MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Toronto, Ontario
June 5-6, 2019

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Delta Hotel in Toronto, Ontario, on June 5, 2019, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM EDT and June 6, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM EDT, chaired by Pierre Béland.

COMMISSIONERS
Jane Corwin          Chair, U.S. Section
Pierre Béland      Chair, Canadian Section
F. Henry Lickers    Commissioner, Canadian Section
Rob Sisson          Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lance Yohe          Commissioner, U.S. Section
Merrell-Ann S. Phare Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF
Chuck Lawson                  Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau                Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen                    Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua                Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Christine Blanchet           Legal Advisor, Canadian Section
Kevin Bunch                   Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Christina Chiasson           Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo                 Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
David Fay                     Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel                  Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson               Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Tristan Lecompte              Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston        Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Sarah Lobrichon              Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Nick Heisler                  Stakeholder Relations Special Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid                 Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
John Yee                      Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
Dave Burden    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
Diane Varosky   Administrative Coordinator
Lizhu Wang   Biological Scientist
John Wilson   Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of one item under Other Business.

SCHEDULE OF IJC MEETINGS FOR 2019

2. Commissioners reviewed and approved the proposed schedule of IJC meetings for the rest of 2019.

GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS AND LAKE ONTARIO-ST LAWRENCE FLOODING

3. Commissioners received a briefing on the high water levels currently extant in all the Great Lakes, with a detailed focus on the record hydrologic conditions that have led to flooding on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in the spring of 2019. They also received a briefing on the history of the regulation of Lake Ontario outflows and the studies and factors that led the Commission to implement Plan 2014 after the governments concurred. Commissioners received information gathered from recent visits to flooded areas in vicinity of Rochester NY and Lake St Louis and Lake St Pierre in Québec. Commissioners also received information for their June 5th afternoon visit to flooded areas on Toronto Island.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

4. Commissioners received background information on the IJC’s responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. They reviewed plans for 2019 public consultations under the agreement, and noted that staff recommended all commissioners attend all the meetings if possible. Staff requested that commissioners check their schedules and inform staff of which meetings they will attend.
COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION ON IJC PRIORITIES

5. Commissioners received information about the commission’s current 2015-2020 strategic plan and the process the previous commission undertook to develop the plan. Commissioners initiated discussions on potential commission priorities for the next five years as they related to BWT and GLWQA responsibilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

A) International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control
Commissioners reviewed and approved the board’s request that it be granted the authority under Condition 10 of the 2013 Order to allow the Applicant (Washington State Department of Ecology) to manage the level of Osoyoos Lake within the broader rule curve range specified in Condition 8 under drought conditions until September 30, 2019. Commissioners provided several comments on a draft commission response to the board and requested that advisors revise the letter accordingly and provide it to commissioners for final approval.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Minutes of the May 16, 2019, and May 23, 2019, Conference Calls
On May 31, 2019, Commissioners approved the minutes of the May 16, 2019, conference call during which each Canadian Commissioner made and subscribed their solemn declaration in writing to faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed under the Boundary Waters Treaty and the minutes of the May 23, 2019, conference call during which each U.S. Commissioner made and subscribed their solemn declaration in writing to faithfully and impartially perform the duties imposed under the Treaty.