

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



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Canada et États-Unis

August 3, 2016

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Dear Board Co-chairs:

On July 26th, 2016 the commission received the attached letter from Global Affairs Canada and the Department of State conveying the governments' decision to address water quality issues in the Lake of the Woods basin through the development and implementation of a binational science plan for the basin supported by state, provincial and federal agencies. We understand that governments used our Plan of Study as a basis for drafting the Binational Science Plan, but the commission was not consulted during its development.

In their correspondence, the governments further indicate that Environment and Climate Change Canada will undertake the Canadian portion of the binational science plan while the U.S. portion will be led and coordinated by the State of Minnesota in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5.

While the letter from governments indicates that the binational science plan will yield information of relevance to phosphorus reduction and toxic and nuisance algae in the Lake of the Woods, the letter does not specify if or how other water quality issues identified by the commission in its January 2015 report to governments will be addressed.

You will note that the governments indicate that they would like to work closely with the commission to further define the role for the commission, suggesting that this role could include stakeholder engagement and consultation processes to help governments achieve their goals for the Lake of the Woods. The commission is interested in early and continued discussions with the board as the commission considers what the role of the commission and the board might be in support of the plan.

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As the Board will be holding its Public Meetings on August 10th in Kenora, Ontario we would strongly encourage you to invite representatives from governments, including the agencies involved in the development and implementation of the binational science plan, to address the public during the scheduled update on the status of the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Plan of Study. We also believe that these representatives should address the Board during the scheduled meeting with Resource Management Agencies. The commission was not involved in the preparation of the plan, nor has it had an opportunity to review the plan, and as such the commission is not in a position to provide an update.

Sincerely,



Camille Mageau
Secretary, Canadian Section



Charles A. Lawson
Secretary, U. S. Section

Attachment: July 26th, 2016 letter from governments

Cc: Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik, Canadian Secretary, IRLWWB
Scott Jutila, U.S. Secretary, IRLWWB
Christopher Sandrolini, Director, Canadian Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Christopher Wilkie, Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs, Global Affairs Canada



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

July 26, 2016

Commissioner Gordon Walker
Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
22nd Floor, 234 Laurier Ave West
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Commissioner Lana Pollack
U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
2000 L St. NW, Suite 615
Washington D.C. 20036

Dear Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Pollack,

On behalf of the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States, we would like to express our appreciation for the Commission's report: A Water Quality Plan of Study for the Lake of the Woods Basin. We were pleased to receive the Commission's advice and recommendations, transmitted to Governments in January 2015.

Canada and the United States have carefully reviewed the recommendations provided by the Commission. Based on this review, Canada and the United States have decided that the preferred approach to addressing water quality issues in the basin is for governments—including the states and provinces—to develop and implement a binational science plan for the basin. The governments reached this conclusion in part due to the significant ongoing investment by the State of Minnesota in scientific study in its share of the basin.

The funding announced in the Canadian 2016 Budget regarding the response to the Lake of the Woods Plan of Study is to be provided to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to undertake the Canadian portion of this binational science plan. The U.S. portion of the plan is to be led and coordinated by the State of Minnesota, in close consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 office. We are confident that a binational science plan will enable the Canadian and U.S. governments to determine the phosphorous reductions required to address toxic and nuisance algae in the Lake of the Woods.

Through this binational approach, Lake of the Woods residents will benefit from nutrient monitoring and trans-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration on science already underway. The science undertaken for Lake of the Woods will contribute to a larger body of research that could benefit those beyond this Basin.

In addition, given the important relationship the Commission has built with stakeholders in the basin, we recognize that the Commission has a valuable role to play in helping governments

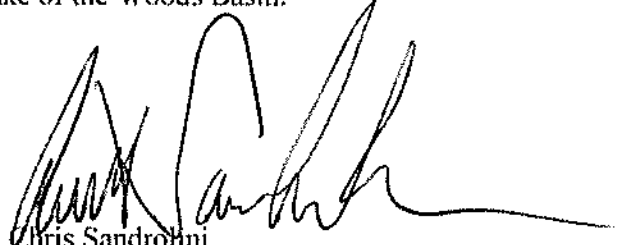
achieve their goals for the Lake of the Woods. We would like to work closely with you to further define the role for the Commission, including with respect to stakeholder engagement and consultation processes to help achieve our goals.

The governments greatly value the work of the IJC, both as an advisor and as an important contributor to the management of transboundary water issues. We look forward to discussing the role of the Commission in the governments' work in the Lake of the Woods Basin.

Sincerely,



Christopher Wilkie
Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs Division
Global Affairs Canada



Chris Sandronni
Director, Office of Canadian Affairs
United States Department of State

CC: Ms. Camille Mageau, Secretary, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission
Mr. Chuck Lawson, Secretary, American Section, International Joint Commission