The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session on October 15-16, 2012, with its Boards and Councils on October 16-17, 2012, and with the Governments on October 18, 2012, in Ottawa, ON, with The Hon. Joe Comuzzi in the chair.

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

SECTION STAFF
Chuck Lawson Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Bernard Beckhoff Public Affairs Adviser, Canadian Section
Tara Buchanan Administrative Assistant, Canadian Section
Anne Chick Senior Adviser, U.S. Section
Mark Colosimo Engineering Adviser, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel Legal Adviser, U.S. Section
Dave Dempsey Policy Adviser, U.S. Section
David Fay Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Nick Heisler Senior adviser, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney Staff Assistant, U.S. Section
Gavin Murphy Legal Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid Executive Assistant
Victor Serveiss Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick Engineering Adviser, Canadian Section
Ted Yuzyk Senior Science Adviser, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
Saad Jasim Director
Raj Bejankiwar Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme Physical Scientist
Doug Bondy Regional Assistant
Mark Burrows Physical Scientist*
Richard Delisle Administrative Officer
John Nevin Public Affairs Officer
Lizhu Wang Physical Scientist
Note: Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 below were discussed during the Commissioners’ conference call of October 12, 2012. The other items were discussed during the October 15-17 Semi-Annual meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the inclusion of two items under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved the Minutes of the Executive meetings of June 11-12 and September 11, 2012, as modified.

APPOINTMENTS


   Commissioners approved the recommendation asking WQB, SAB, and CGLRM members to continue to serve until otherwise notified, and to defer action on reappointments pending further IJC discussion on implementation of the revised Water Quality Agreement. Commissioners also decided that they would communicate this decision to the Boards and that they expect it to be 6 months before the transition to a new Board structures.

   **B. International Kootenay Lake Board of Control and International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control**

   Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Bruno Tassone as Canadian Co-Chair for the International Kootenay Lake and Osoyoos Lake Boards of Control for a three year term, effective October 22, 2012 to October 21, 2015.

   **C. International St. Lawrence River Board of Control**

   Commissioners approved the re-appointment of Ms. Joan Frain as a Canadian member of the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control for a term ending December 31, 2013.
BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM

4. Commissioners agreed that it was not necessary to raise with Governments the outstanding response they have to our letters of April 12, 2012 and March 23, 2012 on replacing ice sluice on the Moses-Saunders Power Dam.

ACTION ITEMS LIST

5. Commissioners suggested replacing the date completed with an anticipated completion date and next steps. The updated action items list for the November 16, 2012 Commissioners conference call will have the revised format.

POLICY REVIEW - IJC POLICIES AND PRACTICES - CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

6. Commissioners received a revised draft of the Conflicts of Interest policy and agreed to provide guidance but deferred discussion to the November 16, 2012 Commissioners conference call.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE

7. Commissioners requested that the issue of oversight of the GLRO be discussed at the December Executive meeting.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

8. Commissioners approved a $5,000 sponsorship for the 18th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, which will be held April 21-25, 2013, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and approved staff participation in conference organizing committees.

COMMISSION RETREAT CONCERNING ALL BOARDS WITH MANDATES OUTSIDE OF (OR BEYOND) GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY ISSUES (E.G. CONTROL, POLLUTION, WATERSHED, AND ADVISORY BOARDS)

9. Commissioners agreed to establish a planning Committee, to be comprised of Commissioners Moy and Knott and the Canadian and US Secretaries, to plan, and budget for a 1.5 day retreat Feb 11-13 (Location TBD, potentially Vancouver) to discuss issues related to Boards with Mandates outside or beyond the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
2012-2015 GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES CYCLE

10. Commissioners received updates on progress being made on the four priority topics. Commissioners were interested in the coordination of the work on ecosystem indicators and human health indicators and endorsed acceleration of the human health indicators work. Commissioners want to be kept apprised of progress on the development of the framework for assessing the effectiveness of programs, and in particular on the balance between qualitative and quantitative measures. With respect to the Ecosystem indicators priority, Commissioners directed the team to aim for approximately 16 indicators of ecosystem health.

16TH BIENNIAL GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY REPORT

11. Commissioners reviewed the latest draft of the 16th Biennial Report and requested a few changes, including adding a conclusion section for the Executive Summary. Commissioners also requested that a cover "framing" letter be drafted for their approval to discuss the report in the context of other work being undertaken by the Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

12. Commissioners agreed on a list of principles guiding Commission views on GLWQA implementation and on the general composition of a new 24 member Water Quality Board. They requested that staff continue to further refine the details for the Board. The Commissioners agreed to focus the October 18th discussion with governments on these GLWQA implementation issues.

LAKE OF THE WOODS - RAINY RIVER WATERSHED

13. Commissioners reviewed drafts of a letter to governments and new directive for the proposed International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and approved these with changes to be sent to the Governments for comment. Commissioners also provided comments on draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Board’s Community and Industry Advisory Committees, to be finalized at the December Executive.

LAKE ONTARIO – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER (LOSLR) WORKING GROUP

14. Commissioners received an update on the LOSLR Working Group process and agreed to a one day session at the December Executive meeting for a more in-depth briefing and discussion of next steps on LOSLR. Staff was asked to provide background on what might be done without changing the order and to provide a history of the current LOSLR effort (1993 onwards). Commissioners noted that staff is continuing to engage with
Working Group jurisdictions and have also organized a briefing for November 6 for US and Canadian navigation agencies and the Port of Montreal.

