

MINUTES OF THE SECOND PUBLIC INTEREST ADVISORY GROUP
CONFERENCE CALL
December 18, 2007

Note: Action Items are shown as bold and are provided as a summary in Attachment 9.

Kay Felt and Jim Bruce convened the call at approximately 2:02 p.m.

I. Approval of Agenda

Mary Muter requested that discussion of the 1993 Levels Reference Study be included on the Agenda. Kay Felt noted that summaries of that report and the 1976 IJC Report to the Governments of Canada and the United States were discussed at the November 3 meeting and referenced in the minutes. Hearing no objection, she agreed to include both reports under "Other Business." The Members approved the Agenda as so amended (**Attachment 1**).

II. Roll Call

PIAG Members: James Bruce, co-Chair, Kay Felt, co-Chair, James Anderson, Douglas Cuddy, Dick Hibma, John Jackson, Don Marles, Kenneth Higgs, Bill Hryb, David Irish, Mary Muter, David Powers, Roger Smithe, Dan Thomas, Sam Speck, Alan Steinman and Jeff Vito. Dan Tadgerson and James Weakley did not participate.

IJC Participants: , Ted Yuzyk, Canadian Study Leader; Tony Eberhardt, U.S. Study Manager; Syed Moin, Canadian, Study Manager; John Nevin. IJC Public Information Officer and Tom Black, Public Information Officer.

III. Approval of Minutes (Attachment 2)

Don Marles expressed concern about PIAG appearing to endorse at the beginning of the Study guiding principles for action to be taken; it implies that PIAG will not ask the Study Board to alter any of the current regulations or approve alterations the Study Board may recommend. It was noted that while this language was in an earlier version of the minutes, it was removed from the version circulated to PIAG by e-mail on December 14, 2007. **It was the consensus that in the future, each version of the minutes circulated to PIAG be dated.** Upon motion by Kenneth Higgs, the minutes of the meeting of PIAG held in Toronto, Ontario, on November 3, 2007, were approved in the form circulated on December 14, 2007.

IV. Review of Work on PIAG Public Meeting Schedule

- John Nevin presented a discussion paper (**Attachment 3**) and said meetings of other organizations (**Attachment 4**) have been collected from calendars of the IJC, IUGLS, Army Corps of Engineers, and other groups. He asked for the PIAG's input. The Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative were discussed as possibly offering the IUGLS a public forum during their conferences. John Nevin said an official from the Cities Initiative expressed an interest in having Jim Bruce present to its annual meeting July 16-18 in Toronto. John said the Fisheries Commission was not receptive to hosting an IUGLS presentation in conjunction with its meeting, but he will discuss with their leaders the potential of a separate presentation to be held at the time of the meeting.
- John Nevin also distributed a proposed 2008 schedule of IUGLS-hosted public meetings (**Attachment 5**). The University of Toledo's Great Lakes Center and University of Windsor were discussed as possible meeting places. A meeting in Toledo would effectively engage residents

living near Lake Erie, and a Windsor meeting could address the St. Clair River issue. There was agreement to move the Saginaw Bay meeting to June.

- Members agreed it is important to include Lake Erie among the public meetings. The extent to which lower water levels affect flow into Lake Erie is an issue of great interest to those residing near Lake Erie. Suggested other meeting locations included Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio; Leamington, Ontario; and a joint Buffalo, N.Y.-Fort Erie, Ontario meeting. Several members agreed that March would be the best time to schedule Lake Erie communities, but Kay Felt spoke in support of April in light of potential weather conditions. A discussion ensued on whether Lake Erie meetings should be held later so PIAG would have more to discuss about the preliminary report on the St. Clair River in January 2009, but several PIAG members stated it is better to allow the public to provide input during the course of the study so they know their concerns will be taken into consideration. **John Nevin will evaluate further suggestions and report back to the PIAG soon.**
- Kay Felt reported on the meeting she, John Nevin, and Tom Black had on December 18 with Charles Hersey, a manager from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a membership organization consisting of 156 local and 7 county governments in Southeast Michigan. She said working with SEMCOG is a good way to engage the public on issues such as climate change and to bring together diverse interests within its constituency. It was agreed that PIAG should also reach out to the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association.
- A discussion was held on PIAG's outreach efforts to elected officials. PIAG members have written thank you letters to members of Parliament, Congress, and their staff members for meeting with Study representatives to learn more about the Study and discuss future cooperative endeavors. Efforts will be made to have elected officials host and publicize public meetings for Study overview presentations and a dialogue with the public.
- PIAG is in agreement that it is a priority to hold meetings on both sides of the border as soon as possible, as well as meetings shortly after issuance of the semi-annual report in April. Several members stated that when year-round residents are in the majority, winter or spring would be the best time since many residents might go elsewhere during the summer months. Little Current was suggested as the location for the Manitoulin Island meeting. Several PIAG members agreed Midland, Ontario, would also be an appropriate location for the week of July 14. The consensus was these meetings generally need to take place on weekdays in the early evening.
- Technology to link residents on opposite sides of the border was discussed. John Nevin said that at least during the Study's first year, efforts should be made by the lead presenter to engage people in person or they may feel they are being shortchanged. Many PIAG members concurred.
- Querying local residents by correspondence in advance of the meetings was discussed as a way to learn of their issues of concern. John Nevin said advance legwork is essential; PIAG must not be perceived as quickly dropping in, then leaving abruptly. He added visits to newspaper editorial boards could be planned in conjunction with the public meetings. There was agreement that it is preferable to include presenters who are from the same country as their audience. Distributing documents with addresses of Web resources, Frequently Asked Questions, and historical water level information would be an important aspect of public meetings.

