

**MINUTES  
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
Executive Meeting  
Washington, DC  
September 13-15, 2016**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the U.S. Section Office in Washington, DC, on September 13 and 14, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT, and September 15, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM EDT, chaired by Lana Pollack.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	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
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey	Policy Advisor, U.S. 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*
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section*
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, 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
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist*
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist*
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist*
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist*
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer*
Monique Myre	Administrative Officer*

Diane Varosky  
Lizhu Wang

Administrative Officer\*  
Physical Scientist\*

**\* 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.

## **BRING FORWARD**

2. Commissioners reviewed outstanding correspondence to and from the governments.

## **ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR**

3. Commissioners reviewed and updated the latest action item list, communications activities calendar, and coordinated calendar.

## **FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OVERALL AGENDA, INCLUDING BOARD APPEARANCES**

4. Commissioners approved the board appearance schedule and scheduling of the semi-annual reception and requested that boards be informed.

## **2017 SCHEDULE OF IJC MEETINGS**

5. Commissioners approved the 2017 schedule of Commission meetings as amended.

## **IJC IM/IT PLAN AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

6.
  - a) **IM/IT**  
Commissioners received an oral update on implementation of the IJC's IM/IT plan including possible delays associated with the US Section office relocation
  - b) **Records Management**  
Commissioners received an oral update on the status of the Commission's physical records management systems. Commissioners approved the continued capture by the Ottawa office of the meta data of key documents in the Ottawa office and the implementation of a similar exercise in the Washington office to assess the level of duplication of documents between the two offices. A detailed work plan, including a proposed budget is to be submitted for Commission consideration at the December executive meeting.

## **MODERNIZATION OF IJC.ORG WEBSITE**

7. Commissioners received an update on the website redesign project, including on the upcoming “needs assessment” which will help shape the way forward. Staff is to provide regular updates .

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD**

8. Commissioners received an update on the status of the HPAB acute gastro intestinal illness project contract and reiterated their request to receive regular updates on this project.

## **TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS**

9. Commissioners received an update on staff preparations for the report. Commissioners noted that a first rough draft would be available for commissioner review at the Fall Semi-annual meeting, and shared their perspectives on how the consultation on the draft report could best elicit public view and recommendations for consideration in the final Commission report.

## **COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL MARKETING - FINAL CONTRACTOR REPORT**

10. Commissioners received an update on this project and noted that the project, which was supported utilizing U.S. Great Lakes Regional Initiative funds, had undergone many delays and was now nearing completion.

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

11. Commissioners received an update on the work of the study board and noted that the study board held a public meeting in August 2016 and that the commission continues its efforts to secure meaningful consultation with FN and Tribes in the watershed.

## **INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE**

12. Commissioners received an update on a number of the follow up activities resulting from the multi-board workshop held on the margin of the Spring 2016 semi-annual meeting, including the efforts of the Climate Change working group to draft a white paper to advise the IJC on the development of an IWI Climate Change Framework.

## **PLANS OF STUDY**

13. **a) Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Flooding Study**  
Commissioners noted that the governments, in a September 7, 2016, letter, provided the commission with a reference to study Lake-Champlain-Richelieu River flooding. Commissioners approved, as amended, an IJC press release and agreed to posting of the governments’ letter.



**b) Souris River Flooding Study**

Commissioners noted that: 1) it is not clear when governments might give the commission a reference for a Souris River flooding study; and 2) a reference study could not start until U.S. government funding for the study is secured.

**c) Great Lakes Adaptive Management**

Commissioners noted that: 1) it is not clear when governments might give the commission a reference for Great Lakes adaptive management work; and 2) a reference study could not start until U.S. government funding for the study is secured;

**d) Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014**

Commissioners noted that the governments have not yet responded to the commission's June 2014 Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014 report.

**SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD**

14. Commissioners endorsed, as amended, the SAB advice on the Parties' draft Priorities for Science and approved transmitting the advice to the governments and posting it on the Board website.

