

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Minutes – Executive Meeting, Feb. 25 & 28, 2022

The International Joint Commission (IJC) met in virtual Executive Session on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Monday, February 28, 2022, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm EST, with Pierre Béland in the Chair for the morning portion of the meeting on February 25 and Jane Corwin in Chair for the remainder of the meetings.

COMMISSIONERS

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

SECTION OFFICES

Susan Daniel	Acting Secretary/Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Christopher Wilkie	Secretary, Canadian Section
Glenn Benoy	Director of Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Rob Caldwell	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Director of Science and Engineering, U.S. Section
Norman Barth	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Kevin Bunch	Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section (contractor)
Christina Chiasson	Junior Policy & Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Celine Desjardins	HR/Science & Engineering Coordinator, Canadian Section
Antionette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Alexandria Farrell	IWI Student, Canadian Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Adam Greeley	AAAS Fellow, U.S. Section
Rachel Horoschak	Administrative Assistant, U.S. Section
Jeff Kart	Executive Editor, IJC Newsletters, U.S. Section (contractor)
Erika Klyszejko	Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Michael Laitta	Senior Physical Science Adviser/GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Anvi Solanki	AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, U.S. Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mark Leiva	Network Administrator, U.S. Section (contractor)
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Diane Moczula	Junior Policy 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
Derek Spelay	Administrative Assistant, Canadian Section
Ed Virden	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
John Yee	Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section
Christian Moreau	IT Support Analyst, Canadian Section
Lindsay Trottier	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Marlene Huard	Financial Officer, 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
Monique Myre	Administrative Officer
Rajendra Poudel	Economist
Diane Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Allison Voglesong-Zejnati	Communications Specialist (contractor)
Li Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved, subject to a reordered consideration of items as presented below.

2. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Commissioners were apprised of ongoing and planned communications activities and updated on social media and newsletter analytics. Commission staff is working on a comprehensive draft of the IJC communications strategy document. Commissioner Lickers has upcoming speaker invitations on March 16th and 17th at the State of Lake Erie Conference. April 20th Commissioner Lickers will be at the Morrisburg and District Canadian club meetings. Public consultation periods coming up include the IJC public comment period for the Expedited Review of Plan 2014 Phase one report. This began on February 17th and will continue for a period of 60 days. The related Community Leaders' meetings are also starting this month. The latest edition of the Great Lakes Connection newsletter, which featured articles on the release of the Phase one report, had open rate of 40%. News releases that have come out since the last executive meeting on January 18th include a preview of the public comment period on the phase one report, ice formation on Lake Ontario, and an update on Lake Superior outflows.

3. INTERNATIONAL LAKE CHAMPLAIN/RICHELIEU RIVER BOARD

Commissioners were apprised of recent developments with the ILCRR Study. The Co chairs for the Study are requesting an extension through June 17 for the editing, translation and completion of the final report. The technical work to the study is nearly complete and is on track to be completed in advance of the current study end date which is March 21. The Data Products Committee is working hard to get a handle on all the various models and datasets that have been generated through this study with a view to bringing forward some data preservation recommendations in a report.

4. INTERNATIONAL ST. MARY - MILK RIVERS STUDY

Commissioners were updated on the Study Board's progress and revisions that will be made to the study workplan. A study methodology document is planned to be presented at the semi-annual meeting in April. This will assist the board with their communications activities and strategy. Alberta is very interested in having Commissioners visit the Milk River portion of the basin within Alberta. A small team is working on the indigenous engagement aspects of the study. Nominees will be forthcoming from the Black Feet Nation and Kainai Nation. In the IJC directive it was identified that this study will provide its annual report at the April semi-annual meeting each year. The Commission is reconsidering whether the Study should deliver their annual report each fall in order to give the study more time to focus on their methodology document, refine the workplan, and obtain review from the PAG. Commissioners approved of the study board's annual report being received by the Commission just prior to the IJC's Fall 2022 Semi-annual Meeting, and every Fall meeting thereafter.

5. INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD GOVERNANCE

Commissioners were provided updates on the review of Souris River Board transition activities and provided guidance on the timing, milestones and sequencing preferences concerning the activation of a new board structure, its membership, committees, directive and terms of reference. Commissioners approved the revised proposed schedule to make the IJC's final report on the reference publicly available.

6. GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE RIVER CONDITIONS AND FORECAST

A. GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER CONDITIONS AND FORECAST

Commissioners received an update on conditions in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.

B. GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners provided guidance on planned communications activities. Staff provided Commissioners with an updated schedule for the upcoming IJC Community Leaders meetings. Greece, NY is scheduled for March 22nd, Toronto for March 25th and Wilson/Alcott, N.Yo on March 29th. The GLAM and IJC communications staff continue to work on public outreach products including informational videos. Updates will be made to the GLAM webpage and a public comment webpage, and those communication products will be shared with participants of the Community Leaders' meetings and will be made available to the public.

C. GREAT LAKES GOVERNANCE – GLAM and ILOSLRB ADVISORY GROUPS

Commissioners provided guidance in setting out options concerning GLAM's Public Advisory Group (PAG) and ILOSLRB's Interim Advisory Group (IAG).

