and transboundary area; iii) the need to systematize the development and nurturing of GIS capacity in IJC boards so they can address their own needs. Staff indicated they could provide a more detailed briefing at an upcoming Executive meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

18. **A. International Lake Superior Board of Control**
Commissioners approved, as modified, a draft letter authorizing the International Lake Superior Board of Control to deviate from Plan 2012 from May through November 2016 to reduce the potential for adverse consequences of unnecessarily high flows and strongly fluctuating water levels in the St. Marys Rapids at Sault Ste. Marie.

B. IJC Meeting locations

Commissioners discussions further the timing and locations for Semi-Annual meetings and agreed that the location of Fall Semi-annual meetings should remain in Ottawa and the Spring Semi-Annual meetings should be held in Washington D.C. They agreed that the Fall Semi-Annual would be scheduled for mid-September.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

On April 12, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Geneviève Béchard to be the Canadian Co-Chair of the board effective April 18, 2016, through April 30, 2019.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

On April 6, 2016, commissioners approved the following reappointments to the board.

- 1) Mr. Michael Goffin is reappointed as Canadian co-chair of the board for a three-year term effective April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2019;

- 2) Ms. Gail Faveri is reappointed as a Canadian member of the board and Canadian co-chair of the water levels committee for a three-year and four month term effective April 1, 2016, to July 30, 2019.
- 3) Mr. Mark Lee is reappointed as a Canadian member of the board for a two-year and four month term effective April 13, 2016, to July 30, 2018;
- 4) Ms. Trina Rawn is reappointed as a Canadian member of the board for a two-year and four month term effective April 1, 2016, to July 30, 2018;
- 5) Mr. Todd Sellers is reappointed as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2019;
- 6) Mr. Gregory Chapman is reappointed as a Canadian member of the board for a two-year term effective April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2018;
- 7) Ms. Suzanne Hanson is reappointed as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year and four month term effective April 1, 2016, to July 30, 2019; and
- 8) Mr. Michel Hirst is reappointed as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term effective April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2019.

International Watersheds Initiative

On April 6, 2016, commissioners approved the agenda for an IWI multi-board workshop that will be held on April 20, 2016, during the Semi-Annual meeting.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On April 6, 2016, commissioners approved the release of the board's Binational Great Lakes Basin Poll Report and the board's communications plan for the poll.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On March 25, 2016, commissioners approved having commission and board communications staff inform the public that the board will be holding a public event on April 18, 2016, on the margins of the Commission's Semi-Annual meeting.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On March 24, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Cameron Davis to be a U.S. member of the board on an interim basis effective March 24, 2016 until such time that the Commission receives a nomination from the U.S. EPA and appoints a member on a long-term basis.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

On March 18, 2016, commissioners approved issuance of a temporary Supplemental Order that the board's Water Levels Committee requested to allow the regulating companies to deviate from the prescribed Rainy and Namakan Lake Rule Curves until April 15 due to conditions in the basin.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On March 17, 2016, commissioners approved: the appointment of Ms. Sonia Simard to be a Canadian member of the board for a two-year term, effective from March 16, 2016, to March 15, 2018; and the appointments of Mr. Frank Ettawageshik and Mr. Jon Allan to be U.S. members of the board, each for a three-year term, effective March 16, 2016, to March 15, 2019.

Great Lakes Science Advisory Board

On March 14, 2016, commissioners approved the following appointments and reappointments. For the Science Priority Committee:

- 1) Mr. David Allan is reappointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a three-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2019;
- 2) Mr. Dale Phenicie is reappointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018;
- 3) Mr. Robert Hecky is reappointed as a Canadian member of the committee for a three-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2019;
- 4) Mr. Henry Lickers is reappointed as a Canadian member of the committee for a three-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2019;
- 5) Mr. Joe DePinto is appointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018;
- 6) Ms. Andrea Kirkwood is appointed to be a Canadian member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018; and
- 7) Mr. John Livernois is appointed to be a Canadian member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018.

