

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
***Spring Semi-Annual Meeting***  
**Washington, DC**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**May 1-4, 2017**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Capitol Skyline Hotel in Washington, DC, May 1-4, 2017, with Lana Pollack in the Chair.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Benoit Bouchard	Commissioner, Canadian 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
Antionette Cade	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Sciences and Engineering, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Talante Henderson	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Jon Hobdy	Systems Security Analyst, U.S. Section
Samantha Klaus	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Shannon Runyon	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Victor Serveiss	Ecologist, U.S. Section
Cindy Warwick	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM/IT Services
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Counsel, Canadian Section

## **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF**

Patricia Morris	Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Daniel Berube	Senior Systems Analyst
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Diana Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Allison Voglesong	Sea Grant Fellow
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

1. Commissioners approved the agenda for the meeting with the addition of several items under Other Business.

## **BRING-FORWARD SYSTEM**

2. Commissioners reviewed the list of communications between the Commission and the governments that are awaiting responses.

## **ACTION ITEMS LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST, AND COORDINATED SCHEDULE**

3. Commissioners reviewed the updated Action Item List, communications activities List, and Coordinated Schedule and received an update on the activities of the IJC geospatial team.

## **IJC RETREAT**

4. Commissioners discussed the possibility of holding a retreat in late June but agreed that due to other priorities they would put plans for a retreat on hold for the time being.

## **MODERNIZATION OF THE IJC WEBSITE**

5. Commissioners received an update on the web modernization project with a focus on the process to evaluate vendor proposals and noted that staff anticipates having a contract in place in June.

## **IM/IT**

6. The IM/IT team and a U.S. section contractor outlined recommended amendments to the IM IT plan and discussed challenges faced by the Commission in meeting its IM/IT needs. Commissioners discussed IM/IT staffing and management issues and agreed that the Chair of the IM/IT working group should regularly inform the office managers of progress achieved and of any related concerns.

## **RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

7. Commissioners received an update on the Records Management Project, including work plan revisions needed due to delays encountered. Commissioners noted that the team is developing a Joint Records Management Policy for consideration at the June Executive meeting.

## **INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE (IWI)**

8. Commissioners received an update on the ongoing and planned IWI projects and noted the increase in number and quality of projects submitted by boards. Commissioners also received an update on the status of the Climate Change Guidance Framework and its pilot project being carried out with the International St. Croix River Watershed Board.

## **IJC DATA POLICY**

9. Commissioners expressed their support for the development of an IJC Data Policy and encouraged staff to have a draft ready for review at the June Executive meeting.

## **RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES REVIEW**

10. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Rainy Rule Curve Review Study Board and noted that the study board's final report has been posted for a 30 day public comment period. The Commission will be holding public hearings in the basin in August 2017.

## **LAKE OF THE WOODS WATER QUALITY**

11. Commissioners received an update on the governments planned binational science activities in the Lake of the Woods basin, discussed board and staff comments on the proposed binational governance approach and requested to be kept regularly informed of any progress on this file.

## **GREAT LAKES TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT**

12. **A. Communications Report on TAP Public Meetings**  
Commissioners received an initial overview of public comments received during the six public meetings and via the IJC website during the public comment period.

### **B. Triennial Assessment of Progress Report**

Commissioners discussed a number of issues relating to the work plan and timeline for revising the draft TAP report on which both public and Great Lakes Advisory boards have provided comments. As a number of issues are still under discussion, Commissioners have called for a dedicated TAP call prior to the June Executive meeting. Commissioners did not on a timeline for completion of the final report but did instruct staff to work as quickly as possible to address work items outlined in Options 1 and 2 of the briefing note.

### **PHRAGMITES**

13. Commissioners requested that staff provide them with recommendations on a potential role for the Commission regarding the Phragmites issue at the June Executive meeting.

