

**DIRECTIVE
TO THE
INTERNATIONAL MISSISQUOI BAY STUDY BOARD**

The purpose of this directive is to establish and direct the International Missisquoi Bay Study Board to examine and report to the International Joint Commission on the matters raised by the governments of Canada and the United States in letters to the Commission dated August 1, 2008, respectively (copies attached).

The governments of the United States and Canada support the efforts of Quebec and Vermont to accelerate phosphorus reductions through effective management planning and implementation of pollution prevention actions, especially concerning non-point source nutrient loading. Considerable work in this regard has been carried out in recent years in Quebec. Pursuant to this reference, the Commission has been asked to help coordinate a number of tasks on the U.S. side of the border to complement the work already completed in Quebec. The Commission has also been asked to compile the outcomes of this work with the outcomes of the work undertaken in Quebec to provide a transboundary picture of the watershed that complements the efforts of Quebec and Vermont in this region.

The mandate of the International Missisquoi Bay Study Board is to assist the Commission in coordinating the work in Vermont called for by the reference and to provide an assessment of the adequacy of the information base and management programs in place to accelerate phosphorus reductions in the Missisquoi Bay watershed.

The Commission will appoint the members of the Board and Co-Chairs to lead the Board's efforts. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for organizing and executing the work of the Board and for coordinating with and reporting to the Commission. The Board will be binational and multi-disciplinary and comprise an equal number of members from the United States and Canada. Members of the Board will act in their personal and professional capacities and not as representatives of their countries, agencies, organizations, or other affiliations. The Commission will provide guidance to the Board and will pursue resources available from the two Governments to support its efforts (including resource contributions by Board members' agencies). Members of the Board and work groups will be responsible for their own expenses unless otherwise arranged by the Commission.

In addressing issues raised by the Governments, the Board will coordinate its investigations with agencies and organizations in both countries to access the full breadth of available information. It will evaluate and analyze available information, and will inform the Commission of any additional information necessary to address pertinent issues.

The Board will strive to reach decisions by consensus and will notify the Commission of any irreconcilable differences. Any lack of clarity or precision in instructions or directives received from the Commission shall be referred promptly to the Commission.

The Commission stresses the importance of public outreach and consultation. It will be necessary to coordinate such matters with the Commission.

The Board is requested to submit a work plan with associated schedule of activities for the Commission's approval as soon as practicable. In this regard, the Commission will request the assistance of the Board in coordinating work in Vermont as required.

The Board will keep the Commission fully informed of its progress and direction through regular communications with the Commission Secretaries or their designees. The Board will submit progress reports at each Semi-Annual meeting of the Commission for the duration of the study. The Board will submit an interim report no later than November 1, 2009, and its final report no later than October 1, 2011. The final report should contain the Board's findings and conclusions regarding the concerns raised by governments based upon available information.

Approved September 15, 2008

Signed September 30, 2008

Charles A. Lawson
Secretary
United States Section

Murray Clamen
Secretary
Canadian Section