

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Fall Semi-Annual Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
Executive Meeting
October 22-26, 2018

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Canadian Section Office in Ottawa, October 22-25, 2018, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT, and on October 26, 2018, from 9:45 AM to 12:00 EDT with Gordon Walker in the Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Gordon Walker	Chair, Canadian Section
Lana Pollack	Chair, U.S. 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 Science Advisor, Canadian Section
Frank Bevacqua	Public Information Officer, U.S. Section
Kevin Bunch	Communication Specialist, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Sciences and Engineering, Canadian Section
Christina Chiasson	Advisor, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Sarah Djeffal	Student, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Nick Heisler	Senior Advisor, Canadian Section
David Fay	Senior Engineering Advisor, Canadian Section
Anthony Friio	Student, Policy and Communications, Canadian Section
Jeff Kart	Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Mike Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Catherine Lee-Johnson	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Sarah Lobrichon	Public Affairs Advisor, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant to Commissioners, Canadian 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
Daniel Berube	Senior Systems Analyst
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Ryan Graydon	Sea Grant Fellow
Diana Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Lizhu Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda including a number of information items under Other Business.

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

2. Commissioners agreed to invite the Water Quality Board co-chairs to speak prior to the board's appearance to recognize the contribution of John Jackson as a long term advocate for the protection of the Great Lakes and as a Canadian member of the WQB, following which the Commission co-chairs would say a few words.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

3. Commissioners noted that the Canadian process to recruit three new commissioners is well underway and is expected to be completed in time for the December 3 end of term of current Commissioners. The three new U.S. commissioner nominees are awaiting confirmation by the U.S. Senate, and it is uncertain how long that process will take.

MEETING WITH CANADIAN TREATY THREE LEADERSHIP

4. Commissioners met with Grand Council Treaty #3 on October 21, 2018, and explored the possibility of holding a Summit on Treaty #3 territory involving the IJC, Treaty #3 and US Tribes next spring as well as other means of further developing an ongoing relationship and collaboration between T3 and the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. A) GLRO BUDGET

The Canadian Chair provided all Commissioners with the mid-year report on GLRO expenditures.

B) REPORT OF INTEREST

The US Chair drew the Commission's attention to the recently released publication by the University of Michigan Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics (September 30, 2018) report entitled: *Socio economic impacts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

On October 23, 2018, Commissioners approved the reappointments of the following Canadian members of the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control: Ms. Sue McKortoff and Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, each for a three-year period, effective from September 19, 2018, to September 18, 2021; and Mr. Bruno Tassone for a one-year term, effective from October 27, 2018, to October 26, 2019.

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control

International Columbia River Board of Control

On October 23, 2018, Commissioners approved the reappointment Mr. Bruno Tassone as a Canadian member of the International Kootenay Lake Board of Control and the International Columbia River Board of Control for a one-year term, effective from October 27, 2018, to October 26, 2019.

Appearances of the Commission's Boards reporting on Monday, October 22, Wednesday October 24 and Thursday, October 25

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 Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board; the International Niagara Board of Control; the International Lake Superior Board of Control; the Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee; and the International Red River Board.

**See attached Board Appearance Agenda.*

BOARDS APPEARING ON MONDAY OCTOBER 22, 2018

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY BOARD

1. Commissioners viewed a video summarizing the hydrologic characteristics of the watershed for use in upcoming public information meetings. The Study Board reported on its activities and how the board proposes to proceed under different funding scenarios given the uncertainty of consistent U.S. funding. Commissioners acknowledged the excellent work done by the Study Board since its inception and requested that IJC legal staff assist the Study Board in clarifying the impacts of historical legal matters in the basin.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

2. Commissioners received an update on the board's activities and outlined key aspects of the proposed 2019-2020 work plan. Commissioners noted the important role the board will play in the Commission's GLWQA related Triennial Assessment of Progress work.

BOARDS APPEARING ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2018

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

3. Commissioners received an update on the Health Professional Advisory Board activities and were briefed on the board's proposed work plan and the associated funding requests. Commissioners thanked the board for its proposals and welcomed the board's participation in discussions related to the Commission's Triennial Assessment of Progress work. Commissioners approved the board's Principles and priorities framework for water/health projects for posting on the Board's webpage.

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

4. Commissioners received an update on the Research Coordination Committee's activities. Commissioners approved posting of the board's report entitled *Great Lakes Surface and Ground water Modeling Integration Review* on the board's website and issuance of a media release. Commissioners also approved transmittal of the board's report to the Groundwater and Science Subcommittees (GLWQA Annexes 8 and 10). Commissioners were briefed on the committee's proposed work plan, and they informed the board that feedback on their work plan and those of the other Great Lakes advisory boards would occur once TAP related needs were better defined.

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

5. Commissioners received an update on the Science Priority Committee's activities and approved the board's report entitled *Potential Ecological Impacts of Crude Oil Transport in the Great Lakes Basin* for transmittal to governments as a board report. Commissioners received an outline of work plan concepts for future projects from the committee, which noted that they are still under development. Commissioners noted that, as with other Great Lakes advisory board work plans, they would be evaluated at a later date.

TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROGRAPHIC DATA HARMONIZATION TASK FORCE

6. Commissioners received an update on the work of the Task Force and instructed staff to develop options for Commissioners' consideration as they discuss the Commission's potential involvement in future data harmonization work.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

7. Following an overview of the board's activities, commissioners agreed that the board only needs to submit an annual report to the commission and that the spring progress report is not required.