### **GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

14. Commissioners discussed the desired outcomes of the informal lunch with the GLEC co-chairs and discussed the key issues to be raised with them.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **15. A. Shoal Lake**

Commissioners requested that staff prepare, for their review, a response to the March 8, 2017, letter from Chief Lewis of the Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation and also prepare to transmit Chief Lewis' letter to governments reiterating the Commission's request voiced to governments in the Commission's November 3, 2014 letter.

#### **B. St. Clair River**

Commissioners discussed work to be undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and they invited the Canadian Chair to provide additional information.

#### **C. Lake Ontario - St Lawrence River Water Levels**

Commissioners received a technical briefing on the current flooding conditions in Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River and agreed that a similar briefing should be provided to governments at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **D. Staff Recognition Program**

Commissioners approved in principle the development of a commission wide staff recognition program and requested that Secretaries and the GLRO Office director draft a Policy, including criteria for a two tiered recognition program for their consideration.

#### **E. Commission support for Boards**

Commissioners deferred discussion of this item until US Section complete their needs assessment.

## **DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

### **International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board**

On April 27, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointments of Ms. Teika Newton and Chief Brian Perrault to be Canadian members of the board, and Mr. Lucas King to be an alternate member of the board for Chief Perrault, each for a three-year term, effective from May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2020.

### **Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP)**

On April 27, 2017, Commissioners approved for transmittal to the governments commission advice and recommendations on the governments' Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan.

### **International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board**

On April 21, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Louis Porter to be a U.S. member of the study board for a term effective from April 11, 2017, through the completion of the study.

### **International Lake Superior Board of Control**

On April 13, 2017, Commissioners approved the International Lake Superior Board of Control's request that it be authorized to implement deviations from Plan 2012 flows during the period April to November 2017.

### **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

On April 13, 2017, Commissioners approved, as modified, a reply to a letter from chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative requesting information on implementation of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014.

### **International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board**

On April 5, 2017, Commissioners approved a letter to the ILOSRB requesting information on the board's implementation of Plan 2014.

### **Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee**

On March 30, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Arun Heer to be the U.S. co-chair of the GLAM Committee for a three-year term effective from March 1, 2017, to February 29, 2020.

### **February 2017 Executive Meeting Minutes**

On March 27, 2017, Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the February 27-28, 2017, executive meeting.

### **Water Quality Board**

On March 7, 2017, Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Tinka Hyde to be a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term effective from March 1, 2017, to February 29, 2020.

***Appearances of the Commission's Boards reporting on Tuesday, May 2, Wednesday, May 3, and Thursday, May 4.***

*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 St. Croix River Watershed Board; the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board of Control; the International Niagara Board of Control; the International Lake Superior Board of Control; the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee; the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed board; the International Columbia River Board of Control; the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control; the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control; and the International Red River Board. \*See attached Board Appearance Agenda.*

**BOARD APPEARING ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017**

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY BOARD**

16. Commissioners received a status report from the study board co-chairs on the activities of the study board, including the establishment of the board, the public advisory group, and the IM/IT working group; development of the governance structure; timeline for key milestones including the development of the required work plan; and public meetings during the summer. The study board co-chairs also discussed a number of issues facing the Board, including funding uncertainties and the need for targeted Commission outreach to regional authorities.

**BOARDS APPEARING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017**

**INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**

17. Commissioners received an update from the board on high water conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River basin. The board briefed Commissioners about its experience to date with implementation of Plan 2014 and on its public outreach efforts. The Board noted that the recent high levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River were caused by hydrologic conditions rather than the new regulation plan.

## **INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL**

18. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in Lake Erie and the Niagara River and the falls. Commissioners noted that the start of the Lake Erie ice boom removal had been early due to unseasonably warm temperatures in January and February. Commissioners encouraged the board in its efforts to schedule public outreach events in the fall of 2017.

