

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Fall Semi-Annual Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
Executive Meeting
October 21-25, 2019

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Canadian Section Office in Ottawa, October 21-24, 2019, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EDT, and on October 25, 2019, from 9:45 AM to 12:00 EDT with Pierre Beland in the Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Jane Corwin	Chair, U.S. Section
Pierre Beland	Chair, Canadian Section
Henry Lickers	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Merrell-Ann Phare	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Rob Sisson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Lance Yohe	Commissioner, U.S. 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
Christine Blanchet	Legal Advisor, Canadian 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
Caron de Mars	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Antionette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Anthony Frio	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Andrew Heath	Geospatial specialist, Canadian Section
Nick Heisler	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Jeff Laberge	Information Management Analyst, Canadian Section
Michael Laitta	GIS Coordinator, U.S. Section
Tristan Lecompte	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Robert Phillips	Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

David Burden	Director
Antonette Arvai	Physical Scientist
Raj Bejankiwar	Physical Scientist
Jennifer Boehme	Physical Scientist
Mark Burrows	Physical Scientist
Matthew Child	Physical Scientist
Sally Cole-Misch	Public Affairs Officer
Ryan Graydon	Sea Grant Fellow
Diane Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Allison Voglesong-Zejnati	Communications Advisor
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda.

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

2. Commissioners approved, as amended, the minutes of the September 10-11, 2019, executive meeting.

BRING FORWARD SYSTEM

3. Commissioners reviewed the Bring Forward list of correspondence and acknowledged recent correspondence received from governments. Commissioners requested that this item be given another name that would better reflect its purpose. Commissioners also requested to be briefed on any work undertaken by the Commission to track and assess the implementation of past IJC recommendations, with a view to improving their uptake by governments and the formulation of future recommendations.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

4. Commissioners reviewed the IJC Action Item List, requested the addition of a few events to the coordinated calendar, and suggested modifications to the scope of the Communications activities Calendar.

DRAFT SCHEDULE OF 2020 IJC MEETINGS

5. Commissioners reviewed and approved the amended schedule of IJC meetings for 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP FOR BOARD

6. Commissioners received an update on planning for the communications workshop for board, which will take place October 22, 2019, on the margins of the Semi-Annual meeting. Commissioners requested that staff formulate a proposed communication strategy or framework to guide commission and board communications during emergency response situations.

LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

7. **A. Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Conditions**
Commissioners received an update on conditions in the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River basin and were provided with details on work being conducted as Canada and the US are adopting new vertical reference systems that use a satellite-based model of the earth's surface and of the communication challenge this will pose in the transboundary area.
- B. LOSLR Communications**
Commissioners received an update on upcoming public outreach and communications activities, including preparations for the proposed November 2019 webinar for elected officials.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE

8. Commissioners received an update on IWI activities. Advisors requested that commissioners provide any comments they have on the draft IWI plan prior to board consultations that are being planned for winter 2019 and spring 2020.

LAKES CHAMPLAIN AND MEMPHREMAGOG WATER QUALITY STUDY

9. Commissioners received an update on activities taking place under the water quality reference and noted that the study on track with the report expected in January 2020.

REPORT ON HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS OF SELENIUM IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

10. Commissioners discussed having the Health Professionals Advisory Board update its July 2017 report entitled *Human Health Impacts of Selenium in Aquatic Environments* and directed advisors to work with the working group of subject experts of the HPAB to update the report.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT

11. Commissioners reviewed a draft agenda for a workshop on indigenous peoples in transboundary basins and requested that advisors prepare background documents for commissioners' review prior to the workshop, which is to be held on the margins of the January 2020 Executive meeting.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

On October 17, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointments of Mr. Jon Allen to be the U.S. Co-Chair of the board and Ms. Gayle Wood to be the Canadian Co-Chair of the board, each for a two-year term, effective from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021.

International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

On October 17, 2019, Commissioners approved the board's request to extend Condition 10 of the January 28, 2013 Supplementary Order to operate under the drought rule curve (Condition 8) until November 1, 2019.