Tom Black provided an update on the communications plan, including a brief report on Study presentations to federal legislators in the U.S. and Canada. A graphics design firm has been selected to design the IUGLS logo, and work has started on the newsletter. Several articles have been written and other story ideas were discussed. No decision has been made on whether to pay to have a newsletter template designed or how production will be handled. John Nevin stated he has been in touch with Cision, a company used by the IJC's Ottawa office that offers an extensive media list data base including TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, and newsletters; as well as contact information for reporters, editors, and news directors including their preferred method of receiving news releases and photographs. The IJC may be willing to share the cost of this service. Tom Black mentioned the brochure on the IUGLS website has been rewritten and could also be improved graphically. He asked for a photo of the IUGLS stand-up display to help him seek bids on an improved banner and display. **Syed Moin will send him a PDF photo of the display, and Tom Black will investigate the cost for improvements.**

VI. Technical Work Group Liaisons (Attachment 6)

Kay Felt said efforts were made to give members their preferred choices, but a few spots remain to be filled. Dan Thomas and David Irish both will serve as United States Recreational Boating and Tourism liaisons. Doug Cuddy volunteered to serve as TWG Liaison for Canada. Kay Felt asked for volunteers to serve as Hydropower liaisons. Don Marles and Jeff Vito volunteered to be the Hydropower liaisons for Canada and the United States, respectively.

VII. Reports regarding other recent meetings

- a) **St. Clair River Task Team:** Mary Muter said there was discussion about 1-D and 2-D models being set up, and difficulties getting the 2007 St. Clair River bathymetry corrected for modeling purposes. Professor Marcelo Garcia of the University of Illinois urged the use of 3-D modeling. Kay Felt was encouraged by the dedication and enthusiasm of the participants; she stated there is concern about assembling the data in a compressed time frame. She expressed reservations about 3-D modeling because it may increase the likelihood of error, and noted that there is not unanimity in the Task Team about whether it is necessary. It has been recommended by Study leadership that peer reviewers should evaluate whether to proceed with expanded 2-D modeling, as recommended by the Task Team, or to employ 3-D modeling. Syed Moin mentioned Professor Garcia is preparing a white paper to address the 3-D modeling issue.
- b) **Sault Ste. Marie Public Meeting December 5:** John Nevin reported that he, Syed Moin, and Ted Yuzyk presented at the meeting, which was organized by Members of Parliament (MPs) and attended by about 75 people. Concerns about bottled water seemed to be upper most on the minds of attendees.
- c) **Oslo Nobel Prize ceremony:** Jim Bruce reported on the activities, calling it a "great event." Former Vice President Al Gore and International Panel on Climate Change Chairman Dr. Rajenda Pachauri spoke, and there was a large demonstration of support for the IPCC in front of the hotel. Jim described many of the events and activities that took place. Kay Felt thanked James Anderson for distributing an *Ottawa Citizen* article about Jim Bruce.
- d) **Briefing with Members of Parliament:** Jim Bruce reported on a November 20 meeting with members of Parliament. Joining him from the Study were Syed Moin and Ted Yuzyk. MPs from the coastal areas of lakes Superior and Huron were present. Most of the feedback was positive; the only negative feedback came from the Thunder Bay MP who disagrees with the initial focus on the St. Clair River and wishes more attention were being paid to Lake Superior. Jim Bruce assured him the Study is paying attention to Lake Superior even while focusing on the St. Clair River. He said all three political parties with seats in the Parliament were represented at the meeting.
- e) **Congressional and U.S. Senate Briefings:** Kay Felt reported on the November 8-9 briefings in Washington to aides for Senators and U.S. Representatives, as well as members

of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Eugene Stakhiv, Tony Eberhardt, and John Nevin presented with her. Democrats and Republicans were represented about equally, and were receptive. Kay Felt also met with staff members from a member of Congress whose district includes Detroit and the Grosse Pointes. An effort will be made to schedule future public meetings with constituents, and to contact other staff members we have not yet reached.

