

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Washington, DC
March 15-16 & 21, 2018

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session in the U.S. Section office in Washington, DC, on March 15, 2018, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, on March 16, 2018, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, and by teleconference on March 21, 2018, from 2:00 to 3:45 PM (during which Item 11 below was discussed), chaired by Lana Pollack.

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
Frank Bevacqua	Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Kevin Bunch	Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Antionette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Dave Hermann	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Randi Morry	Communications Advisor, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
John Yee	Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Mark Burrows	Acting Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist

Matthew Child
Sally Cole-Misch
Mike Mezzacapo
Diane Varosky

Physical Scientist
Public Affairs Officer
Sea Grant Fellow
Administrative Coordinator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as amended with the addition of several items under Other Business. The Canadian section was asked to record the proceedings as the U.S. section does not yet have the necessary equipment.

BRING FORWARD

2. Commissioners reviewed the Bring Forward list of correspondence and requested modification, including direct quotes from correspondence as appropriate. Additionally, commissioners directed Secretaries to write to the Parties requesting that agencies be asked to initiate sampling for E. Coli in the Souris River according to current protocols as the Parties continue addressing the question of optimal sampling frequency.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

3. Commissioners reviewed and requested modifications to the IJC Action Item List, Communications activities calendar and the coordinated calendar. Commissioners requested that an interpretation of the significance of changes in the statistics relating to the various social media tools be provide at each Executive meeting.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 30-31, 2018 EXECUTIVE MEETING

4. Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the January 30-31, 2018, executive meeting. Commissioners agreed that for recording the discussion at executive meetings, which they approved at the January meeting, each office will be responsible for recording the meetings held in its premises.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

5. Commissioners approved expanding the expertise of the Health Professionals Advisory Board by adding two Canadian and two U.S. members and stressed that this presents an opportunity to increase board diversity including the board s gender balance.

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

6. Commissioners approved a letter of reappointment for the SAB members and in a polling decision, approved the following reappointments to the Science Advisory Board:
 - 1) Dr. Andrea Kirkwood as a Canadian member of the Science Advisory Board's Science Priority Committee for a three-year term, effective from February 26, 2018, to February 25, 2021;
 - 2) Dr. Joe DePinto as a U.S. member of the Science Advisory Board's Science Priority Committee for a three-year term, effective from February 26, 2018, to February 25, 2021;
 - 3) Dr. John Livernois as a Canadian member of the Science Advisory Board's Science Priority Committee for a two-year term, effective from February 26, 2018, to February 25, 2020;
 - 4) Mr. Dale Phenicie as a U.S. member of the Science Advisory Board's Science Priority Committee for a two-year term, effective from February 26, 2018, to February 25, 2020; and
 - 5) Mr. Gavin Christie as the Canadian Co-Chair of the Science Advisory Board's Research Coordination Committee for a three-year term, effective from February 26, 2018, to February 25, 2021.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP DIVERSITY

7. Commissioners reviewed current policies regarding board membership and requested that staff prepare revised guidance on board membership for consideration at the Semi-Annual meeting. Considerations should be given on how best to draw attention to the need for increased diversity including gender balance.

GUIDANCE TO BOARDS

8. Commissioners outlined a number of issues requiring clarification and guidance with respect to the activities of its boards and requested that legal advisors, in collaboration with board liaisons and secretaries, develop a short handbook of applicable policies and written guidance to clarify Commission expectations of members' conduct in general and, in particular, to provide clearer guidance on the confidentiality of board deliberations and support for decisions once consensus is reached.

POLICY ON RELEASE OF IJC DOCUMENTS

9. Commissioners discussed the current rule of procedure that sets the timeframe for public release of Commission records to 25 years and considered whether this time frame should be revised. Commissioners requested that legal advisors work with the records management staff to provide greater detail on the nature of the documents captured by Rule 11(5).

GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC SPEAKING

10. Commissioners approved posting a disclaimer on the University of Toledo water conference website to indicate that the remarks made at the November 3, 2017, conference by the GLRO Director at the time are not IJC views. Commissioners also requested that the Communications staff revise the current public speaking policy and submit an amended policy for Commissioners' consideration at the Semi-Annual meeting.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

11. A. TAP Report Process

Commissioners received an update on planning for the TAP workshop with the Great Lakes advisory boards to be held during the April 2018 Spring Semi-Annual meeting. Commissioners also reviewed plans for the TAP 2020 report and approved the following:

- a) the establishment of a Study Board to draft a Study Board report that will constitute the science underpinning of the TAP report. This report will in part draw from Board reports and may be supplemented by other scientific materials.;
- b) the new TAP production approach will not include preparation of a Technical Appendix nor a Draft TAP report;
- c) a TAP teleconference will be held April 17, 2018, in preparation for which staff will develop a briefing note that reconciles the TAP development approach discussed in this briefing note and the TAP consultation processes (item #11B below). This note is also to outline the linkages between the advisory boards' current initiatives with the CMC, Infrastructure and Nutrient recommendations highlighted in the 2017 TAP. Commissioners requested that advisors propose how the GL advisory boards might discuss follow-up on these key recommendations in the upcoming workshop, the output from which will enrich Commissioners' discussions on the types of issues which might be considered for the 2020 TAP.

