Approved April 17, 2009

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE CALL
March 27, 2009
3:00 PM EDT

The International Joint Commission met by conference call on March 27, 2009 chaired by Irene Brooks.

COMMISSIONERS	
Irene Brooks	Chair, U.S. Section
Herb Gray	Chair, Canadian Section
Allen Olson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Jack Blaney	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Pierre Trépanier	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Sam Speck	Commissioner, U.S. Section
SECTION STAFF	
Murray Clamen	Secretary, Canadian Section
Chuck Lawson	Secretary, U.S. Section
Al Arseneault	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
Bernard Beckhoff	Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Section
Willem Brakel	Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Adviser to the Chair, Canadian Section
Jim Houston	Environmental Adviser, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney	Administrative Specialist, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley	Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
John Nevin	Policy Adviser, U.S. Section
Joel Weiner	Senior Adviser, Canadian Section
GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF	
Karen Vigmostad	Director
Doug Alley	Physical Scientist
John Gannon	Limnologist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of several items to be covered under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the draft Minutes of the Commissioners' Executive Meeting of February 10-11, 2009, as modified, and the Conference Call of March 13, 2009.

BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM

3. Commissioners received copies of the IJC letters transmitting the International Air Quality Advisory Board's Electrical Energy Report to Canadian Foreign Minister Cannon (dated November 13, 2008) and U.S. Secretary of State Rice (dated November 14, 2008) and the reply from Canadian Minister of Natural Resources Raitt (dated February 16, 2009).

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION/IJC TWINNING PROJECT

4. Commissioners received an update on the planning for the follow-up workshop on Great Lakes Twinning that will take place June 14-15, 2009 in Niagara Falls during the BWT100 celebration week. Chair Brooks and Commissioner Trepanier offered to attend the workshop on behalf of the Commission.

14th BIENNIAL REPORT ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

5. Commissioners received an oral update on the status of the 14th Biennial Report and noted that the draft report had been provided to governments on March 20, 2009, with the request that input from the governments be provided to the IJC by mid-May, 2009.

2005-07 PRIORITY REPORTS: IMPACT ON URBAN AREAS ON GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AND STATUS OF GROUNDWATER IN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

6.
   A. **Impact on Urban Areas on Great Lakes Water Quality Report**
   Commissioners received an oral update on the status of plans for release of the report and noted that staff had discussed the report's release with the Co-Chairs of the Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards and that together they needed to further develop an approach for the release before presenting it to Commissioners. Commissioners agreed that, in addition to being sent to officials at the federal and state/provincial levels, it was important for the report to be distributed widely at the municipal level.
   B. **Status of Groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin**
   Commissioners received an update on the status of the report and noted that the Science Advisory Board had just approved the report and was now drafting a transmittal letter to the Commission.

GLRO OPERATIONS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7. Commissioners received an oral report on the Operation and Advisory Committee's work, which is currently focused on reviews of the mandates of the Council of Great Lakes Regional Managers and the International Air Quality Advisory Board.

LAKE ONTARIO - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER STUDY

8. Commissioners received an oral report on the draft Terms of Reference for the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Working Group and noted that the Commission was still waiting for comments from governments.

OSOYOOS LAKE STUDY

9. Commissioners received an oral report on the first phase of the Osoyoos Lake study.and noted that three sub-studies currently are being carried out with U.S. funding by the Washington State Department of Ecology and two are being prepared for Canadian funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. **Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial**
    Commissioners received an update on plans for the June 13 ceremony on the Rainbow Bridge and agreed with the recommendation that the ceremony be moved to mid-morning on the 13th from the originally envisioned early evening time.
11. **Letter to Former Commissioner Blaney**
    Commissioners approved sending a personal letter to former Commissioner Jack Blaney thanking him for his eight years of outstanding service to the Commission.
12. **Red River Flooding**
    Commissioners expressed concern about the flooding currently taking place in the Red River and considered how it might best respond, noting that the Red River Board would provide an update on the flooding situation during its appearance before the Commission on April 1.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

10. **Appointments - Council of Great Lakes Regional Managers**
    On March 3, 2009, Commissioners approved: 1) the appointment of Dr. Marie Colton, Interim Director of NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, as a U.S. member for a term of up to one year, or until NOAA appoints a permanent GLERL Director; and 2) the reappointments of Dr. Jan Ciborowski, Co-Chair of the Lake Erie Millennium Network, as a Canadian member, and Mr. Jan Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a U.S. member, both for a one year term from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.
11. **Centennial - Centennial Website press release**
    On March 11, 2009, Commissioners approved a press statement that will be issued upon the release of the new IJC centennial website, which took place on March 20.

Murray Clamen
Secretary
Canadian Section

Charles Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section