

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
199th Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

January 22, 2018
Teleconference

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Sandy Bihn
Anne Cook
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Karl Gebhardt
Tinka Hyde
Kelsey Leonard

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Mark Fisher
John Jackson
Irving Leblanc
Ling Mark
Mark Mattson
Russ Powers
Gayle Wood

U.S. Member Regrets

Jon Allan
Jessica Dexter
Simone Lightfoot
David Mengebier
Karen Sands

Canadian Member Regrets

Sandra Cooper
Michael Goffin
Chris Hilken
James Wagar
Mark Wales

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Paul Allen (for Cindy Warwick) – Canadian Section

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 199th meeting of the board. Members and other participants identified themselves on the phone. New member, Irving Leblanc (Assembly of First Nations) was recognized and welcomed to his first meeting. Board members were also notified of new incoming member Brandon Hofmeister (CMS Energy), who will be replacing Dave Mengebier at the end of his term on February 26, 2018.

2. Policies and Procedures for Review and Approval of Board Documents (R. de Loë)

The board's procedure for the approval of board documents was revised in December 2017 to provide clarification regarding the confidentiality of board/work group documents and the policy for their review.

The revised document was shared with members for review on December 11th. Members were supportive of the document. A minor edit for clarification was identified during the call.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretary will revise the board's *Policies and Procedures for Review and Approval of Board Documents* as discussed.

3. Work Group Activity Updates (D. Ullrich)

Members were informed that the board's reports on *Addressing Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers in the Great Lakes Basin: Searching for Solutions to Key Challenges* and *Watershed Management of Nutrients in Lake Erie* were approved by the Commission for public release and posting. Both reports are to be released by the first week of February 2018. The Commission also approved (1) holding a public consultation period on both the WQB's 2017 and 2016 Lake Erie reports for the development of a Commission report and (2) transmitting both the WQB's 2017 and 2016 Lake Erie reports to the governments for their use and information in finalizing and implementing their Domestic Action Plans. Work group co-leads provided a report-out of their activities.

Legacy Issues (G. Wood)

Members were provided with updates on the work group's manure and nuclear projects. The draft contractor manure report was reviewed by the work group and comments provided to the contractor January 15th. The final report is to be submitted by February 19th. Following this submission the contractor will give a presentation to the full board (date TBD). The nuclear decommissioning project is awaiting contract procurement using U.S. funds. The GLRO director clarified that in light of the continuing resolution under which the U.S. government has been operating; the contract process has been delayed. The contract for the nuclear decommissioning project will proceed when the IJC U.S. Section receives a sufficient budget allocation; the timing of which is uncertain. A draft of the nuclear watching brief has been developed and circulated for review by the work group.

Engagement (R. Powers)

The binational Great Lakes poll was recently completed. A draft report of the analysis of the results is to be submitted to the work group the first week of February. The final report from the contractor is to be submitted by March 2018. The public engagement event that was held in Ottawa in October 2017 was a great success and the work group is beginning planning for public events in Washington D.C. in April 2018 and Hamilton, ON in September 2018.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder)

Members were provided with updates on the work group's climate change and wetlands projects. The work group has agreed to convert the PowerPoint presentation on the board's climate change and adaptation work into a narrated video. The script has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the work group. The video is expected to be completed by the end of March 2018. The contract work on wetlands is continuing and a survey was recently sent to Indigenous groups/persons and will soon be sent to additional wetlands experts. The current list of wetlands experts was requested to be circulated to members so that additional suggestions could be provided to the work group co-leads. The watching briefs on microplastics and fossil fuel transport are continuing and the mining watching brief is under development. The work group's proposed 2018-19 projects on green infrastructure and plastics and fiber debris were not approved by the Commission.

ACTION ITEM: The board Secretary will circulate the list of wetlands experts to members for their input.

4. Status of 2018 – 2019 Work Plan (R. de Loë)

The board's 2018-19 work plan was submitted to the Commission for approval during the October 2017 IJC Semi-Annual Meeting. The Commission made its decisions during the Executive Meeting in December 2017, which were transmitted via a letter to the board on January 11th 2018. The Commission approved the board's work plan with the exception of the projects *on Green Infrastructure* and *Great Lakes Plastic and Fiber Debris*. The Commission also expressed its support for the board to develop a project plan, regarding initiating a new approach to regulatory development that integrates the creation of standards for product flammability, toxicity and re-design options.

5. Cross-board Collaboration and Communication (D. Ullrich)

A memo was sent to Great Lakes Advisory Board Co-chairs on November 27, 2017 highlighting the current and potential future projects for which collaboration is currently occurring or may occur. Members were encouraged to continue collaboration and cooperation with identified members from other boards on current WQB projects. Additionally, WQB members invited to participate on other board projects should do their best to take full advantage of this opportunity.

6. Future Direction and Priorities of the Board (R. de Loë)

During the October 2017 board meeting, the issue of the board's future direction and areas of focus was raised. Stemming from that, board members Mike Goffin and Chris Hilkene were asked to develop a document that provides a perspective on how the board can clarify its focus and direction as it moves forward with work planning. This document was provided to members on January 5th to initiate discussion on the board call. Overall members expressed agreement with the perspectives provided in the document, particularly the need to be better connected to the TAP. It was also generally agreed that direction and guidance from the Commission would be helpful in focusing board work and priorities. However, this needs to be balanced with the board's independent role of bringing new and critical issues to the attention of the Commission. It was further noted that there should be a mix in the level at which board advice and recommendations are geared (i.e., from the regulatory level to the local/on-the-ground level). The co-chairs noted the timeliness of this discussion having recently received an e-mail about a multi-board TAP meeting, being held during the April IJC Semi-Annual Meeting, to engage with the boards more closely and earlier in the TAP process.

Further in-depth discussion on the board's future direction and focus will occur during the April WQB meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretary will circulate to members the e-mail regarding the multi-board TAP meeting scheduled in conjunction with the April IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

7. Great Lakes Issues (D. Ullrich)

Members were provided an opportunity to bring any Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. The board was made aware of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Parliament Hill Days event that took place in November 2017, which presented a strategy calling for a review of government programs and investments in order to develop a shared vision and plan to hasten action and investment to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystems. The strategy was favorably received by government officials. The issue of drinking water impacted by microcystin was also raised (e.g. need to investigate treatment technologies, associated costs and sharing of best practices).

8. Next WQB Meetings (R. de Loë)

The board discussed the remainder of its 2018 meeting schedule as follows:

- April 25, 2018 - Washington D.C. (in conjunction with the IJC Semi-Annual Meeting)
- July 16, 2018 @ 2:00-3:30 PM ET – Teleconference
- September 25-26, 2018 – Hamilton, ON

Co-leads of the work groups were requested to attend the WQB appearance on the morning of Thursday April 26th. It was noted that the board's April 2018 meeting will be the 200th meeting of the board. Members were asked to send any suggestions they may have on commemorating the event to Dave Ullrich.

9. Public Comments & Adjourn (Co-Chairs)

No public comments were received. The Co-Chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.