VIII. Correspondence

a) PIAG Support Letter on Gauging Stations. A copy of a letter prepared by Jim Bruce and Kay Felt was circulated to PIAG (**Attachment 7**). This letter is intended to be sent to IJC Canadian Chair Hon. Herb Gray, and Acting U.S. Chair Irene Brooks. It is in support of the request of the Study Board that the IJC recommend to the U.S. and Canadian governments expeditious installation of these gauges for use during the Study, and that the governments arrange for permanent funding to maintain these gauges following the completion of the Study. The Study Board was pleased to report that the St. Clair River gauge has already been installed.

b) Follow up Letters of Briefings to Parliament and Congress. Samples of these letters which have been sent to the persons who attended the briefings earlier this Fall were circulated (**Attachment 8**).

IX. Other Business – 1993 Levels Reference Study and 1976 IJC Report to the Governments of Canada and the United States.

John Nevin produced a slide used in Gene Stakhiv's November 3 presentation regarding conclusions of the 1993 Levels Reference Study and the 1976 IJC Report to the Governments of Canada and the United States. Kay Felt stated she believed Dr. Stakhiv's point was to emphasize the IJC's authority to take action is limited to what is within the scope of previously issued orders. Gene had also pointed out that most water control structures have a negative benefit-cost ratio; the Great Lakes are a large, self-regulating system, and human intervention cannot significantly modify variations in water level. Mary Muter had several questions about appendices to the final report and why they were not posted on the website. She also questioned the mathematical accuracy on page 12 of the report. **Syed Moin said they will be posted on the website. John Nevin promised to send PIAG members the Executive Summary of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study.**

X. Roundtable

Kay Felt led the closing Roundtable. In addition to general statements about the progress of the meeting and work of PIAG, the following specific comments were made.

Doug Cuddy – Encouraged Study to reach out to scientists in the fisheries field.

Bill Hryb – Welcomes James Weakley as the Commercial Navigation TWG Liaison.

David Powers – Asked what the next step is on TWGs. Kay Felt said **Syed Moin will notify TWG leaders of PIAG members' assignments, and the assigned PIAG members will receive documentation and notice of meetings they might want to attend.**

Syed Moin – Two upcoming meetings: on January 14-15, the Lake Superior Task Team meets in Burlington, Ontario; and on February 19-20, the St. Clair River Task Team meets in Port Huron, Michigan. He suggested we pick a date for next conference call. A tentative date will be in late January following the Study Board's meeting on January 29-31, 2008.

Kay Felt – More efforts should be made by PIAG to improve communications with the Great Lakes Commission.

Alan Steinman – PIAG should reach out to the Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Canada.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Kay Felt adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Attachment 1

International Upper Great Lakes Study
Public Information Advisory Group
Conference Call **Amended** Agenda
Tuesday, December 18, 2007
2:00 – 3:30 pm

Toll Free: 1-866-352-2219
Code: 384921#

Type of Meeting: PIAG Conference Call #2
Meeting facilitators: Kay Felt/Jim Bruce
Invitees: All PIAG Members & Study Team

- I. Approval of Agenda (Felt)**
- II. Roll Call (Felt)**
- III. Approval of the PIAG meeting minutes of November 3, 2007 (Felt)**
- IV. Review work to date on PIAG public meeting schedule (Nevin)**
- V. Review work to date on Communications Plan (Nevin & Black)**
- VI. Finalize Technical Work Group liaison assignments (Moin)**
- VII. Receive reports regarding other recent meetings**
 - a. Congressional and Parliamentary briefings in Washington, DC and Ottawa (Felt and Bruce)**
 - b. St. Clair River Task Team Meeting in Sarnia (Muter and Felt)**
 - c. Sault Ste. Marie, ON public meeting convened by MP Martin (Yuzyk, Moin, Nevin, see attached news article)**
 - d. Oslo Nobel Prize ceremony (Bruce)**
- VIII. Correspondence**
 - a. PIAG support letter regarding gauging stations (attached)**
 - b. Follow up to briefings of Congress and Parliament (attached)**
- IX. Other Business**
 - a. 1993 Levels Reference Study**
 - b. 1976 IJC Report to the Governments of Canada and the U.S.**
- X. Adjournment**

Attachment 2

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND PIAG MEETING
Sheraton Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto, Ontario
3 November 2007**

Note: Action Items are shown as bold and are provided as a summary in Attachment 4.

1. Approval of Agenda (Attachment 1)

James Bruce called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Roll Call & Introductions

Kay Felt asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

PIAG Members present were: James Bruce (Canadian Co-Chair), Kay Felt (U.S. Co-Chair), James Anderson, Doug Cuddy, Dick Hibma, Kenneth Higgs, William Hryb, John Jackson, Mary Muter, David Powers, Roger Smithe, Sam Speck, Alan Steinman, Dan Tadgerson, Dan Thomas and Jeff Vito. David Irish, Don Marles and James Weakley were excused.