International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

International Kootenay Lake Board of Control and International Columbia River Board of Control

On October 17, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. David Huchison to be the Canadian Co-Chair of the three boards for a three-year term, effective from October 27, 2019, to October 26, 2022.

International Lake Champlain-Richelieu Flooding Study Board

On October 16, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Frédéric Chouinard to be a Canadian member of the study board's Public Advisory Group (PAG); Ms. Julie Robert to be an alternate for Canadian PAG member Jérémie Letellier, each for a term effective from August 8, 2019, to March 31, 2022. Commissioners approved the reappointments of Dr. Marla Emery, Mr. Philip von Bargen, and Mr. Mark Malchoff as U.S. PAG members, and Dr. Harm Sloterdijk as a Canadian PAG member, each for a term effective from August 8, 2019, to March 31, 2022.

International Souris River Board

On October 15, 2019, Commissioners approved the reappointment of Mr. Garland Erbele as the US Co-Chair of the ISRB for a three-year term, effective from October 19, 2019, to October 18, 2022.

Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination Committee

On October 15, 2019, Commissioners approved the reappointment of Ms. Deborah Lee as the U.S. Co-Chair of the Research Coordination Committee for a one-year term, effective from October 1, 2019, to September 30, 2020.

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board

International Niagara Board of Control

International Lake Superior Board of Control

On October 15, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointment of Mr. Stephen Durrett to be the US Co-Chair of the International: Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board, Niagara Board of Control, and Lake Superior Board of Control for a three-year term, effective from October 15, 2019, to October 14, 2022; the appointment of Mr. Kyle McCune to be the Alternate US Co-Chair to the International: Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board, Niagara Board of Control, and Lake Superior Board of Control for a three-year term, effective from October 15, 2019, to October 14, 2022; the reappointment of Mr. Tony David as a US member of the Lake Ontario-St.

Lawrence River Board for a three year term, effective retroactively from January 31, 2019, to January 30, 2022; and the reappointment of Dr. Geneviève Béchard as the Canadian Co-Chair of the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board for a two-year term, effective from October 15, 2019, to October 14, 2021.

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board

On October 9, 2019, Commissioners approved a letter to the board approving the board's September 30, 2019, request for extended deviation authority.

International Souris River Study Board

On October 7, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointments of Mr. Paul Smetana to be the alternate U.S. Co-Chair of the study board's Public Advisory Group (PAG) and Mr. Joe Goodwill to be the alternate Canadian Co-Chairs of the PAG, effective from October 7, 2019, through the end of the study in June 2021.

Meeting with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

On October 4, 2019, Commissioners approved a media release, as modified, on a meeting with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne that takes place on October, 8, 2019.

Grand Council Treaty #3

On September 27, 2019, Commissioners approved a response to an invitation from the Grand Council Treaty #3 to attend its fall national assembly.

International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board

On September 26, 2019, Commissioners approved the appointment of Ms. Suzie Miron to be a Canadian member of the board for a three-year term, effective from September 26, 2019, to September 25, 2022.

Appearances of the Commission's Boards reporting on Tuesday, October 22, Wednesday October 23 and Thursday, October 24*

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 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

INTERNATIONAL OSOYOOS LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

13. Commissioners received an overview of the lower than average flows due to a lower than average snowpack in the basin and noted the usefulness of the Condition 10 variance to allow the board more flexibility. The Board discussed its use of stored water in Osoyoos Lake to provide flushing flows to fish spawning habitat downstream. It said that it is considering holding its IJC Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum, last held in 2015. The Board also provided an update on a number of its IWI projects. Commissioners thanked Canadian co-chair Bruno Tassone for his long service on this Board and the Columbia River Board.

INTERNATIONAL COLUMBIA RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

14. Commissioners received an update from the board co-chairs on the hydrologic conditions and dam operations in the basin and noted that during the 2019 season there was no observed backwater conditions in excess of the limits set out in the Order.

