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SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
Research Coordination Committee Meeting

May 3, 2017 (8:30am to 12:00pm)
Capitol Skyline Hotel, Hall of States Room A
10 I (Eye) Street SW, Washington, DC

Meeting Record

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

Guests: Eric Emery (USACE), Sandra Eberts (USGS)

IJC Staff: Lizhu Wang, Mark Burrows, Glenn Benoy, Victor Serveiss

1. Welcome/Round Table Introductions

- The Co-chairs thanks all for making the effort to participate in the face-to-face meeting.

- The Co-chairs provided a warm welcome to the new member from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

2. Discussion on Comments of TAP Report and Technical Appendix Report

- Committee members provided input to individual chapters and versions of the Technical Appendix report and to the draft version of the TAP report for public comments.

- The RCC provided a collective suggestion to the TAP report. This suggestion contains the followings:

    - Governments strengthen support for Great Lakes research to provide essential information and understand needs for forecasting change,

mitigating impacts, and restoring and preserving the Great Lakes ecosystem, by:

- ✓ Establishing and funding a binational, decadal scale research program strategically aligned with the Great Lakes Restoration efforts and designed to: 1) inform the parties of efficacy of past and ongoing restoration, and 2) guide future efforts for maximum ecosystem benefits and cost effectiveness.

- The governments continue to invest in and develop a timeline for complete restoration of Great Lakes within the next 20 years.

3. Overview of Current RCC Activities

- **Research Inventory project**
  - The objectives of the project are to develop an improved Research Inventory System to increase quantity and quality of information captured on Great Lakes research related to the GLWQA; update user interface, data displays and search features; and improve security and data integrity.

  - The project captures information on projects studying physical, chemical, biological, and human health topics in Great Lakes basin; and provides a portal to other databases, such as networking tools for researchers and information on resource expenditures.

  - The contractor of the project is Kenjya-Trusant Group, LLC with the web developer Mr. Leo Martinez.

  - Presently, the project has spent 100% approved fund ($75,000) and is about 85% completion of the tasks. With the assistance of IJC Great Lakes office's budget, additional $15,000 has been secured to complete the rest of the tasks, including testing, finalizing, and launching the new site by the end of September 2017.

- **Great Lakes Nutrient Adaptive Management**
  - Developed a statement of work (SOW) based on the white paper "Opportunities for Implementing and Sustaining Science-Based Adaptive Management for Scientific Research and Ecosystem Management" presented at the Fall IJC board appearances in 2016. The SOW was approved by the Commissioners in February 2017.

  - The overall goal of the project is to develop a process of using modeling approaches to effect ecosystem management through an adaptive management framework.

- The specific objectives are to:
  - ✓ Conduct an inventory of modeling activities capable of integration for estimating outcomes of management actions for Lake Erie from its watersheds to socio-economic causal networks.
  - ✓ Meet the need of integrating adaptive management approach called by the 2012 amended GLWQA to move forward effectively on the Great Lakes phosphorus loading issue and its relationship to eutrophication and ecosystem health.
  - ✓ Address how adaptive management can be integrated as part of modeling approaches to identify the levers needed to pull in effecting ecosystem management.
  - ✓ Provide advice on how progress towards phosphorus reduction goals can be measured and communicated in an adaptive management framework.

- The deliverables include:
  - ✓ A detailed inventory of models capturing 15 characteristics to determine usability in an adaptive management framework.
  - ✓ Present a graphical representation (i.e., wire diagram) of available models relationship to one another to achieve a whole ecosystem model available to assess and predict outcomes of management actions in an adaptive management framework.
  - ✓ Identify “levers” that correlate to potential management actions and assess the main sources of uncertainty in key variables.
  - ✓ Provide advice on how progress towards phosphorus reduction goals can be measured and communicated in an adaptive framework.

- At the meeting, a new version of the SOW that incorporated the suggestions from the IJC contracting staff was circulated. This version was developed during the weekend right before the Committee meeting. Since the Committee does not have time to go over the details during the meeting, the secretary will distribute the new version for Committee comments after the face-to-face meeting.

- The next steps include consolidating proposals, selecting a contractor, and completing the tasks within 12 months after the contractor starting date.

