

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Embassy Suites Georgetown

1250 22nd Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

Minutes – Spring Semi-Annual Meeting, April 4-7, 2022

The International Joint Commission (IJC) met in hybrid Executive Session on Monday, April 4, 2022, from 9:00 am to 4:43 pm EST, with Jane Corwin in Chair.

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, planned communications activities and updated on social media and newsletter analytics. Commission staff is working on a comprehensive draft of the IJC communications policy. Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board, public involvement specialist Lynn Greer is creating a first newsletter that will cover all three Great Lakes levels boards and GLAM. Staff is revisiting the concept and approach for our newsletter program. The Water Quality Board's nuclear decommissioning report will be released on Tuesday, April 19 and is being published long with the summary video, and registration will be open for the work groups' Zoom webinar scheduled for Friday, April 29 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. April 14: Great Lakes Water Quality Board will participate in a 50th anniversary webinar discussion under the auspices of the Michigan Sea Grant program and other organizations regarding the role of the

arts into the next 50 years of the agreement. Commissioner Lickers requested a list of indigenous participants.

3. INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

Commissioners were provided an update on current and proposed IWI initiatives from the ongoing 2020 to 2025 IWI workplan. Additional indigenous engagement work, which would include input from the indigenous collaboration team and potential water quality adaptive management work, was discussed and supported by the Commission in addition to the current priorities and ongoing tasks that the team is working on.

4. TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS UPDATE

Commissioners were updated on the transboundary hydrologic conditions and forecasts in IJC basins. Commissioners suggested preparing a summary of the presentation for the public and addressing concerns specifically.

5. 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.

6. COORDINATED CALENDAR, OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE, ACTION ITEMS

Commissioners agreed that the next executive meeting will be held on July 19-20 in Windsor.

7. INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD GOVERNANCE

Commissioners received an update on IJC's review of ISRB governance activities, including work of the Transition Team. Staff sought guidance on approach and on populating the comments response matrix.

8. ORAL UPDATES

a. Poplar River

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

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned with no other business.

April 5-7 BOARD APPEARANCES

1. Lake Champlain Richelieu River Flooding Reference Study Board

The Board discussed their report production timeline, key findings and progress highlights from the last few months, updated cost-benefit analysis on the structural alternatives, the study board's finalized recommendations, a breakdown of study finances, data products/legacy, communications, and public outreach.

2. International St Croix River Watershed Board

The Board presented an overview of its work over the last six months highlighting current and proposed IWI projects. The Board has worked with IJC communications staff to develop news releases to announce the completion of its fish passage improvement study in July 2021.

3. International St. Mary-Milk Rivers Study Board

The Commission was introduced to the Study Board and members of the Governments Forum. The Study Co-Chairs discussed its current work plan and next steps. The Study Board is focusing its efforts on the development of a Study Methodology document.

4. International St. Mary - Milk Rivers Accredited Officers

Accredited Officers (AOs) and Field Representative (FRs) Appeared before the Commission and discussed a number of ongoing projects including the St Mary-Milk Rivers Consumptive Use Remote Sensing Project. - The AOs IWI proposal is on track. Phase 2 is currently underway which focuses on field calibration work compared with satellite imagery. Phase 3 planning has begun and with a proposal submission within the calendar year.

5. International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

The 2022 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum is a major activity this year and the board produced several new releases for their website in 2021, including for spring freshet, the extreme atmospheric rivers event in November 2021, and the winter draw down.

The board's 2021 annual report covering the reporting period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, is expected to be delivered to the IJC in late-March 2022 and will be provided to Commissioners under separate cover.

6. International Columbia River Board of Control

The Board delivers an annual progress report each Spring. The 2021 Annual Report was delivered on March 10, 2022. This report documents hydrologic conditions and activities of the board for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

During the 2021 reporting period, dam operators-maintained compliance with backwater conditions set out in the Order.

