

**MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
June 16-17, 2020**

The International Joint Commission met virtually in Executive Session on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT and on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT, chaired by Pierre Beland.

COMMISSIONERS

Jane Corwin	Chair, U.S. Section
Pierre Beland	Chair, Canadian Section
Henry Lickers	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Merrell-Ann Phare	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Rob Sisson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lance Yohe	Commissioner, U.S. 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
Kevin Bunch	Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Christina Chiasson	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Caron de Mars	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Michele D'Amours	Senior Communications Advisor, Canadian Section
Antionette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Adam Greeley	AAAS Fellow, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Jeff Kart	Executive Editor IJC Newsletters, U.S. Section
Erika Klyszejko	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta	Senior Advisor and GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mark Leiva	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Robert Phillips	Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Advisor
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section

Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Carole Smith	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

David Burden	Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Diane Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Allison Voglesong Zejnati	Video-Communications Specialist
Li Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as amended.

MINUTES OF THE April 27-28, 2020, EXECUTIVE MEETING

2. Commissioners approved the minutes of the April 27-28, 2020, Executive meeting.

OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE

3. Commissioners reviewed the list of outstanding correspondence noting that no additional correspondence has been added since the April Executive meeting. Commissioners discussed what criteria are considered before an item is taken off the outstanding correspondence list.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

4. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List, Communications activities list, and the coordinated calendar and received updates on several items, including progress being made on the IM-IT migration to the new platform.

IJC OPERATIONS

5. Commissioners reviewed IJC related meetings scheduled over the next 6 months and discussed how the IJC might operate in the COVID-19 environment. Commissioners noted the need for flexibility, given the uncertainty in how the pandemic will evolve and generally agreed a hybrid approach with a mix of virtual and face-to-face meetings, when conditions allow, would be appropriate. They also noted the need to ensure that the technology needed for meeting be available

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

6. Commissioners reviewed various conflict of interest policies that pertain to U.S. and Canadian government employees and requested that legal advisors do analysis of any gaps that might need to be addressed to cover member of the IJC family, including members of IJC boards.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

7. Commissioners received an update on development of the 2020 Triennial Assessment of Progress report and agreed to schedule a meeting with staff to discuss a preliminary draft of the report.

GREAT LAKES ADVISORY BOARDS' STRATEGIC ISSUES

8. Commissioners agreed to defer discussion of the Great Lakes Advisory Boards' strategic issues to a future date.

GREAT LAKES ADVISORY BOARD PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

9. Commissioners discussed the process by which Water Quality Board, Science Advisory Board, and Health Professionals Advisory Board projects are developed and approved by the Commission and noted the boards' efforts to ensure that their projects address the Commission's priorities.

TRANSBOUNDARY MINING MAP

10. Commissioners reviewed a draft GIS-based dynamic map of transboundary mine locations and supplementary information and thanked advisors for their efforts pulling all the information together. Commissioners requested that liaisons work with the Health Professionals Advisory Board and the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board to develop a short scoping document on what a project on mining in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin might entail.

GREAT LAKES DIVERSIONS

11. Commissioners reviewed information on diversions of water into and out of the Great Lakes and the impacts those diversions have on Great Lakes water levels. Commissioners noted that the IJC does not have any oversight responsibility for those diversions. Commissioners requested that advisors provide information outlining the positive and negative impacts of utilizing diversions for flood management in the Great Lakes.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

12. Commissioners reviewed an application submitted by Great Lakes Power Limited, the owner and operator of the hydropower plant at Sault Ste. Marie, ON and the Canadian half of the Compensating Works, requesting an amendment to the Commission's Orders of Approval to allow for a dam safety and maintenance inspection of the Compensating Works' Gate 1. Commissioners approved a draft temporary Supplementary Order and letter to permit the closure of Gate 1 of the Compensating Works for up to three different days during the period of July 16 and August 31, 2020.

LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

13. **A. GREAT LAKES-ST LAWRENCE RIVER CONDITIONS AND FORECAST**
Commissioners received an update on conditions in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin, where water levels remain high across the Great Lakes basin. The four upper Great Lakes are near or above record-high levels, while Lake Ontario water level is below flood level but above the long-term average level.

B. LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners received an update on: recent meetings with elected officials in the US and Canada and on the schedule of the future monthly public webinars; and key correspondence on Plan 2014 received since the April 2020 executive meeting. Commissioners approved the Great Lakes High Water Levels Communications Strategy. Advisors will be providing a draft response to the recent correspondence from ILOSLRB Co-Chairs on the topic of Board communications.

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14. Commissioners received an update on GLAM Committee activities including the expedited evaluation of the performance of Plan 2014. Commissioners approved the Committee's Spring Semi-Annual Report for translation and posting on the Committee's website and agreed to defer the Committee's triennial report for this cycle.