U.S. Co-Chair Irene Brooks was present as a guest.

Study Co-Leaders present were Eugene Stakhiv and Ted Yuzyk.

Study Co-Managers present were Anthony Eberhardt and Syed Moin.

Public Information Officers present were Thomas Black, Gregory McGillis and John Nevin.

3. Minutes from September 25 PIAG conference call meeting

The minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2007, were approved as presented to the meeting.

4. Status of Action Items

It was requested that PIAG send a letter in support of funding for three permanent International Gauging Stations in the interconnecting channels: St. Mary's, St. Clair and Niagara Rivers, to the respective governments. **John Nevin will coordinate finalization of a letter regarding new gauges** (Attachment 2).

A discussion was held concerning PIAG's planned response to U.S. senators who have expressed concerns about Great Lakes water levels. **Kay Felt will develop a response.**

Items Carried Forward from First Meeting:

A public information officer (PIO) and communications consultant are in place (Tom Black – full-time with part-time assistance from Suzanne Truskowski-Crawford).

John Nevin, Tony Eberhardt, Kay Felt and Gene Stakhiv will make a presentation to congressional staff November 8-9 in Washington, D.C.

5. State of the Great Lakes Water Levels

a) **Past Studies:** Gene Stakhiv presented information about the past studies that have been conducted as to water levels on the Great Lakes.

- 1976 IJC Report to the Governments of Canada and the U.S.: "Further Regulation of the Great Lakes."
- 1993 Levels Reference Study Board Report submitted to the IJC.

Gene Stakhiv reported his synthesis of the results of these studies:

- The Great Lakes are a large, self-regulating system – human intervention cannot significantly modify the extremes in water levels.
- The lakes must be managed as a system with basin-wide regulation, irrespective of political boundaries.

There was discussion of the need for PIAG members to include in their public presentations information about the regulatory structure in which the IJC operates in relation to the two nations and their respective local governments; and that there are regulatory requirements that must be fulfilled before the governments can carry out IJC recommendations.

b) **Current State:** Syed Moin reported on current lake levels. Lakes Michigan and Huron are about 52 cm. below the long-term average. Lake Superior is up 25 cm. since last month. There was interest in PIAG members having access to automatic updates of water levels. **Tony Eberhardt will provide information to PIAG regarding the process to receive these automatic updates.**

6. Topics for Discussion

a) **Semi-Annual Progress Report to the IJC.** Ted Yuzyk covered the accomplishments since April of 2007, which were described in the Study Board's Report.

- First PIAG meeting held on July 31-August 1.
- Three Study Board meetings.
- Meetings of Task Teams and 15 Technical Work Groups
- Revision of the Study plan to shorten the time frame for the St. Clair River part of the Study by one year.
- Memorandum of Understanding reached with Environment Canada.
- Scientific accomplishments.
- Staffing by public information officers and the Study's outreach campaign.

Peer review options were discussed. It was emphasized that although the Co-Leaders and Co-Managers may recommend peer review evaluators, the IJC will be key in the peer review process. Paul Pilon and Mark Colosimo will serve as liaisons between the Study Board and the IJC.

There was a discussion of the process for expediting the St. Clair River part of the Study: Plans call for shifting funding in the early years to address St. Clair River priorities. A preliminary report is anticipated by January of 2009, which will be subject to peer review. June 2009 is the target date for a final report on this portion of the Study. There was discussion of funding delays from the Canadian side that may affect contracting of work and create jurisdictional barriers.

Kay Felt reported on the discussion at the Study Board meeting earlier in the week about the need to be sensitive to issues related to scientific integrity and the compressed timetable. The Study Board, with Commissioner Olson present, emphasized that the Board wants to be informed immediately by the scientists if it appears at any time that the compressed timetable may affect the scientific integrity of the work.

b) Sediment Presentation

Ted Yuzyk reported on the preliminary findings of Dr. Krishnappan who has completed video taping the bottom of a 30-mile portion of the St. Clair River bed which shows that the bed is well armoured and is not eroding at this time. Erosion, therefore, appears not to be a factor in recent declines in water levels. The current work shows that sediment transported by the water flow comes primarily from lower Lake Huron, not the river bed. Further work will be conducted over the next two months on this part of the project.

It was noted that there are prior studies on these issues which will be helpful for comparative purposes, one by David Duane in the 1980s, and another by Lau and Krishnappan ten years later.

