



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

February 17, 2015 – 10:00 to 11:30am

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Lucinda Johnson	Bob Hecky	Glenn Benoy (Canadian Liaison)
Mike Murray	Henry Lickers	Victor Serveiss (U.S. Liaison)
Dale Phenicie	Chris Metcalfe	Antonette Arvai
	Steven Renzetti	Mark Burrows
	Christina Semeniuk	Christine Indrigo
		Trish Morris
		Li Wang

Regrets: David Allen, Scott Sowa, David Lodge, Clare Robinson

1. Welcome and Introductions (Carol Miller)

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and staff identified themselves over the phone. The only change to the draft agenda was a request that Item 6 (Work Plan Updates) be moved up on the agenda.

2. Work Plan Updates

15th and 16th Biennial Report Recommendations Prioritization (Matthew Child on behalf of Work Group)

The SPC report was transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the Commission, and copied to SPC Members. Commissioners reviewed the report at their February 9-11, 2016 Executive Meeting. Commissioners expressed thanks for the SPC's work, approved posting of the report on the Board's website, and agreed that the information in the report would help inform development of the IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress report.

Communication Indicators (Christina Semeniuk)

The Communication Indicators report includes six priority Indicators and six priority Measures, and is nearing completion. Staff input on the draft Work Group report is currently being considered by the Work Group Co-Chairs. Once the Work Group Co-Chairs finalize the report, it will be formatted by staff using IJC's style guide, and forwarded to the SPC Co-Chairs for transmittal to the

Commission. The intent is that the Commission will consider the report at the Spring Semi-Annual meeting.

Priority measures need to be developed for the Chemicals of Mutual Concern and Aquatic Invasive Species Indicators, using the filters included in the SPC report. Through discussion, it was clarified that data availability for both Indicators has been completed by an RCC contractor, and identification of priority Measures for each of the two Indicator will be done collaboratively by SPC and RCC. This topic will be discussed further by the SAB Co-Chairs at their next meeting.

Information Coordination and Flow (Lucinda Johnson)

The project is progressing well and according to the Work Plan. A March 2/3, 2016 workshop is planned in Windsor. Suggestions for potential workshop attendees who are end users of science information would be welcomed by the Work Group.

Fertilizer Application Work Group (Mike Murray was delayed in joining the call; a summary of his written submission provided after the meeting is pasted below)

The Work Group has developed several related documents for its project which will assess the relative contribution of different sources of nutrients to the west basin of Lake Erie. These include a scoping document reviewing the overall issue, a work plan that is more focused on work we would aim to carry out this year (with emphasis on compiling information on commercial fertilizer and manure use/application), and contract language which would be incorporated into a contract for a consultant to carry out. These documents have been sent to the RCC and WQB for review, solicitation of general input, and request for identification of potential contractors, and some feedback has been received. The contract language is currently being reviewed by IJC's contract staff in the U.S. Section office. A key concern at this point is the project timeline. Additional discussion between Work Group members, SPC Co-Chairs and IJC staff regarding timeline and relationship to the nascent LEEP 2 effort is required.

3. Emerging Issues/Work Plans (Jeff Ridal)

The Canadian Co-Chair outlined the IJC budget cycle, noting that funds are currently budgeted for the 2016/17 fiscal year to complete the Information Coordination and Flow project, and the Fertilizer Application Work Group project. Additional projects may be funded through the U.S. Section if Work Plans are approved by the Commission and the funds obligated (i.e., contracts signed) prior to September 30, 2016. Therefore, the SPC should consider any new Work Plan items for the Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

The agenda (attachment 1) included several emerging issues and work plans previously identified by the SPC. Additional suggestions included completion of priority Measures for Chemicals of Mutual Concern and Aquatic Invasive Species and the Flint drinking water issue. Staff alerted the SPC to a recent Commissioners' discussion regarding a potential second phase of the Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP). The staff LEEP team have been directed to develop a short backgrounder on additional Lake Erie work focused on the sources and causes of eutrophication. The Co-Chairs of SPC, RCC and WQB will be provided with that backgrounder soon, with a request that the advisory boards consider whether and how the Boards could contribute to future activities. The linkage between the nascent LEEP 2 and the SPC's Fertilizer Application Work Group was acknowledged, and the LEEP 2 backgrounder will be considered by the Work Group once it is received.

The SPC's Work Plan from 2015 on changing energy environment in the Great Lakes was briefly discussed. Staff noted the Commission discussed the issue of the impacts of electricity generation on Great Lakes water quality at their February 9-11, 2016 Executive Committee meeting, and noted that focusing the previous Work Plan on that topic would respond to the Commission's earlier feedback that the Work Plan needed to be better scoped. Additional consideration of this item requires input from the co-Chairs of this proposal, who were not on the call during this discussion item.

It was clarified that the Information Coordination and Flow project has not yet sufficiently developed to identify additional work plan items.

Action: SPC Members to provide suggestions for additional Work Plan items by March 8, 2016 for further consideration by the SPC.

4. Triennial Assessment of Progress (Carol Miller)

The U.S. Co-Chair reviewed the three Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report related items in attachment 2 of the agenda. SPC members agreed to self-identify to serve in an advisory capacity for each of the TAP report chapters, which each address one of the nine General Objectives in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and 'Other Advice'. Several members volunteered for specific chapters.

Action: SPC Members are asked to self-identify to serve as technical advisors for one or more of the TAP report chapters. A sign up table will be circulated separately.

The SPC members who self-identified to assist with TAP Chapter 10 (Other Advice) will develop some suggestions related to prevention of harm. They may request the assistance of other SPC members.

Following a discussion of potential mechanisms for the SPC to provide input on the draft Progress Report of the Parties, the SPC agreed that a multi-Board webinar would be appropriate.

5. SPC Membership (Carol)

The U.S. Co-Chair and staff discussed the process for recruiting the two Canadian and one U.S. positions that will be vacated on February 26, 2016. A list of potential nominees was compiled based on suggestions from existing Board members and the 2013/14 recruitment process. Staff and Co-Chairs have been communicating regularly to advance a slate that includes appropriate expertise (including environmental economics) and diversity, among other considerations. Recommendations will be provided to the Commission soon for their consideration. The intent is to have the new members confirmed prior to the Spring Semi-Annual meeting, so they can attend that meeting.

6. 2016 SPC Meeting Schedule (Carol)

The SPC accepted the recommended meeting schedule for 2016 included in attachment 3:

- i. February 17, 2016 Conference call
- ii. March TBD Conference call
- iii. April 19 & 20 In Person (Washington, DC)
- iv. June Conference call
- v. September Conference call
- vi. October In Person (Windsor, ON)
- vii. December Conference call

The next meeting of the SPC was confirmed for March 24, 2016 (11am-12:30pm). An Outlook calendar request will be sent separately.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal. Please forward any errors or omission by March 8, 2016 to childm@windsor.ijc.org