The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Ontario, on February 27, 2017, from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM EST and on February 28, 2017, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST, chaired by Lana Pollack.

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

SECTION STAFF
Chuck Lawson
Camille Mageau
Paul Allen
Glenn Benoy
Frank Bevacqua
Kevin Bunch
Antionette Cade
Pierre-Yves Caux
Mark Colosimo
Susan Daniel
Mark Gabriel
Nick Heisler
Wayne Jenkinson
Jeff Kart
Samantha Klaus
Sarah Lobrichon
Shannon Runyon
Vic Serveiss
Gabrielle Snow
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
Writer, U.S. Section
Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Editor, U.S. Section
Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Ecologist, U.S. Section
Student, 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 11 items under Other Business.

BRING FORWARD

2. Commissioners reviewed correspondence to and from the governments and agreed on modifications to the list.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

3. Commissioners reviewed and requested modifications to the IJC Action Item List, the Communications activities calendar, and the coordinated calendar.

MODERNIZATION OF THE IJC WEBSITE

4. Commissioners received an oral update on efforts to modernize the IJC website.

GREAT LAKES PUBLIC MEETINGS

GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

6. Commissioners requested that advisors prepare the following items for review at the Spring Semi-Annual meeting: an initial summary of public comments; a summary of key Great Lakes Advisory board comments; an analysis of the State of the Great Lakes (SOGL) highlights report, including any impacts on the Commission’s TAP report and Technical Appendix; a detailed work plan and estimated timeline for completion of the TAP report and Technical Appendix.

LAKE SUPERIOR LAKEWIDE ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

7. Commissioners reviewed draft commission advice and recommendations on the governments’ Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan and draft transmittal letter, suggested modifications, and requested that staff submit revised versions for commissioner review and approval.

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE


HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

9. A. Acute Gastrointestinal Illness Project
Commissioners received an update on the HPAB’s project on Acute Gastrointestinal Illness. Staff will provide an update on the upcoming discussion of the work group and any forthcoming recommendations prior to and for consideration at the Spring Semi-Annual meeting.

B. Cyanobacteria Report
Commissioners reviewed the HPAB’s reported entitled Human Health Effects of Cyanobacterial Toxins in the Great Lakes Region: A Science and Monitoring Assessment and approved posting the report on the HPAB’s webpage. Commissioners requested that staff develop a short narrative for the webpage that provides additional binational contextual information following consultation with the co-chairs of the board.

RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES REVIEW

10. Commissioners received an update on the work of rule curves review study board.
INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

11. Commissioners received an update on Woodland Pulp LLC’s application to the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to surrender its hydro-power license for the dam at Forest City, ME.

LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY

12. Commissioners received an update on the governments’ plans for addressing water quality issues in the Lake of the Woods basin. Commissioners requested that staff share with DOS and GAC their appreciation for the efforts made to incorporate the Commission’s previous comments and to outline a number of residual concerns relating to the Commission’s potential role and anticipated stakeholder reactions at the upcoming Science Forum, Board and public meetings.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY BOARD

13. Commissioners received an update on the study board’s activities and approved the study board’s request for an extension of the deadline to submit its initial work plan.

SOURIS RIVER REFERENCE

14. Commissioners received an update on the governments’ efforts to provide the commission with a reference on Souris River flooding and noted that the commission has not yet received a reference.

OTHER BUSINESS

15. A) Red River and Souris River Flooding
Commissioners received an update on the water level and flood risk report for the Rainy-Lake of the Woods, Red River and Souris River basins.

B) Activities Report
Commissioners were provided with a draft of the 2016 Annual Activities report for review and comment with the final draft expected for review by March 10, 2017.

C) Spring 2017 Semi-Annual Meeting
Commissioners received an update on planning for the May 1-5, 2017, Semi-Annual meeting and approved the overall agenda for the meeting.
D) June 2017 Great Lakes Executive Meeting
Commissioners considered possible topics to be discussed at the upcoming GLEC meeting, which will be held in Chicago, IL on June 23, 2017, and agreed that including presentations on Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014 and Great Lakes - St. Lawrence adaptive management would be useful. Commissioners directed secretaries to suggest those topics to the GLEC Co-Chairs for possible inclusion in the meeting agenda. Commissioners instructed staff to explore with the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission the possibility of having a joint lunch meeting on the margins of the GLEC.

E) U.S. Section Office Move
Commissioners received an update on the U.S. Section’s move to new office space, which is located at 1717 H Street, NW, Suite 835, Washington, DC 2006.

F) Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority
Commissioners reviewed past and ongoing projects related to nutrient enrichment in Lake Erie and discussed a proposal to invite the project leads to a workshop to discuss lessons learned and any future project needs.

G) IM/IT
Commissioners received an update on the work of the U.S. Sections’ IT consultant and requested that time be set aside during the Spring Semi-Annual meeting to review the status of the IM IT strategy, identify recommended modifications and specifically address future Commission capacity needs.

H) International Water Resources Association XVI World Water Congress
Commissioners approved GLRO support for the U.S. Co-Chair of the Science Advisory Board’s Research Coordination Committee to participate in a special session on Canada-U.S. transboundary water resources at the XVI World Water Congress, which will be held in Cancun, Mexico, May 29-June 2, 2017.

I) Commission contribution to Canada-US Transboundary collaboration
 Commissioners established a small working group led by Commissioners Moy and Morgan to develop options to recognize the Commission’s achievements and its role in fostering Canada-United States transboundary collaboration as a potential contribution to the Canada 150 celebrations.

J) Social media Policy
Commissioners requested that staff provide review and, if necessary, revise the draft social media policy for Commissioners’ consideration.

K) Commission Retreat
Commissioner requested that Secretaries and the GLRO Director develop options for a commission retreat tentatively to be held in early summer of 2017 for commissioners' consideration at the Spring Semi-annual meeting.
DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Canadian Water Resources Association 2017 Conference
On February 9, 2017, Commissioners approved having the commission be a sponsor of the Canadian Water Resources Association’s 2017 conference, which will be held in Lethbridge, Alberta, June 5-7, 2017. Commissioners also approved having staff involved in several IJC-themed session at the conference.

Science Advisory Board
On February 2, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Yingming Zhao to be a Canadian member of the board’s Research Coordination Committee for a two-year term effective from February 1, 2017, to January 31, 2019.

International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board
On January 23, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Travis Rob to be a Canadian member of the study board’s Rule Curve Public Advisory Group for a term effective from January 23, 2017, until July 1, 2017.

January 2017 Executive Meeting Minutes
On January 19, 2017, Commissioners approved the minutes, as amended, of the January 17-18, 2017, executive meeting.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section