7. International Kootenay Lake Board of Control

The Board plans to finalize and publicly release its' Kootenay Lake Information Paper & Kootenay Lake Visualization Tool.

The Board's 2021 annual report covering the reporting period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, was delivered to the Commission in late-March 2022.

8. International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board

Board members participated in the IJC Community Leaders Meetings and were encouraged to continue working with IJC advisors to carry out its communications strategy.

The Board will meet next virtually in early summer or as conditions require. The Board is also considering holding a second DST workshop with GLAM in late-April or May to provide more input to the DST and practice making decisions with information provided from the tool.

9. International Niagara Board of Control

New Canadian Co-Secretary, Hafiz Ahmad was introduced to the Commissioners

The Board's semi-annual progress report covering the period of September 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022, was delivered to the Commission before the Board's semimanual appearance.

Removal of the ice boom is expected to begin as early as March 29 and the Board anticipates that all spans of the ice boom will be removed by April 1, as per the Order.

The Niagara Board agreed to participate in another potential Great Lakes Tri-Board Public Webinar this summer. The Board will meet in September 2022, though whether in person or virtually is yet to be determined. Generally, the Board's September meeting is held in Canada.

10. International Lake Superior Board of Control

The Board provided an update on the construction of the new Poe-sized lock. Frank Seglenieks is the new Canadian Secretary to the Board. The Board's semi-annual progress report covering the period of September 1, 2021, to February 28, 2022, was delivered to the Commission.

The Board will meet again in September 2022. Generally, the Board's September meeting is held in Canada, however, due to the continuing pandemic, the Board will decide later whether it will meet virtually or in-person.

11. Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee

GLAM Committee Semi-annual Report was submitted and will be made public. GLAM Committee completed the Phase 1 report and IJC’s public engagement activities during the public comment period

The GLAM Committee expects to organize similar workshops over the coming months to assist with the design of the SVM.

12. International Red River Watershed Board

The board provided an update regarding the hydrologic conditions in the basin and current flood projections for the 2022 spring freshet. The board’s active participation in IJC’s IWI funding program.

The committee recently developed a brochure and banner for future public events. The brochure is now published on the main landing page for the International Red River Watershed Board. The 22nd Annual Progress Report was delivered on October 8, 2021.

13. International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

New Board members were introduced to the Commission. The Board provided an update regarding the status of re-establishing the Wheelers Point gauge and their recent and planned public outreach activities and ideas to assist with their public engagement activities.

14. International Souris River Board

The board provided an update on their IWI projects and hydrological conditions in the Souris River basin during the current spring-time period and their engagement efforts and participation on the Souris Governance review.

New US Co-chair, Dr. Andrea Travnicek was in person to present for the Board.

15. Great Lakes Water Quality Board

Commissioners were updated on the progress of the three on-going projects of the WQB and on the communication activities of two recently completed projects.

The Boards continued efforts toward greater cross-board collaboration, partnering and integration of projects

16. Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Science Priority Committee

Commissioners were informed of ongoing projects, work plans, and potential board contributions to the 2023 TAP report.

17. Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination Committee

Commissioners were apprised of the seven ongoing projects and potential board contributions to the 2023 TAP report. The SAB-RCC may also seek help to promote the Great Lakes Science Strategy.

Commissioners approved the SAB-RCC's report, Development of a Great Lakes Groundwater and Surface Water Conceptual Framework, and the associated report Engagement and Follow-up Plan prepared by staff.

The SAB-RCC is working to find replacements for two members. The SAB-RCC also continues to look for opportunities to enhance Indigenous involvement in its projects and to identify Indigenous members to serve on the Committee.

18. Health Professionals Advisory Board

The HPAB has several on-going projects, all of which are responsive to at least five IJC priorities, including those of IJC Leadership; climate change and adaptive management; transboundary water quality; common health safety criteria; and outreach to Indigenous governments, organisations, and citizens.

