The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario, on June 20, 2016, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM EDST, on June 21, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT, and on June 22, 2016, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon EDT, chaired by Gordon Walker.

COMMISSIONERS

Lana Pollack
Gordon Walker
Rich Moy
Dereth Glance
Benoit Bouchard
Richard Morgan

Chair, U.S. Section
Chair, Canadian Section
Commissioner, U.S. Section
Commissioner, U.S. Section
Commissioner, Canadian Section
Commissioner, Canadian Section

SECTION STAFF

Chuck Lawson
Camille Mageau
Paul Allen
Glenn Benoy
Frank Bevacqua
Pierre-Yves Caux
Mark Colosimo
Robin Czerwinski
Susan Daniel
Dave Dempsey
Mark Gabriel
Nick Heisler
Wayne Jenkinson
Samantha Klaus
Mike Laitta
Evan Linsky
Sarah Lobrichon
Brian Maloney
Isabelle Reid
Shannon Runyon
Vic Serveiss
Michael Toope
Cindy Warwick
John Yee
Shane Zurbrigg

Secretary, U.S. Section
Secretary, Canadian Section
Manager, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section*
Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section*
Intern, U.S. Section
Legal Advisor, U.S. Section*
Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section*
Senior Advisor, Canadian Section*
Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section*
Environmental Officer, Canadian Section*
GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Intern, U.S. Section
Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section*
Special Assistant, U.S. Section*
Executive Assistant, Canadian Section*
Senior Advisor, U.S. Section*
Ecologist, U.S. Section*
Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section*
Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section*
Legal Advisor, Canadian Section*
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as amended with the addition of five items under Other Business. Commissioners requested copies of polling decision items.

BRING FORWARD

2. Commissioners reviewed and discussed correspondence to and from the governments and requested that further updates reflect governments’ responses to a number of outstanding items in the governments’ May 24, 2016, letter.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

3. Commissioners reviewed the latest action item list and requested that the Strategic Planning Steering Committee reconvene and review the governments’ request for a copy of the current Plan. Commissioners received an update on the issue of sunken vessels in the Great Lakes containing environmentally hazardous cargo. Commissioners also reviewed the communications activities calendar and coordinated calendar.

IJC IM/IT PLAN

4. Commissioners received an update on the implementation of the IM/IT plan, outlining the timelines for expected completion of phase 1, and the processes being taken to fast forward phase two with the goal of having this phase completed in the winter of 2016.
MODERNIZATION OF IJC.ORG WEBSITE

5. Commissioners received an update on plans to modernize the IJC website, including the immediate next steps. Commissioners agreed to establish a website modernization working group involving lead commissioners and staff from the two section offices and the GLRO. The group will provide an update at the September executive.

RAINY AND NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES REVIEW

6. Commissioners received an update on the review of the rule curves and noted that the review is progressing well. The Study Board will hold meetings with the public, First Nations, and resource agencies in the basin in late July and mid-August.

PLANS OF STUDY

7. Commissioners received updates on Plans of Study for which the Commission is awaiting responses from the governments.

READ OUT OF MEETINGS

8. A. Great Lakes Executive Committee Meeting
Commissioners received a read out of the June 1-2 Great Lakes Executive Committee meeting, which was held in Chicago, Illinois. They noted that topics discussed included the draft Progress Report of the Parties (PROP) and draft Science priorities and that there was increased public and FN participation in the meeting.

B. International Association of Great Lakes Research Meeting
Commissioners received a read out of the June 6-10 International Association of Great Lakes Research meeting, which was held in Guelph, Ontario. They noted that the geographic scope of the meeting is growing beyond the Great Lakes and that the presentations made by IJC staff were well received.

C. Conference on Coping with Water Scarcity in River Basins Worldwide
Commissioners received a read out of the June 7-10 conference on Coping with Water Scarcity in River Basins Worldwide, which was held in Boulder, Colorado. The section staff and Commissioner who attended the international drought workshop and water scarcity conference in Boulder Colorado noted that the sessions compared and contrasted different countries' approaches to planning for and managing droughts. The conference reviewed supply and demand management approaches, including water transfers, transferable water rights and markets.
D. Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Meeting
Commissioners received a read out of the June 15-17 meeting of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, which was held in Niagara Falls, New York. They noted that a wide range of issues were discussed, including the growing concern about the invasive species Phragmites in the lakes.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS (TAP) REPORT

9. Commissioners discussed the first draft of the TAP Technical appendix and provided feedback. A revised draft of the Technical appendix will be provided to Commissioners in October. A webinar will be held in early August to discuss the vision and high level themes for the body of the main TAP report. Commissioners agreed to the draft assessment criteria for the review of the Progress of the Parties (PROP) and instructed staff to provide the draft criteria to the Great Lakes Advisory boards along with an embargoed copy of the draft PROP shared by governments during the Great Lakes Executive Committee meeting in June.

