
Great Lakes Science Advisory Board
Research Coordination Committee
Meeting #4

April 28, 2015
The Melrose Georgetown Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

PARTICIPANTS

RCC Member: Norm Grannemann, Christopher Winslow, Deborah Lee, Ian Campbell, Michael Twiss, Patricia Chambers, Val Klump, Yves Michaud,

IJC Staff: Lizhu Wang, Cindy Warwick, Clayton Sereres, Jennifer Boehme, Mark Burrows, Matthew Child, Raj Bejankiwar, Vic Serveiss, and Trish Morris

Guest: Linda Novitski

MEETING RECORD

1. Introduction and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was introduced and approved. A round table roll call was conducted. Linda Novitski was noted to be a GLERL member sitting in on meeting with Deborah Lee.

2. Advice on IJC Triennial Assessment of Progress Report

The Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) team, consisting of Trish Morris, Mark Burrows, Cindy Warwick, and Vic Serveiss; was introduced and noted the following:

- The TAP team will be linking the RCC activities to the Triennial Report.
- A SharePoint site for communication with the Boards has been created. Resources can be shared through the site, such as the TAP team's Gantt chart, which highlights key deadlines and activities. Updates to the Gantt chart will be on-going.
- An overview of the TAP timeline was presented. The timeline highlighted the IJC indicator selection process.
- A key component of the Gantt chart is the final TAP report deadline. TAP report will be signed and released to the governments by Jan 20, 2017.
- The TAP team plans to use the 2011 SOLEC report as a baseline and will use the 2017 draft SOLEC report as it becomes available for assessing the government report. The TAP team is evaluating various formats for writing the TAP report.

- The RCC is planning to prepare a report to the Commissioners with advice on data availability and monitoring. Portions of the report may be included in the Triennial Report.
- RCC members have been in communication with SOLEC reporting team and noted:
 - SOLEC 2017 has developed a list of State of the Great Lakes indicators and authors have been identified to write the report of each indicator. The description on the details of each indicator hasn't been released. The 2017 SOLEC indicators are being linked to the GLWQA General Objectives
- RCC members discussed the overlap and difference between IJC and SOLEC indicators and Noted:
 - The Human Health indicators do not overlap with SOLEC indicators although some categories are similar. The SOLEC indicators use treated drinking water whereas IJC indicators use the source of water.
 - The ecosystem indicators overlap with SOLEC indicators because SOLEC adopted as many IJC indicators as they could. The difference between SOLEC and IJC indicator list is that SOLEC includes only indicators with available data whereas IJC includes both indicators with and without available data.
 - TAP Management Team noted that IJC needs to provide its own independent assessment of progress and they are looking for advice on how to do this in a way that is different from SOLEC but still conforms to the Parties desire to focus on review of the Progress Reports. Any Board report that is intended to be included in the TAP report needs to be completed by May 2016.
- RCC members discussed four topics listed below and they collectively agree to recommend them to be included in the TAP report.

Climate Change: This was previously recommended to the TAP by the RCC. RCC's Emerging Monitoring Technology survey indicates that lack of winter observations related to climate change shows a need for implementing emerging technologies.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): This was previously recommended to the TAP by the RCC and is based on the significant changes in the Lakes due to AIS such as Dreissenid mussels, Round Goby, and non-native Phragmites.

Assessment of Progress: High level assessment of progress (storytelling) to inform public and policy makers on success in meeting the GLWQA Objectives. by using multiple indicators to assess the progress of the overall health of the Great Lakes.

Indicator Data Gap Analysis and Future Data Monitoring Needs: This is an exercise and analysis to identify indicators that are not used in 2016 report to be considered for

data collection for the assessment of progress beyond 2016, which could be used to make recommendation to the governments in the TAP report.

Other topics discussed, but not recommended at this time:

Funding the Research Community: Capabilities of the research communities to collect data (monitoring and research component) are way underfunded. Federal governments need investment to ensure the sustainability of long term assessment.

