

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
Executive Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
January 28-30, 2020

The International Joint Commission met in Executive Session at the Canadian Section Office in Ottawa, Ontario, January 28-29, 2020, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST, and on January 30, 2020, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 EST with Pierre Beland in the Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Jane Corwin	Chair, U.S. Section
Pierre Beland	Chair, Canadian Section
Lance Yohe	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Henry Lickers	Commissioner, Canadian Section
Rob Sisson	Commissioner, U.S. Section
Merrell-Ann Phare	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
Christine Blanchet	Legal Advisor, Canadian Section
Kevin Bunch	Writer-Communications Specialist, U.S. Section
Pierre-Yves Caux	Director, Science and Engineering, Canadian Section
Christina Chiasson	Policy and Communications Analyst, Canadian Section
Mark Colosimo	Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section
Russell Consor	Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Caron de Mars	Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Section
Susan Daniel	Legal Advisor, U.S. Section
Antonette Dunston	Special Assistant, U.S. Section
Anthony Frio	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Adam Greeley	AAAS Fellow, U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Policy Advisor, Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Senior Engineer Advisor, Canadian Section
Tristan Lecompte	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Catherine Lee-Johnston	Environmental Officer, Canadian Section
Mark Leiva	Network Specialist, U.S. Section
Robert Phillips	Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Adviser, Canadian Section
Isabelle Reid	Executive Assistant, Canadian Section

Victor Serveiss	Environmental Advisor, U.S. Section
Carole Smith	Policy & External Relations, Canadian Section
John Yee	Chief, IM/IT Services, Canadian Section
Shane Zurbrigg	Legal Advisor, Canadian 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
Ryan Graydon	Sea Grant Fellow
Diane Varosky	Administrative Coordinator
Allison Voglesong-Zejnati	Communications Advisor
Li Wang	Physical Scientist
John Wilson	Physical Scientist

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1. Commissioners approved the agenda with the addition of two information items.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10-12, 2019, EXECUTIVE MEETING

2. Commissioners approved as amended the minutes of the December 10-12, 2019, executive meeting.

OUTSTANDING CORRESPONDENCE

3. Commissioners reviewed the list of unanswered IJC letters to governments and agreed that no government response is expected concerning the October 2016 transmittal of an IJC white paper on transboundary water quality.

ACTION ITEM LIST, COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES LIST, AND COORDINATED CALENDAR

4. Commissioners reviewed the updated IJC Action Item List, the coordinated calendar, Communications activities and requested a number of additions to both calendars.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

5. Commissioners received an update on the implementation of the IJC's IM IT Strategy and discussed next steps including the establishment of a shared work site for Commissioners.

INTERNATIONAL LAKE ONTARIO-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BOARD

6. Commissioners received an update on hydrologic conditions in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin, discussed challenges posed by the current structure of the ILOSLRB and possible options to foster more effective and consensus-based decision making. Commissioners reviewed the status of the board's efforts to assess potential maximum outflow strategies for spring 2020 and discussed ongoing cooperation with the St. Lawrence Seaway corporations. Commissioners also received an update on recent meetings with elected officials in the US. and in Canada and on key correspondence received since the December 2019 executive meeting relating to Plan 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN COMMISSION REPORTS

7. Commissioners received a summary of past efforts to assess the implementation success of IJC recommendations to governments. Commissioners requested that staff draft guidance and criteria for consideration at the March Executive meeting, to assist the IJC and its boards in formulating more effective recommendations. In the interim, all draft reports coming forward to Commissioners should strive to incorporate SMART criteria for recommendations to the extent feasible.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR IJC PRIORITIES AND OBLIGATIONS

8. Commissioners discussed their recently released Commissioner priorities in light of ongoing activities and obligations and requested that staff, where possible, incorporate the overarching goals of these priorities with ongoing activities and obligations.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT

9. Commissioners received a briefing on preparations for a meeting in February with the Grand Council Treaty #3 and received a status update of advisors' efforts to develop an inventory of national and regional indigenous organisations, their water mandate, and key activities. Plans were finalized for a workshop on U.S. tribal issues, which will be held on March 5, 2020, in Windsor, Ontario, on the margins of the March Executive meeting.

