MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Commissioners Conference Call

July 27, 2018

The International Joint Commission met by conference call, on July 27, 2018, from 10:00 am EDT to 13:00 PM EDT chaired by Lana Pollack.

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
Kevin Bunch Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Chrissy Chiasson Student, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Antionette Dunston Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
Dave Hermann Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Mike Laitta Senior Advisor, U.S. Section
Sarah Lobrichon Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Brian Maloney Special Assistant, U.S. 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
John Yee Chief, IM and IT Services, Canadian Section
Shane Zurbrigg Legal Advisor, Canadian Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
David Burden Director
Antonette Arvai Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows Physical Scientist
Matthew Child Physical Scientist
Prior to the beginning of the Executive meeting, former Canadian Commissioner Benoit Bouchard greeted his former colleagues and highlighted the Commission’s import role in fostering harmony and wise water management in the transboundary area.

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 retain reference to a number of outstanding actions regardless of the time which had elapsed since the requests to and from governments.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

3. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List and received oral updates on the Souris River and Lake Champlain-Richelieu River flooding studies. Commissioners also reviewed, past recent and upcoming Communications activities, the communications analytics and the coordinated calendar. Commissioners confirmed their availability for a mid-September conference call and for an Executive meeting to be held in mid-October in Windsor. Commissioners’ request for an oral update on the HPAB Gastrointestinal illness project will be addressed via a written submission from IJC staff. Commissioners noted that the governments had not responded to the Commission’s January 2016 and September 2017 letters concerning the Poplar River: the possibility of including this issue on the agenda for the October 2018 meeting with the governments was raised, but no decision was made.

IJC HUMAN RESOURCES

4. Commissioners received an update on staffing of Human Resources in the three offices.
IJC WEBSITE MODERNIZATION

5. Commissioners received an oral update on the launch of the new IJC website and were informed of the new process for uploading IJC and IJC Board reports to the new IJC website for all IJC staff and Board website administrators. Commissioners requested a detailed discussion on the process at an upcoming Executive meeting, including a focus on the necessary next steps needed to ensure successful maintenance of the new website content.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT

6. Commissioners discussed and approved advisors’ proposal, which was formulated following discussion with members of the Indigenous community that currently or in the past have had a relationship with the Commission, to hold a workshop to develop a draft Indigenous People Engagement Policy along with terms of reference for an Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group. The workshop will include the participation of those same members of the Indigenous community and will be cost-shared amongst the offices.

FLOODING AND DROUGHT OUTLOOK

7. Commissioners received an oral update on the outlook for flooding and drought along the boundary and reiterated that these periodic updates are very useful.

TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT

8. Commissioners received an update on the project planning and coordination for the preparation of the TAP 2020 report. Commissioners noted that a study board has been constituted and that the approved directive has been provided to the study board members. An IJC project manager has been identified and an overall, multi-year work plan is under development. Commissioners agreed to that it would be advisable to set time aside during the fall Semi-Annual meeting for a commission working session with the study board.

TRI-COMMISSION COLLABORATION

9. Due to time pressures, commissioners indicated that they would welcome a written update by the GLRO director as his initial discussions with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Great Lakes Commission directors on areas of potential collaboration were being followed up by a July 31 meeting.
RAINY-NAMAKAN LAKES ORDER

10. Commissioners received an update on the development of a compiled Rainy and Namakan Lakes order of approval and agreed that it would, going forward, be the “official compilation” of the various orders and supplementary orders in force in the basin. While there are no substantive changes to the regulation of levels and flows, or governance in the official compilation Order, it will be made available to the governments and the public once the Commission has adopted it. Commissioners requested that legal advisors finalize the official compilation and agreed that the final compiled order should be signed as soon as possible.

ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

11. Commissioners received a read out of the June 18-20, 2018, board meeting and meetings with the public and the Passamaquoddy. A proposed IJC letter to governments on stakeholder concerns regarding the future of the Forest City dam was not approved by all Commissioners. Some Commissioners thought the letter was premature as the outcome of the ongoing U.S. FERC process and intervention by the Canadian government on the removal of the Forest City dam was not known.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-MISSIQUOI BAY-LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG STUDY

12. Due to time limitations, Commissioners indicated that the written material provided by staff provided a sufficient update and acknowledged receipt of the Study’s proposed communications strategy.

OTHER BUSINESS

13. A) Minutes of the June 12-13, 2018, Executive meeting
Commissioners approved as amended the June 12-13, 2018, Executive minutes.

B) Resolution of the Northwest Area Water Supply project (NAWS)
Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the summary prepared by staff but deferred further discussion until a later date.

C) Watching Brief on Oil and Gas Drilling and Pipelines
Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the material prepared by staff but deferred further discussion until a later date.
DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
On July 26, 2018, Commissioners approved the reappointments of: 1) Ms. Trina Rawn as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective from August 1, 2018, to July 31, 2021; 2) Mr. Mark Lee as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective from August 1, 2018, to July 31, 2021; and 3) Ms. Karen Cederwall as a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term effective from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2021.

Great Lakes Triennial Assessment of Progress Report 2020
On July 10, 2018, Commissioners approved, as amended, the Triennial Assessment of Progress Study Board Directive and the appointment of the Director of the GLRO as Chair of the Study Board and of the following Canadian nominees: Gavin Christie, Rob de Loe, Henry Lickers (to be confirmed, Irving Leblanc as potential alternate should Lickers not be available), Jeff Ridal, Tim Takaro, and James Wagar. Commissioners also approved the following US nominees: Frank Ettawageshik, Seth Foldy, Deborah Lee, Kelsey Leonard, Carol Miller, and David Ullrich. Commissioners directed staff to further develop the concept of a potential 2 volume TAP report to achieve the objectives of the GLWQA, one focused on a review of the Progress Report of the Parties and a second dedicated to an Assessment of Progress. The Study Board is to be established as soon as possible and consulted in the development of the architecture for the TAP volumes to be considered by Commissioners at an upcoming Executive meeting.

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section