The International Joint Commission met by conference call on March 16, 2012, chaired by Lana Pollack.

COMMISSIONERS
Lana Pollack  Chair, U.S. Section
Joe Comuzzi  Chair, Canadian Section
Dereth Glance  Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lyall Knott  Commissioner, Canadian Section
Rich Moy  Commissioner, U.S. Section
Pierre Trépanier  Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF
Chuck Lawson  Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau  Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen  Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua  Public Affairs Adviser, U.S. Section
Tara Buchanan  Administrative Assistant, Canadian Section
Antionette Cade  Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Anne Chick  Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Mark Colosimo  Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey  Policy Adviser, U.S. Section
Rose Désilets  Canadian Section
Susan Daniel  Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler  Policy Adviser, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta  GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Brian Maloney  Staff Assistant, U.S. Section
Tom McAuley  Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Paul Pilon  Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss  Environmental Adviser, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick  Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
Saad Jasiin  Director
Antonette Arvai  Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar  Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows  Physical Scientist
John Nevin  Public Affairs Officer
Lizhu Wang  Physical Scientist
AGENDA

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

MINUTES


GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

3. Commissioners reviewed staff’s initial analysis of the final draft text of the agreement and thanked staff for their efforts. Commissioners noted that the governments had incorporated a number of the comments the Commission made on the draft text received in fall 2011. Commissioners asked staff to prepare a list of questions to ask governments at the Semi-Annual meeting, and they noted that the regular Friday session with governments at the Semi-Annual meeting might need to be extended to allow sufficient time for discussion of the agreement.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER REFERENCE

4. Commissioners received an update on the status of the reference that the Commission is expecting to receive from the governments on the issue of Lake Champlain-Richelieu River flooding. They noted that the Commission could receive the reference letters in the very near future. Commissioners approved in principle: the establishment of a Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Plan of Study Team; a timeline for carrying out the reference; and a draft directive for the Plan of Study Team, all of which are subject to modification, if needed, once the Commission received the governments’ reference letters.

PRESENTATIONS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

5. Commissioners received an update on plans for a session during the Spring 2012 Semi-Annual Executive meeting at which Commissioners will receive presentations on nuclear power safety issues. They noted that staff are arranging for presentations from officials of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Commissioners asked staff to draft a list of questions that could be given to the presenters prior to the session and include input from any Commissioners might provide.
INTERNATIONAL UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY

6. Commissioners reviewed an updated schedule for the public hearings on the International Upper Great Lakes Study that the Commission will hold in the summer of 2012 and approved the schedule, as modified. Commissioners noted that the Study Board plans to hold briefings on its final report for the governments on March 23, 2012, and that the Study Board would like to post its final report on its website on March 28, 2012. Commissioners approved the posting of the report, subject to any comments Commissioners might provide prior to March 28.

MARCH 26-29 GREAT LAKES SITE VISITS

7. Commissioners received an update on plans being made for a visit to a number of institutions working on Great Lakes issues that are located in the Detroit, Michigan area. The visit also includes several sessions at the Great Lakes Regional Office. While the visit focuses on U.S.-based facilities, U.S. Commissioners encouraged Canadian Commissioners and staff to participate in the visits. Commissioners expressed interest in doing a similar visit to Canadian facilities in the future.

WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FORUM

8. Commissioners reviewed plans for a forum being co-sponsored by the GLRO and Wayne State University on Water and Wastewater Treatment Best Management Practices. The forum will take place on March 26, 2012, on the Wayne State University campus. Commissioners noted that 180 people have registered for the forum to date.

PROPOSED COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT WITH THE ANISHINAABE NATION TREATY THREE

9. Commissioners received information about a possible cooperation arrangement between the Commission and the Anishinaabe Nation Treaty Three. In response to the Canadian Section’s inquiry to the Anishinaabe Nation concerning possible membership on the International Rainy Lake Board of Control, the Anishinaabe Nation submitted a draft cooperation arrangement for consideration. While Commissioners supported the intent of the discussions with the Anishinaabe Nation, which would expand First Nation participation in Commission activities, Commissioners raised questions concerning the text of the proposed arrangement and some expressed concern about being informed only after discussions with the Nation were at an advanced stage. U.S. Section staff noted that the cooperation arrangement appeared to be of an administrative nature involving only the Canadian Section and thus more of an internal Canadian Section issue. Commissioners agreed that the Canadian Section would continue its discussions and inform the U.S. Section when appropriate.
ACTION ITEMS LIST

10. Commissioners reviewed the updated action items list. Commissioners requested that staff provide an update on the Report of Assessment of Progress 1987-2011 prior to the Spring Semi-Annual meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. A. Semi-Annual Meeting
Commissioners were informed that the Canadian Ambassador would not be available to host a lunch during the Spring Semi-Annual week and that the Canadian Embassy offered other options for a possible lunch at the Embassy. They agree that given the heavy schedule of meetings during Semi-Annual week they forgo the lunch during the upcoming meeting.

B. Canadian Section Administrative Issues
The Commissioners were informed about Canadian Section administrative issues relating to delays in payment of per diems and re-imbursements of travel expenses. The Canadian Commissioner reported delays in payment of up to four months resulting in significant out of pocket expenses in the order of $50,000 CAD. The Commissioner indicated that, unless he could be assured of timely re-imbursement, his ability to attend regular meetings and upcoming IUGLS public hearings could be impaired. The Canadian Section will continue to address these issues and a full analysis will be shared with all Commissioners. The Canadian Section will endeavour to compensate Commissioners in a timely fashion.

C. Co-Chair Communications

Canadian and U.S. Co-Chairs agreed to meet to discuss issues of common concern with respect to Commission activities.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section