Recruitment efforts have yielded success with the recent approvals of two new Canadian members, including a new government representative from Statistics Canada. Staff will continue recruitment efforts for remaining vacant positions in conjunction with HPAB co-chairs and are utilizing the IJC network and indigenous contacts for assistance with recruitment.

Co-chairs provided an update on the review process for the collaborative proposal with the International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board to examine the human health effects of mining impacts on that basin. The proposal was submitted to IWI, and feedback from the IWI Review Committee remains pending.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Great Lakes Advisory Boards

On April 4, 2022, Commissioners approved The Science Advisory Board Research Coordination Committee (SAB-RCC)'s Development of a Great Lakes Groundwater and Surface Water Conceptual Framework report as a board report to be submitted to the Parties and put on the board's website.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On March 30, 2022, Commissioners approved the Water Quality Board's (WQB) *Decommissioning Practices of Nuclear Power Facilities in the Great Lakes Basin* report for posting to the WQB webpage and public release per the WQB's engagement plan.

On March 25, 2022, Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Brian Tucker, for a three-year term from March 28, 2022, to March 27, 2025, to the seat designated for a Métis citizen on the Great Lakes Water Quality Board.

Advisory Boards Work Plans

On March 24, 2022, Commissioners approved the 2022/23 work plans as follows:

Water Quality Board

- Climate Change Adaptation for Community Resilience Across the Great Lakes Region
- Follow-up and Critical Analyses of the Third Great Lakes Regional Poll Data

Science Advisory Board

- Great Lakes Winter Science (SAB)
- Valuation of Great Lakes Ecosystem Services (Phase 1) (SPC)

Health Professionals Advisory Board

- Climate Change Influence on Human Health Indicators in the Great Lakes

International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board

On March 22, 2022, Commissioners approved to appoint the following two individuals, nominated by their respective government entities, as members of the Government Forum to the International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Study Board (ISMMRSB):

- i. Mr. Gerald 'Jerry' Lunak, Amskapi Piikani (Blackfoot Tribe); and
- i. Mr. Mike Oka, Jr., Kainai Nation (Blood Tribe).

Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board

At the 2022 February Executive Meeting Commissioners approved in principle the extension of the Study Board mandate for 11 weeks until June 17, 2022. Since that discussion, a formal request from Board co-chairs was received with a revised Gantt chart capturing new milestones. On March 18, 2022, a copy of the Board's request and IJC's draft reply accepting the extension, was shared with Commissioners in advance of sending the letter to the Board on March 24, 2022.

Health Professional Advisory Board

On March 16, 2022, Commissioners approved the following appointments and re-appointments of the Health Professionals Advisory Board.

- Appointment of Heather Murphy as a Canada member for a period of two and a half years to begin on March 10, 2022 through September 10, 2024.
- Appointment of Ron Gravel as Canada Agency member for a period of two and a half years to begin on March 10, 2022 through September 10, 2024.
- Re-appointment of Laurie Chan as Canada Co-chair for a period of eleven months on March 10, 2022 through February 13, 2023.
- Re-appointment of Elaine Faustman as US Co-chair for a period of one year and eight months on March 10, 2022 through October 3, 2023.
- Re-appointment of member Margo Greenwood as a Canada First Nations member for a period of three years to begin on March 10, 2022 through March 11, 2025.
- Re-appointment of US member Seth Foldy for a period of one year and six months to begin on March 10, 2022, to conclude on September 19, 2023.
- Re-appointment of Joan Rose as a US member for a period of two years and nine months March 10, 2022, to conclude on Dec. 10, 2024.
- Re-appointment of Matt Dellinger as US member of the HPAB three years to begin on March 10, 2022 through March 11, 2025.
- Re-appointment of Ruth Etzel as US member of the HPAB for a term of two years to begin on March 10, 2022 through March 11, 2024.
- Re-appointment of Glenn Miller as US member of the HPAB for a term of two years to begin on March 10, 2022 through March 11, 2024.



Christopher Wilkie
Secretary
Canadian Section



Susan Daniel
Secretary
U.S. Section