GREAT LAKES COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

10. Commissioners received an update on plans for the October 4-6 Great Lakes Public Forum, including the proposal to webcast and videoconference the Forum Proceedings. They approved, in principle, to fund one third of the webcasting/videotaping costs, conditional on ECCC and EPA confirming their equal contributions. Commissioners also agreed to the scheduling of a second public meeting, to be hosted by the City of Toronto to facilitate public participation and approved the locations for spring 2017 public meetings on the PROP and the TAP report.

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - SCIENCE PRIORITY COMMITTEE ENERGY PROJECT OPTIONS

11. Commissioners discussed and approved a phased approach to the Science Priority Committee’s work plan to assess the impacts of petroleum transportation on Great Lakes water quality. Commissioners approved a budget of $50K U.S. for the preparation of a science synthesis on the topic, but commissioners deferred a decision on the proposed expert workshop pending the results of the science synthesis.

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNICATION INDICATORS PROJECT

12. Commissioners approved the Science Advisory Board’s Supplemental Indicators Report for Chemicals of Mutual Concern and Aquatic Invasive Species and approved posting of the board report on the IJC website.
AREAS OF CONCERN

13. Commissioners received a briefing on the final report of the Commission’s outgoing SeaGrant fellow Ankita Mandelia regarding continued engagement strategies for communities involved in the AOC delisting process and agreed to post the report on the Commission’s AOC webpage. Commissioners thanked Ms. Mandelia for her service with the Commission.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

14. Commissioners approved on a five to one vote the revised project entitled “A Proof-of-concept Pilot Investigation of Waterborne Acute Gastrointestinal Illness from Great Lakes Source Water and Influential Environmental Factors” following extensive discussion and with a number of conditions. The commissioner who dissented cited concerns over the process developing the proposal, the project’s proposed discovery-based approach, and, more importantly, the Toronto area as one of the key selected locations for the study. The commissioners supporting the project provided additional direction, including: phasing of the project with a return for commissioner consideration of the outcome of Phase 1 before initiating the second phase. Those commissioners also requested regular reports on this project noting that any proposed changes to the work plan are to be brought to commissioners for approval. They directed that to the extent possible, the project design is to be modified to include more than one city per country, noting that this may necessitate re-profiling within the approved budget assigned to the HPAB.

REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

15. A. Water Quality Objectives Review
Commissioners received an update on progress in the development of the Water Quality Objectives Review Report and provided initial comments.

B. Water Quality in the Transboundary Region
US Commissioners tabled for Commission review, a draft document entitled “White Paper on IJC Water Quality Reference” authored by the US section and requested input from the Canadian section before determining next steps.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI) APRIL 2016 WORKSHOP

16. Commissioners reviewed and approved for posting on the IJC website the report on the April 20, 2016, IWI workshop. They also approved establishing an IWI Advisory Committee primarily composed of board members and IJC IWI staff to further advance two priorities: i) the development of a Climate Change Framework to help boards address climate change within their mandate; ii) the development of a multi-year work plan to foster increased inter-board engagement, information sharing and partnership.
AIR QUALITY ISSUES

17. Commissioners reviewed the final draft of the staff report: "Review of Air Pollution and Human Health Outcomes in Windsor-Detroit and Sarnia-Port Huron Areas", and, pending addition of an Executive Summary, agreed to post it being transmitted to governments and posted on the IJC website as a Commission report.

OTHER BUSINESS

18. **A. Presentations on Pipeline Safety**
Commissioners received briefings about U.S. and Canadian pipeline safety regulations from Alan K. Mayberry, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Acting Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, Chris Loewen, National Energy Board of Canada (NEB), VP Field Operations and Iain Colquhoun, NEB, Professional Leader, Engineering. The presentations focused on how the organizations work individually and jointly with respect to key programs and compliance activities respecting pipeline safety regulations including their efforts to enhance transparency and accountability.

**B. Lake Champlain-Richelieu River (LCRR) Site Visit**
Commissioners received an update on preparations for the site visit to the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River basin, which will take place July 18-22, 2016.

