



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Tenth Meeting – Special Meeting on Work Planning
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

July 25, 2016 – 1:30 – 3:00pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Dave Allan	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (SPC Secretary)
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Glenn Benoy (Canadian Liaison)
Scott Sowa	Bob Hecky	Victor Serveiss (U.S. Liaison)
Joe DePinto	Christina Semeniuk	Li Wang (RCC Secretary)
Lucinda Johnston	Clare Robinson	
Dale Phenicie		

Regrets: Carol Miller, Henry Lickers, Andrea Kirkwood

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The Canadian Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed through a roll call. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

At the request of the Co-Chair staff reminded the Committee that the work plan cycle has moved to an autumn submission, so projects can be approved in sync with the IJC-GLRO budget cycle (April 1-March 31 fiscal year). For projects approved by the Commission at the autumn meeting, preparatory work can proceed in time for contractors to begin work the following April.

2. Review and Discussion of Potential Work Plan Ideas

Projects from 2015 Prioritization Process

The Co-Chair summarized the results of the 2015 work plan topics prioritization process, noting that two of the four highest ranked topics have moved forward as SPC projects. The other two highest ranked projects from 2015 were introduced by their authors and discussed in some detail.

Declining Lake Productivity (Bob Hecky)

This project addresses the science issues associated with declining pelagic phosphorus concentrations and offshore productivity at a time when many nearshore locations are experiencing nutrient enrichment and algal fouling. This presents a management challenge since calls for

phosphorus reductions to benefit the nearshore may worsen offshore productivity, with related implications for potentially increasing contaminant concentrations in fish. The project will illuminate the full implications of management options and actions that are being considered.

Through discussion there was general agreement that this project is highly relevant and timely, with practical applications to ongoing nutrient reduction target setting being advanced through Annex 4, and nutrient reduction actions being implemented through Areas of Concern programs, among others. The linkage to the fisheries and fish management community was also acknowledged.

Bob Hecky and Joe DePinto agreed to collaborate with others to advance this topic as a work plan item for the October 2016 Semi-Annual meeting.

Action: Bob Hecky and Joe DePinto, in collaboration with others yet to be recruited, to develop an initial draft work plan. Staff are available to assist as required.

Action: SPC members to self-identify to join the Work Group.

Ecological Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms (Mike Murray)

This project proposes to build on IJC's Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority and many other efforts to investigate the ecological impacts of HABs. Direct (e.g., toxin uptake by organisms) and indirect (e.g., decreased zooplankton grazing with implications on planktivorous fish) impacts will be addressed, with a primary emphasis on freshwater systems.

Through discussion, there was general agreement that this is an important topic, although championing the project at present is a challenge for the lead due to other SPC project commitments. John Livernois agreed to assist in advancing this project including from a project management perspective, when the timing is right.

Action: SPC members to self-identify if they are interested in advancing the ecological impacts of HABs topic.

There were no other projects from the 2015 prioritization process that SPC members recommended for consideration as part of the current work planning cycle.

Joint Projects with Other Boards

Staff relayed work plan-related discussion items from the July 20, 2016 Water Quality Board teleconference call. The WQB has identified two potential work plan priorities for October 2016 – wetlands and manure/animal waste.

Through discussion there was general agreement that there is a rich literature related to the role and function of wetlands on water quality, and it could be helpful for the SPC to assemble relevant wetlands experts to provide a briefing to the WQB. There was also general agreement that the WQB's proposed manure/animal waste work plan will benefit from the outputs of the SPC's Fertilizer Application project, including information on quantities and spatial distribution of animal waste applied to Lake Erie's western basin.

Action: SAB and WQB secretaries to discuss a potential briefing on wetlands; input from SPC members may be sought as required.

The WQB is also proposing two potential work plan priorities for a subsequent work plan cycle – chemical mixtures and drinking water infrastructure. Through discussion, there was general agreement that the chemical mixtures topic is relevant and timely. The Board acknowledged the link between chemical mixtures and SPC work plan topics developed in 2015 (e.g., chemicals of emerging concern, stressor interactions and cumulative effects), and its importance in the context of ongoing regulatory reviews (e.g., Toxic Substances Control Act). On their July 20, 2016 call, the WQB communicated that they would appreciate a short ‘state of the science’ white paper from SPC on the topic.

Jeff Ridal, Dale Phenicie and Mike Murray agreed to collaborate with others to explore the potential of this topic for the October 2016 Semi-Annual meeting.

Action: Jeff Ridal, Dale Phenicie and Mike Murray, in collaboration with others yet to be recruited, to advance this topic for potential consideration at the October 2016 Semi-Annual meeting.

Action: SPC members to self-identify to join the Work Group.

For drinking water infrastructure, there was general agreement that the SPC should wait for additional details to be developed by the WQB.

3. Identify Priority Work Plan Topics and Next Steps

The Co-Chair summarized the status of the three topics that received the most discussion during the call:

1. Declining productivity – develop work plan for the October Semi-Annual meeting
2. Chemical mixtures – potentially develop work plan for the October Semi-Annual meeting
3. Ecological impacts of HABs – consider advancing depending on availability of members, likely for a subsequent work plan cycle.

The deadline for work plans to be submitted for the October 24-28, 2016 Semi-Annual meeting is likely to be the first week of October. Ideally draft work plan(s) would be discussed by the SPC during their September call.

Action: Staff will keep the RCC and WQB informed about SPC work plan developments, and advise SPC members of any relevant discussions the other Boards have.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal.
Please forward any errors or omissions to childm@windsor.ijc.org*