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

8. Commissioners acknowledged and thanked the Board and of the Water Levels Committee for the significant effort they expended to ensure a seamless transition to the 2018 Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule curve. Commissioners informed the board that it had received the federal governments' response to the board's request for a coordinated interim target for phosphorus reduction in Lake of the Woods and provided the board with highlights of the Commission's recent meeting with Chief Lorraine Cobiness, Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining First Nation (First nation #47) and Chief Brian Perrault, Couchiching First Nation. The commission also acknowledged that the Water Levels

Committee would be asking for a change to the annually scheduled deadline for decision as to whether or not the high flood risk will be adopted on Rainy Lake, and would be asking for a deviation from the order via letter. The Board also outlined its approach to establishing an Adaptive Management Committee, as per the Commission's request.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD

9. Commissioners received an update on conditions in the basin and noted the moderate to severe drought conditions in the Basin. Commissioners also received an update on the Northwest Area Water Supply Project and the resolution reached between the parties this summer. The board's new Engagement Committee is developing a communication strategy as well as a number of web based communication products.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER STUDY BOARD

10. Commissioners acknowledged receipt of Study board's work plan and noted that it had been transmitted to governments. They thanked the study board for its progress report and congratulated it for the significant progress achieved. The Board outlined its plans to significantly increase its efforts to engage Tribes, First Nations and metis in the study board's activities, so that the study outcomes will better reflect their interests and concerns. The board also signaled its intention to further engage with the Public Advisory Group and the Resource Agency Advisory Group to incorporate their feedback in the development of viable operational options.

BOARDS APPEARING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

11. Commissioners received an overview of hydrological conditions in the basin, including the unusually low levels of Lake St. Lawrence this past summer, and a summary of the various communication activities undertaken to engage with stakeholders in the basin. The Board reiterated the need for resourcing of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee on which the board relies as a key means to evaluate Plan 2014's performance.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

12. Commissioners approved posting of the board's 131st semi-annual report and reviewed conditions in the basin and noted that Lake Erie had water levels well above average for the reporting period. They approved public release of the board's Niagara River annual ice-boom report for 2017-18.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

13. Commissioners received an update on the board's activities. Commissioners received the board's report on conditions in the basin and thanked the board for anticipating the need for deviations to reduce the impact of hydropower outages and maintenance of flows in the rapids.

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14. Commissioners agreed to post the GLAM Committee event report on the 2017 high water event on the Great Lakes along with the detailed annexes describing the impacts of the 2017 flood on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Commissioners also agreed to the issuance of a media release drawing attention to the report and to send the report to governments. Commissioners received the Committee's semi-annual progress report for posting on the web. Commissioners agreed to once again raise with governments the issue of funding of the GLAM Committee operations.

ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS

15. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Accredited Officers (AOs) of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers. The AOs highlighted the water apportionment challenges associated the hydrological conditions in the basin including the early spring high water supplies and the very low supplies throughout the summer and early fall. The AOs continue to work closely with the Montana-Alberta Water Management Initiative, to incorporate their findings into the administrative procedures review. The AOs intend to have recommendations ready for the Commission's consideration in April 2019 as requested.

INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

16. Commissioners received a briefing from the board co-chairs on the hydrological conditions in the basin and noted the challenges posed by a year of very high water levels due to an exceptionally high snowpack, followed by very dry conditions characterized by forest fires in the region. Commissioners received an overview of the board's upcoming activities including the development of a white paper that considers current challenges such as climate change and hydrologic variations in the basin with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the 1925 Order.

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

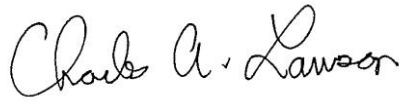
17. The Board provided an overview of the extreme conditions in the basin with high water levels of Lake Osoyoos due to an exceptionally high snowpack, followed by very dry conditions characterized by forest fires in the region. The Board also provided an update on the distribution of the documentary *A River Film* and the progress on the two high level water monuments to be installed later this year.

INTERNATIONAL COLUMBIA RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

18. Commissioners received an update from the board co-chairs on the hydrologic conditions and dam operations in the basin and noted that backwater at the Canadian border was low, but within the limits specified in the Order.



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

BOARD APPEARANCES AGENDA

***International Joint Commission
Fall Semi-Annual Meeting
October 22-25, 2018***

**Canadian Section Office
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6
Phone: (613) 995-2984**

MONDAY, October 22

<i>3:15-4:00 PM</i>	<i>International Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study Board</i>
<i>4:00-5:00 PM</i>	<i>Great Lakes Water Quality Board</i>

WEDNESDAY, October 24

- 8:30-9:15 am*** *Health Professionals Advisory Board*
- 9:15-10:00 am*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination Committee*
- 10:00-10:15 am*** *Health Break*
- 10:15-11:00 am*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Science Priority Committee*
- 11:00-11:45 am*** *Transboundary Hydrographic Data Harmonization Task Force*
- 11:45-1:00 pm*** *Lunch (on your own)*
- 1:00-2:00 pm*** *International Red River Board*
- 2:00-3:00 pm*** *International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board*
- 3:00-3:15 pm*** *Health Break*
- 3:15-4:15 pm*** *International Souris River Board*
- 4:15-5:15 pm*** *International Souris River Study Board*
- 5:15 pm*** *Board Appearance Adjourn*
- 6:30 pm*** ***RECEPTION for Commissioners, All Staff, Board Members and other invited guests***
Location to be determined

THURSDAY, October 25

- 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*
- 11:30-12:15 pm*** *Accredited Officers of the St. Mary-Milk Rivers*
- 12:15-1:15 pm*** *Lunch (on your own)*
- 1:15-2:00 pm*** *International Kootenay Lake Board of Control*
- 2:00-2:45 pm*** *Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and International Columbia River Board of Control*