The International Joint Commission met by conference call on July 24, 2015, from 10:05 AM to 12:50 PM EDT, chaired by Gordon Walker.

COMMISSIONERS
Gordon Walker Chair, Canadian Section
Lana Pollack Chair, U.S. Section
Rich Moy Commissioner, U.S. Section
Dereth Glance Commissioner, U.S. Section
Richard Morgan Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF
Chuck Lawson Secretary, U.S. Section
Camille Mageau Secretary, Canadian Section
Paul Allen Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Glenn Benoy Senior Science Advisor, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux Director, Sciences and Engineering, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Jonathan Gerstell Intern, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Samantha Klaus Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Isabelle Reid Executive Assistant to Commissioners, Canadian Section
Joshua Shin Co-op Student, Canadian Section
Zachary Todoroff Co-op Student, Canadian Section
Cindy Warwick Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Shane Zurbrigg Legal Advisor, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
Patricia Morris Director
Shahbaz Ahmed Visiting Scientist
Antonette Arvai Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme Physical Scientist
Colin Branton
Mark Burrows Physical Scientist
Matthew Child Physical Scientist
Sheila Hamstra Administrative Officer
1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the deferral of item 11 and the addition of several items under Other Business.

MINUTES

2. Commissioners deferred consideration of the minutes of the June 2015 Executive meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

3. A. Science Advisory Board Research Coordination Committee
   Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Tareq Al-Zabet to be a Canadian member of the Science Advisory Board’s Research Coordination Committee for a three-year term, effective July 25, 2015, to July 24, 2018.

   B. International Souris River Board
   Commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Megan Estep as a U.S. member of the International Souris River Board for a three-year term, effective July 17, 2015, to July 16, 2018.

   C. International Red River Board
   Commissioners approved the reappointments of: Ms. Megan Estep as a U.S. member of the International Red River Board for a three-year term, effective July 17, 2015, to July 16, 2018; and Ms. Nicole Armstrong and Dr. Brian Parker as Canadian members of the Board, each for a three-year term, effective August 14, 2015, to August 13, 2018.

ACTION ITEM LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

4. Commissioners reviewed the latest Action Item list and Communications Activities calendar.

IJC HUMAN RESOURCES

5. Commissioners received an update on human resources issues. Commissioners noted that U.S. Section advisor Joe Babb, who had been on detail from the State Department for two years, would be departing in August, and they thanked him for his service. Commissioners also noted that Bernard Beckhoff would be returning as Canadian Section Public Affairs Officer in August and that Dominique Guerin-Garnett, who had filled in as Public Affairs Officer during Mr. Beckhoff’s absence, had departed.
IJC GEOSPATIAL PLAN

6. Commissioners received an update on implementation of the IJC’s geospatial plan. Commissioners noted that there is a wide range of activities underway and that they look forward to receiving the needs assessment that the geospatial team plans to undertake.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

7. Commissioners received an update on the staff team’s planning for the 2017 Triennial Assessment of Progress report. Commissioners agreed to have a meeting with the Co-Chairs of the WQB, SAB, and HPAB in conjunction with the September 2015 Executive meeting to get input from the boards on the development of the report. It was noted that for some co-chairs it may be most convenient to participate by webinar connection.

FEBRUARY 2016 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY MEETING

8. Commissioners reviewed preparations being made for the Great Lakes water quality meeting scheduled to be held in Windsor, Ontario in February 2016. Commissioners directed staff to make some modifications to the arrangements that were proposed and to provide Commissioners with a revised plan, including a revised meeting agenda and proposed budget for consideration as soon as possible.

GREAT LAKES PLASTICS POLLUTION

9. Commissioners reviewed information provided by staff on the issue of plastics pollution in the Great Lakes and approved holding a session on the issue at the February 2016 Great Lakes water quality meeting in Windsor.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

10. Commissioners received an oral update on the Technical Working Group’s activities and asked that the working group provide a timeline for producing its final report.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

11. Commissioners deferred consideration of a draft directive for the board until the September Executive meeting.
INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

12. Commissioners received information on the outcome of the spring 2015 request for IWI project proposals that had been issued and noted that the twelve proposals received had been approved (some with conditions) by the review committee. Commissioners received an update on planning for the multi-board IWI workshop that will take place during the October 2015 Semi-Annual meeting. Commissioners requests that arrangements be made for Commissioners to meet with the boards during the April 2016 Semi-Annual meeting to discuss workshop outcomes. Commissioners noted that the fourth IWI report to governments would be available in time for the October 2015 Semi-Annual meeting.

PROTECTION OF THE WATER OF THE GREAT LAKES

13. Commissioners received an update on the ten year review of the recommendations from the report “Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes.” Commissioners noted that staff will receive the final consultants’ report in the near future and that options regarding how the Commission could convey this review to governments will be discussed at the September Executive meeting.

RAINY/NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVE REVIEW

14. Commissioners approved establishing the International Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board and approved the following as members: a) Mr. Matt DeWolfe to be Canadian Co-Chair of the board and Mr. Syed Moin and Ms. Erika Klyszejko to be Canadian members; and b) Col. Daniel Koprowski to be U.S. Co-Chair of the board, Mr. Scott Jutila to be Alternate U.S. Co-Chair, and Mr. Larry Kallemeyn and Ms. Pam Tomevi to be U.S. members of the board. Commissioners also approved establishing a Technical Working Group to assist the board and appointed Mr. Jean Morin to be the Canadian member of the TWG and Mr. Bill Werick to be the U.S. member of the TWG. Commissioners appointed Ms. Kelli Saunders to be the project manager. Commissioners also approved the following documents: a) the directive for the study board; b) the terms of reference for the evaluation of the 2000 Rainy-Namakan Rule Curves; and c) the directive for communications and public outreach activities for the Rainy - Namakan Lake Rule Curve Study

OTHER BUSINESS

15. A. Great Lakes Governors’ and Premiers’ Meeting
Commissioners thanked the Canadian Chair for providing a summary of the June 11-12, 2015, meeting of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, which took place in Quebec City.
B. Great Lakes Executive Committee Meeting
It was noted that a summary of the June 25, 2015, GLEC Tri-Commission luncheon meeting that took place during the Great Lakes Executive Committee meeting had been drafted and would be circulated to all Commissioners.

C. Great Lakes Regional Office Budget
Commissioners noted that they had received and would review the GLRO budget expenditures for the third period (June 2015) of the Canadian FY 2015-2016.

D. September 2015 Executive Meeting
Commissioners agreed to hold an Executive meeting September 15-17, 2015, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Commissioners directed the GLRO Director to locate appropriate meeting space.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Lake Champlain-Richelieu River
On July 1, 2015, Commissioners approved sending a letter to the governments concerning a delay of the delivery of the report on the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Technical Working Group’s study, which was to be completed by September 2015.

Upcoming Conference Calls and Meetings
On June 23, 2015, Commissioners approved having their next conference call on July 24, 2015, cancelling the previously scheduled August 7, 2015 conference call, and scheduling an additional Executive meeting on September 16-18, 2015, on the margins of which will be a meeting with the Co-Chairs of the Water Quality Board, Science Advisory Board, and Health Professionals Advisory Board.

IWI Fourth Report
On June 16, 2015, Commissioners approved the Executive Summary of the IWI Fourth report to governments.

Science Advisory Board Science Priority Committee
On June 9, 2015, Commissioners approved the Science Advisory Board Science Priority Committee’s work plan for its project on information coordination and flow.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section