

**MINUTES**  
**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**  
**Executive Meeting**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**  
**June 12-13, 2018**

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session in the Canadian Section office in Ottawa, Ontario, on June 12, 2018, from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM EDT, and June 13 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM EDT, chaired by Gordon Walker.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. Section
Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Rich Moy	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 Advisor, 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
Nick Heisler	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Dave Hermann	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Talante Henderson	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Kart	Exec Editor, Water Matters and Great Lakes Connection
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Mike Laitta	Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Paisley Meyer	Intern, U.S. Section
Randi Morry	Communication Advisor, Canadian Section
Patrick Orenstein	Intern, U.S. Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Richard Singhroy	Student, Canadian Section

John Yee  
Shane Zurbrigg

Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section  
Legal Advisor, Canadian Section

### **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF**

David Burden	Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Diane Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Lizhu Wang	Biological Scientist

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

1. Commissioners approved the agenda as amended with the addition of several items under Other Business.

### **BRING FORWARD**

2. Commissioners reviewed the Bring Forward list of correspondence and agreed to add the June 12, 2018, communication from both governments concerning the St. Clair River issue, which stated: “(regarding) questions surrounding the issue of managing the flow of the St. Clair River, we wanted to clarify that the governments have no plans to explore the issue further, and would therefore recommend the IJC refrain from seeking to reopen the issue.”

### **ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR**

3. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List, and received oral updates on the Souris, LCRR and M&M reference study activities. Commissioners also reviewed recent and upcoming Communications activities, including engagement activities of the boards, and the coordinated calendar of Commission-related meetings. Commissioners agreed to re-schedule the September Executive meeting, now to be held the September 25 and 26, 2018, in Windsor, and to hold a call July 10, 2018 at 11:00 AM focused on TAP 2020.

### **IJC HUMAN RESOURCES**

4. Commissioners received an update on staffing of Human Resources in the three offices and welcomed the D. Burden as the new Director of the GLRO for the next four years.

## **AVAILABILITY OF COMMISSION RECORDS**

5. Commissioners received a briefing by staff from Library and Archives Canada officials concerning the nature of documents of historical importance. Following a detailed discussion, Commissioners expressed interest in scheduling a similar discussion with officials from the U.S. National Archives in order to get the perspectives of both agencies on records management best practices.

## **GUIDANCE TO BOARDS**

6. Commissioners received an update on work to consolidate existing guidance to boards into a more user friendly cohesive document and approved the Commission's Policy on Board Member Term Limits.

## **IJC WEBSITE MODERNIZATION**

7. Commissioners received a demonstration of the new website and an update on next steps, with the target launch date of July 2018 and associated webinar still on track.

## **IM-IT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

8. Commissioners received an update of the IM-IT strategy implementation and in particular the significant progress achieved in establishing an effective and cohesive IT interoffice infrastructure with the two section offices providing core services. Commissioners discussed potential next steps to improve collaboration to achieve the "one IJC" vision and Information Management goals of the IM-IT strategy, including identification of the optimal configuration of the Commission's IT team. Commissioners expressed an interest in being better informed of the Commission's current IM capacity, what is required to meet its obligations, what services are provided and for whom; how is it done, whether it is affordable, etc.

## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

9. Commissioners reviewed a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group and provided comments on the Draft IJC Indigenous Peoples Engagement Policy. Commissioners instructed staff to contact potential members of the Advisory Group to obtain feedback on the proposed TOR for the Advisory Group and on the process to develop an Indigenous Peoples Engagement Policy. Commissioners endorsed the staff proposal to move forward with watershed specific training for staff on best practices for working with indigenous peoples.

## **FLOODING AND DROUGHT OUTLOOK**

10. Commissioners received an update on the outlook for flooding and drought conditions in the basins along the transboundary and requested that the LCRR basin be added to future updates.

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

11. Commissioners received a briefing from staff on IWI project activities and funding levels over the past several years, expenditures, which included discussion of the relative level of funding dedicated to ongoing strategic initiatives (Data Harmonization, Sparrow water quality monitoring) and to board projects. Commissioners and staff discussed IWI funding pressures and challenges associated with emerging needs, including testing and implementation of the Climate Change Framework and application of adaptive management in the Great Lakes and other basins. Commissioners endorsed staff's approach to hold an internal IWI planning workshop in August, which would include an assessment of current strategic initiatives consideration of possible future initiatives, and development of preliminary 3 year work plans and notional budgets for those initiatives. Following consultation with the Boards, staff are to provide Commissioners with recommendations and a proposed way forward for consideration at the October semi-annual meeting.

