



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Thirteenth Meeting
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

January 13, 2017 – 2:30pm to 4:00pm

| U.S. Members | Canadian Members | Commission Staff |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Carol Miller (Co-Chair) | Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair) | Matthew Child (Secretary) |
| Scott Sowa | Andrea Kirkwood | Victor Serveiss (U.S. Liaison) |
| Mike Murray | John Livernois | Glenn Benoy (Canadian Liaison) |
| Lucinda Johnston | Clare Robinson | Trish Morris |
| Joe DePinto | Henry Lickers | Mark Burrows |
| | Bob Hecky | Antonette Arvai |

Regrets: Dave Allan, Christina Semeniuk, Dale Phenicie

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The U.S. Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed through a roll call. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Work Group Updates

Information Coordination and Flow (Scott Sowa)

Since the last SPC meeting an initial draft of the Work Group report has been developed. The Nature Conservancy will use staff resources to rework an existing Prezi presentation, and to further develop the case studies on aquatic invasive species and recreational uses. Through discussion, it was clarified that the target date for project reporting is end February, 2017 and that the project outputs should inform work being done through the Annexes e.g., habitat baseline task team.

Fertilizer Application Work Group (Mike Murray)

Since the last SPC meeting, a project kickoff meeting was held with the full Work Group on November 14, 2016 in Ann Arbor. The focus of the first meeting was to clarify project objectives and tasks, and discuss data availability and information sources. LimnoTech is actively working to compile fertilizer data, with a focus on temporal, spatial and sectoral coverage. The core team continues to meet by phone regularly, and another Work Group call is scheduled for January 27, 2017. Project reporting is expected in April (LimnoTech) followed by a Work Group report in summer, 2017.

Energy Work Group (Mike Murray)

The project work plan was approved by Commissioners in summer, 2016 and following the IJC Fall Semi-Annual Meeting the IJC's U.S. Section signaled that approved funding (\$50,000) was available to proceed. A project scope of work has been developed that will use the services of a contractor to review the impacts of unrefined hydrocarbons on Great Lakes water quality and ecological processes. The project will also include a small focus on modes of transport. There is ongoing coordination with related efforts by the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. Work group membership is currently being confirmed, with additional external members expected. A contractor will be engaged through the Department of State procurement process, with work group reporting by end 2017 assuming the procurement process is expeditious. Through discussion it was confirmed that the Council of Great Lakes Industries may identify an industry representative(s) for the work group. A representative from Green Marine was also suggested.

Declining Lake Productivity (Joe DePinto)

This project will investigate the role of nearshore retention of nutrients and implications for offshore productivity, which is particularly relevant for lakes Michigan, Huron, Ontario and eastern basin of Lake Erie. There is the potential for the problem to be exacerbated as nutrient load reductions are contemplated. The work plan was presented to Commissioners at the IJC Fall Semi-Annual meeting in October 2016, and approved by Commissioners in November 2016 with a project budget of \$75,000 CAD. Since then, a work group has been assembled with expertise in nutrients, lower and upper food webs, and modelling. A contractor will be retained, with project completion expected by March, 2018. A project initiation call will be held later in January to input to the work plan, discuss related and ongoing work, and initiate development of a scope of work suitable for procurement. The project leads will also brief the Annex 4 Committee and its Objectives and Targets Task Team about the project.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnston)

GLEWS is a joint SAB project which will develop and apply analytical and decision processes to identify emerging environmental stressors and threats that warrant additional attention, as well as stressors and threats that are known but not receiving adequate science and management attention. The process used to identify stressors and threats can be used at regular intervals in the future to ensure they remain current. The work plan was presented to Commissioners at the IJC Fall Semi-Annual meeting in October 2016, and approved by Commissioners in November 2016 with a project budget of \$69,000 CAD. An IAGLR session is planned, and a contractor will be retained for the analytical and decision processes. An expert workshop will be held to apply the early warning system. Through discussion, it was confirmed that John Livernois and Joe DePinto will participate as work group members, and that the planned IAGLR session may be combined with another, similar session if necessary. It was recommended that the project consider the work done in development of the Great Lakes Observing System enterprise architecture. A work group meeting may be scheduled to coincide with IAGLR.

3. White Paper on Attaining a Sustainable Restoration of the Great Lakes

The white paper prepared by a member of the Research Coordination Committee was introduced, and it was noted that on a recent RCC call, the RCC discussed that the draft would be useful for the Triennial Assessment of Progress report, could be used to develop a policy statement, and could be further developed through a work plan.

During discussion it was noted that the draft is short on details, and there may be merit in not stating a specific dollar figure unless additional justification is developed. There was general agreement amongst SPC members that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been important in advancing restoration on the U.S. side, and making it a permanent, binational and coordinated effort is desirable. SPC members agreed that increased investment in science research is also appropriate (the draft should cite science reports that show current investments are not adequate), and the timing for the proposal is good.

Overall, there was general agreement that the SPC is interested in participating in further developing the draft, and that it should be considered for the draft TAP report, and developing it into a policy statement should be considered in conjunction with the Water Quality Board. The SAB Co-Chairs should discuss advancing the draft when they next meet.

4. Parties' Final Priorities for Science

The SPC was advised that the Parties confirmed their final Priorities for Science (2017-2019) as part of the Great Lakes Executive Committee meeting held in December, 2016. Many of the SAB's recommendations on the draft Priorities for Science were incorporated into the final version, and members were thanked for their contributions to the SAB's input.

5. Triennial Assessment of Progress

Staff advised that a draft TAP report will be provided to the Parties and then released to the public for review in the coming days. The report will be 50-60 pages and written for a general audience, and will not include recommendations. Extensive consultations on the draft report are planned, both through IJC's online democracy platform at www.participateijc.org and through several public meetings planned throughout March, 2017. The synthesis of public comments will be used to revise the TAP report, and the final will include recommendations. The SPC will be asked to review and comment on the draft TAP concurrent with the public review.

Following release of the draft TAP report, the draft Technical Appendix will be released. SPC members have contributed to individual chapters of the Technical Appendix already.

6. SPC Membership Renewals

Staff advised that all seven of the SPC members whose terms are expiring in February, 2017 were interested in serving another term, and Commissioners recently unanimously approved term renewals for all seven members. All SPC members were thanked for their ongoing contributions to the work of the IJC.

Membership renewals will be formally communicated by the IJC's Section offices. In the meantime, informally the following renewals were approved:

Jeff Ridal, Co-Chair – 2 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2019)
Carol Miller, Co-Chair - 2 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2019)
Clare Robinson - 2 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2019)
Lucinda Johnston – 3 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2020)
Christina Semeniuk – 3 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2020)

Scott Sowa – 3 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2020)
Mike Murray– 3 years (February 27, 2017-February 26, 2020)

7. SPC Meeting Schedule for 2017

Staff clarified that U.S. Commissioners have been asked to tender resignation letters effective January 20, 2017. When the incoming U.S. Administration will accept those resignations is presently unknown. Since the Boundary Waters Treaty requires four Commissioners to make decisions, without U.S. Commissioners the IJC Semi-Annual meetings will not be held.

Notwithstanding this uncertainty, the SPC endorsed the 2017 meeting schedule as presented. A Doodle poll will be sent out to schedule the March, 2017 call.

8. Other Business and Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal.
Please forward any errors or omissions to childm@windsor.ijc.org*