

Meeting Record 10th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Thursday, October 13, 2016

IJC U.S. Section Office

100 Ouellette Ave, 8th Floor | Windsor, ON, CAN N9A 6T3

CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim K. Takaro (Canadian Co-Chair)
David Buckeridge
Laurie Hing Man Chan
Kate Bassil (phone, intermittent)

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC
McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, QC
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON

U.S. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Seth Foldy (US Co-Chair)
Elaine Faustman
Samuel Dorevitch (phone)

Physician and Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, Chicago, IL

REGRETS:

Michael Beach
Joan Rose

US Centers for Disease Control
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

SECRETARY:

Jennifer Boehme

International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Paul Allen
Dr. Paul E Kilgore
Patricia Morris
Victor Serveiss (phone, intermittent)
Allison Voglesong

Liaison, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON
Invited Speaker, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI
International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Washington DC
Sea Grant Fellow, International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

Summary of Discussion, Thursday, October 13, 2016

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The U.S. co-chair welcomed participants; members introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda. No changes were made.

2. Review status for Cyanotoxins and Human Health contract

The Great Lakes workgroup summarized the status of the contract: the workgroup will review the final report product prior to sending out to the full board for approval, and will create a plain language executive summary to accompany the final report circulated to the board. At the next or subsequent teleconference of the board, these items, plus an infographic summary, will be presented to solicit comment, prior to approving and sending to Commission for approval.

Action Item: The Secretary will work with the Great Lakes workgroup to develop an executive report and will circulate to the board upon completion.

3. IWI proposals HPAB-IRLWWB Collaborative Project

i. Mining project

This project was not accepted by the IRLWWB to move forward due to concerns with redundancy in or lack of need for a literature review-focused research project.

ii. Rail Transportation

The IRLWWB indicated interest moving forward on a collaborative project with HPAB regarding rail transportation of diluted bitumen and related potential impacts of exposure on human health. The IRLWWB has asked HPAB to look into different modelling systems and respective cost estimates, and adjust project proposal line item for cost of modeling for IRLWWB to reconsider. There will be a joint IWI IRLWWB and HPAB meeting at the Semi-Annual Meeting in Ottawa later in October this year to advance the collaborative project. The board discussed how IWI funding process works and how collaborating with IRLWWB and piggybacking on the IRLWWB plan of study will impact this rail transportation collaboration project.

Action Item: The board will invite IRLWWB board member(s) to Other Basins workgroup teleconferences.

Action Item: The Other Basins workgroup will present to the board information and costs of different modeling options at an upcoming teleconference of the board, with the intent to submit the project for IWI funding by spring (April or May deadline).

4. AGI Illness Contract Update

The board reviewed contract that was placed and awarded through the US contracting system, and reviewed the timeline for Phase 1. The work plan from the contractor is due 10/14/2016. The Great Lakes workgroup is tasked with advice and suggestions for contacts and resources for illness data relevant to the project. The contractor will provide updates every two weeks. The board reviewed the difference in deliverables and expectations for Phase 1 and 2 of AGI project, clarifying that the present contractor's work concludes at the end of Phase 1, entailing collecting the data and determining the feasibility of the project, but no data analysis occurs in Phase 1. The board articulated concerns that even without analysis included in Phase 1, the contractor has to guarantee HIPPA compliance to obscure identity with collection of and use of health data.

The ethics review of the project will require to prove data is packaged in a way that ensures anonymity. The Commission has requested regular updates from the board regarding this project, which will be discussed at the Semi-Annual in Ottawa later this month. The board discussed challenges of US contracting system on short timeframes.

Action Item: A representative of the Commission needs to send a letter of intent to correctly identified city stakeholders to inform them of (and assuage concerns about) this project and upcoming request for health and environment data.

Action Item: A US and a Canadian board member will need to provide institutional credentials and start an IRB process to move data acquisition forward and stay in compliance.

5. IJC TAP Report Update

i. Use of Human Health Indicators contractor report in TAP

Final product from Dr. Carpenter received but board declines to move forward with publishing as a review; product will be reviewed by IJC staff author of TAP chapter (4) on drinking water (objective 1 of GLWQA), recreational use (objective 2) and consumption of fish (objective 3). The TAP Technical Appendix will reflect information from this human health indicators report in lieu of publishing the contract report on its own. Report needs to clarify distinction between what the Governments are already doing with indicators and what HPAB recommends parties do beyond that. Board reflected positively on its role to help move toward including source water quality as an indicator of human health for drinking water.

Action Item: Board comments on TAP technical appendix draft are due by November 10.

ii. Human Health Indicators and SOGL Reporting

The Governments are using their own existing human health indicators.

6. Human Health Reviews

Board reviewed current status of Human Health Review on Selenium and expressed interest in receiving completed report from contractor including full citations at earliest possible date. Board reviewed preliminary draft of infographic and plain language summary of the review document and provided input on what should be added to this public document, pending updates from contractor report.

7. The Flint Water Crisis: Implications for Human Health

The board heard an invited presentation from Dr. Paul E Kilgore (Wayne State University School of Medicine). This presentation was well received, with members reflecting further on the implication of including source water quality as an indicator of human health for drinking water.

8. HPAB Strategic Planning Exercise

The board undertook a strategic planning exercise in four parts:

- i. Review of HPAB directive and current activities
- ii. SWOT analysis
- iii. Briefings on directives, priorities, and activities of other boards:
 - Science Advisory Board presentation by IJC staff
 - Water Quality Board presentation by IJC staff
 - International Watershed Initiative and related boards by IJC staff
- iv. Brainstorming of activities

The board did not have time to commit to prioritizing activities and goals during this meeting or make workgroup assignments.

Action items: Brainstorming and prioritizing will continue during the next teleconference of the board and workgroup assignments will proceed accordingly.

9. Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC

The board assembled a draft slide deck for their presentation to the Commission, which will be finalized by co-chairs. Members were invited to attend the co-chairs presentation.

Action items: Moved a recommendation for David Buckeridge to serve as interim co-chair due to Tim Tarako sabbatical commencing January 2017, for Commissioner approval at Semi-Annual in Ottawa later in October, would be effective November 1, 2016.

10. Other Business

Board members discussed their involvement in other associations and organizations to push for focusing on health aspects of water quality initiatives.

11. Meeting adjourned 4:10 PM

AGENDA

8:30 – 8:40 AM	Welcome and Review of Agenda	Tim Takaro (Chair) Seth Foldy
8:40 – 9:15 AM	Review status for Cyanotoxins and Human Health contract	Great Lakes Workgroup
9:15 – 10 AM	IWI proposals HPAB-IRLWWB Collaborative Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation 	Other Basins Workgroup
10 – 10:15 AM	Break	All
10:15 – 11 AM	AGI Illness Contract Update	
11 – 11:30 AM	IJC Tap Report Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of of Human Health Indicators contractor report in TAP • Human Health Indicators and SOGL Reporting 	
11:30 AM - Noon	Human Health Reviews	All
Noon – 1:00 PM	Invited Speaker: Suggested – Paul Kilgore Wayne State University	All
1:00 – 3:30 PM	HPAB Strategic Planning Exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of HPAB Directive and activities (Foldy/Takaro/Boehme) (15 mins- more if new members). • HPAB Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats in addressing Directive (All 45 min) • Briefings on Directives/Priorities/Activities of Science Advisory Board, Water Quality Board and IWI Boards (Staff – 30 min) • Brainstorm synergistic activities (All 15 min) • Prioritize goals for 2017-20 workplan (all 45 min) • [After meeting: Chairs assign goals to workgroups for development] 	All
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC	All
4:00 PM	Adjourn	