

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
**Commissioners' Conference Call**  
**July 28, 2017**

The International Joint Commission met by conference call on July 28, 2017, from 10:00 AM to 1:40 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
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey	Consultant, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. 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
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
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Mike Mezzacapo	Sea Grant Fellow
Jill Mailloux	Administrative Officer
Diane Varosky	Administrative Co-ordinator
Li Wang	Physical Scientist

## **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 Commissioners reviewed correspondence to and from the governments and agreed to remove items that are no longer applicable to the IJC's agenda. U.S. Commissioners indicated that they would be providing written comments regarding the October 29, 2014, GAC email to the Canadian Section requesting follow up to the Upper Great Lakes recommendation concerning the St. Clair River.

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

3. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List, Communications activities calendar, and the coordinated calendar. Commissioners requested that the issue of the Poplar River Bilateral Monitoring Committee report be included in the Action item list and that staff provide information to further discuss this issue at the next Executive meeting.

## **INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD WATER QUALITY AUTHORITIES**

4. Commissioners approved a letter to the IRRB regarding its directive and requested that the matter be discussed with the board at its next meeting.

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

5. Commissioners received an update on progress made toward completion of the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report and clarified the schedule for receipt of the various sections of the overall TAP report, including the associated Technical Appendix (TA) and appendix of public comments. Commissioners also discussed their own review schedule and indicated a willingness to add more conference calls should the drafters require additional guidance. Commissioners asked that a communication product, largely based on the TAP Executive summary, be prepared for public distribution once the TAP, TA and public comment appendix have been finalized.

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

6. Commissioners reviewed the arrangements and agenda for the public hearings that the commission will hold on possible changes to the Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curves. Four hearings in the basin will be held August 16-18, 2017.

## **SOURIS RIVER REFERENCE**

7. Commissioners reviewed the governments' July 7, 2017, reference on Souris River flooding and discussed next steps, including revisions to the directive, establishing the study board, and programming funds.

## **PHRAGMITES WORKSHOP**

8. Commissioners discussed a proposal to hold a workshop on Phragmites in the Great Lakes basin. In light of other ongoing collaborative work on Phragmites, an upcoming invasive species conference in Ontario, and the scheduling of other Commission activities, Commissioners agreed to put the workshop on hold and revisit the issue at the fall semi-annual meeting.

## **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD**

9. Commissioners agreed to defer a decision on posting the Health Professionals Advisory Board report entitled "*A Review of Human Health Impacts of Selenium in Aquatic Systems*" and its one page summary table. Commissioners will discuss the report and provide further direction to the Board on this topic area at an upcoming executive meeting.

## **ORAL UPDATES**

10. **A) Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Flooding**  
Commissioners received an update on the flooding on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and on the associated activities of the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board and the GLAM Committee. Commissioners noted that the board is considering holding public meetings (at a time still to be determined) and agreed to participate in such meetings if they are held.
- B) Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board Public Meetings**  
Commissioners received a summary of the key messages voiced during the public meetings held by the study board and the meeting with Canadian mayors. Commissioners noted that plans are being made to hold a similar mayors meeting in the United States.
- C) Missisquoi Bay and Lake Memphremagog Water Quality**  
Commissioners received an update on regional concerns and informal Canada-U.S. discussions being held regarding a potential reference focused on water quality issues in Missisquoi Bay and Lake Memphremagog.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **11. A) Minutes of the June 20-22, 2017, Executive Meeting**

Commissioners discussed the draft minutes of the June 20-22, 2017 Executive meeting and requested that staff provide relevant reference material regarding attribution in the context of Commission minutes to inform their decision on the formulation of the minutes

### **B) Fall 2017 workshop on the History of the IJC**

Commissioners received information on the workshop on the history of the IJC that will be held in Ottawa on September 25-26, 2017. Several commissioners indicated they plan to attend.

### **C) Water Quality Board:**

Commissioners agreed to the board's request to increase the length of its appearance by 30 minutes at the upcoming fall semi-annual meeting, following which the request will be re-evaluated.

## **DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

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

On July 27, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Colonel William Conde to be the U.S. Co-Chair of the International St. Croix River Watershed Board for a three-year term, effective from July 19, 2017 to July 18, 2020, or until the end of Colonel Conde's command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' New England District Command.

### **Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Review**

On July 20, 2017, Commissioners approved the posting of the following materials in preparation for the commission's August 2017 public hearings: draft revisions to the Rainy-Namakan Order of Approval, a paper outlining the commission's preliminary position on each of the study board's recommendations, and a draft cover letter.

### **Declaration of Commissioner Benoit Bouchard**

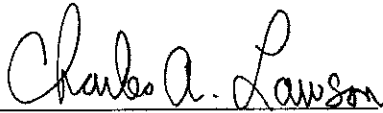
On July 11, 2017, Commissioners Benoit Bouchard formally declared that he would faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed on him under the treaty.

### **Lake of the Woods Water Quality**

On July 13, 2017, Commissioners approved, as amended, a letter to the governments outlining the commission's understanding of the governments' decision with respect to their collective way forward with a science plan for water quality in the Lake of the Woods basin.

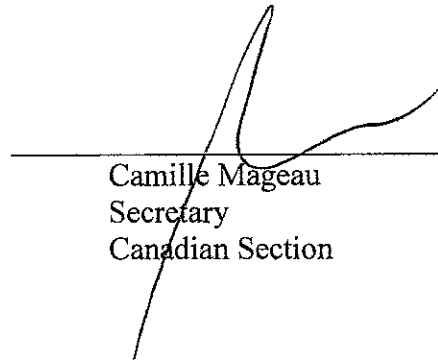
**Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study**

On July 7, 2017, Commissioners approved the establishment of an Independent Review Group (IRG) for the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River study and approved the following appointments to the IRG: Mr. William Howland to be a U.S. member and the U.S. lead of the IRG; Mr. David Mears, Ms. Elizabeth Bourget, and Mr. Todd Redder to be U.S. members of the IRG; Dr. André St-Hilaire to be a Canadian member and the Canadian lead of the IRG, and Dr. Pascale Biron, Dr. Diane Dupont, and Mr. Pierre Aubé to be Canadian members. The members' terms are effective from July 7, 2017, through the end of the study.



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Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section



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Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section