

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
*Executive Meeting*  
*March 10-11, 2021*

The International Joint Commission met in a virtual Executive Session on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST and Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST with Jane Corwin in the Chair.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Jane Corwin	Chair, U.S. Section
Pierre Béland	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 OFFICES**

Susan Daniel	Acting Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau	Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Norman Barth	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. 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
Rachel Carmichael Campbell	Student Analyst, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Advisor, U.S. Section
Antionette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Adam Greeley	AAAS Fellow, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Rachel Horoschak	Administrative Assistant, U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Kart	Executive Editor, IJC Newsletters, U.S. Section

Erika Klyszejko	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Tristan Lecompte	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mark Leiva	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Diane Moczula	Junior Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Cory Olishansky	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section
Robert Phillips	Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Carole Smith	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Ed Virden	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. 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	Communications Advisor
Li Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES**

2. Commissioners approved the minutes of the January 26 and 28, 2021 Executive meeting,

## **OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE**

3. Commissioners reviewed the list of outstanding and recently received government correspondence. It was requested that the March 5, 2021 letter providing a summary of the November 5, 2020 meeting with governments following the Fall Semi-Annual meeting discussion be added to the list although no response was required. An update on the communications with the City of Winnipeg on the Shoal Lake and Lake of the Woods diversion was provided.

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

4. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List and requested the addition of files for which continued IJC actions will be required, requested the addition of a few events to the coordinated calendar and the communications calendar. An update on the litigation with the State of New York and the GAO report response was provided. Commissioner Corwin will be speaking on May 26, 2021 at the Pace University Law School. Comm. Lickers will be presenting to the Metis of Ontario on March 10. Comm. Phare speaking on March 22 at the University of Ottawa at the Alex Trebek Center.

## **US-CANADA AIR QUALITY AGREEMENT (AQA)**

5. Commissioners received an overview of the IJC's responsibilities under the AQA. The IJC has posted the governments' recent 2018 Progress Report of the AQA on the IJC's website and will be seeking public comment through June of 2021. Commissioners will ask Boards presenting at the Spring Semi-Annual if they are aware of any air quality issues in their areas of responsibility. Depending on the responses received the Commission will consider next steps.

## **COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN**

6. Commissioners received an overview of coastal resilience activities undertaken by federal, state, provincial and local governments, non-governmental and binational organizations. The IJC's testing of regulation plans under a climate change framework was also discussed, including information that may be needed on resilience in the reviews of such plans. Commissioners and staff will be working on preparing a key list of questions and summary points for Commission consideration and further discussion.

## **GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT**

### **7. A. 2023 TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT**

Commissioners received an update on the establishment of the TAP working group and the development of the TAP Assessment Framework. Commissioners scheduled a meeting with the Water Quality Board Co-Chairs on March 17 to review the terms of reference for the TAP working group.

## **B. GREAT LAKES ADVISORY BOARD PROJECTS**

Commissioners reviewed and approved the three WQB and three SAB workplans included in the briefing book and directed staff to move-forward with the next steps for the approved projects. Commissioners noted that the HPAB Centennial study webinar was scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> and that the HPAB workplan would be submitted and considered following discussion on this project.

### **GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**

#### **8. A. GREAT LAKES-ST LAWRENCE RIVER CONDITIONS AND FORECAST**

Commissioners received an update on conditions in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin. High water levels are expected to persist on the Upper Lakes for the next few months but are expected to remain below their record levels. Most forecast scenarios suggest that Lake Ontario water levels will decline in the coming weeks with a slow seasonal rise. At this time there is no major cause for concerns for a large freshet.

#### **B. GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioners reviewed planned communication activities related to the Plan 2014 Expedited Review including meetings of the PAG and the ILOSLRB's communication strategies.

#### **C. GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Commissioners received an update on the GLAM Committee's activities including Indigenous engagement meetings.

### **INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE**

- 9.** Commissioners received a debrief of the February 18 IWI intersessional with representatives from Global Affaires Canada and the U.S. Department of State regarding the Red and Souris boards watershed designation and the proposed watershed designation process. Commissioners also discussed plans for the March 18, 2021 informal meeting between Commissioners and Global Affaires Canada and the U.S. Department of State regarding the proposed watershed designation process.

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT**

### **10. A. TOWARD INDIGENOUS MEMBERSHIP ON THE IRRB**

Commissioners approved the appointments of Dr. Annette Trimbee and Ms. Melissa Hotain as Canadian members, and Ms. April E. Poitra-Walker and Mr. Benjamin Yawakie as U.S. members, for a 2-year period starting March 19, 2021 and ending March 18, 2023.

### **B. TOWARD INDIGENOUS MEMBERSHIP ON THE ISRB**

Commissioners received an update on the nomination of Souris Board Indigenous members. The ISRSB report on Indigenous engagement is expected mid-March which will include ISRB and Indigenous communities' review comments. Following receipt of these recommendations staff will work with lead Commissioners to develop a schedule for possible board expansion, IAG formation and nomination of Indigenous members to the ISRB with a target date of June 2021.

### **C. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Commissioners received an update on Indigenous engagement activities including the following workshops and events: March 16, staff presentation on gathering of Indigenous Knowledge and its role in the collaborative management of watersheds; March 31, a workshop on First Nations and the Métis Nation in Canada and finally, on April 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>, a virtual 2-day Indigenous Knowledge gathering workshop with Commissioners, staff and key Indigenous members and affiliates of IJC boards.