The scientific questions for this part of the Study include:

- Is the St. Clair riverbed eroding?
 - Has the conveyance changed?
 - If so, what are the contributing factors?
- c) **Observations on Hydroclimate Workshop.** James Bruce reported on the workshop held on the preceding two days, which many members of PIAG attended.
- d) **PIAG/TWG Liaison.** John Nevin reported on progress in making assignments of PIAG members for Technical Work Group liaison. Progress has been somewhat delayed because a number of PIAG members did not express preferences. **John Nevin, Kay Felt, and James Bruce will assemble an assignment matrix, which they hope to complete by November 9.**

There was a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of PIAG liaisons to a TWG. Liaisons are expected to attend TWG meetings, have a strong interest in the subject matter, be well informed and objective, and refrain from advocating a specific agenda. (Attachment 3)

7. **Outreach Program**

John Nevin and Kay Felt reported on the outreach program that is being developed.

- a) **Information Plan** John Nevin reported on the proposed elements of the information plan:
- PIAG newsletter and plans for an editorial board.
 - A professionally designed logo.
 - Press tours.
 - Progress reports.
 - Letters to key government officials.
 - Protocols for developing and translating messages.

- Regular mail and e-mail lists for distribution.
- Fact sheets, frequently asked questions and a standard PowerPoint presentation for PIAG members.
- Scheduling public meetings of stakeholder organizations.

The key goals are:

- Being proactive and opportunistic.
- Being disciplined about messaging.
- Avoiding politics and confrontation.
- Seeking cooperation.
- Treating science as our friend.

John Nevin will prepare press releases on the new PIAG members.

Tom Black will develop lists including the following: environmental media and editorial writers; city, county, state, provincial and federal officials; interest-related associations; environmental NGOs; relevant conferences, workshops, and other meetings; community water-related events and local chapters of the League of Women Voters.

There was extensive discussion during which several people stated the Plan seems to be more ambitious than PIAG has the resources to accomplish. PIAG asked that John Nevin formalize the specifics of this presentation into a formal Communications Plan. **John Nevin will incorporate the comments received on his presentation into a formal work plan, which PIAG and the Study Board will assess to determine what key items can be accomplished within the budget for communication activities.**

- b) **Public Meetings.** Kay Felt led the discussion on planning for public meetings.
- i) **Format / Scope - Meetings / Workshops:** There was an extensive discussion that covered methods for notifying the public about upcoming meetings, including news releases and possibly a news conference announcing the upcoming meeting lineup. More consideration should be given to the advisability of holding IUGLS public information meetings at the same time as existing public

meetings and conferences, the consensus was that ultimately PIAG should schedule more of its own meetings.

- ii) **Where and When.** Should public meetings be coordinated with upcoming PIAG meetings?

Location ideas included Annis Water Institute at Grand Valley State University in Muskegon, Michigan; Thunder Bay and/or Georgian Bay, Ontario.

There was also discussion of an Army Corps of Engineers presentation being done by study managers for an international audience. **Tony Eberhardt and Syed Moin will continue to work on a draft presentation.**

All PIAG members were asked to provide information to Tom Black on events and conferences at which PIAG members could make presentations. He will also collect information on upcoming public events related to lakes, water, sport fishing, and similar events for this purpose.

Jeff Vito, Jim Anderson, John Jackson and Alan Steinman volunteered to form the first ad hoc group to work with John Nevin and Tom Black regarding planning public meetings.

- iii) **Contacts to Date.** Public meetings have not previously been scheduled in anticipation of the addition of public information officer staff, which has now been accomplished.

8. Other Business

- a) **Communications and Responses.** John Nevin reviewed the communications received from and responses to the following:
- i) IJC
 - ii) U.S. Senators
 - iii) Great Lakes Commission Resolution
 - iv) Georgian Bay Association
- b) **Media Scan - Distribution:** Ted Yuzyk reviewed media coverage. To date there have been some 125 news articles related to low water levels, the so called “drainhole” and the Study. There has been considerably more press coverage than with the previous Study. If PIAG members wish to receive the list of press clippings, they should contact Tom Black.

- c) **Report on the Web Site.** Syed Moin reported that the website HYPERLINK: <http://www.iugls.org> has been in operation for five months, with a steady increase in hits and pages viewed. In the last week the site had 15,000 hits in one day. There are plans to make it more interactive.

9. **Roundtable**

Jim Bruce led the following Roundtable.

Irene Brooks – Impressed with progress being made so far.

Dick Hibma – Regrets inability to attend the climate workshop; looks forward to Canadian conference.

Doug Cuddy – Enjoyed climate change workshop; things are going well; he looks forward to TWG involvement.

Alan Steinman – Will mention PIAG and IUGLS on his radio show; will brief U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra's staff; noted two upcoming conferences: August 2008 in Milwaukee - Ecological Society of America (many Great Lakes issues); and May 2009 in Grand Rapids - North American Benthological Society.

