

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**June 20-22, 2017**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Canadian Section office in Ottawa, Ontario, on June 20 and 21, 2017, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT and June 22, 2017, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM EDT, chaired by Gordon Walker.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Richard Morgan	Commissioner, Canadian Section

**SECTION STAFF**

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
Kevin Bunch	Writer-Communications Specialist, 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
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Samantha Klaus	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Shannon Runyon	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Megan Sanders	Public Affairs Intern, U.S. Section
Gabrielle Snow	Student, Canadian Section
Cindy Warwick	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section

**GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF**

Patricia Morris	Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Diane Varosky	Administrative Officer
Mike Mezzacapo	Sea Grant Fellow

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

## **BRING FORWARD**

2. Commissioners reviewed correspondence to and from the governments, recognized that many of these may have been superseded by events and requested that only files for which further action is still needed by either the Commission or governments be listed. Staff conveyed the HPAB request for re issuance of the alerting letter regarding transboundary water quality issues in the Fraser-Sumas river basin. Commissioners invited the board to provide an update on this issue to inform further consideration of its request. On a separate issue, commissioners invited the Canadian Chair to provide a briefing on recent studies conducted in the St Clair River at the next Executive meeting.

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

3. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List, Communications activities calendar, and the coordinated calendar. With respect to the Phragmites action item, Commissioners requested that staff prepare a workshop proposal, including estimated costs, for consideration at an upcoming Executive meeting. Commissioners have called for an assessment of the scope, frequency and effectiveness of the newsletters and social media activities particularly as they related to the Commission's strategic plan and medium to long term needs.

## **MODERNIZATION OF THE IJC WEBSITE**

4. Commissioners received an oral update on efforts to modernize the IJC website including a report on progress of vendor proposal review, the establishment of a short list of vendors and anticipated completion dates for the next steps in the modernization process.

## **GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT**

5. Commissioners provided guidance to the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report authors on specific topics where recommendations should be considered. Commissioners agreed that timely publication of the TAP is important and that publication of the TAP, the Technical Appendix (TA), and the synthesis of public comments will depend on everyone adhering to a critical path and timeline. Commissioners concurred with staffs' summary of directions received on day one and received the summary of direction from Day 2. Some Commissioners requested that the staff complete the project no later than early October 2017, which will be on the first anniversary of the IJC's receipt of the Progress Report of the Parties. Commissioners offered to provide additional guidance at any time should the drafters request it. Commissioners confirmed that the observations and recommendations presented in the TAP must be adequately supported in the body of

the TAP and/or the TA. The TA will have section summaries to highlight key points made in each section.

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

6. Commissioners received an update on planning for the August 2017 public hearings on the study board's review of the Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curves and considered key findings presented in the study board's final report. Commissioners agreed to hold a conference call and webinar in early July to further discuss the Study Board's recommendations.

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

7. Commissioners received an update from representatives of Global Affairs Canada, the Department of State, and Environment and Climate Change Canada on federal and subnational governments' plans for addressing water quality issues in the Lake of the Woods basin. Following meetings with State and federal US agencies, progress has been achieved with respect to strengthening existing binational governance structures in the basin and working towards more collaborative domestic science programs. Governments will not be requesting that the Commission or its board assume any additional work beyond that required to fulfill their existing responsibilities in the watershed. Included among these existing responsibilities related to water quality are soliciting public views on water quality issues in the basin and inviting governments to share with the board progress achieved during regular board and public meetings and during the Commission's semi-annual meeting with governments.

#### **LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY**

8. Commissioners received an update on the study board's activities, including the outcome of recent Commission discussions with U.S. state government representatives and plans for the study board's July 2017 public meetings in the basin.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD**

9. Commissioners received an oral update on public information relating to Woodland Pulp's surrender application with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the Forest City project and also a State of Maine legislative proposal to accept transfer of ownership of the US portion of the Forest City dam from Woodland Pulp. Staff will keep Commissioners apprised of developments on this topic.

#### **IJC DATA POLICY**

10. Commissioners received an update on the development of an IJC data policy, discussed the scope of the proposed policy and requested that staff submit a streamlined document for the next Executive meeting.

## **LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FLOODING**

11. Commissioners received an oral update on flooding in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board's actions to address the flooding. Commissioners praised the Board for its effectiveness and sensitivity to public concerns and the Commission co-chairs are to communicate their appreciation to the board co-chairs prior to the next board meeting.

## **GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE MEETING**

12. Commissioners reviewed draft talking points for the commission's comments at the June 26-27, 2017 meeting of the Great Lakes Executive meeting in Chicago, Illinois, and for the associated tri-commission meeting with the Parties.

## **SOURIS RIVER PLAN OF STUDY IMPLEMENTATION**

13. Commissioners noted that the Commission expects to receive a reference from the governments for a Souris River flooding study. In anticipation of receipt of such a reference, commissioners conditionally approved appointments to a study board and a directive for implementation of such a study.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

14. **A) Commission Commemoration and Recognition**  
Commissioners approved plans for recognition of past commission achievements including a poster providing information on past commissioners' tenures; the posting of key IJC achievements via twitter; and noted other outside efforts to prepare a book and workshop profiling the history and achievements of the Commission. Commissioners were also briefed on a longer term proposal that there be a permanent IJC commemoration plaque ideally located in the Canadian and US embassies in Washington and Ottawa, respectively.
- B) Update on Water Quality in Missisquoi Bay and Lake Memphremagog**  
Commissioners were provided with an update of preliminary discussions held with governments regarding potential water quality work in these separate watersheds.
- C) International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board membership**  
Commissioner were provided with a detailed breakdown of the membership, sector and geographic knowledge of board members, and the composition of the board's operations advisory group, all of whom have been involved in the board s management of the high water levels of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. Commissioners commended the board and its advisory group for their communication and outreach efforts.
- D) May 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes**  
Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the May 1-4, 2017, Semi-Annual meeting.

**E) Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Water Levels**

Commissioners approved a letter of reply dated June 20, 2017 to a letter from New York Governor Cuomo dated June 13, 2017 and another letter of reply dated June 22, 2017 to the Monroe County (NY) Executive Dinolfo also dated June 13, 2017 both concerning the high water levels of Lake Ontario.

**DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

**Healing Our Waters Coalition Annual Conference**

On June 22 2017, commissioners approved providing IJC sponsorship for the Healing Our Waters Coalition Annual Conference, which will take place in Buffalo, New York, October 17-19, 2017.

**Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board**


On June 6, 2017, Commissioners approved a letter to governments transmitting the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board's initial work plan to governments.

**Shoal Lake**


On June 4, 2017, Commissioners approved a response to a letter from Chief Gerald Lewis of Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation concerning diversion of water from Shoal Lake and a letter to governments transmitting the chief's letter and requesting input from governments.

**Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Water Levels**

On June 16, 2017 Commissioners approved a response to a letter dated May 28, 2017 from the New York State Governor concerning the regulation of outflows from Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.



Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section