SHOAL LAKE

15. Commissioners reviewed background information and advisors' analysis of issues raised in the governments' letters concerning the City of Winnipeg's compliance with the 1914 order. Commissioners discussed possible next steps for responding to the governments' letters. Commissioners also discussed the issue of a water levels study for Lake of the Woods, which the IJC had recommended to the governments in its 2012 report on binational water management in the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River watershed.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

16. Commissioners received an update on the development of the white paper on designating watershed boards and provided feedback on the draft the Fifth IWI report to governments.

INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

17. Commissioners received an update on activities undertaken and being planned to increase and enhance the incorporation of indigenous people's knowledge and perspectives and their engagement in IJC initiatives and discussed options for further enhancing current initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

18. Commissioners considered various communication options on how best to provide the public with additional information about the board's nutrient management report and recommendations for new water quality objectives, which the IJC endorsed in its May 8, 2020, letter to the governments. Lead Commissioners and board liaisons will put forward a proposal for Commissioners' consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

19. **A. Scheduling webinars and meetings**
Commissioners agreed on dates for upcoming discussions on several outstanding issues.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Red River Board

On June 18, 2020, Commissioners approved the appointments of: Mr. Patrick Cherneski to be the Canadian co-chair for a three-year term, effective from June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2023; and Mr. Brian Caruso to be a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term, effective from June 11, 2020, to June 10, 2023. Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Gregg Wiche as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term, effective from May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2023.

Great Lakes Science Advisory Board

On June 16, 2020, Commissioners approved: the Science Advisory Board's report entitled *Towards a Great Lakes Early Warning System*; the posting of the report on the board's website; and transmitting the board's report to the co-chairs of the Great Lakes Executive Committee. Commissioners expressed interest in having the board provide them with a briefing on the report.

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board

On June 11, 2020, Commissioners approved a letter to the board endorsing the regulation strategy the board approved at its May 22, 2020, meeting, which will guide outflows from the Moses-Saunders dam over the next several months.

International Souris River Board

On June 9, 2020, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. John Paczikowski to be the U.S. co-chair of the board for a one-year term, effective from June 2, 2020, to June 1, 2021.
JC approved June 8 2020, RS approved June 8 2020, LY approved June 8 2020
PB approved June 8 2020, MAP approved June 8 2020, HL approved June 9 2020

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board

On June 5, 2020, Commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Joan Frain as a Canadian member of the board for a six-month term, effective from June 1, 2020, to November 31, 2020.

Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination Committee

On June 2, 2020, Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Réjean Couture to be a Canadian member of the RCC for a two- year term, effective from June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2022.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee

On May 15, 2020, Commissioners approved the following people to be members of the Public Advisory Group for the expedited review of the performance of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014 that is being carried out by the GLAM Committee: Mr. Jean-François Belzile; Mr. John Boyce; Mr. Gilbert Cabana; Mr. Robert Cantwell; Ms. Ghalia Chahine; Mr. Patrick Davis; Ms. Sarah Delicate; Mr. Corey Fram; Mr. Abraham Francis; Mr. Bernie Gigas; Mr. Rick Layzell; Mr. John Peach; Mr. Jonathan Schultz; Mr. David Scudder; Mr. David Speak; and Mr. Cliff Steinburg. The PAG members' terms are effective from May 8, 2020, to October 31, 2021. Commissioners also approved the Term of Reference for the PAG and the appointment letter to be sent to all members.

International Red River Board

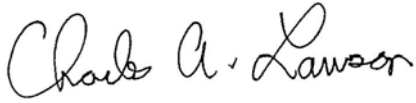
On May 7, 2020, Commissioners approved a letter to the governments supporting the Board's recommendation that nutrient objectives and targets be added to the suite of water quality parameters that the Board monitors and reports to the Commission.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee

On May 6, 2020, Commissioners approved: the appointment of Dr. Lauren Fry to be a U.S. member of the GLAM Committee for a three-year term, effective from May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2023; and the appointment of Ms. Mary Austerman to be a U.S. member of the GLAM Committee for a three-year term, effective July 16, 2020, until July 15, 2023.

International St. Croix River Watershed Board

On April 30, 2020, Commissioners approved: the reappointment of Dr. Robert Lent as a U.S. member of the Board for a three year term, effective from January 17, 2019, to January 16, 2022; the reappointment Ms. Susanne Miller as a U.S. member of the Board for a three year term, effective June 10, 2019, to June 9, 2022; and the appointment of Ms. Jackie LeClair to be a U.S. member of the International St. Croix River Watershed Board for a three year term, effective May 1, 2020, to April 30, 2023.



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section