- **GL Surface and Ground Water Model Integration**
  - The objectives of the project include assessing the need and feasibility towards the development of a fully-integrated surface and ground water model for the Great Lakes basin; and providing a review of options on

tools and approaches required to initiate a fully-integrated surface and ground water model for the Great Lakes basin.

- The proposed tasks include synthesis of current knowledge and inventory of existing initiatives; conducting an expert workshop to develop data framework and identify gaps; evaluating usefulness of such models and best-practice approach; and producing a ssummary report with recommendations on the path forward.

- The next steps include consolidating proposals, selecting a contractor, and completing the tasks within 10 months after the contractor starting date.

- At the meeting, a new version of the SOW that incorporated the suggestions from the contract staff at the Washington DC IJC office was circulated. This version was developed during the weekend right before the RCC meeting. Since the Committee does not have time to go over the details, RCC secretary will distribute the new version for comments after the meeting.

- **Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative**
  - The Committee has been working closely with the Parties on the binational Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI).

  - The Committee has assisted with the Lake Ontario CSMI coordination by holding a workshop to identify research and management priorities in November 2016.

  - The Committee is in the process of planning to assist with the Lake Erie coordination workshop that will be held in October 2017 to identify research and management priorities.

- **Support Binational Great Lakes Monitoring and Research Ships**
  - The Committee supported binational Great Lakes monitoring and research ships coordination by supporting Great Lakes Association of Science Ships, and organizing Science Vessel Managers coordination workshops.

4. Discussion of Collaborations

- **Great Lakes Early Warning System**
  - Due to the absence of RCC Co-lead of this project, the project details were not presented. The draft RFP has been distributed as an

attachment of the RCC meeting agenda. The next steps include finalizing the RFP, consolidating proposals, selecting a contractor, and completing the tasks within 16 months after the contractor starting date.

- It was commented that this has been recognized as an important and high visibility project. There is a broad interest in this topic. Due to the broadness and complexity nature of the project, the tasks need to focus on the development of framework and process in identifying stressors and threats, rather than on identifying stressors and threats themselves.

- It was also commented that if the project focuses on identifying stressors and threats, it may end up that we do not produce anything new other than what we have already known.

- **Recommendations on Sustainable Restoration of Great Lakes**
  - This is a joint effort with SPC.

  - The current effort of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is focused only on restoration of the Great Lakes. The restoration efforts need to be based on science. Science can improve efficiency and effectiveness of restoration. We need a restoration funding program that includes funding for science as part of the program. During past years, we have addressed obvious environmental problems. Now we need science to address the more complex problems.

  - It was discussed that under the U.S. budget cut on environmental programs, this effort is more important than ever.

  - This effort needs not only to focus on the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, but also needs to include Canadian programs.

- **Comment on Lake Erie Ecosystem Objectives**
  - This agenda item was not covered due to time constraints.

- **Other opportunities**
  - None.

5. Planning for future activities

- Due to time constraints, this agenda item was discussed.

6. Next Steps

- RCC will have a conference call during the first week of July.

7. Adjourn

DRAFT AGENDA

April 3 EDT Time	***Agenda Item***	***Lead***
8:30-8:40	8. Welcome Round table introductions Housekeeping Items	RCC Co-Chairs
8:40-9:50	9. Discussion Comments on TAP report (***Attachment 1***)	RCC Co-Chairs
9:50-10:00	10. Overview of current RCC activities • Research Inventory (***Attachment 2;*** Mark B)	Work Group Co-Chairs
10:00-10:15	BREAK	
10:15-10:40	• GL Nutrient Adaptive Management (***Attachment 3***; Debbie/Gavin) • GL Surface and Ground Water Model Integration (***Attachment 4;*** Yves/Norm) • Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (Gavin) • Support binational Great Lakes monitoring and research ships (Mark Burrows)	Work Group Co-Chairs
10:40-11:10	4. Discussion of collaborations • Great Lakes Early Warning System (***Attachment 5;*** *also in the SAB meeting package*) • Recommendations on sustainable restoration of Great Lakes (***Attachment 6;*** *also in the SAB meeting package*) • Comment on Lake Erie Ecosystem Objectives (**Attachment 7;** *also in the SAB meeting package*) • Other opportunities	RCC Co-Chairs
11:10-11:50	5. Planning for future activities	RCC Co-Chairs and all
11:50-12:00	6. Next step	RCC Members
12:00	7. Adjourn	