## **INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL**

19. Commissioners received an update from the Board on conditions in Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron. They noted that Lake Michigan-Huron water levels and outflows from Lake Superior were above average. Commissioners thanked the board for anticipating the need for deviations to reduce the impact of hydropower maintenance on flows in the St. Marys Rapids.

## **GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

20. Commissioners received a presentation on the GLAM Committee's ongoing studies, public outreach plans and anticipated funding challenges. The Commission thanked the committee for its first Triennial Progress Report, which will be made public.

## **INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD**

21. Commissioners thanked the board for receipt of its semi-annual status report and for its report on flooding conditions across the basin to date in 2017. Summaries of recently completed and proposed projects were discussed with Commissioners, including ones on fish migration in the Red River, implementation of IJC recommendations stemming from the 1997 Red River flood, and ongoing efforts to address water quality concerns.

## **INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD**

22. Commissioners thanked the board for providing an update on 2017 flood conditions in the basin including reservoir operation activities. Summaries of ongoing Souris Plan of Study efforts and related basin studies were discussed with Commissioners who encouraged the board to investigate and address water quality issues in the basin and continue to expand its communications and outreach efforts.

## **INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD**

23. Commissioners received an update from the Board on flows and water level conditions in the Basin and thanked the board for their recent correspondence summarizing their views on the binational water quality science plan presented by governments. The board also outlined how its Water Levels Committee has been working with the Rainy-Namakan Rule Curves Study Board to assess the potential implications of adaptive management and flood forecasting related recommendations. Commissioners noted that the commission would continue the shared funding arrangement for the Wheeler's Point Gauge.

## **INTERNATIONAL RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES STUDY BOARD**

24. Commissioners received a summary from the study board co-chairs on progress to date on the review of the rule curves, including the release on April 27, 2017 of its draft report for public comment. Commissioners thanked the board for its hard work of the last two years, commending the board for its effectiveness and for the excellent outreach and transparency with which they have conducted their work. Commissioners agreed to be available the week of August 14 to 19 for the commission's public hearing, assuming all the materials needed for the hearings will be ready. Commissioners signaled their intent to attend the board's public meetings also scheduled that week.

## **BOARDS APPEARING ON THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017**

### **GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD**

25. Commissioners received an update from the board co-chairs on the implementation of the board's work plan. The Commission thanked the board for all of its work, in particular its extensive comments on the draft Triennial Assessment of Progress Report. The board co-chairs discussed the recently developed Great Lakes Water Quality Board Indigenous Peoples Engagement Principles and Practices and shared the document with Commissioners. Commissioners noted that they looked forward to receiving advice from the board on how the TAP process might be improved in future reporting cycles.

### **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD**

26. Commissioners received an update from the board co-chairs on the board's ongoing activities, including the Acute Gastrointestinal Illness project, the Human health effects of Selenium report, and the results of its strategic planning process currently underway. Commissioners encouraged the board to carry on with its future project planning and scoping and to bring forward a recommendation to the commission on whether or not to move forward with phase two of the AGI project after the board receives the results of the phase one feasibility study at the end of July.



## **GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

27. Commissioner received an update on all the RCC projects; including: the improved research inventory for the Great Lakes region; and the modeling projects for integrated surface water and ground water and for nutrient adaptive management. Commissioners noted that when the research inventory is completed it should be accessible from the IJC web site and that they look forward to seeing the models. Commissioners noted that the RCC is a very productive committee, and they thanked the committee for its accomplishments.

## **GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - SCIENCE PRIORITY COMMITTEE**

28. Commissioner received an update on all the SPC projects, including those projects dealing with: Information Coordination and Flow; Fertilizer Application; Potential Impacts from Petroleum Transport; Declining Offshore Lake Productivity; and the Great Lakes Early Warning System. Commissioners thanked the board for its work.