Agriculture/ Urban End of Pipe: More information is needed on how agriculture and urban land uses have impacted the Great Lakes water quality and quantity. It is not clear that the RCC is needed for this discussion since so many other groups are engaged.

3. Potential RCC contribution to the Triennial Report

- It was collectively decided that RCC will not lead the effort of ***Assessment of Progress*** that is recommended to be included in the TAP report. If the TAP Management Team decides to include this task, RCC will play a supporting role since RCC data integration contractors would provide data for this task and this task is highly related to the Gap analysis that RCC will carry out. The RCC will also help evaluate HOW to present some of the indicator data for the report and which stories to tell. It is important to pick stories that can be supported by multiple indicators.
- It was collectively decided that RCC will carry out an indicator data gap analysis and provide information that could be included in the TAP report. RCC will identify which IJC Indicators and associated metrics that they believe have sufficient data, which ones do not have any data or have only partial data, and make recommendations on what data should be collected in the future to assess progress beyond 2016. RCC may also recommend how emerging monitoring technology can be used to fill the data gaps.
- It was collectively decided that RCC will develop a summary report that synthesizes the information from the indicator data integration report by the contractors and summarizes the data gap analysis and recommendation mentioned above. This work will be targeted to be completed before May 2016. A subgroup will develop a work plan that includes an outline for the summary report by the end of May 2015.

4. Project Progress Updates and Discussion

- ***Emerging Monitoring Technology:*** A draft of the emerging technologies report was sent to all RCC members for review. A PowerPoint presentation was given to the group. The highlights from the presentation include emerging technologies, most responses were noted to be in Lake Erie, near shore, and academic; and public outreach/communication of findings may have some discrepancies. Comments related to the presentation include:
 - (1) It might be possible to link the findings of the report to the indicator and metric gaps;

(2) Once the final draft report is completed, the group would like to send it to the survey respondents.

(3) It would be interesting to see if new technology is addressing areas where we have existing data, or if it is adding to what we already know. It might be a good idea to hold a workshop for emerging technologies in the future in collaborating with other Great Lakes agencies.

- **Research Project Inventory:** The workgroup will have a meeting on May 12, 2015 to determine next steps. This meeting will develop a work plan and timeline. This doesn't have to be necessarily tied into TAP in regards to timeline. It is suggested that VIVO <http://www.vivoweb.org/> might be a good network for the workgroup to look into. It is like "LinkedIn" and "ResearchGate" for scientists, and USDA is adopting it.
- **Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI):** Co-chairs of Annex 2 and Annex 10 contacted IJC regarding funding for workshops of planning for CSMI sampling and data summary and delivering after sampling. IJC is in the process of reviewing this request and set up a future meeting to determine details. The RCC as a whole noted its interest in CSMI due to its importance of years of intensive monitoring and past involvement.
- **Joint efforts with other Boards:**
 - **WQAB Work groups** – Liaisons of WQAB provided an update on the 3 areas WQAB is working on (Legacy Issues, Emerging Issue, and Public Engagement workgroups). RCC has participated in the Legacy Issues workgroup.
 - **SPC "Communication" Indicator Workgroup and Emerging Issues Workgroups** - RCC has been providing assistance to SPC in answering the questions for their six indicators, which is a good example of showing collaboration between RCC and SPC.

5. Other Topics

- It is reported that Natural Resources Canada will be working on two transboundary projects 1) initiating mapping and assessment of groundwater flow in the areas of the Great Lakes over the next 4 years and 2) A Saskatchewan groundwater study which to show potential impacts of fracking/ injection on transboundary aquifers. They have been in touch with USGS on this project.
- It is suggested that it would be good for RCC to be updated with GLAM (Great Lakes Adaptive Management) activities.

6. Next RCC Meeting

- RCC's next conference call is tentatively scheduled for June 18, 2015 (2:00 pm EST).