**LAKE ERIE ECOSYSTEM PRIORITY**

15. Commissioners received an update on the status of the fertilizer application and ethanol projects and, following a discussion on the most efficient way of moving forward with the LEEP 2 Mapping project, decided to delay initiation of the mapping project until completion of the fertilizer application project.

**MICROPLASTICS WORKSHOP UPDATE**

16. Commissioners agreed to post the workshop report and seek public comments on the Commission's preliminary recommendations. The Commissioners instructed Secretaries to inform governments of the posting.

**REPORT ON POLYBROMINATED DIPHENYL ETHERS (PBDES) IN THE GREAT LAKES**

17. Commissioners approved public release of the Commission's Report on PBDE in the Great Lakes once translations have been received and requested that governments receive notice of the posting.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

18. Commissioners reviewed the strategic plan and instructed staff to provide commissioners with a revised document along with a draft transmittal letter to governments.

## **REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

### **19. a) Water Quality Objectives Review**

Commissioners provided comments on the staff paper reviewing water quality objectives in the four basins outside of the Great Lakes where the commission has water quality responsibilities, noted comments made by boards, and requested that legal advisors review the draft.

### **b) Water Quality in the Transboundary Region**

Commissioners agreed to have staff draft an alerting letter to governments on water quality issues in the transboundary region. Commissioners instructed staff to include a background paper that would provide more detail on the issues and be attached to the alerting letter and agreed to have a draft letter and background paper ready for commissioner review at the Fall Semi-Annual meeting.

## **COMMISSION AUTHORITIES**

20. Commissioners requested that legal advisors provide a recommendation on possible review of St. Croix Orders..

## **BOARD DECISION MAKING**

21. Commissioners discussed the draft guidance document on board consensus and requested that staff prepare a revised draft, including a section on attendance and conduct, for consideration at the October 2016 Semi-Annual meeting.

## **SPARROW**

22. Commissioners received an update on the Sparrow model work undertaken by the commission, including the work in the Red-Assiniboine River Basin, the Great Lakes and the Rainy Lakes. Commissioners had preliminary discussions about the potential needs of other boards for access to SPARROW models in other transboundary areas.

## **LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY STUDY**

23. Commissioners reviewed the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Boards' September 9, 2016 letter concerning the governments' plan for addressing Lake of the Woods water quality issues. Commissioners approved posting the board's letter on the IJC website, and instructed staff to draft a response to governments July 26, 2016, letter to the commission regarding the governments' decision pertaining to the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study.



## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **24. a) Phragmites**

Commissioners requested that an interoffice team draft a background paper on the issue for review during the December 2016 executive meeting and suggested the issue be referred to the Science Advisory Board and the Water Quality Board.

### **b) Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Cities Initiative**

Commissioners discussed a letter the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative sent concerning the decision made under the Great Lakes Compact and Agreement concerning the Waukesha diversion request; reviewed and commented on a draft response; and requested that staff prepare a revised draft for commissioners' consideration.

## **DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

### **International St. Croix River Watershed Board**

On August 5, 2016, commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Oliver Cox as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term, effective from August 1, 2016, to July 31, 2019.

### **International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board**

On August 3, 2016, commissioners approved providing the board with the governments' July 26, 2016, letter to the commission on the Lakes of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study and messaging to be used if asked about the governments' plans during the board's 2016 meetings August 10-11, 2016.

### **International Lake Superior Board of Control, International Niagara Board of Control, and International St. Lawrence River Board of Control**

On August 3, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Brigadier General Mark Toy to be the U.S. Co-Chair of the International Lake Superior Board of Control, the International Niagara Board of Control and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control for a three-year term from August 31, 2016, to August 30, 2019, or until the end of BG Toy's command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

### **Health Professionals Advisory Board**

On July 29, 2016, commissioners approved the reappointment of Dr. David Buckeridge as a Canadian member of the board for a two-year term, effective from July 11, 2016, to July 10, 2018.

### **International Souris River Board**


On July 23, 2016, commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Mark Lee as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term, effective from September 21, 2016, to September 20, 2019.

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

On July 23, 2016, commissioners approved the minutes of the July 21, 2016, Executive meeting.



Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section