Kenneth Higgs – A little disappointed with dearth of climate information given that the IJC was established in 1909; seems like a long time not to have gauges established. RE: Logo: be careful not to separate this Study from other studies; it's part of an ongoing process.

William Hryb – Public Information people are integral in the Study. The public is savvy; our message must be terse, tight, and correct. If we don't give media the right information, we are in danger of losing public confidence. Teamwork is crucial.

Mary Muter – Appreciates opportunity for Rob Nairn to present Baird findings; believes that was basis on which St. Clair River task was added to IUGLS.

James Anderson – Wants a "state of the science" event, in particular ecosystem sciences.

Jeff Vito – Anxious to get involved; very interesting; outstanding people to work with.

John Jackson – Challenging, looking forward to it.

Roger Smithe – Impressed with the meeting; thanked Canada for their hospitality. We want people to be up to date on the Study, not in the dark, but we don't want people to get incomplete, out-of-context information.

Sam Speck – Feels good about the expertise that has been brought to bear; confident we will be successful.

David Powers – Has Bay City Times environmental reporter next door to his office. Wants to be well-informed in anticipation of plethora of questions.

10. Next Meetings

The next PIAG meeting will be held in 2008 at a date to be determined, probably in early March so that activities and reporting can be in the next Semi-Annual Report to the IJC, which is due the week of April 14.

A conference call was scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 at 2 p.m. EST, in part to finalize meeting dates and locations. **John Nevin will coordinate the conference call logistics.**

11. Adjournment.

PIAG adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attachment 3

IUGLS Public Interest Advisory Group Proposed Public Meetings Discussion Paper 2008

Background

Public meetings are a key component of the public participation strategy and are signal opportunities to provide information to the public about the Study process and findings and to enhance public understanding of system regulation.¹ Just as important, public meetings allow people to express their views about key issues and Study objectives as well as their priorities and preferences and to contribute local expertise and information.

Given that the Study has two basic components – understanding possible physical changes in the St. Clair River and evaluating possible changes to the regulation of outflows from Lake Superior – the nature and scope of public meetings must reflect the ongoing needs of the Study. Therefore, meetings in 2008 will focus on the St. Clair River question but must also begin the process of gathering public input regarding possible regulation plans.

The acceleration of the Study has also created a challenge for Study managers. Indeed, completing work in a shorter time frame amplifies the need to have an efficient and effective strategy to include the public. But at the same time, Study managers need to be focused on completing the scientific work and analyzing results so that reports will be on time.

Issues for Discussion

1. It has been recommended that the Study capitalize on opportunities to provide information about the Study process and to hear from the public at events hosted by other organizations. PIAG co-chairs will be responsible for determining which events will be covered and who will attend on behalf of IUGLS (in consultation with the Study Board). We need assistance filling out this list of events. (Attachment 1 -- preliminary list of events. Send additions to Tom Black at blackt@windsor.ijc.org)
2. Given the logistical and financial challenges of holding public meetings, efforts should be made to solicit public officials (members of Congress and Parliament, state and provincial officials, mayors) willing to host and to publicize meetings in their constituencies. Please provide suggestions on public officials and communities that might be most receptive.
3. It has been suggested that at least one public meeting on each side of the border sponsored by the Study be held as soon as possible. In addition, public meetings should be held following the two semi-annual reports in 2008 so that important, initial findings can be delivered directly to the public.² Other meetings should be held in peak summer season to maximize participation. Are there any other timing issues that should be considered? (Attachment 3 - preliminary list of sites)
4. How best do we take advantage of technology to connect distant sites but allow for the Study to reach people on an individual basis where they live? While technological

¹ The IJC “Guidance to the Study Board on Communication and Public Participation” directs the Study Board and PIAG to facilitate public participation, including efforts to make the public aware of the Study and to provide opportunities for the public to participate in the study.

² Semi-annual reports will be presented to the IJC the week of April 14th and the week of

options may allow for additional sites to be linked, participants may feel disconnected and possibly “shortchanged” without personal attention (indeed, one on one discussion before and after is often more productive than the meeting). The attached schedule does not propose any meetings to be linked electronically but these can be incorporated as relationships are developed and the public is more engaged in the study process.

5. What is the best time of day for these meetings? Should they all be in the evening? Can some be during the day (summer meetings)? Should any be on Saturday?
6. Who should participate? Is it necessary for presenters to be binational? PIAG members living within close proximity should attend, but should other PIAG members also participate?
7. How do we incorporate other communications tools and opportunities? For example, the attached schedule suggests visits to newspaper editorial boards. Are there other suggestions for contacts/meetings that would help reach out and engage the public? For example, should we meet with local RAP group?
8. Simple, professionally-designed handouts must be developed for distribution at public meetings, including an updated brochure, FAQs, historical information about water levels, tabletop display, etc. In addition, a model presentation must be developed (based on our presentations to Congress and Parliament) and updated as new information becomes available. What other materials should be made available to the public to facilitate their input?

