

# Meeting Record 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Monday, April 18, 2016  
IJC U.S. Section Office  
2000 L Street NW, Suite 615 | Washington, DC, USA 20036

## CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim K. Takaro (Canadian Co-Chair)  
David Buckeridge  
Laurie Hing Man Chan

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

## U.S. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Seth Foldy (US Co-Chair)  
John Dellinger  
Elaine Faustman  
Matthew Keifer

Physician and Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI  
Concordia University, Mequon, WI  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA  
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, WI

## REGRETS:

Kate Bassil  
Michael Beach

Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON  
US Centers for Disease Control

## SECRETARY:

Jennifer Boehme

International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

## OTHER ATTENDEES:

Paul Allen (intermittent)  
Taha Kass-Hout  
Ankita Mandelia  
Victor Serveiss (intermittent)

Liaison, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON  
Invited Speaker, U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Sea Grant Fellow, International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON  
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Washington DC

## Summary of Discussion, Monday, April 18, 2016

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

The U.S. co-chair welcomed participants; members introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda. The order of the agenda was modified, attached, where the submission of GI illness Proof of Concept work plan was discussed immediately before the item on IWI proposals.

### 2. HPAB Work Group Structure

The board discussed the feedback received by co-chairs from members and staff on the current process for board product review and approval. Options to streamline the approval process were discussed, and work to establish a final process will continue at future teleconferences.

The board approved establishment of two geographically based workgroups: 1) Great Lakes issues, and 2) other transboundary basins. For basic process, it was determined that:

- Preferably two members will be designated as leads for each future workgroup project, in charge of primary review of associated contractor reports and assembling project workgroup members.
- Workgroup members may be invited from outside board membership.
- For each project, there will be three levels of review for contractor documents:
  1. The project leads will review the document in detail;
  2. The workgroup will review the document and approve its distribution to the board; and
  3. Final review will be open to the board.

HPAB members will flag if they choose not to review a document to the Secretary.

Volunteers for the two work groups were accepted, and Co-chair Foldy will develop a membership matrix with preliminary project assignments. The Secretary will reach out to absent members on their interest in joining either or both workgroups.

Prospects for Teleconferences will increase in length and decrease in frequency; they will now be held every other month, and the last half-hour to forty-five minutes will be reserved for board workgroup discussion, in which non-workgroup members will have the option to listen after the full board discussion is done. In alternate months, workgroups will hold their own calls.

**Action Item:** The Secretary will send a doodle poll to the board to determine the next teleconference date so that it does not conflict with the IJC June Executive Meeting. Foldy will create a workgroup matrix to identify work group members, and prospective projects and project leads.

### 3. Review Status for Human Health Indicators, Phase 2 contract products

#### a. *Cyanotoxins and Human Health*

The board was generally satisfied with this project. The board will accelerate the review process on this product to produce a final product promptly. Foldy, Faustman, and now former member Dellinger will review of the latest product for return for a final round of edits to the contractor. The board believes that this paper can be published by the

board after a final review process. Further discussion the form of a final board product will continue after the final version is received following contractor edits.

**Action Item:** The board will review the report with the aim of returning edits to the contractor within the next two weeks. The Secretary will ensure that the project workgroup has the most recent version of the report to review.

**b. Human Health Indicators in the Great Lakes Phase 2**

The board decided to refrain from forwarding the report to the IJC for approval for public release. Board edits to the report are complete, and the report will be shared with IJC staff to supplement their efforts to draft IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress report.

**4. Gastrointestinal (GI) Illness Database Integration Proof-of-Concept and Mapping – Great Lakes**

Takaro walked through slides presenting the work plan background research out of his laboratory. There are 3 questions to be answered by the study: 1) is it feasible to get comparable U.S.-Canada data; 2) can GI incidents due to cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis be connected to weather; and 3) how much binational data is available to support the Biological Hazards of Source Water indicator, as recommended to the Parties by the IJC in 2014. The work plan will be part of the HPAB presentation to the Commission on April 19, 2016, using a portion of the slides presented here. If this work plan is approved, next steps include preparing a statement of work for competitive selection of a contractor using US funding and processes.

**5. IWI proposals HPAB-IRLWWB Collaborative Projects – Transportation and Mining**

The board examined two proposals to generate reviews on the human health impacts of contaminants related to 1) a petroleum transportation spill and 2) mining activities in the Rainy River – Lakes of the Woods watershed. Both proposals incorporated input for the International Rainy River Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) Applied Ecosystem Health Committee. Comments from members and IJC staff, and a budget for each proposal, were discussed and accepted. An updated version of each proposal will be circulated to the Applied Ecosystem Health Committee for approval and submission to the IJC's IWI program for the Spring 2016 deadline.