7. ST. CROIX RIVER – DAM DECOMMISSIONING

Commissioners received an update on New Brunswick Power's Milltown Generation Station decommissioning plans, located at Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

8. INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

Commissioners reviewed the Board priorities and workplan. Staff, Co chairs and lead Commissioners will have a discussion on proposed revisions to the directive.

9. POPLAR RIVER

Commissioners were provided a status update on the Poplar River and discussed next steps.

10. COORDINATED CALENDAR, OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE, ACTION ITEMS

The Spring Semi-Annual in person meeting, with a virtual attendance option, will be held on April 4-8 in Washington, D.C.

11. ORAL UPDATES

- A.** Kootenay River Board Information Paper – Update on the Kootenay paper and other board activities.
- B.** International Watersheds Initiative - Update on discussions with governments on the board designation process and IWI project planning for the program.
- C.** Climate Change Resiliency Workshop update.

- D. IM/IT Training Survey Results-** A consulting firm called Knowledge Works was hired to consult and information technology needs assessment for the IJC and its boards. We are pleased with the level of participation from users, we intend to use the information gathered from the survey to further address the needs of the users. There were 67 participants who responded or 67 participants, 36 responded with a 53% overall participation.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned with no other business.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Souris River Board of Control

On February 28, 2022, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Jeff Woodward as a new Canadian member of the ISRB starting March 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023, or until the ISRB governance review is complete.

Poplar River

On February 16, 2022, Commissioners approved a letter to governments in response to questions about the Poplar River in their December 6th, 2021, letter to IJC regarding issues discussed at last Fall's Semi-annual meetings with Governments.

International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board

On February 15, 2022, Commissioners approved the response to ILOSLRB's letter of January 14, 2022, letter concerning the Board's completed deviation removal strategy.

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study

On February 14, 2022, Commissioners approved appointing the following six individuals, nominated by their respective government entities, as members of the Government Forum to the International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board (ISMMRSB).

Within the United States

1. Fort Belknap Indian Community:

Ms. Kristal Hawley-Fox, *Water Resource Director*

2. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation:

Ms. Anna Pakenham Stevenson, *Administrator of the Water Resources Division*

3. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: Mr. Ryan Newman, *Area Manager, Montana Area Office*

Within Canada

1. Alberta Ministry of Environment and Parks:

Ms. Carcey Hincz, *Executive Director of Environmental Knowledge and Prediction*

2. Environment and Climate Change Canada:

Dr. Wayne Jenkinson, *Acting Executive Director for ECCC's National Hydrological Services*

3. Saskatchewan Water Security Agency:

Mr. Jeff Woodward, *Director of Hydrology and Groundwater Services*

TAP Public Consultation Plan

On February 14, 2022, Commissioners approved the 2022-2023 TAP public consultation activities plan and budget for 2022-2023 TAP public consultation activities.

WQB Reappointments

On February 14, 2022, Commissioners approved the following reappointments to the Water Quality Board

- A. Frank Ettawageshik as a Tribal member for an approximately 2.5-year term from July 10, 2022, to March 16, 2025.
- B. Sara Hudson as a U.S. municipal member for a three-year term from February 27, 2022 – February 26, 2025.
- C. Chris McLaughlin as a Canadian Municipal member for a three-year term from July 10, 2022, to July 9, 2025.

Science Advisory Board-Science Priority Committee

On January 31, 2022, Commissioners approved the following reappointments and new appointments to the Science Advisory Board-Science Priority Committee:

- A. Reappoint existing SAB-SPC Canadian Co-Chair Dr. Gail Krantzberg as Canadian Co-Chair for a three-year term starting July 10, 2022 and ending July 9, 2025.
- B. Reappoint SAB-SPC members Dr. John Livernois and Dr. Jerome Marty for additional three-year periods. Dr. Livernois' term will start March 14, 2022, and end March 13, 2025. Dr. Marty's term will start July 10, 2022, and end July 9, 2025.
- C. Appoint existing member Dr. Lucinda Johnson as U.S. Co-Chair of the SAB-SPC for a three-year period starting February 26, 2022 and ending February 25, 2025.
- D. Appoint two new U.S. members to the SAB-SPC. Appoint Dr. Bob Sterner for a three-year period starting February 26, 2022 and ending February 25, 2025. Appoint Dr. Donna Kashian for a two-year period starting June 1, 2022 and ending May 31, 2024.

Shoal Lake-Lake of the Woods Order

On February 8, 2022, Commissioners approved the letters to governments and the City of Winnipeg relating to the Shoal Lake (Lake of the Woods) Diversion.

Rescheduling of Executive Meeting

On January 26, 2022, Commissioners approved changing the dates of the next Executive Meeting from March 8 & 9, 2022 to February 25 & 28, 2022.

CWRA Meeting, June 5-8, 2022

On January 25, 2022, Commissioners approved for the IJC to give the opening plenary address at the conference.

Lake of the Woods Phosphorus Targets

On January 21, 2022, Commissioners approved a revised letter to Governments concerning Lake of the Woods phosphorus targets. The first draft had been discussed at the December 2021 Executive Meeting.

International Souris River Study Board

On January 21, 2022, Commissioners approved a revised news release for the IJC report to governments on the Souris River Study. The first draft was approved on January 18, 2022.



Christopher Wilkie
Secretary, Canadian Section



Susan Daniel
Acting Secretary, U.S. Section