INTERNATIONAL KOOTENAY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL

15. Commissioners received a briefing on the hydrological conditions in the basin and noted the challenges posed by the very low water supplies during the winter of 2019 and the resulting below average snowpack. The board shared with commissioners public concerns raised at the September public meeting related to the dewatering of salmon spawning areas in Kootenay Lake. Commissioners received an overview of the board's upcoming activities, including progress on its 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. Commissioners received an update on the upgrades taking place at the Corra Linn Dam, in part for improved earthquake protection.

BOARDS APPEARING ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2019

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD OF CONTROL

16. Commissioners received an overview of the hydrological conditions in the basin over the past year and how the board has responded. The board noted there is currently a lot of water in the Great Lakes system that has not yet reached Lake Ontario, which will be a compounding factor come spring melt. The board outlined the significant outreach efforts undertaken by the Board to disseminate information and address concerns expressed by the public. The board expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by the GLAM committee.

INTERNATIONAL NIAGARA BOARD OF CONTROL

17. Commissioners received an update on the American Falls Bridge Replacement Project and noted that the project is moving forward again. They asked the board to assess whether the proposed construction cofferdam would affect the operation of the Niagara River Control Works, and whether there would be any challenges the power entities might face in satisfying the Commission's Order of approval. The board briefed Commissioners on their recent activities including its public outreach webinar.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

18. Commissioners received a summary of flow conditions over the year and of forecasted conditions. The board outlined its proposed management strategy, including a potential deviation strategy through the winter. The board provided an outline of the public communication and outreach activities and asked for the IJC Communication team's support in evaluating options to improve engagement with stakeholders.

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

19. Commissioners received an update on the development of the committee's draft work plan for 2020, which includes activities for evaluating both the Lake Ontario-St Lawrence River Plan 2014 as well as the Lake Superior Plan 2012. The committee reminded the Commission that progress on the work plan was resource availability dependant and as such, the plan is constructed into three phases to cover the 10-12 year adaptive management strategy. Commissioners agreed to the committee's request to extend the reporting period for the triennial report (2017-19) until the end of calendar year 2020.

INTERNATIONAL RAINY-LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED BOARD

20. Commissioners received a summary from the Water Levels Committee on the hydrologic conditions and dam operations in 2019 and with an overview of the current high water conditions throughout the basin. The Board informed the Commission of the challenges faced by the Packaging Corporation of America mill and by H2OPower in working within the Flood-risk reduction rule curve, which resulted in an exceedance of the new rule curve. The Commission informed the board of its approval of a slightly modified version of the board's Directive and of the Terms of Reference for the Community Advisory Group and the Industry Advisory Group. Commissioners also approved the board's Adaptive Management Committee Directive.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD

21. Following an overview of the board's activities, Commissioners approved posting of the independent review report of the Board's suggested Red river nutrient targets and encouraged the board to increase its public outreach efforts on the proposed nutrient targets. Commissioners received an update on the board's continued work on the development of new water quality objectives and of the associated Nutrient Management Strategy.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER BOARD

22. Commissioners received an update on conditions in the basin and noted the wet fall conditions and the concern that the ground saturation conditions may be problematic come spring melt. The board signaled that it will seek clarification from the IJC on the recent approval by governments of the E.coli Water Quality Objective as the recommended reporting measure cannot be met with the current collection frequency of the federal agencies: The Board provided an update on the Northwest Area Water Supply project and inquired about the status of its request to be recognized as a watershed board.

INTERNATIONAL SOURIS RIVER STUDY BOARD

23. Commissioners acknowledged receipt of study board's updated project timeline and budget and noted it would be transmitted to governments. They thanked the study board for its diligent work and received an update on the board's significant efforts to engage Tribes, First Nations and Métis in the study board's activities. The board provided a summary of the Public Advisory Group, the Resource Agency Advisory Group and of the Climate Advisory Group's activities and how their activities are essential for the successful completion of the study.

