



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

January 26, 2018 - 2:00 to 3:30pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Scott Sowa	Bob Hecky	Trish Morris
Mike Murray	Andrea Kirkwood	Li Wang
Lucinda Johnson	Christina Semeniuk	Mark Burrows
Joe DePinto	John Livernois	
Dave Allan		

Regrets: Dale Phenicie, Henry Lickers, Clare Robinson

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. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Work Group Updates

Fertilizer Application (staff on behalf of Mike Murray)

The Commission adopted the SPC report as an IJC report at their December, 2017 Executive meeting. A webinar to publically release the report is planned for February 13. Full webinar details will be circulated soon, and an embargoed copy of the IJC report will be sent to Board members in advance of the public release.

Energy Transport & Water Quality (staff on behalf of Dave Allan)

Since the last SPC meeting, a work group call was held to solicit oral input on the revised draft technical report prepared by the contractor. Written input on the revised report was due earlier this month, and the contractor will prepare their final report by early February. Once the final technical report is received, the work group will begin preparing the work group report.

Declining Offshore Lake Productivity (Joe DePinto and Bob Hecky)

The contractor work in continuing, with substantial completion of the literature review of phosphorus/productivity relationships, update of Bunnell et al. (2014) data, and review of ecosystem model capabilities. The work group report might be ready for discussion by the SPC at

the April 25 in-person meeting. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has a complementary project underway and coordination between both projects is occurring.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (staff on behalf of Lucinda Johnson)

GLEWS is a joint SAB project. The contractor has been actively working on the project since November, and activities so far have included a literature review and completion of online surveys and oral interviews with subject matter experts. A project workshop is planned for some time in May, 2018.

Stressor Interactions (Dave Allan)

The work plan was approved by the Commission in December. The work plan will be used to develop a contractor scope of work, and procurement will occur through the U.S. system. The work group will be expanded to include the other advisory boards and external members.

3. Coordination with other Advisory Board Activities

HPAB's Harmonized Fish Consumption Advisory Work Plan (Jeff Ridal)

A work plan has been prepared and circulated by the HPAB Secretary for input by the Great Lakes Advisory Boards. Substantial involvement of the Akwesasne community is still being arranged. Once the work plan is complete it will be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Action: Board members are invited to provide input on the draft work plan by February 28, 2018.

WQB's Animal Feeding Operations

Due to attendance, an update on this project will be provided at the next meeting.

RCC's Great Lakes Surface Water-Groundwater Integration (Christina Semeniuk)

This project will develop an integrated modeling platform for combined representation of surface and subsurface hydrological processes. Three work group calls have been held, and the contractor has completed the literature review and twelve subject matter expert interviews which have been helpful in identifying data gaps. The project will use a coupled model approach and ensure an integrative link to policy. A workshop is planned for April, 2018 in Ann Arbor and software and/or apps will be used to make sure workshop ideas get captured.

RCC's Great Lakes Nutrients Adaptive Management (Scott Sowa)

The contractor is working to complete a comparative analysis of watershed and lake models to inform adaptive management decision-making. Preliminary reporting on five models has been completed, with more to follow. A project workshop is being planned for March, 2018.

Suggestions for Improved Advisory Board Collaboration

Commissioners have encouraged collaboration amongst the advisory boards, where appropriate. Regular meetings of the advisory board co-chairs, and distribution of the advisory board projects table are moving things in the right direction. Additional opportunities include confirming cross-board membership in board projects at the earliest possible stage. It was noted that cross-board collaboration helps those projects rise to the top during funding discussions.

4. SAB Session at IAGLR 2018

Board member response to the call for paper abstracts was outstanding, and abstracts have been submitted for all recent and ongoing SAB projects. In addition, the co-chairs submitted an abstract for a facilitated discussion to identify potential project topics, and coordination with other entities.

5. Lake Ecosystem Objectives

The LEO attachment circulated with the agenda was reviewed. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement requires that the Parties develop LEOs for each lake that specify ecological conditions necessary to achieve the General Objectives of the Agreement. In November, 2017 the Great Lakes Executive Committee co-chairs provided direction to the Lake Partnerships that LEOs should not be developed unless certain circumstances were met. Staff have some concerns about this decision related to progress and accountability. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission has also raised some concerns with the decision.

Through discussion, the link between LEOs and the indicator-related projects completed by the SPC and RCC were discussed, and there was general agreement that the SPC should provide input to any advice that the Commission develops.

Scott Sowa, Bob Hecky and Lucinda Johnson volunteered to serve in an advisory capacity on this topic, and the SPC will be kept informed as things develop.

6. Triennial Assessment of Progress

Planning for the 2020 TAP report is underway, and based on favorable input from the advisory board co-chairs a half-day multi-board workshop is planned at the IJC Spring Semi-Annual meeting. An online survey will be developed prior to workshop to solicit members' initial views.

7. Schedule of 2018 meetings

The proposed meeting schedule was approved by consensus. Through discussion, members confirmed that conference call dates should be set via polling in advance of each call. In addition to the two in-person meetings, there was general agreement that a one-day in-person 'retreat' could be valuable to discuss board operations and work plan topics.

Action: Co-Chairs and Secretary to develop preliminary 'retreat' details for board review and discussion.

8. Other Business

Scott Sowa advised the board that a letter presenting key findings and recommendations from the *Information Coordination and Flow* report has been sent to the Great Lakes Executive Committee co-chairs (i.e., U.S. EPA and Environment and Climate Change Canada).

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

*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*