Attachment 4

Meetings of other Organizations

DATE/LOCATION	MEETING/ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFO.
Jan. 14-18 Traverse City, MI	Marine Industry Days & Science Vessel Workshop	Mark Burrows (IJC)
Jan. 24 Washington, DC	Great Lakes Environmental Summit	Northeast Midwest Institute
Feb. 11-12 Burlington, ON	43rd Central CA Symposium on Water Quality Research	CCIW
Feb. 20-21 Cleveland, OH	Great Lakes Marine Community Day	US Coast Guard
Feb. 26-28 Washington, DC	Great Lakes Commission Meeting & Great Lakes Day	Tim Eder, 734-971-9135
March 6-7 Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield, WI	American Water Resource Assn. Wisconsin Section	Syed Moin
April 22-23 Toronto, ON	Energy 2100: Making the Lakes Great	
May 5-7 Cornwall, ON	15th Conference on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Ecosystem	Tom McAuley (IJC)
May 18-22 Atlantic City, NJ	Water Environment Federation National Conference	
May 19-23, 2008 Peterborough, ON	IAGLR Conference on Great Lakes Research	Chris Metcalfe 705-748-1011
June (TBD) TBD	Great Lakes United Annual Meeting	John Jackson
July 16-18 Toronto, ON	Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting	Dave Ullrich
Aug. 24-27, 2008 Ottawa, ON	Association of Municipalities of Ontario	Dick Hibma
September (TBD) Milwaukee, WI	HOW Great Lakes Restoration Conference	Alliance for the Great Lakes
October 6-7 Quebec City, QC	Great Lakes Commission Annual Meeting	Tim Eder
October 21-23 Niagara Falls, ON	SOLEC	EPA
November (TBD) Chicago, IL	Urban Nearshore Habitat Restoration Conference	GLs Fishery Commission
Nov. 14-16, 2008	A.D. Latornell Conference Alliston, ON	Dick Hibma

Attachment 5

Proposed 2008 Schedule of IUGLS Hosted Public Meetings

Week of February 11th

Day 1	Windsor, ON
Day 2	St. Clair Shores or Grosse Pointe (Detroit area), MI
Day 3	Saginaw Bay (Bay City?), MI

Reason: Largest metropolitan area affected by the St. Clair River question plus a key Lake Huron constituency. Two crews could cover Windsor and Detroit on one night (instead of two) but the first hearings should stress the binational, comprehensive nature of the study and include key personnel from both sides of the boundary. Instead of stretching our capabilities, every effort should be made to get these done right. We can take advantage of the full day in the Detroit/Windsor area on Day 2 to visit editorial boards at the major newspapers (and others, time permitting). Editorial boards in Flint, Saginaw and Bay City could also be covered on Day 3.

Week of April 28th

Day 1	Sarnia, ON
Day 2	Port Huron, MI
Day 3	Muskegon, MI
Day 4	PIAG Meeting in Muskegon

Reason: Key region adjacent to the St. Clair River with keen interest in the initial findings of the study. Muskegon hearing begins the process of collecting the views of Lake Michigan residents. Day 1 and 2 could be condensed with separate crews going to either side of the boundary. PIAG meets in Muskegon on Day 4, so they could receive a report on the public meetings. Visits to editorial boards in Sarnia and Port Huron would be on Day 2 and upon arrival in Muskegon (and Grand Rapids, time permitting) on Day 3.

Week of June 9th

Day 1	Sault Ste. Marie, MI	Sault Ste. Marie. ON
Day 2	TBD	
Day 3	Thunder Bay, ON	
Day 4	Superior, WI/Duluth, MN	

Reason: For the Lake Superior portion of the study to stay on track, the process of gathering public input in the region must get into high gear. Hearings in the Soo would be done by two separate crews on Day 1, then a combined group would travel to a location TBD for Day 2 and then on to Thunder Bay and Superior/Duluth for Day 3 and Day 4. Superior and Duluth are close enough together to merit just one meeting in either community.

Week of July 14th

Day 1	Parry Sound
Day 2	Owen Sound
Day 3	Manitoulin Island

Reason: Georgian Bay interests should be heard and considered during the peak of the summer season. Day 3 might be a Saturday meeting.

Week of November 10th

Day 1

Chicago, IL

Toronto, ON

Reason: Simultaneous events provide an opportunity to brief the public on the semi-annual progress report in two major media markets in the region. PIAG meeting could also be coordinated with these events.

NOTE

This proposed schedule allows for 17 public meetings divided into 5 sections. There are infinite combinations of these and other locations.