For the Research Coordination Committee:

- 8) Mr. Norman Grannemann is reappointed as U.S. chair of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018;
- 9) Mr. Kyle McCune is reappointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018;
- 10) Mr. Val Klump is reappointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a three-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2019;
- 11) Mr. Chris Winslow is reappointed as a U.S. member of the committee for a three-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2019; and
- 12) Ms. Christine Mayer is appointed to be a binational member of the committee for a two-year term effective February 26, 2016, to February 25, 2018.

St. Clair River Spill Response Exercise

On March 14, 2016, commissioners accepted the invitation to have commissioners and staff attend a binational St. Clair River spill response exercise to be held in Port Huron, Michigan, and Sarnia, Ontario, on May 25, 2016.

Harmful Algal Bloom Research Proposal

On March 10, 2016, commissioners approved a letter to researchers concerning a draft grant proposal on the topic of harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria to be submitted to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.

United South and Eastern Tribes

On March 9, 2016, commissioners approved a letter to the United South and Eastern Tribes concerning tribal participation on IJC boards.

IJC 2016-2017 Schedule of Meetings

On March 9, 2016, commissioners approved the schedule of IJC meetings for 2016 through the spring 2017 Semi-Annual meeting.

IJC Sponsorship of Water Scarcity Conference

On February 26, 2016, commissioners approved a request from the organizers of a conference on water scarcity for the IJC to be a sponsor of the conference. The conference, which is entitled *Coping with Water Scarcity in River Basins Worldwide: Lessons learned from Shared Experiences*, will be held at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, Colorado, June 9-10, 2016.

Appearances of the Commission's Boards reporting on Tuesday, April 19, Wednesday, April 20, and Thursday, April 21.

NOTE: The reports of the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control; the International Niagara Board of Control; the International Lake Superior Board of Control the; the International St. Croix River Watershed Board; and the International Souris River Board are posted on the IJC website.

BOARDS APPEARING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

19. Commissioners received a briefing on ongoing and proposed board activities in support of the Commission's Triennial Assessment Report and received an overview of the board's proposed 2016 work plan, including a proposed collaboration with the International Rainy Lake of the Woods board as well as a project to look at possible impact of climate change on drinking water supply and acute gastrointestinal illness at two locations in the Great Lakes Basin. Commissioners provided feedback on the board's proposed activities but indicated no decision had yet been made on their work plan. Board co-chairs expressed satisfaction with the new Directive and outlined its evolving governance including the establishment of two sub-committees.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE

20. Commissioners reviewed the committee's progress achieved on a number of ongoing projects and received information on the committee's new work plan for commissioners' consideration. The committee co-chairs outlined several areas where the committee is working to support implementation of adaptive management, including work with the GLAM Committee, with annexes 2 and 4 and with GLRI projects in EPA Region 5. Commissioners welcomed their proposed work in that area but indicated that their work plan was not yet approved pending completion of the GLRO budgeting exercise.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - SCIENCE PRIORITY COMMITTEE

21. Commissioners approved posting of the committee's Communication Indicators report on the board's site and discussed a few of the proposed projects indicating that further discussions were needed prior to approval of their work plan. Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the continued good work of this committee.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

22. Commissioners received a briefing from the board on implementation of its 2015/16 work plan and its proposed work plan for 2016/17. The board discussed its recent report on PBDEs, and Commissioners indicated they would be considering the proposed work plan and next steps for the PBDE report in the next few weeks.

INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

23. Commissioners received a detailed report of the board's activities and of the continued recovery not only of the alewives and of other fish in the area. The board indicated that it is evaluating whether their Orders of Approval should be reviewed. Commissioners voiced their appreciation for the board's participation in the water quality objectives review.

INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

24. Commissioners reviewed the board's 2015 activities and received an update on the board's monitoring of the 2016 spring rise. Commissioners noted that although the applicant was releasing maximum outflows from the Kootenay Lake, the lake level rose above the IJC rule curve in the second half of March due to a combination of high natural inflows and water releases by upstream dam operators.

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

25. Commissioners received an update on the board's activities and noted the board's added quarterly teleconference meetings, its successful public meeting as part of the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum and its increased public communications postings on the board's website. The board reported that basin runoff conditions this spring were, thus far, above the drought criteria.

INTERNATIONAL COLUMBIA RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

26. Commissioners received an update on the board's 2015 monitoring of the water levels of the Columbia River at the international boundary. They noted that levels were in compliance with the IJC Order of Approval.

ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS

27. Commissioners thanked Russell Boals for his long years of service and noted the Board's concerns regarding increased water shortages and emerging concerns related to water quality and endangered species. Concerns were voiced regarding the need for infrastructure replacement in order to ensure better water management control.

BOARDS APPEARING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

28. Commissioners welcomed Dr. Geneviève Bécharde as the incoming Canadian co-chair of the board. The board reviewed the unusual winter operating conditions, the early spring runoff into the system and its action to maintain levels on Lac St. Louis below the flood threshold since mid-March 2016. Commissioners thanked the board for their continued excellent communication and outreach activities.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

29. Commissioners received a report from the board on its activities and noted the relative lack of ice in the Lake Erie- Niagara system this year. Commissioners welcomed the board's effort to update its ice boom operations guidance document. The board reported that the NY State had put on hold its project to rehabilitate the bridges over the channel leading to the American Falls.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

30. Commissioners received the board's request to be allowed to deviate from Plan 2012 from May to November 2016 to reduce the potential for high water levels and flow fluctuations in the St Marys Rapids and associated impacts. Commissioners noted the board's progress on its Gate Movement Limit Study to better manage flows within the St. Marys Rapids for fish and other aquatic species.

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

31. Commissioners received an update on progress the committee is making on implementation of its work plan, including recent engagement efforts with stakeholder networks who could potentially become involved as advisory bodies (circles of influence). Commissioners welcomed the number of IWI projects both under way and proposed by the committee.

BOARDS APPEARING ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD

32. Commissioners recognized the significant work of the board and its committees in its engagement and scientific work in the basin, and thanked the board for its efforts. Particular attention was paid to the establishment of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health committee given the water quality challenges at play in the watershed. Concerns were raised regarding the state of drinking water quality monitoring in the basin relating to the presence of harmful algal blooms, which have become more prevalent in the basin. The board noted that concerns are still being expressed about the apparent lack of a coordinated binational approach to assessing the cumulative impacts of mining projects in the area and inquired if the IJC had received a response from government on its letter of concern.

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES STUDY BOARD

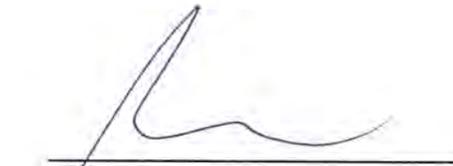
33. Commissioners received an update on the board's activities, including its public engagement strategy. The board outlined the role of the public and industry advisory groups to help improve local land owners understanding of the scope of the Rule Curves studies. Commissioners recognized the value of having local experts conduct independent flow control assessments (analyses) to increase the credibility, validate, and help complement the Rule Curves Review work. Commissioners were encouraged by the board's effort to engage the local power companies to provide input into the shared vision modelling and look forward to receiving the Study board's final report.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

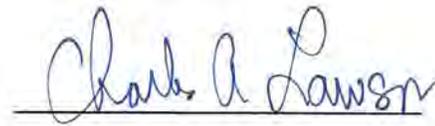
34. Commissioners received a briefing on the board's activities, including a thorough update on the board's Nutrient Management Strategy and a number of other IWI activities involving significant multi-jurisdictional partnerships. Commissioners informed the board that the Commission has assumed interim responsibility for reporting on the Poplar and Big Muddy Rivers and that this change in responsibility will be reflected in the board's mandate and Directive. Regarding the Lower Pembina River, commissioners acknowledged the contribution of the board in its efforts to support binational modelling of the system and encouraged the board to continue to monitor the situation. Commissioners acknowledged the board's request for project management support, which the Commission will take under consideration. The board was invited to submit its thoughts on possible project management options. To improve communications, section offices will provide more support to the board's Outreach and Engagement Committee.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD

35. Commissioners acknowledged the significant contribution of exiting US co-chair of the board Todd Santo. Commissioners received an update on the work of the 1989 Agreement Core Committee and Souris River Basin Study Committee, which have been active in reviewing the Agreement and updating the Souris POS to reflect work done to date and to identify potential new work required given recent developments. Commissioners acknowledged the board's support for the Water Quality Objectives project and the active involvement of the board's Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee.



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section