

minutes

HPAB Biannual Meeting – Toronto, ON	
3.20.2013	08:30 AM – 4:30 PM EST
Meeting chaired by	Marg Sanborn
Note taker	Jennifer Boehme
Attendees	Marg Sanborn; John Dellinger; Drew Brodtkin; Howard Shapiro; Kate Bassil; Matthew Keifer; Victor Serveiss; Paul Allen; Shabaz Ahmed; Jennifer Boehme
1. Human Health and Environmental Database Project (update)	
Discussion	
M. Sanborn/K. Bassil requested report input from other members, especially for potential case study opportunities within databases; comments due April 3	
Expert Consultation (Tentative dates: Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2013)	
HPAB attendees: required- K. Bassil, R. Lopez and M. Sanborn; others are welcome	
Suggested Location: Toronto; Environment Canada has office there	
Board members response to request for suggested attendees	
Point made this topic is a higher learning curve over the indicators	
Be sure to invite representatives from CGLRM	
Important to capture themes from expert phone interviews	
Some QA/QC and examination of data quality is needed	
Note: US NHANES data set is not geographically representative: NHANES does not return to same places over any given time frame	
Prioritization of data needed so can develop the most useful case studies; these types of recommendations are needed but current contractor can't do this;	
The topic is quite broad and the contractor had relatively short time;	
Drinking water database (DWISP) suggested as good example of database efforts taking place in Ontario	
There are treatment and supply facilities in Ontario whose data is accessible; Challenge will be to tease out Great Lakes from not Great Lakes effects	
Q: Does IJC have any authority to require data submission from the individual states? A. IJC role is to provide advice and recommendation; can strongly recommend such a step for Great Lakes States and Provinces; consider how to make this recommendation to IJC within report	
Combined/separate expert consultation with both indicators and database experts? Table this discussion until later.	
Recommendations	
1) Anyone measuring data in the Great Lakes must use NHANES	
2) One powerful result from this report would be a recommendation on how gather data	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Forward report to other non-working group members; deadline before April IJC meeting (email sent March 20, 2013)	Jennifer Boehme
2. New Membership	
Discussion	
Current process is more formalized than in the past	
If members are not coming to IJC Semi-annual Meetings, it's hard to transition from member to co-chair;	
Mandate of the IJC is a moving target depending on Commissioners	
Staff may want to consider returning to the liaison model where there are members assigned as liaisons to other Boards (Ray Copes liaised to the SAB);	
Work group model is problematic; have people from our board serving on other boards as well;	
Q. Projects are time consuming and so maybe this isn't a good use of time? A. The previous liaison format required only one or two meetings a year, and there are only two major boards right now;	
Q: How long does it take new people to get oriented? A. A long time; being involved in one specific project helps	
Q: how are other boards organized? A. Other board have long term members; WQB is	

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more formalized because of Parties' nomination process	
Suggestion: one logical progression would be to have former chairs do a round of appointment as a liaison to other board	
Recommendations	
As part of succession plan, suggest enacting a chair-elect process, where chair elects also attends semi-annual meetings to aid transition	
For orientation of new members, provide a map of IJC Boards and activities, and a list of key projects and what their progress and stages are	
Have a new members session at the Semi-annuals or a larger meetings	
Provide new members a more detailed explanation of how political process affects the goals of organizations	
Future	
Asked members to think about whether they want to stay this and talk with staff and co-chairs; Seek recommendations for new membership from current members	
3. April 2013 IJC Semi-annual meeting planning	
Discussion	
Co-chairs requested at least one of each project leads at Washington, DC Semi-annual Meeting; H. Shapiro and K. Bassil are available.	
Recommend HPAB be moved up on the agenda for Semi-annual meeting, or enact a rotating system of placement on the agenda so one group isn't always last.	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Coordinate a meeting with Science Advisory Board (SAB), and Council of Great Lakes Research Managers (WQB) on Thursday morning if possible to discuss indicators projects (email sent)	Jennifer Boehme
4. Fraser-Sumas Alerting Letter	
Discussion	
Request for draft for alerting letter be circulated.	
Alerting letter submitted to IJC after late April/May 2013, with IJC passing to governments in the future.	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Provide initial draft to T. Takaro for technical edits by March 27, 2103 and for co-chairs approval March 29, 2013	Paul Allen
5. Board Logistics/Dates for next teleconferences	
Discussion	
Request to reduce the number of teleconference and meetings where we have a substantive discussion; should be up front with new members about how much time it is.	
New model: Monthly conference calls starting May 2013; Co-chairs attendance mandatory, other members optional depending on agenda content; agenda will be posted a week in advance of the board meetings at the HPAB Sharepoint site, to which all members have been invited	
There is a calendar function on our new IJC website to track the other council meetings for future coordination	
Request for direction from staff to advance HPAB projects outside of the great Lakes	
Q: Have you interacted with control boards (St. Croix, etc);	
A. Yes, were interacting up until most recently appointed Commissioners; did a project with St. Croix with limited success; Suggestion: previously, a co-located meeting with, say CGLRM, where each meets separately for first day and spends the final ½ day meeting together; this model might be applied to control boards	
Staff needs to look at partnering with an international watershed board, especially the new Rainy River/ Lake of the Woods board;	
Air quality is related to water quality and fish contamination, so should make a point to say HPAB want to stay involved	
Next Board Meeting: Oct. 23-24, 2013 suggested, discussed meeting location as Ottawa	
Next IJC Semi-annual meeting Oct. 21-25, 2013	