**C. Internal Communications Guidelines**
Commissioners reviewed and further discussed the draft internal commissioner communications guidelines but agreed that further discussions were needed before the text could be finalized.

**D. Phragmites Update**
Commissioners received an oral briefing on the proliferation of the invasive species Phragmites in the Great Lakes basin and requested that staff prepare a short document on national mitigation measures in place or being proposed.

**E. Great Lakes Days on the Hill**
Commissioners received information on plans for a Great Lakes & St Lawrence River Information Day on Parliament Hill in Ottawa similar in intent to the well-established annual Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C. (GLDW). The group planning the event consists of organizations including the Council of the Great Lakes Region, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Pollution Probe, Sierra Club, the Canadian Shipping Federation, the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and others. While the Commission is not involved in the organization of this event, staff are keeping informed of its progress.

**F. 2017 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting**
Commissioners agreed that U.S. Section staff should begin planning for the Spring 2017 Semi-Annual meeting and approved focusing on the first week of April or the first week of May for the meeting.
G. Changes to WQB, SAB AND HPAB annual work plan submission
Commissioners considered proposals to advance the timing for the submission of annual work plans to better align with the Commission’s budget planning cycle. Commissioners directed the GLRO director to work with advisory board co-chairs to develop and enact a new work planning schedule.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Healing Our Waters Coalition Annual Conference
On June 15, 2016, commissioners approved providing IJC sponsorship for the Healing Our Waters Coalition Annual Conference, which will take place in Sandusky, Ohio, September 20-22, 2016.

Commission Review of the Progress Report of the Parties
On June 21, 2016, commissioners approved providing draft criteria for the IJC’s review of the Progress Report of the Parties with the Co-Chairs of the Great Lakes Executive Committee.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
On June 9, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Kiley Shebagegit to be a Canadian member of the boards’ Water Levels Committee for the period from June 1, 2016, to March 31, 2018.

International Red River Board, International Souris River Board, and International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
On June 7, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Colonel Samuel Calkins to be the U.S. Co-Chair of the International Red River Board, the U.S. Co-Chair of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, and a U.S. member of the International Souris River Board for a three year term effective from June 30, 2016, to June 29, 2019.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
On June 7, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Shane Bowe to be the designated alternate member for U.S. member Mr. Al Pemberton for the period from June 1, 2016, to December 5, 2016.

International Red River Board
On June 7, 2016, commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Eric Steinhaus to be a U.S. member of the board for a three year term effective from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2019.

International St. Croix River Watershed Board
On June 3, 2016, commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Susanne Miller as a U.S. member of the board for a three year term effective from June 10, 2016, to June 9, 2019.
Great Lakes Water Quality Board
On May 31, 2016, commissioners approved releasing the board’s report on Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) for public comment and developing a Commission report on the issue for transmittal to the governments.

Great Lakes Water Quality Board
On May 31, 2016, commissioners approved the appointments of Mr. Marcel Gaucher to be a Canadian member of the board and Ms. Karen Sands to be a U.S. member of the board, each to serve a three year term effective from June 2, 2016, until June 1, 2019.

Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes
On June 7, 2016, commissioners approved the minutes of the April 18-22, 2016, Semi-Annual meeting, as modified.

Review of Great Lakes Advisory Board 2016-17 Workplans
On May 4, 2016, commissioners approved most of the proposed projects and activities of the Water Quality Board (WQB), and the Science Advisory Board’s Science Priority Committee (SPC) and Research Coordination Committee (RCC). Commissioners agreed to hold further discussions on the WQB’s Lake Erie Watershed Management – Nutrients Project and Public Opinion Poll Project, on the SPC’s proposed Energy project, and on the Health Protection Advisory Boards proposed Acute Gastrointestinal Illness project. On May 6, 2016, commissioners delayed a decision on the WQB’s Watershed Management – Nutrients Project until they receive the board’s report on phase one of the work. Commissioners did not approve funding for conducting another binational poll in 2016 but encouraged the board to further analyze the 2015 poll results. Commissioners deferred decision on the Energy work plan noting ongoing work by the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the potential commonality of interest across the three commissions. Commissioners will consider the Energy work plan request further once staff has reported back. There was a qualified endorsement of a modified HPAB project, with additional Commissioner discussion relating to this project to be held at the June Executive meeting.

International Souris River Board
On May 5, 2016, Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Debbie McMechan to be a Canadian member of the board effective June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2019.