## **INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD**

29. Commissioners thanked the board for its annual report and expressed their support for ongoing efforts by the board to address issues surrounding the restoration of alewife to the system. Commissioners encouraged the board to continue its dialogue with First Nations and Tribes in the watershed to maintain constructive engagement. The board discussed with Commissioners the application by Woodland Pulp to surrender its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for the uppermost dam in the watershed, the Forest City dam at East Grand Lake, which is subject to an IJC Order of Approval.

## **INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL**

30. Commissioners received an overview of conditions in the basin from the board co-chairs and noted the board's determination of the 2017 Spring Rise. The board reported that the FortisBC operated the Corra Linn dam in 2016 consistent with the 1938 Order. The board provided details of the work to rehabilitate the Corra Linn dam spillways, which is anticipated to be conducted from 2018 to 2021.

## **INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL**

31. Commissioners received an overview of hydrologic conditions in the basin from the board co-chairs and an update on the board's activities, including in particular: the board's interest in participating in the Climate Change Guidance Framework pilot; and its ongoing documentary work to explain water management issues and practices in the Okanagan-Okanagan River system.

## **INTERNATIONAL COLUMBIA RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL**

32. Commissioners received an update on the board's 2016 monitoring of the water levels of the Columbia River at the international boundary. The board outlined the backwater surface elevation changes at the International Boundary and noted that levels were in compliance with the IJC Order of Approval.

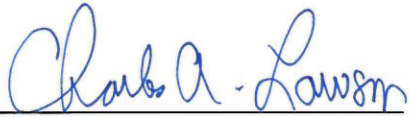
## **ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS**

33. Commissioners received an overview of conditions in the St. Mary and Milk Rivers and of the activities of the Accredited Officers and Field Representatives and noted the A.O.'s and field reps active involvement in a number of IWI initiatives. Commissioners requested that staff draft a letter to inquire on the progress of the Montana Alberta Water Management Initiative.



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Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section



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Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section

# **BOARD APPEARANCES AGENDA**

## ***International Joint Commission Spring Semi-Annual Meeting***

**Capitol Skyline Hotel  
Magnolia Ballroom  
10 I Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024**

***May 2-4, 2017***

### **TUESDAY, May 2**

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***3:00-4:00 pm***    *Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board*

### **WEDNESDAY, May 3**

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***8:30-9:30 am***    *International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board*

***9:30-10:00 am***    *International Niagara Board of Control*

***10:00-10:15 am***    *Health Break*

***10:15-10:45 am***    *International Lake Superior Board of Control*

***10:45-11:30 am***    *International Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Board of Control, International Niagara Board of Control, and International Lake Superior Board of Control: Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee*

***11:30 am***            *International Red River Board*  
***- 12:30 pm***

***12:30-1:30 pm***    *Lunch (on your own)*

- 1:30-2:30 pm**     *International Souris River Board*
- 2:30-3:30 pm**     *International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board*
- 3:45-4:45 pm**     *International Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board*
- 4:45 pm**             *Adjourn Board Appearances*

***THURSDAY, May 4***

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- 8:30-9:15 am**     *Great Lakes Water Quality Board*
- 9:15-10:00 am**    *Health Professionals Advisory Board*
- 10:00-10:15 am**   *Health Break*
- 10:15-11:00 am**   *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination  
Committee*
- 11:00-11:45 pm**   *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Science Priority  
Committee*
- 11:45-12:15 pm**   *Great Lakes Water Quality Board, Great Lakes Science  
Advisory Board, Health Professionals Advisory Board*
- 12:15-1:30 pm**     *Lunch -- Commissioners with GLEC Co-Chairs*
- 1:30-2:30 pm**     *International St. Croix River Watershed Board*
- 2:30-3:00 pm**     *International Kootenay Lake Board of Control*
- 3:00-3:15 pm**     *Health Break*
- 3:15-4:00 pm**     *International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and International  
Columbia River Board of Control*
- 4:00-4:45 pm**     *Accredited Officer of the St. Mary-Milk Rivers*
- 4:45 pm**             *Adjourn*