

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Washington, DC
December 7-9, 2016

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the U.S. Section Office in Washington, DC, on December 7, 2016, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM EST, on December 8, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST, and on December 9, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM EST, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section
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*
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section*
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, 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
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	Administrative Officer*
Allison Voglesong	Sea Grant Fellow*
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist*
John Wilson	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 correspondence to and from the governments and requested that the Dec 6th letter from governments concurring with Plan 2014 be added.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

3. Commissioners received an oral update on implementation of the IM-IT Strategy, progress achieved on the geospatial strategic plan and on the records digitization project. Commissioners were also briefed on a number of ongoing initiatives, including microplastics, phragmites and the HPAB Gastro-intestinal assessment project. Commissioners also reviewed the latest action item list, communications activities calendar, and coordinated calendar.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY

4. Commissioners approved the appointments of Mr. Michel Jean and Ms. Madeleine Papineau to be Canadian members and Ms. Deborah Lee and Dr. Leslie Ann Dupigny-Giroux to be U.S. members of the International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board for the duration of the study. Commissioners also approved the revised directive to the study board.

MODERNIZATION OF THE IJC WEBSITE

5. Commissioners received an oral update on effort to modernize the IJC website, directed staff to continue moving forward with its preparations and reiterated their request for a detailed work plan including the associated budget.

GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

6. Commissioners continued to review and comment on the most recent draft of the “draft Triennial Assessment of Progress Report” and agreed on the following:
 - a) to entitle the document: “*Triennial Great Lakes Water Quality Assessment of Progress - Draft Report for Purposes of Public Consultation*”
 - b) to include findings accompanied by questions, rather than recommendations, to stimulate public feedback on specific issues;
 - c) to provide for Draft Report review by GL advisory boards during the public review period;
 - d) the release date of the Technical Appendix not to coincide with the release of the Draft TAP report; and
 - e) to have staff continue to work with the targeted schedule pending timely review and approval of the revised Draft TAP Report by Commissioners.

GREAT LAKES PUBLIC MEETINGS

7. Commissioners agreed to have twin cross-border meetings held in 3 geographic locations to gather public input on both the PROP and the TAP reports. Commissioners also agreed that should there not be quorum, that staff from both sections will conduct the meetings.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

8. Commissioners reviewed and approved the Great Lakes Water Quality Board’s work plan, noting that the letter informing the board of the Commission’s decision should reflect the considerations outlined in the briefing material and in particular a refinement of the survey proposal . Funding of this work will be dependent on the availability of GLRO funds.

WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES REVIEW

9. Commissioners reviewed the current draft of the report entitled *A Review of International Water Quality Objectives in the Souris, Red, Rainy-Lake of the Woods and St. Croix River Basins: Historical Perspectives, Trends and Future Directions*, provided comments, and directed staff to produce a final draft of the report for commissioners’ consideration.

RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES REVIEW

10. Commissioners received an update on the work of rules curves review study board and approved a revised timeline for the study board's deliverables.

LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY

11. Commissioners received an update on governments' plan for addressing water quality issues in the Lake of the Woods basin and requested an update at the January Executive meeting.

LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ORDER OF APPROVAL

12. Commissioners approved and signed the December 8, 2016 Supplementary Order of Approval and directed Secretaries to inform the Board. Commissioners agreed to direct the Board to implement Plan 2014 effective January 7, 2017. Commissioners also approved a new directive to the board, now renamed as the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board, and a directive on operational adjustments, deviations, and extreme conditions.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

13. Commissioners received a read out of the IWI Climate Change Framework Working Group's workshop that was held in the IJC's Ottawa office November 9-10, 2016 and of its recent presentation to the St Croix watershed board. Staff are to submit a pilot project proposal for consideration at the January Executive.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. **2016 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Summit**
Commissioners received an update on preparations for the 2016 Great Lakes Summit to be held by teleconference on December 15, 2016, including the themes for discussion and planned staff and commissioner participation.
15. **Great Lakes Water Quality Board Climate Change Project**
Commissioners approved the posting on the board's website of the Climate Change Project Summary and directed the secretary and liaisons of the board to remind the board of the need for review of the full board prior to submission of reports to the Commission.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Niagara Board of Control

On December 6, 2016, commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Aaron Thompson as a Canadian member and the Canadian Co-Chair of the board for a three-year term, effective February 4, 2017, to February 3, 2020.

October 2016 Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

On November 29, 2016, commissioners approved the minutes of the October 24-27, 2016, Semi-Annual meeting, as amended.

Science Advisory Board

On November 17, 2016, Commissioners approved work plans for two board projects. The first project is a Science Priority Committee project entitled *Understanding Declining Offshore Productivity in the Great Lakes*. The second project is a joint Science Priority Committee-Research Coordination Committee project entitled *Great Lakes Early Warning System*.

Phragmites in the Great Lakes

On November 14 2016, Commissioners approved responses, as amended, to letters in which concern was raised about the spread of phragmites in the Great Lakes.

Sea Grant Fellow at the GLRO

On November 14, 2016, Commissioners approved supporting a NOAA Sea Grant Fellow for 2017-2018 at the Great Lakes Regional Office.

September 2016 Executive Meeting Minutes

On November 7, 2016, commissioners approved the minutes of the September 13-15, 2016, executive meeting, as amended.

Health Professionals Advisory Board

On November 1, 2016, commissioners approved: 1) the appointment of current HPAB member Dr. David Buckeridge to be the Canadian co-chair of the HPAB for a term of 16 months to begin October 29, 2016 and to conclude January 30, 2018; 2) the appointment of current HPAB Canadian co-chair Dr. Tim Takaro to be a Canadian member of the HPAB for a term of 16 months beginning October 29, 2016 and to conclude January 30, 2018; and 3) the re-appointment of Dr. Elaine Faustman as a US member for a period of two years to begin on Oct. 4, 2016 to conclude on October 3, 2018.



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section

