

The Great Lakes Science Advisory Board
Science Priority Committee
Meeting #4 Record
June 8-9, 2015

Travelodge Hotel, Windsor, ON

CONTENTS:

1. SPC Day 1 Meeting Record (Page # 2)
2. SPC Day 2 Meeting Record (Page #6)
3. Draft Agenda(s) SPC Committee Meetings (Page #9)

Meeting Record

4th Meeting of the Science Priority Committee under the 2012 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Monday, June 8th, 2015

Travelodge Hotel, Windsor, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carol Miller, (U.S. Co-Chair), WSU
Jeffrey Ridal, (Can. Co-Chair, SPC), SLRI
Robert Hecky, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth, (Ret.)
Henry Lickers, Akwesasne
Stephen Renzetti, Brock Univ.
Lucinda Johnson, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth

Michael Murray, NWF
Dale Phenicie, CGLI
Scott Sowa, TNC
Clare Robinson, Western Ontario Univ.
David Allan, University of Michigan

Regrets: Chris Metcalfe, Trent University, Dave Lodge, Univ. of ND, Christina Semeniuk, Univ. of Windsor

SECRETARIES:

Raj Bejankiwar, SPC, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

LIAISONS:

Glenn Benoy, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Victor Serveiss, IJC, Washington DC, USA

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Lizhu Wang, IJC – GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Antonette Arvai, IJC – GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Matthew Child, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Pierre-Yves Caux, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Kennan Zhou, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Sara Keating, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

Record of Discussion for Monday, June 8, 2015

- Communication Indicators
 - Overall feedback from Commissioners was reported to be positive, with the exception of the name “Communication Indicators”; more info to come during Scott Sowa’s presentation tomorrow (June 9)
- Info Coordination and Flow WG Proposal
 - Broad overview of the WG context and purpose was provided, with reference to its work plan summary dated April 14, 2015 (hard copies provided at meeting)
- Energy WG Proposal
 - Brief overview of WG purpose and work direction was provided
 - Proposal was well-received by Commissioners, but not funded due to higher prioritization of Triennial Assessment-related work

- Suggestion was made to invite speakers to SAB / SPC meetings to speak about the energy environment within the Great Lakes basin, in order to stay informed and be prepared for eventual proposal re-submission

No follow-up tasks.

Suggestions made:

- 1. Invite speakers to SPC / SAB meetings to talk about the energy environment within the basin, in order for SAB / SPC members to stay informed about the topic and be more prepared for proposal re-submission at a later date*
-

Agenda Item: Commission’s Guidance on LEEP Phase II – Contribution of chemical fertilizers versus manure to phosphorus loadings in the western basin of Lake Erie

- A new WG is to be formed for this topic handed down by Commissioners; membership is to be formed via self-nomination within the SAB as well as invitations to relevant external contacts, if applicable
- Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the WG work (relevant databases, lack of analysis of on-farm practices, final report ownership)

No follow-up tasks.

Suggestions made:

- 1. Analyze the reasoning / policy behind farm-level decisions between manure and artificial fertilizer*
 - 2. Make clear in the work plan that it’s the SPC who creates and owns the final report; this is unclear as currently written*
-

New topic (not on agenda): Update on Economic Analysis for LEEP (Steven Renzetti)

- Contractor draft report is of high quality and is nearly finalized; all milestones / deadlines are on track
- Review of re-submitted draft should involve peer review with external Subject Matter Experts
- Will hold a conference call soon to discuss the report
- Final report submission will occur during the first week of July
- Suggestion – discuss with Environment Canada their release timelines of similar report(s)

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Hold a conference call (when, and with who?) to discuss the contractor report**

Suggestions made:

- 1. Discuss with Environment Canada their release timelines of similar report(s)*
-

Agenda Item: Assignment of SPC Members to Info Flow WG and “Chemical vs. Manure” WG

- Extensive discussion ensued regarding the “Chemical vs. Manure” WG context, work scope, potentially helpful resources, and whether or not the SPC should carry this WG
- SPC eventually agreed to carry the “Chemical vs. Manure” WG

No follow-up tasks.

Suggestions made (all relating to “Chemical vs. Manure” WG):

- 1. Narrow down nutrient sources beyond simply point and non-point, and beyond simply manure and chemical fertilizer – break sources down into type of livestock and type of fertilizer, so that we can speak to the characteristics of nutrient loading from different sources and the effects of different chemical compositions*
- 2. Assess the prevalence of best practices usage, and discuss the implications of non-compliance*
- 3. Use existing modelling efforts such as SWAT and SPARROW to locate nutrient hotspots*
- 4. Use historical databases of agricultural statistics on both sides of the border with respect to the western basin of Lake Erie, and apportion to mesh with GIS units*
- 5. Execute a series of projects rather than a mere assemblage / mapping project so the WG is justified*
- 6. Consider long-term trends and policy directions*
- 7. Look at the numerous past IJC reports regarding nutrient loading to see what’s already been done*