Commissioners also flagged the need to take under advisement the feedback received from governments on the first TAP report and to build into the TAP an assessment of how the governments have acted upon the recommendations of the first TAP, and ensuring that the Commission continues to bring focus to the key recommendations identified in initial TAP report.

B. TAP Public Consultations and Communications

Commissioners reviewed and approved the plan for public consultations and communications for the TAP 2020 report. Commissioners discussed the value of further discussion on the proposed development of a two volume TAP, with one volume focused on the Assessment of the Progress Report of the Parties and public comments and a second volume focussed on the Assessment of Progress.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

12. Commissioners received an update of the status of the HPAB's selenium report and noted that revisions to the report by board co-chairs are due March 22nd. The revised report is then to be resubmitted for Commissioners' consideration at the April 2018 Semi-Annual meeting.

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (GLAM) COMMITTEE

13. Commissioners received an update on GLAM Committee activities and a read out of the February 5, 2018, intersessional meeting with DOS and GAC at which time the issue of government funding of GLAM Committee activities was discussed. Commissioners requested that the issue of GLAM funding be on the agenda for April 27, 2018, semi-annual IJC-Government meeting. Commissioners received a briefing on the GLAM Committee's approach for the production of its 2017 Annual Report, which will include release, after Commissioners' approval at the Semi-Annual meeting, of part of the draft report relating to the hydrological and meteorological conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River basin in 2017 and the Board's actions so that public feedback can be incorporated into the final version prior to the October semi-annual.

FLOOD/DROUGHT WATCH

14. Commission received a transboundary flood and drought status update and requested that advisors canvass boards on the means used to inform the public on flood forecasts during the freshet.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-MISSISQUOI BAY AND LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG WATER QUALITY STUDY

15. Commissioners received an update on the work being carried out under the Lake Champlain-Missisquoi Bay and Lake Memphremagog water quality reference.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER FLOODING REFERENCE

16. Commissioners received an oral update on the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board's activities including challenges associated with the continued uncertainty of funding. Commissioners requested that this issue is to be included in the IJC-Government Semi-Annual meeting.

SOURIS RIVER FLOODING REFERENCE

17. Commissioners received an update on the Souris River Study Board's activities. They noted that the study board held three meetings the week of February 19th and that the 30 day public comment period on the study board's draft work plan ended March 12th.

FIRST NATIONS, TRIBAL AND METIS ENGAGEMENT POLICY

18. Commissioners briefly discussed how best to develop a First Nations, Tribal, and Metis engagement policy but deferred a more detailed discussion until the spring Semi-Annual meeting. Commissioners requested that at that time, staff outline options to increase engagement and involvement of First Nations in Commission activities and in particular in informing the development of the Commission's First Nation, Tribal and Metis Engagement policy.

ST. CROIX WATERSHED BOARD

19. Commissioners received an update on New Brunswick Power's plans for revitalizing the Milltown Dam and on Woodland Pulp's efforts to surrender its license for the Forest City dam.

RAINY AND NAMAKAN LAKES RULE CURVES

20. Commissioners received a briefing on discussions that took place during the March 7-8, 2018, International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum. They noted that due to inclement weather the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board meeting, which was going to take place on the margins of the forum, had to be rescheduled.

OTHER BUSINESS

21. **A) Meeting with the St. Lawrence Seaway**
Commissioners received an update on advisors' efforts to schedule a meeting with the St. Lawrence Seaway Corporations to discuss issues associated with the opening and closing of the navigation season. Advisors are exploring the possibility of having the meeting on the margins of the Semi-Annual meeting.

B) SPARROW

Commissioners received information on ongoing IWI work that is yielding information on sites of phosphorous and nitrogen loading in the Great Lakes. Commissioners requested that staff explore with the GL advisory boards whether this IWI work and GL Advisory board initiatives could form the basis of a renewed LEEP effort.

C) Meeting with Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Commissioners received a debrief on a recent meeting between the Canadian IJC Chair and staff with the Ontario Commissioner on the Environment, during which issues of common concern were discussed.

D) GLRO Director Position

Commissioners received an update on the Canadian process being followed to fill the Great Lakes Regional Office Director position for the next four years.

E) Aqua Hacking

Commissioners received information about the Aqua Hacking 2018 initiative and requested that Communication staff provide advice on the scope of this initiative.