BOARDS APPEARING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

LAKE CHAMPLAIN-RICHELIEU RIVER STUDY BOARD

24. Commissioners approved the Study Board's revised work plan as well as the posting of the revised Lake Champlain-Richelieu Semi-Annual progress report on the study board's web site. The study board discussed its accomplishments in each of the four themes of the flood mitigation framework, the challenges met and how it plans to meet the April 2022 reporting timeline. Commissioners reiterated their interest in hearing from the Socio-political and Economic work group at the commission's December Executive meeting.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY BOARD

25. Commissioners approved the release of the board's report *Oversight of Animal Feeding Operations for Manure Management*. The board shared with Commissioners its thoughts on how to enhance the effectiveness of its operations and provided an update on the Board's recent activities.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY BOARD

26. Commissioners received an update on the Health Professional Advisory Board's main activities and prospective projects. The board also provide information on a number of collaborative activities with other Great Lakes Advisory boards and organisations.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - RESEARCH COORDINATION COMMITTEE

27. Commissioners received an update on the Research Coordination Committee's (RCC) activities, including those conducted in partnership with other Great Lakes Advisory boards. The RCC provided information on two proposed work plans, which will be submitted at a later date. Commissioners reminded the board of the need to involve First Nations, Métis and U.S Tribes in many of its projects and of the need to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into its analyses.

GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD - SCIENCE PRIORITY COMMITTEE

28. Commissioners received an update on the Science Priority Committee's activities and reviewed the status of a number of ongoing projects. The potential of the Stressor Interaction project was of particular interest as it offers a way forward in addressing the synergistic effects of contaminants and their impacts on ecosystem and human health.

INTERNATIONAL ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED BOARD

29. Commissioners received an update on New Brunswick Power’s plans to seek approval to decommissioning the Milltown dam and on Woodland Pulp’s proposed decommissioning of the Forest City Dam. The board outlined its recent activities and outlined the thrust of its IWI projects.

ACCREDITED OFFICERS OF THE ST. MARY AND MILK RIVERS

30. Commissioners received an update on the activities of the Accredited Officers (AOs) and the Field Representatives of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers. Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the AO recommendations report on the evaluation of their Administrative Procedures and committed to providing feedback to the AOs. Commissioners requested that the AOs submit a more detailed cost estimate for the recommended investigations, including costs associated with an assessment of potential socio and cultural impacts and an inclusive process to involving Indigenous communities in the basin.



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

BOARD APPEARANCES AGENDA

International Joint Commission Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

**Canadian Section Office
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6
Phone: (613) 995-2984
Fax: (613) 993-5583**

October 22-24, 2019

TUESDAY, October 22

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|----------------------------|---|
| <i>3:45-4:45 PM</i> | <i>International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and
International Columbia River Board of Control</i> |
| <i>4:45-5:30 PM</i> | <i>International Kootenay Lake Board of Control</i> |
| <i>5:30 PM</i> | <i>Adjourn Board Adjourns</i> |

WEDNESDAY, October 23

- 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*** *Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management
Committee: International Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River
Board of Control, International Niagara Board of Control, and
International Lake Superior Board of Control*
- 11:30 am -
12:30 pm*** *International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board*
- 12:30-1:30 pm*** *Lunch*
- 1:30-2:30 pm*** *International Red River Board*
- 2:30-3:30 pm*** *International Souris River Board*
- 3:45-4:45 pm*** *International Souris River Study Board*
- 4:45 pm*** *Adjourn Board Appearances*

THURSDAY, October 24

- 8:30-9:30 am*** *Lake Champlain Richelieu River Study Board*
- 9:30-10:45 am*** *Great Lakes Water Quality Board*
- 10:45-11:00 am*** *Health Break*
- 11:00-11:45 am*** *Health Professionals Advisory Board*
- 11:45 am -*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research Coordination*
12:30 pm *Committee*
- 12:30-1:45 pm*** *Lunch*
- 1:45-2:30 pm*** *Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Science Priority*
Committee
- 2:30-3:00 pm*** *Great Lakes Water Quality Board, Great Lakes Science*
Advisory Board, Health Professionals Advisory Board
- 3:00-3:45 pm*** *International St. Croix River Watershed Board*
- 3:45-4:00 pm*** *Health Break*
- 4:00-5:00 pm*** *Accredited Officer of the St. Mary-Milk Rivers*
- 5:00 pm*** *Adjourn Board Appearances*