Attachment 6

TWG	PIAG Liaison CA	PIAG Liaison US
Data Verification	Doug Cuddy	Sam Speck
Hydraulic Modeling	Mary Muter	Dan Thomas
Sediment Studies	Dick Hibma	Dan Tadgerson
Ecosystem	John Jackson	Al Steinman
Commercial Navigation	Bill Hryb	Jim Weakley
Water Uses	Don Marles	Jeff Vito
Coastal Zone	Jim Anderson	Roger Smithe
Recreational Boating & Tourism		David Irish
Hydropower		
Plan Evaluation	Ken Higgs	Kay Felt
Hydroclimatic	Jim Bruce	Dave Powers

NOTE: Since there are 11 TWGS, there are spots for 22 liaisons; however, we have only 19 PIAG members, leaving a few openings.

Attachment 8

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

December 12, 2007

Ms. Kelly Reed
Office of Sen. Russell D. Feingold
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Kelly:

On behalf of the International Joint Commission's Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS) Board and Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG), I want to thank you for taking time to attend the Study overview Eugene Stakhiv, John Nevin and I presented in early November.

Many of your constituents have a stake in the Study outcome, including property owners, the shipping industry, the recreational and boating industries, and municipalities, to name a few.

That is why your willingness to listen and learn more about the Study is so much appreciated. Your legislator Sen. Feingold serves residents of the Great Lakes region, and obviously understands the vital importance of the Great Lakes to your state and the entire nation.

The role of the PIAG is to encourage public input to the Study, represent the public's interests and provide information about the Study to the public. Explaining the Study's mission and goals to policymakers helps foster the type of dialogue Study participants need to do their jobs more effectively.

We look forward to working with your office to engage the public as the Study proceeds over the next several years. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any more information or access to data and Study results.

Thank you again for your interest in the Study, and especially for your time.

Sincerely,

Kay Felt
United States Co-Chair,
Public Interest Advisory Group
International Joint Commission Upper Great Lakes Study

www.ijc.org

Attachment 9**Action Items from 2nd PIAG Conference Call**

No.	Description of Action Item	Action Lead	Due by:
1	Time stamp each version of minutes	Tom Black	Ongoing
2	Evaluate public meeting suggestions, report back to PIAG	John Nevin	February 11
3	Provide PDF photo of stand-up display to Tom Black, he will investigate improvement costs	Syed Moin, Tom Black	January 25
4	Post appendices to 1976 IJC Report to Govts. Of U.S. and Canada on IUGLS website	Syed Moin	January 25
5	Send executive summary of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study to PIAG members	John Nevin	December 20
6	Notify TWG leaders of new PIAG liaisons; assign liaisons their duties; provide notice to liaisons of upcoming meetings they may wish to attend	Syed Moin	Notification by January 20; keeping liaisons apprised ongoing



International Upper Great Lakes Study



January 11, 2008

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray
Chair, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Ms. Irene Brooks
Acting Chair, U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Chair Gray and Brooks,

The International Upper Great Lakes Study Board recently asked the International Joint Commission to support the Study Board's efforts to install automated discharge gauging stations on the St. Marys, St. Clair and Niagara Rivers. The Study Board also urged the Commission to recommend to the U.S. and Canadian governments that these gauges be designated as "International Gauging Stations" and that the governments assure funding for their continued operation and maintenance following the completion of the Study.

As the Public Interest Advisory Group to the Study, we strongly endorse these recommendations because the data from these stations are vital for addressing the St. Clair River conveyance issue and for updating the regulation plan for outflows from Lake Superior. Following the Study, these data will be used in the adaptive management plan to assess whether the regulation plan (or any modifications to it) has achieved the intended results. We urge you to stress to the governments that funding to operate and maintain the gauges after the Study is completed must be a priority.

As the result of outstanding cooperative efforts across several agencies and support from navigation interests, the St. Clair River gauge has already been installed. We hope that this cooperative effort will be a model that helps to speed installation of the other two gauges.

James P. Bruce, Canadian PIAG Co-Chair
1875 Juno Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6S6
Telephone: (613) 731-5929 Fax: (613) 731-3509 Email: jpbruce@sympatico.ca

Kay Felt, U.S. PIAG Co-Chair
400 Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI 48243
Telephone: (313) 568-6700 Fax: (313) 568-6893 Email: kfelt@dykema.com

We appreciate your willingness to raise these issues with the governments and appreciate your commitment to the success of the Study.

Sincerely,



James Bruce
Canadian PIAG Co-Chair



Kay Felt
U.S. PIAG Co-Chair

cc. Murray Clamen, Canadian IJC Secretary
Jim Chandler, A/U.S. IJC Secretary
Eugene Stakhiv, U.S. IUGLS Director
Ted Yuzyk, Canadian IUGLS Director