F) IJC Website Modernization

Commissioners received an update on progress made in the website Modernization project and noted that the launch of the new website is planned for June 2018.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Health Professionals Advisory Board

On March 12, 2018, Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Glenn Miller to be a U.S. member of the Health Professionals Advisory Board for a two-year term, effective from March 9, 2018, to March 8, 2020.

International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study

On March 6, 2018, Commissioners approved the appointments of the following six people to be members of the study's Public Advisory Group (PAG): Mr. Jérémie Letellier, Ms. Renée Rouleau, and Ms. Teresa Gagnon to be Canadian members of the PAG; and Dr. Kristine Stepenuck, Dr. Eric Howe, and Ms. Lori Fisher to be U.S. members of the PAG. All appointments are effective from March 9, 2018, through the end of the study. Dr. Howe is appointed to be the interim U.S. Co-Chair of the PAG until July 1, 2018. Dr. Stepenuck is appointed to be the U.S. Co-Chair of the PAG from July 1, 2018, through the end of the study.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

On March 5, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter notifying the board and Water Levels that the Commission has finalized the supplementary order for Rainy and Namakan Lakes.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

On March 1, 2018, Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Erika Klyszejko to be a Canadian member of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board for a three-year term, effective from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2021.

Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves

On March 1, 2018, Commissioners approved the Supplementary Order to the order prescribing the method of regulation of the levels of Rainy Lake and Namakan Lake.

Spring 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting

On February 28, 2018, Commissioners approved the schedule of board appearances for the April 23-27, 2018, Semi-Annual meeting.

St. Lawrence Seaway Corporations

On February 23, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter inviting the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the Canadian Saint Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation to meet with the Commission to discuss how the Seaway sets its annual opening and closing dates.

International Lake Superior Board of Control

On February 23, 2018, Commissioners approved a response to the International Lake Superior Board of Control's February 9, 2018, letter in which the board alerted the Commission to unintentional deviations from Plan 2012 caused by the unexpected unit outage at the Clergue Generating Station at Sault Ste. Marie.

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board

On February 20, 2018, Commissioners approved: 1) the appointment of Ms. Pam Tomevi to be a U.S. member of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board for a three-year term, effective from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2020; 2) the appointment of Ms. Patty Thielen to be a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term, effective from February 1, 2018, to January 31, 2021; and 3) the reappointment of Mr. Matt Gouin as a U.S. member of the board and as a U.S. member of the board's Community Advisory Group (CAG) and Engagement Committee (EC) for a three-year term, effective from December 1, 2017, to November 30, 2020.

Health Professionals Advisory

On February 20, 2018, Commissioners approved: 1) the reappointment of Dr. Kate Bassil as a Canadian member of the board for a term of one year from November 29, 2017, to November 28, 2018; 2) the reappointment of Dr. David Buckeridge as a Canadian member of the board for a term from July 11, 2018, to January 31, 2020; 3) the reappointment of Dr. Laurie Chan as a Canadian member of the board for a term of two years from February 12, 2018, to February 11, 2020; and 4) the appointment of Dr. Tim Takaro to be Canadian Chair of the board for a term of two years from January 31, 2018, to January 30, 2020. Commissioners deferred consideration of a proposal to increase the size of the board by adding four new member slots (two Canadian and two U.S.) until the March 2018 Executive meeting.

Save the River-Upper St. Lawrence River

On February 13, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter that provides the commission's response to a January 5, 2018, letter from the NGO *Save the River-Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper* concerning operations of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Partnership Proposal

On February 12, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter to researchers concerning a draft grant proposal for developing partnerships to enhance knowledge creation for regional governance networks in the Great Lake-St. Lawrence River basin, which is to be submitted to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership Grants program.

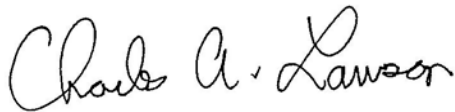
International Red River Board

On February 8, 2018, Commissioners approved:

- 1) the reappointment of Mr. Malcolm Conly as a Canadian member of the International Red River Board for a three-year term effective from January 19, 2018, to January 18, 2021;
- 2) the reappointment of Mr. David Glatt as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term effective from December 8, 2017, to December 7, 2020;
- 3) the reappointment of Mr. Jim Ziegler as a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term effective from January 12, 2018, to January 11, 2021; and
- 4) the appointment of Mr. Gavin van der Linde to be a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective from February 12, 2018, to February 11, 2021.

Fertilizer Application Report

On February 5, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter to the governments transmitting the Commission report entitled *Fertilizer Application Patterns and Trends and their Implications for Water Quality in the Western Basin of Lake Erie*. Commissioners also approved a media release to be issued when the report is posted.



Charles A. Lawson
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U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
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