## **PBDES AND OTHER FLAME RETARDANTS**

12. Commissioners reviewed and approved, as amended, a draft letter making recommendations to governments on PBDEs and other flame retardants based on the WQB's September 2017 report. Commissioners also approved, as amended, a draft Press release.

## **WATER QUALITY BOARD BINATIONAL GREAT LAKES POLL**

13. Commissioners reviewed the WQB's 2018 Binational Great Lakes Poll Report and approved its posting on the board website and transmitting the report to government with a modified transmittal letter. Commissioners also supported the Board's public release strategy including the scheduling of webinars and having the Poll results showcased within the Commission's new website. Staff are to consider how best to incorporate the key findings of the Great Lakes Poll into the TAP 2020 report.

## **GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM OBJECTIVES**

14. Commissioners received a briefing on the discussion on this topic that took place at the June 6-7 GLEC meeting and noted the common interest of the Tri-commissions on this issue. Commissioners requested that the proposed letter to governments on Lake Ecosystem Objectives be redrafted to better reflect the discussions at the GLEC.

## **GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

15. Commissioners received an oral read out of the June 6-7, 2018, GLEC meeting in Chicago, Illinois during which the Commission presented its perspectives on the parties' assessment of the Commission's first TAP report and invited more dialogue with the parties in the planning and development of the next TAP report. The Parties indicated

that the first draft of the Parties Report on Progress is scheduled for February 2019 with a public release in May 2019. Commissioners also received a summary of the Tri-Commission luncheon meeting with the Parties, which focused on the issue of Lake Ecosystem Objectives. The Parties indicated they felt pursuing LEOs would not be the best use of governments' resources at this time. Commissioners noted the shared interest amongst the commissions in the problem of invasive species and in particular the ballast water collaborative (BWC). Commissioners requested that the GLRO director engage with the Executive Directors of the GLFC and the GLC to identify potential areas of collaboration that could supplement governments' current initiatives to prevent and control further AIS incursions into the GL.

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

16. Commissioners received an update on planning for the August 2018 implementation of the new Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curves. Commissioners reviewed a draft consolidation of previous orders and discussed introductory language that provides context about the nature and purpose of the consolidation. They instructed legal advisors to prepare for their review an authoritative Order that incorporates all of the conditions currently in force from past Orders or Supplementary orders. The draft order compilation is to be sent for review by the Water Levels Committee.

### **POTENTIAL GREAT LAKES EXPERT WORKSHOPS**

17. Commissioners discussed whether additional expert workshops could be of assistance in the development of the TAP 2020 report or could further support the IJC's GLWQA responsibilities. They concluded that better understanding of the proposed focus of the 2020 TAP report would help determine the value and necessity of topic specific workshops. With respect to a suggestion that the IJC support a proposed ballast water workshop, Commissioners requested that the GLRO Director obtain additional information on the goal of such a workshop and canvas the other Commissions as to their level of interest in such an undertaking.

### **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD**

18. Commissioners continued their discussion on the draft HPAB report entitled: *A review of Human Health Impacts of Selenium in Aquatic Systems* but did not reach consensus on a final version of the report. While Commissioners agree on the importance of human health impacts of selenium exposure, they have not agreed to specific revisions made to previous drafts of the report. U.S. Commissioners noted their intention to transmit to the Department of State a version of the draft report sent for Commissioners' review on April 27, 2018.

## **AQUAHACKING**

19. Commissioners received a read out of a May 3, 2018, information-sharing meeting between Commissioners Walker and Morgan and PAO Lobrichon with officials from the AquaHacking organization. Commissioners also received information about a possible collaboration between the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study and AquaHacking. Following an extensive discussion, Commissioners requested that Communication staff further explore what a high level collaboration with the AquaHacking initiative might consist of, including a cost-benefit analysis of various options, such that the Commission could make an educated strategic decision. Commissioners did not support an LCRR Study-AquaHacking collaboration, noting that the Study Board should keep its focus on implementing its LCRR directive.