Breakout sessions occurred at 3:00 PM; no notes recorded – see Scott Sowa and J. David Allen’s presented files (respectively – Word document for Info Flow WG, PowerPoint presentation for “Chemical vs. Manure” WG)

SPC Information Coordination and Flow (ICF) Work Group Break-out Session – June 8

- The ICF work plan was approved, by polling, by the Commission the morning of June 8th.
- Work group members began crafting the RFP based on the approved work plan, detailing the specific tasks to be undertaken by the contractor
- The work group decided that the case studies identified in the work plan should be focused on 2 of the general objectives of the Agreement

SPC Nutrients Break-out session- June 8

- Identified the need for a visual representation of nutrients flow from both chemical and manure sources, referred to Scavia et. al as example.
- Possible use of a SWOT analysis could provide additional input into identifying nutrient source hot spots
- Identified a need for harmonization of primary research on both countries net loading of nutrients.
- Identified a discrepancy in terms of density of monitoring stations between countries that could result in problem for data collection
- Discussed the need to take a look at addition characteristics of the landscape in question including soil type, slope, and topography as well as the behaviour of each fertilizer.

SPC Reconvene after Breakout Sessions – Wrap-up

- Discussions ensued regarding WG membership invitations, and the monetary value of RFP work in relation to the RFP approval process

ACTIONS ITEMS:

- 1. Invitations to either of the new WGs are only to be sent by IJC staff and not SPC members; advise IJC staff if there is an invitation to be sent**

Meeting Record

4th Meeting of the Science Priority Committee under the 2012 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
Tuesday, June 9th, 2015
Travelodge Hotel, Windsor, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carol Miller, (U.S. Co-Chair), WSU	Michael Murray, NWF
Jeffrey Ridal, (Can. Co-Chair, SPC), SLRI	Dale Phenicie, CGLI
Robert Hecky, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth, (Ret.)	Scott Sowa, TNC
Henry Lickers, Akwesasne	Clare Robinson, Western Ontario Univ.
Stephen Renzetti, Brock Univ.	David Allan, University of Michigan
Lucinda Johnson, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth	

Regrets: Chris Metcalfe, Trent University, Dave Lodge, Univ. of ND, Christina Semeniuk, Univ. of Windsor

SECRETARIES:

Raj Bejankiwar, SPC, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

LIAISONS:

Glenn Benoy, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Victor Serveiss, IJC, Washington DC, USA

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Glenn Benoy, IJC, Washington DC, USA
Victor Serveiss, IJC, Washington DC, USA
Lizhu Wang, IJC – GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Antonette Arvai, IJC – GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Matthew Child, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Pierre-Yves Caux, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Kennan Zhou, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada
Sara Keating, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

Record of Discussion for Tuesday, June 9, 2015

Breakout sessions continued from yesterday for both WGs; no notes recorded – see Scott Sowa and J. David Allen’s presented files (respectively – Word document for Info Flow WG, PowerPoint presentation for “Chemical vs. Manure” WG)

SPC Information Coordination and Flow Work Group Break-out Session – June 9

- Clarification was provided to the work group with regard to the contracting process. One contract is able to be issued that spans multiple years, which is the preferred IJC method of contracting.
- Development of the RFP continued, trying to flesh out the specific tasks within each work plan activity

- It was noted by the group that the RFP should explicitly capture the First Nations/Tribes aspect of the project

Follow-up tasks:

1. Based on the work group discussion and documents, Antonette will place the information into an RFP template and send to work group leads for review by the end of the week.

Agenda Item: Reporting Out & Discussion from Breakout Sessions

- Info Flow WG
 - Breakout session focused primarily on RFP development
 - Scott Sowa provided a walkthrough of RFP development so far – still work to be done
- “Chemical vs. Manure” WG
 - J. David Allen provided a presentation developed during the breakout session regarding ideas for Objectives, Info Sources, Products, Knowledge Gaps...
 - End goal for the WG at this time is to review existing knowledge, knowledge gaps, and outline next steps for Commissioner review by early August
 - Discussion ensued regarding bringing additional members onboard

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Scott Sowa and J. David Allen to send out their WG documentation (RFP Word document and PowerPoint presentation, respectively) for SPC comment**
2. **Regarding Info Flow WG:**
 - a. **SPC members to send any contractor suggestions to Scott Sowa for Info Flow WG**
3. **Regarding “Chemical vs. Manure” WG:**
 - a. **Contact Chiefs of Ontario regarding WG membership**
 - b. **Contact Scavia and DePinto (sp?) regarding WG membership**
 - c. **E-mail J. David Allen with any suggestions for other members**
4. **J. David Allen to distribute a map of Lake Erie tributaries (as seen in slideshow)**

Suggestions made:

1. *Regarding “Chemical vs. Manure” WG:*
 - a. *Incorporate usage of Annex 4 ensemble models (supported by EPA and EC)*
 - b. *Identify not only nutrient hotspot sources, but also “cold-spot” sources, where the best practices are being used*
-