## **KEY FILE UPDATES**

### **11. A. INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER STUDY BOARD (ISRSB)**

Following notification of the six-months extension, the ISRSB plans on delivering its report to the IJC in August 2021. In February and March, the ISRSB met with key stakeholders and rightsholders to update them on the study schedule and future opportunities to engage before the end of the study and to receive early feedback on proposed study recommendations.

### **B. LAKE CHAMPLAIN RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY BOARD (LCRR)**

In its last year of the study, the LCRR Study Board is engaged in discussions on report content, format, and communications. Emergency response activities are currently a major focus in both Canada and the US. Technical working groups are coordinating workshops (in Canada) and interviews (in the US) with first respondents to obtain their input.

### **C. ST MARY MILK STUDY**

Subsequent to the February International Records Meeting, IJC staff and Accredited Officers (AOs) have held meetings to discuss the communications plan and engagement next steps. The Commission, in collaboration with the Accredited Officers and Field

Representatives has initiated preparatory work for the proposed study. A list of stakeholders and rightsholders is being compiled to involve in the planning process and a standard presentation for engagement sessions is under development.

**D. POPLAR/BIG MUDDY RIVER**

At the staff-level February 18th intercessional discussion with governments, the topic of reporting on the water quality monitoring for the Poplar-Big Muddy River was discussed. In preparation for the upcoming informal March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with Department of State and Global Affairs Canada representatives.

**OTHER ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**12. A. MISSION COMPLIANCE**

Commissioners requested that, during the Spring Semi-annual board appearances, that all boards be prepared to discuss their core responsibilities and whether they feel they are adequately delivering them. Commissioners are also interested in discussing with boards their complementary responsibilities and what challenges, if any, are impacting on their ability to address their core responsibilities.

**B. TRANSBOUNDARY MINING IMPLICATIONS**

Commissioners requested that an inter-office watching brief be initiated to keep informed of news and activities on U.S.-Canada transboundary mining issues.

**C. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FOR IJC MEETINGS**

Commissioners asked Secretaries to provide options for consideration.

**D. VARIA**

Other procedural aspects were discussed and Commissioners requested that henceforth, briefing notes for Executive discussions include any FN, Communication and or Policy considerations which should be taken under advisement.



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Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section



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Susan Daniel  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Section

## **DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

### **International Red River Board**

On February 15, 2021, Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Mr. David Glatt as U.S. member of the IRRB for a three-year period starting, retroactively, December 7, 2020 to December 6, 2023.

### **International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board**

On February 12, 2021, Commissioners approved the re-appointments of Ms. Pam Tomevi as a US public member of the IRLWWB and water levels committee for a three-year term starting retroactively, December 31, 2020 and ending December 30, 2023 and of Ms. Patty Thielen to be a US member starting, retroactively, January 31, 2021 and ending January 30, 2024. Commissioners also approved the reappointment of Mr. Matt Gouin to be a US member starting, retroactively, November 30, 2020 and ending November 29, 2023.

### **Science Advisory Board -Science Priority Committee**

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Commissioners approved the reappointments of Dr. Joe DePinto, Dr. Karen Kidd and Mic Isham for an additional three-year period. Dr. DePinto's term will start February 26, 2021 and end February 25, 2024. Dr. Kidd's and Mr. Isham's terms will start July 10, 2021 and end July 9, 2024, Commissioners also approved the appointment Dr. Gail Krantzberg as Canadian Co-Chair of the SAB-SPC for a one-year period starting February 26, 2021 and ending February 25, 2022.

### **International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board**

On February 10, 2021, Commissioners approved the letter to the ILOS RB in response to their February 3<sup>rd</sup>, request for an extension of the authority provided to the Board on December 9, 2020 under Condition J for temporary minor modifications to Lake Ontario outflows to determine if changes in the regulation Plan 2014 might be advisable, In its letter, the Commission requests that, near the 2021 peak of Lake Ontario, the Board provide the Commission with a written request for approval of its strategy to address the accumulated deviations in outflow from Plan 2014 consistent with the directive to the Board.

### **Great Lakes Water Quality Board**

On February 9., 2021 Commissioners approved the appointments to the Great Lakes Water Quality Board of Ms. Niharika Bandaru as a Canadian Municipal member; of Ms. Chloe Stuart as a Canadian Provincial member and of Ms. Eileen Murphy as a U.S. State member each for a three-year term from February 10, 2021 to February 9, 2024. Commissioners also approved the reappointments of Mark Wales as a Canadian Agricultural member; of Ms. Sandy Bihn as a U.S. Environmental Non-governmental Organization member each for a two-year term from February 27, 2021 to February 26, 2023, as well as Mr. Joe Tomandl as a U.S. Agricultural member for a three-year term from April 16, 2021 to April 15, 2024 and of Mr. Brandon Hofmeister as a U.S. Business member for a three-year term from February 27, 2021 to February 26, 2024.

## **Science Advisory Board-Research Coordination Committee**

On January 29, 2021, Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Gavin Christie as Canadian Co-chair of the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board Research Coordination Committee (SAB-RCC) for a two-year term from March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2023. Commissioners also approved the reappointment of Dr. Kathy McKague as a Canadian member and Ms. Sandra Eberts as a U.S. member of the SAB-RCC for a three-year term from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2023.