**Action Items:** Foldy will follow up with the Applied Ecosystem Health Committed re: comments on the revisions from this meeting, and approach the IRLWWB on their intentions to publish and present any report information.

**6. Potential Partnerships with Great Lakes Beach Association**

The U.S. co-chair shared that the Great Lakes Beach Association (GLBA) is still considering the HPAB proposal about developing a collaborative activity around harmful algal blooms. The board explored options for associating its next in-person meeting with the GLBA annual event in Marquette, MI. Alternatives include locating in a connecting city a day or two ahead of the GLBA meeting and those who wish to attend the GLBA meeting can continue to it.

**7. Crowdsourcing**

The board heard an invited presentation from Taha Kass-Hout (U.S. Food and Drug Administration). This presentation was well-received, and provided consideration for planning an HPAB Social Media project, especially in regards of how to extract needed information from social media.

## **8. Social Media Project Development**

The board heard updates on the status of this project and a response to the recent RFI was discussed. Also discussed were various methods to extract necessary information from social media – a combination of passive and active techniques were suggested. Passive techniques include looking for particular phrases on social media; while active techniques include pop-up surveys when a web user navigates to certain web pages. The passive techniques can be applied historically against known HABs outbreaks; and can examine both health consequences of algae and social consequences of lack of clean water. To establish data granularity around the Great Lakes, a geographical location with a Foodnet community could be chosen; Toledo is a good example.

The invited speaker, Taha Kass-Hout, was present for this discussion and advised the board on contractor selection for social media projects and offered to share contacts with the board.

**Action items:** The board will consider Kass-Hout’s advice on finding a contractor. The secretary will provide thank-you letters to those responding to the RFI, though additional information will be considered. Board members will follow-up with Kass-Hout for social media contacts.

## **9. HPAB membership**

The board faces vacancies for 2 Canadian and 2 U.S. positions, and favors increasing expertise on epidemiology and indigenous populations health issues. The board seeks suggestions for potential members from the Canadian government from Peter Berry of Health Canada. The board explored vetting potential new members, and agreed that inclusion of prospective members as volunteer workgroup members would be effective both for vetting and increasing workgroup capacity. The ideas of adding social media expertise, a hydrologist (to include modeling experience on the board) or an anthropologist were also discussed.

**Action Items:** The Canadian liaison will pursue people at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## **10. IJC TAP Report**

The Secretary gave an overview of materials that explain the timeline for IJC’s Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report production, which IJC staff are assigned to specific chapters, and flags IJC Great Lakes board members who have volunteered to be chapter reviewers. The Secretary is preparing two chapters on human health for recreational water and fish consumption, and will request board review when the drafts are ready for circulation for the summer review period. HPAB interest in any report chapters is considered helpful, and it was suggested that chapter review could be presented exclusively to the new board Great Lakes workgroup.

**Action Item:** The TAP report review will be added as a column to the workgroup matrix.

## **11. Other Business**

Increasing public accessibility to HPAB reports was discussed. Strategies to address this include developing a plain-language summary to lead off a technical report, and leveraging efforts of GLRO’s communication staff. New staff, fellows and interns will be available to assist writing layperson summaries of reports. There is interest to include HPAB work in IJC’s newsletter from the GLRO Public Affairs Officer.

## **12. 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

**13. Meeting adjourned 3:30 PM**

# AGENDA

<b>8:30 – 8:40 AM</b>	<b>Welcome and Review of Agenda.</b>	Seth Foldy (Chair) Tim Takaro
<b>8:40 – 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Work Groups &amp; Participation</b> (Attachment 1)	Co-Chairs
<b>9:50 – 10:15 AM</b>	<b>Decisions for Human Health Indicators, Phase 2 contract products</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cyanotoxins and human health contractor</li><li>• Human Health Indicators Great Lakes Phase 2</li></ul>	All
<b>10:15 – 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Break</b>	All
<b>10:30 – 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Work Plan Update: GI Illness Proof-of-Concept and Mapping</b>	Tim Takaro
<b>10:45 – 11:30 AM</b>	<b>IWI proposals HPAB-IRLWWB Collaborative Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation (Attachment 2)</li><li>• Mining (Attachment 3)</li></ul>	All
<b>11:30 AM – Noon</b>	<b>Partnership with Great Lakes Beaches Association and October HPAB Meeting</b>	Seth Foldy
<b>Noon – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch Presentation – Social Media “Crowdsourcing”</b>	Taha Kass-Hout, Ph.D. U.S. Food and Drug Administration
<b>1:00 – 1:30 PM</b>	<b>Social Media Project Update</b> (Attachment 4)	All
<b>1:30 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>HPAB Membership Recruitment</b>	All
<b>2:00 – 2:15 PM</b>	<b>Other Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IJC TAP report (Attachment 5)</li></ul>	All
<b>2:15 – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>	All
<b>2:30 – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC</b>	All
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	