Agenda Item: Triennial Assessment Report – Draft Layout

- Intent of discussion is for the SPC to think about where its various products would fit into the Triennial Assessment outline; aim is to have a first draft of the Triennial Assessment by June 2016 (before elections)
- Extensive discussion regarding data gaps and the merit of using indicators to report on Objective progress

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Raj Bejankiwar, Victor Serveiss, Carol Miller, and Jeffrey Ridal to have a discussion regarding feedback and timeline expectations before sending out the draft TAP outline to SPC for review and comment**
- 2. Teleconference to discuss received comments only to be held if warranted (TBD)**

Suggestions made:

- 1. Data gaps could be a new chapter 4*
 - 2. Data Gaps should be expanded to cover Data and Info Flow Gaps*
 - 3. Integrate SOLEC report findings into the discussion on data gaps / quality; there is a section in the SOLEC report about data gaps for indicators*
 - 4. Focus on reporting on the progress of relevant Party programs, especially given the amount of investment in such programs by the Parties and other organizations*
 - 5. AoC de-listings may be a good way to measure progress*
-

Agenda Item: Review of 15th and 16th Biennial Report Recommendations

- Commissioners directed the SPC to review the 15th and 16th Biennials and short-list the top five recommendations that IJC has yet to focus on (disregard those that are already being worked on); essentially identifying future action items
- Reviews done independently by Robert Hecky and J. David Allan; brief outline of their analyses provided by both
- Discussion ensued regarding the necessity and relevance of this review
- Side discussion ensued regarding timeliness of meeting agenda issuance and preparedness for meetings

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Hold teleconference sometime this month (June 2015) to discuss relevance / necessity / approach of this review**

Suggestions made:

- 1. Inform SPC members if agenda items are pending, but ensure that members are still prepared to discuss them*
 - 2. Make deadlines more clear to SPC members when things are sent out for review / comment*
-

New topic (not on agenda): Update on Communication Indicator Work (Scott Sowa)

- Walkthrough of indicator evaluation approach was provided, with reference to the Metric Prioritization Process and Metric Assessment Results (detailed Excel spreadsheets)
- Commissioner feedback was presented (generally pleased, need to change the name of the indicators, follow the example of the SOLEC Highlights Report format, and add two indicators – Aquatic Invasive Species and Chemicals of Mutual Concern)

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Within one week, provide feedback to Scott Sowa regarding:**
 - a. Proposed take home points, in light of the Metric Assessment Results shown (Excel file); wants feedback on the relative strong and weak points within each of the four major categories**
 - b. Any significant patterns observed, across all indicators and metrics**

No suggestions made.

New topic (not on agenda) – Update on AOC work (Matthew Child)

- Work plan approved by Commissioners in April
- Environment Canada to de-list northernmost AoC in Lake Superior; IJC response was framed and commented on by SPC; currently with the Commissioners for approval
- No further de-listings anticipated this year

No follow-up tasks or suggestions made.

Agenda Item: Next Meeting Date

- Will be held in conjunction with the October Semi-Annual in Ottawa, October 26 to 27

No follow-up tasks or suggestions made.



INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION SAB Science Priority Committee Meeting

June 8- 9, 2015

Travelodge Hotel, 33 Riverside Drive East, Windsor, ON

Draft Agenda

Day 1: June 8th, 2015

1:00 PM to 02:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome (Jeff and Carol) 5 min ▪ Introduction (SPC members, secretaries, liaisons and other guests) 10 min ▪ IJC Spring Semi-annual Reporting out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Indicator Work • Energy work group proposal • Information and Flow work group proposal • ▪ Commission’s guidance on LEEP –II related new proposal on “<i>contribution of chemical fertilizers vs manure to the Phosphorus loadings in the western basin of Lake Erie</i>” (Raj) 15 min 	
02:00PM- 2:15PM	Break	
02:15 PM to 02:30PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments of SPC members to two work groups (i.e. Information Flow WG and Chem vs.Manure WG) (15 mins) • Breakout sessions 	
02:30 PM to 05:00 PM	Information Flow WG	Chem vs.Manure WG
<p>5:00 PM : Presentation on microbeads in the Great Lakes Basin (by Antonette Arvai, Scientist, IJC) Dinner & Social: The Foundry Pub, Downtown Windsor</p>		

Day 2: June 9 th , 2015	
8:00 AM to 09:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout session's cont..... (may prepare few slides for reporting out to the entire SPC)
09:00 AM to 10:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Flow WG Reporting out & Discussion (45 mins) • Chem vs Manure WG reporting out & Discussion (45 mins)
10:00 AM to 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 AM to 12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAB Session at the Great Lakes Watershed Meeting in Windsor (Nov 2015) • IJC's Report on <i>Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP)</i>: SPC's role and responsibilities (Jeff and Carol) 15 min • 15th and 16th Biennial Report Recommendations Work • Actions items/next steps • Next face to face meeting date
12:00 PM	Adjourn