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Recommendations	
HPAB supports advocating for having a local health representative on the Rainy River board as well as other control Boards	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Ask Dave Dempsey to brief HPAB on the air quality project	Jennifer Boehme
Examine opportunities for partnering with an international watershed board, especially the new Rainy River/ Lake of the Woods board	IJC Staff
6. Human Health Indicators	
Discussion	
Environmental Indicators (EI) report discussed	
H. Shapiro and M. Keifer will take lead on generating report; Indicator roll out is early September	
There should be more information on who gets the data and how the data is collected. Should look at recommending certain data collection methods	
Merging human health with environmental indicators	
Fish indicator description drafts circulated for HPAB comment	
What is the impact of the EI document on human health fish indicators? Is description balancing positive and negative?	
Whole vs. fish file data (edible fish data) are being collected. Are we recommending more scientifically valid data, or the data with the more consistent methods?	
Should recommend to governments that existing whole fish vs. edible fish data sets are standardized from year to year between them to provide continuity and interpretational rigor;	
A possible approach to increase expertise in indicator definitions development: External review from contributors not at meeting (or within Environment Canada and Environmental Protection Agency)	
Decision: indicator coordinators may reach out to appropriate external reviewers with agreement of the Board	
Note: Tribes are interested in the IJC's role for assistance with setting guidelines for monitoring programs	
Could take this opportunity to level criticisms for methods of data collection	
However, states are responsible for states (and their inland rivers), not just the Great Lakes	
Q. But are there a few data elements that could be added to help make databases useful? A. Could pose this as a question in the indicator report	
Structure of the human health indicators report	
Work Flow: Matt will work with Vic to generate the executive summary and the report introduction	
Q. Should outcomes/effects data presented together? Suggestion: Use human health outcomes indicators as an example of next steps/recommendations part of the report	
Suggestion: impacts of Human Health and key species presented in single narrative (ex: herring gulls, sentinel species, etc. with human effects)	
Discussion of how to resolved Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reluctance to be involved in producing Human Health Indicator definitions; concern over how to coincidentally include Environment Canada (EC) in this process.	
Conclusions	
Indicator coordinators may reach out to appropriate external reviewers with agreement of the Board	
Future	
H. Shapiro and M. Keifer will take lead on generating report; Indicator roll out is early September	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Engagement with EPA and EC- inform Chair Pollack that Co-chairs will reach out to their counterparts in EC and EPA (Susan Hedman) to be able to proceed within both countries	Jennifer Boehme
Reach out to Tom Edge regarding potential EC involvement with indicator definitions, in preparation for approaching Mike Goffin	Marg Sanborn

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Reach out to Susan Hedman re: EPA involvement in the indicators process	John Dellinger
7. Coordinate with Science Advisory Board (SAB) on EI	
Discussion	
EI report lists 22 indicators merged into 16 indicators;	
There is a section on "free from pollutant effects to human health and other factors" ;	
Q. how do HPAB need to respond to this EI section? They need to clarify what HPAB charge is and how to proceed.	
8. HPAB Budget and Workplan	
Discussion	
Budget discussion – edits in budget document	
Russ will be the lead for transboundary project development, next steps will be to develop paragraphs on priority topics for inclusion in a briefing note	
Action Items	Person Responsible
Produce "top 3" transboundary project summaries for inclusion as attachments to HPAB Briefing note.	Russ Lopez