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International Joint Commission  
Canada and United States



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Canada et États-Unis

**Science Advisory Board  
Research Coordination Committee Meeting #6**

April 18, 2016  
Hilton Garden Inn, Cleveland Park Room  
815 14th Street NW, Washington DC  
12:30-5:00 PM

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**Meeting Record**

**Attendees:**

RCC: Norman Grannemann, Gavin Christie, Christopher Winslow, Christine Mayer, Deborah Lee, Ian Campbell, Kyle McCue, Michael Twiss, Patricia Chambers, Tareq Al-Zabet, Thomas Speth, Val Klump, Yves Michaud,

IJC staff: Lizhu Wang, Mark Burrow, Matthew Child, Vic Service, Glenn Benoy

**1. Introduction: welcome and review the agenda**

- The Co-Chairs provided welcome remarks the meeting and introduced the new member - Christine Mayer.
- Agenda is approved as is.

**2. Overview of SAB responsibilities and RCC current activities**

- The Co-Chairs review the mandates of RCC, including to provide advice, analysis, review or support for:
  - The Commission's triennial Assessment of Progress Report, the Commission's or the Parties' science priorities;
  - Scientific reports, opinions or ongoing updates related to the identification, evaluation and resolution of current and emerging water quality issues in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;
  - Science-based materials prepared by Commission staff and contractors;
  - Identification of specific programs for which binational or international cooperation is desirable and promote communication, cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between these scientists, managers and organizations;
  - Efforts to identify and solicit the support of binational experts to participate in Board and Commission efforts;

- Compilation and synthesis of research activities and findings pertinent to GLWQA and encouraging others to provide such information.
- The Co-Chairs summarized the major RCC activities and their associated tasks, status, and workgroup members.
  - Advise on Triennial Assessment of Progress:
    - TAP task team provided a update on the progress; will produce the first incomplete draft in mid-June; all TAP schedule and other materials are the shared point; the shared point link will be resent to RCC;
  - Advice on Science Priority:
    - This effort is new, which is the mandate from the GLWQA:

“...C. Science Review, Priority-Setting and Coordination: The Parties, in cooperation and consultation with State and Provincial Governments, Tribal Governments, First Nations, Métis, Municipal Governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, and the Public, shall: undertake a review of available scientific information to inform management actions and policy development. Priority issues to be addressed through this review of available scientific information shall be established on a three-year basis by the Parties in consultation with the Great Lakes Executive Committee, considering advice developed by the Commission in consultation with the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board;...”

This effort will be further discussed during the RCC and SPC joint meeting.

- Research Inventory:
  - The scope of work has been approved by RCC, which has been submitted to the Department of State; hopefully, the Commissioners will approve the budget within a couple of weeks.
- Indicator Data Accessibility and Data Gap Analysis:
  - The first draft of contractor report was sent to the RCC and liaisons for review and received very limited number of comments from RCC. The contractor has revised the report to incorporate the comments and submitted the final draft of report to RCC. RCC will decide on how to submit the report to the Commission.
- Future improvement on Great Lakes indicators:
  - The first draft of contractor report was sent to the RCC, workgroup, and liaisons for review. Comments have been sent to the contractor for incorporation. The contractor will submit the final draft report to RCC within a couple of weeks. RCC will decide on how to submit the report to the Commission.
- Joint effort with SPC on Vital Sign Indicators;
  - RCC contractor provided data assessment according to the

evaluation filters requested from CPS for all 8 vital sign indicators. Workgroup consisting of both RCC and SPC members have completed the scoring on the AIS and CMC indicators. Commission staff is in the process of synthesizing the scores of these two indicators into a report to be supplemented to the SPC's final report of the other six indicators.

- Survey on Emerging Monitoring Technology;  
Draft final report has been distributed for comments. It is in the process of generating a manuscript to be submitted to the Journal International Association for Great Research. RCC will hold symposium session at the 2016 International Association for Great Research conference.
- Support the binational Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative:  
RCC, through IJC staff, is in the process of coordinating with the Co-chairs of Annexes 2 and 10 sub-committees to develop a strategy on how RCC can assist on CSMI information synthesis and delivery for 2016. The Commission has fund to support one workshop to the CSMI effort for Lake Erie in 2016.
- Support SPC Information Coordination and Flow:  
RCC member is on the workgroup and participated in the workshop as part of the effort.
- Support Great Lakes regional research vessel coordination:  
RCC supported the 2016 Science Vessel Coordination Workshop in Traverse City and the Science Vessel Managers Meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Review IJC Reports and other IJC activities.  
The activity is ongoing.

### **3. Prioritize priorities for near future work**

- Adaptive Management:
  - Debbie Lee provided an overview presentation on the principle of adaptive management and on the four current Great Lakes adaptive management initiatives.
  - The four current Great Lakes adaptive management initiatives include IJC's Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee, GLWQA Annex 4 Nutrient Loading, GLWQA Annex 2 Lakewide Management, and Great lakes Restoration Initiative Focus Area 5 Adaptive Management Implementation Pilot.
  - RCC had a broad discussion on the topic and selected it as one of the high priority area to work on.
  - The areas RCC may be able to contribute on: connecting research management to ecosystem management, providing advice to CSMI, contributing research vessel management to address identified data gaps in performance indicators, inventorying/identifying "levers" needed to "pull" to effect ecosystem management, and bringing

- together modeling approaches to advance ecosystem forecasting and management.
  - Debbie will lead an effort to develop a white paper outlining potential activities that RCC can take on.
- The other topics considered include coordination on modeling, CSMI and other monitoring, climate change, large observing system, and data management and delivery.
  - Yves Michaud provided an overview presentation on how modeling can be used to help meet the need on information and understand issues related to achieving the GLWQA objectives.
  - Canada is conducting a groundwater modeling project to identify what the groundwater contribution to the Great Lakes is.
  - Yves also proposed that a bi-national workshop on modeling will represent a first step towards the development of an integrated tool for a better ecosystem management for the Great Lakes.
  - RCC had a broad discussion and some expressed concern if the scope may be too narrow or too broad. It was suggested to focus on water cycle.
  - RCC decided to consider modeling as one of the priority areas to work on in the near future. Considerations were given to climate and water cycle, data identification presentation, ensemble modeling approaches.
  - Yves will lead an effort to develop a scope of work.

**4. Completion of reports and recommendations to IJC - Finalize process on how to transfer the following reports to IJC**

- b. Data accessibility and data gap analysis report
  - This report is in the status of draft final report submitted to RCC by the contractor.
- c. Future improvement on Great Lakes indicators report
  - This report is in the status of first draft report distributed to workgroup and RCC for comments. The contractor has received comments and will incorporate them in the next version. Contractor will submit the final draft report to RCC within a couple of weeks.

After broader discussion, the RCC decided that RCC will combine the two reports to produce a synthesis report that summarizes major findings and conclusions. This summary report will also provide recommendations to the Commission. RCC will submit the summary report with the two contractor reports as appendices.

Since RCC is too busy, RCC may suggest IJC staff or a small contract to write the summary report.

- d. Emerging monitoring technology report
  - The workgroup is in the process to turn the report into a manuscript.

- The RCC would like submit the manuscript as a final report to the Commission.

#### **5. *RCC board appearance presentation***

- The Co-chairs and secretary will modify the PPT prepared by secretary to incorporate the discussion and decision of this. In addition to the Co-chairs, Debbie will talk about the adaptive management, Michael will talk about the emerging monitoring technology, and Yves and Ian will talk about the modeling.
- All RCC members are encouraged to participate in the Board Appearance.

#### **6. *Other topics***

- None