INTERNATIONAL WATERSHED INITIATIVE

10. Commissioners received a briefing on criteria used for an IJC board to qualify as a watershed board and agreed on a process for advancing recognition of the IRRB and the ISRB as watershed boards. Commissioners agreed to seek an update from the governments on the outstanding request for recognition of these boards as watershed boards.

BALLAST WATER

11. Commissioners considered possible IJC support for the Great Lakes Commission's initiative to facilitate a workshop on binational implementation of ballast water standards and decided against IJC involvement in the initiative.

GREAT LAKES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. Commissioners received an update on GLAM Committee activities including the expedited evaluation of the performance of Plan 2014 and the development of the 12-year strategy. Commissioners noted that \$1.5 million U.S. has been made available for the expedited evaluation in the U.S. Section's FY 2020 budget, which has freed up the equivalent Canadian funds being held in abeyance. Commissioners requested updates to the GLAM work plan prior to its posting and discussed the need for indigenous knowledge and perspective to be brought to bear in the GLAM work. Commissioners approved in principle the establishment of the GLAM public advisory group subject to Commissioner review and approval of the proposed membership and Terms of Reference.

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING WITH GOVERNMENTS ON RESILIENCY

13. Commissioners received a read out of the January 24, 2020, intersessional meeting with the Department of State and Global Affairs Canada on the issue of resiliency writ large, with a particular focus for the need for increased resiliency in the Great Lakes Basin. Commissioners discussed how the IJC might approach the issue of resiliency in the Great lakes and directed Secretaries to provide the Department of State and Global Affairs with Commissioners' views on the topic.

INTERNATIONAL RED RIVER BOARD NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

14. Commissioners received a read out of the January 16, 2020, public hearing in Fargo, ND, on the board's nutrient management strategy and discussed preparations for a second public hearing to be held in Winnipeg, Canada, on February 12, 2020. Commissioners asked legal advisors to provide clarification on the Commission's hearing process, particularly with respect to technical presentations by witnesses and the possibility for Commissioners to engage in clarification discussions.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Lake Champlain-Lake Memphremagog Water Quality Study

Commissioners received an update on preparations for producing the IJC's report on the study, which is to be submitted to governments in mid-April 2020.

B. Health Professionals Advisory Board

Commissioners received an update on the status of the work being undertaken by GLRO staff to update the board's July 2018 draft report on the Health impacts of selenium, which is expected to be ready for board review in April 2020. Commissioners discussed preliminary considerations from the Board and staff regarding an overview of mining in transboundary watersheds and concluded that background work needed to be done by the Commission before the board could consider a more focused project. Commissioners noted that the fish consumption advisory project is in the initial stages of implementation in partnership with the Akwesasne and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

DECISIONS TAKEN VIA POLLING

Health Professionals Advisory Board

On January 20, 2020, Commissioners approved the reappointment of Dr. Laurie Chan as the Canadian co-chair of the board for a two-year term, effective from January 20, 2020, to January 19, 2022, and the appointment of Dr. Sharon Nappier to be a U.S. member of the board for a three-year term, effective from January 15, 2020, to January 14, 2023.

International Red River Board

On January 13, 2020, Commissioners approved holding a public hearing on the board's nutrient management strategy in Canada at a time to be determined.

International Red River Board

On December 31, 2019, Commissioners approved a letter to five Minnesota municipalities concerning the board's nutrient management strategy. In the letter, the commission informed the municipalities that it would hold a public hearing on the strategy in Fargo, North Dakota, on January 16, 2020.

Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River

On December 23, 2019, Commissioners approved a response to letters for U.S. Congressmen Anthony Brindisi, John Katco, and Joseph Morelle in which the congressmen asked a number of questions related to the operations of Plan 2014 and the commission's approach to addressing the high water levels on Lake Ontario.

Water Quality Board

On December 20, 2019, Commissioners approved the Water Quality Board's post-release engagement plan for the board's recently approved report entitled *Oversight of Animal Feeding Operations for Manure Management in the Great Lakes*.

JC approved Dec 2 2019, RS approved Dec 2 2019, LY approved Dec 2 2019

PB approved Dec 2 2019, MAP approved Dec 20 2019, HL approved Dec 4 2019



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section



Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section