



May 31, 2013

Joseph Comuzzi, Chair
International Joint Commission
Canadian Section
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Lana Pollack, Chair
International Joint Commission
U.S. Section
2000 L Street, NW Suite #615
Washington, DC 20440

Re: Conservation Ontario's Support for the Adaptive Management Plan for Addressing Extreme Water Levels "Building Collaboration Across the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System"

Dear: Mr. Comuzzi and Ms. Pollack:

In January of last year I wrote to you to offer Conservation Ontario (CO)'s support in the development of a water quantity advisory board that would advise the IJC and its Boards of Control regarding adaptively managing for extremes in water levels and to applaud the International Joint Commission for its leadership role in advancing the state of knowledge of adaptive management.

As you are aware, CO is the network of 36 Ontario Conservation Authorities (CAs) which are science-based watershed/shoreline management agencies. As Chair of Conservation Ontario (CO), I have been an active member of the Task Team charged with preparing and consulting on the Adaptive Management Plan for Addressing Extreme Water Levels "Building Collaboration Across the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River System" (the Plan) that has been prepared for submission to the International Joint Commission on May 31, 2013. In addition, CO and CA staff have participated on the Advisory Group to the Task Team and consulted with the CA community throughout the development of the Plan.

CO is strongly supportive of the recommendations outlined in the May 31st Plan. It is expected that the implementation of this Plan will result in an approach that is responsive; both to the needs of CAs as shoreline and watershed managers, and to the needs of all Great Lakes users. Conservation Ontario has committed to identifying a representative to participate on the Plan's proposed Levels Advisory Body and CO looks forward to being involved in all aspects of the Plan's implementation in the future. Should you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at 905-895-0716 or Bonnie Fox, Manager, Policy & Planning at ext 223.

Sincerely,



Dick Hibma
Chair of Conservation Ontario

cc. Camille Mageau, Secretary, International Joint Commission, Canadian Section &
Charles A. Lawson, Secretary, International Joint Commission, U.S. Section

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