## **PIPELINE 5 REPORT**

20. Commissioners requested that the interoffice team responsible for the oil and gas drilling and pipelines watching brief provide an update on any recent activities relating to pipelines in the vicinity of the Great Lakes, including Pipeline 5 and to report back on any relevant recent work related to socio-economic and environmental impacts associated with the management, maintenance or abandonment of pipelines. Commissioners also discussed expanding the watching brief to encompass other oil and gas transportation options in the vicinity of the Great Lakes and their associated impacts.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **21. A) Alberta-Montana Joint Initiative**

Commissioners received an update and discussed recent developments in the initiative. Commissioners directed staff to prepare a letter correspondence to the co-chairs of the Initiative thanking them for their work to date, re iterating the Commission's continued interest in the work, and extending an invitation to appear at the fall 2018 semi-annual meeting. Commissioners agreed to review the letter by polling.

### **B) Sponsorship of HOW**

Commissioners endorsed sponsorship of the Healing Our Waters annual conference, which is scheduled to take place in Detroit, MI, October 17-18, 2018. Commissioners requested that Secretaries provide an updated list of events for which pre-approvals have been granted in the recent past and reminded staff that all sponsorships must comply with the conditions outlined in the Commission's Sponsorship Policy. Commissioners directed staff to prepare material needed for Commissioners to discuss potential sponsorship of the Great Lakes days in Ottawa.

### **C) International Lake Superior Board of Control temporary Supplementary Order of Approval**

Commissioners received information that Brookfield Renewable has requested an amendment that would allow Brookfield to conduct safety and maintenance activities on a regular basis. Commissioners agreed to review a draft Supplementary Order of

Approval on the issue by polling.

**D) International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board report release**

Commissioners received an update on plans for the release of the ILOSLRB report entitled *Observed Conditions and Regulated Outflows in 2017* and the media webinar associated with the report's release. Commissioners screened a video that will be released in conjunction with the ILOSLRB report, and also approved posting the board report, provision of an advance copy to governments, and provision of hardcopies of the report to local elected officials.

**E) Follow up on Seaway Proposal.**

Commissioners discussed an invitation from the St. Lawrence Seaway Corporations for a possible freighter trip through locks in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. Commissioners expressed interest in such a trip in order to help them better understand the issues associated with managing this binationally integrated system of locks. .

**F) IJC Guiding Principles**

Commissioners noted that there are different versions of the Commission's Guiding Principles posted on the website. Secretaries volunteered to review the versions and be prepared to discuss them at the September 2018 executive meeting.

**E) April 23-27, 2017, Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the April 23-27 2018 semi-annual meeting and requested that henceforth, when reference is made to an IJC policy, that a link to that policy be imbedded in the public minute.

**DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING**

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

On June 8, 2018, Commissioners approved issuing a press release to notify the public of the Commission's May 3, 2018, letter to the governments concerning phosphorus loading in Lake of the Woods.

**Rainy and Namakan Lakes Supplementary Order of Approval**

On May 31, 2018, Commissioners approved amending the March 1, 2018, Supplementary Order on Rainy and Namakan Lakes, whereby a technical correction is made by replacing an out of date table for Namakan Lake rule curve elevations with the correct table of elevations in Condition 1(a) of the supplementary order.

**International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River board**

On May 17, 2018, Commissioners approved the appointment of Dr. Diane Kuehn to be a U.S. member of the board for a three year term, effective from June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2021. Commissioners also approved the reappointments of Mr. Marc Hudon as a Canadian member of the board and Mr. Robert Campamy as a U.S. member of the board, each for a three year term, effective from June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2021. Commissioners recognized Dr. Frank

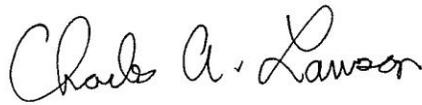
Sciremamanno, who has served as a U.S. member of the board for 23 years and who will end his tenure on the board when his current term ends on May 31, 2018.

**Minutes of Meetings**

On May 11, 2018, Commissioners approved a change in the processing of minutes of Commission meetings. Effective immediately, after minutes are approved by commissioners, electronic signatures of the secretaries will be added to the minutes as confirmation that they are final and approved. This procedure replaces the process of having the secretaries physically sign hard copies of the minutes.

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

On May 3, 2018, Commissioners approved a letter to the U.S. State Department and Global Affairs Canada in which the Commission discusses the issue of phosphorus loading in Lake of the Woods and Minnesota’s development of a phosphorus Total Daily Maximum Load for the lake; transmits the board’s April 12, 2018, letter on the issue; and recommends that the governments commit to an 18.4 percent reduction in phosphorus loads to the lake as an interim measure and work together to establish a shared, binational phosphorus substance objective and load reduction targets.



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Charles A. Lawson  
Secretary  
U.S. Section



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Camille Mageau  
Secretary  
Canadian Section