OSOYOOS LAKE ORDERS OF APPROVAL

15. The Commissioners received an update on the review of the draft Supplementary Order of Approval for Osoyoos Lake by the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and the State of Washington. They agreed that Advisors would continue discussions with the Board and the State of Washington on remaining technical and legal issues.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)

16. The Commissioners received an update on IWI activities, expressed support for the IWI directions, and acknowledged the recognition that the Transboundary Hydrographic Data Harmonization Task Force has recently received. Commissioners requested that a list of all IWI projects over the last five years be compiled for the February 2013 retreat on on-Great Lakes issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

17. **A. International Upper Great Lakes Study**
Commissioners reiterated their interest in meeting with Ministers Kent, Clement and Baird and agreed to focus the discussion on the study report so as not to compromise the quasi-judicial process associated with the draft order.

**B. Flathead River**
Commissioners noted that the governments were interested in discussing the Flathead River during the October 18 meeting with governments. Commissioners discussed a recent request to consider the application of the IWI in the Flathead River basin from U.S. politicians to the U.S. Secretary of State. Commissioners agreed that they would consider any reference or request that was presented jointly by the two governments.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

**International Rainy Lake Board of Control**
On October 5, 2012, Commissioners approved the appointment of Chief Earl Klyne to be a Canadian member of the International Rainy Lake Board of Control for a term effective from October 5, 2012 until such time as a new amalgamated Board is constituted.
**Missisquoi Bay Study Report**
On September 26, 2012, Commissioners approved the final Commission report to governments on the Missiquoi Bay study and a letter to governments transmitting the report.

**Shoal Lake**
On September 20, 2012, Commissioners approved sending a letter to the City of Winnipeg seeking additional information on the City’s proposed water service sharing agreements for water that the City draws from Shoal Lake.
Decisions made during discussion/appearances of Boards/Council reporting on Tuesday, October 16 and Wednesday, October 17.

NOTE: Commissioners agreed that, subject to any final edits by staff and Boards, all submitted Board Reports could be released to the public and posted on the IJC website. Those Boards submitting reports included: the International Lake Superior Board of Control, the International Niagara Board of Control, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, and the International Rainy Lake Board of Control/International Rainy River Water Pollution Control Board.

INTERNATIONAL ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

18. Commissioners are considering the Board’s request for further guidance on balancing interests during times of low water and also acknowledged the need for a quick response should a request be made by the Board to invoke criterion k operations.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

19. Commissioners noted that there has been some recession of Horseshoe Falls. They asked the Board notify the Commission if the Board thinks the recession is significant enough to warrant study or to alert governments.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

20. Commissioners requested that the Board provide its views on the IUGLS report as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

21. Commissioners noted that the levels of total suspended solids and sulfates measured at Emerson exceed the established water quality objectives due to increased volumes of Devils Lake water being introduced into the Red River. The Board reported that Environment Canada is monitoring water quality at Emerson but is challenged in making the data available to the Board in a timely manner due to staff shortages.

GREAT LAKES - ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

22. Commissioners approved extending the deadline for the Task Force to submit its final report to March 31, 2013. Commissioners asked the Task Force to consider a new name for the adaptive management concept and key message. Commissioners request better
linkage between the work of the Task Force and the Commission work on Great Lakes water quality. The task force was directed to make this linkage through the GLRO.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER WORKGROUP

23. Commissioners requested that the Work Group revise the draft Plan of Study to prioritize proposed work and provide a reduced cost option. Commissioners also requested that the Work Group investigate why no actions were taken following the 1981 IJC report. Commissioners approved an extension for submitting the final Plan of Study to April 4, 2013. Commissioners approved the public posting of Lake Champlain technical documents and reports from previous Lake Champlain references. Memos and letters older than 25 years should be made public upon review and approval by advisors.

ROUNDTABLE ON GLWQA MULTI-BORAD PRIORITIES BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AND SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARDS, AND THE COUNCIL OF GREAT LAKES RESEARCH MANAGERS, AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

24. Commissioners discussed the proposed location of the first Public Forum under the revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and its relation to the 2013 Great Lakes Week. Commissioners expressed their preference to have the GLWQA meeting in Canada.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

25. Commissioners noted the importance of the HPAB conducting its workshop on the Human health exposure indicators on an accelerated basis and requested that a revised budget be prepared so that funds could be identified by the Secretaries and the GLRO Director. Commissioners received a presentation on transboundary water and human health risks in the Fraser Sumas Basin and directed staff to prepare an alerting letter for their review which may be sent to Federal and other governments.

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

26. The Commission welcomed Mr. Bruno Tassone as the new Canadian Chair and thanked Mr. Kirk Johnstone for the excellent service he has provided since 1998 and wished him well in his retirement. Commissioners discussed proposed changes to the Draft Supplementary Order raised by the Board and the State of Washington and the further consultation needed regarding the order. Commissioners hope to be able to approve the Supplementary Order at the December 2012 Executive Meeting.
ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS

27. The Commission welcomed Dr. Alain Pietroniro as new Canadian Accredited Officer. Commissioners approved posting The Procedures Manual on the Commission website. The Commission approved moving forward with a Consumptive Use Workshop to better quantify water use in this area.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section