



IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee Twenty Second Meeting Summary

August 14, 2018 – 11:00am-12:30pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Dale Phenicie	Andrea Kirkwood	Li Wang
Mike Murray	Henry Lickers	Glenn Benoy
Lucinda Johnson	Christina Semeniuk	Victor Serveiss
Joe DePinto	John Livernois	David Burden
	Clare Robinson	

Regrets: Dave Allan, Scott Sowa, Bob Hecky

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed all in attendance, and roll call attendance was taken. The draft agenda was reviewed, and approved by consensus.

2. Administrative Matters

The IJC's Board Diversity Policy distributed with the agenda packet was reviewed and discussed. Although the SPC has been mindful of diversity in recruiting members in the past, subsequent recruitment processes will need to demonstrate the policy was considered in selecting nominees.

The SPC Secretary has agreed to serve as TAP Project Manager, which will extend out 18-24 months. During that time period he will dedicate roughly half his time to the SPC Secretary role, and half to the TAP Project Manager role. Other GLRO staff will be available to assist with SPC priorities as required e.g., supporting work groups.

3. Review of Work Plan Context

Key elements of the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Study Board Directive distributed with the agenda packet were reviewed. In the coming weeks the Study Board will be identifying a small number of topics that could form the basis of the Study Board report. This process will occur concurrently with the selection of advisory board work plan topics that will be submitted for the October 2018 Semi-Annual meeting, and therefore some alignment of TAP and advisory board work plan priorities may be required.

In response to a question, it was clarified that IJC currently has quorum with two Canadian and two U.S. Commissioners in place. The Canadian Commissioners' terms end in December, 2018 with replacements expected soon thereafter. The U.S. Commission composition is also expected to change although timing is less clear. Changes in Commission composition, in addition to the ongoing TAP Study Board topic selection process, create some uncertainty about the timing of advisory board work plan approval decisions.

The July 9+10, 2018 SPC Retreat summary was quickly reviewed, and it was noted that the SPC will be partnering with RCC to develop a Comprehensive Science Plan work plan for October, 2018 submission. A number of other potential topics were included in the Retreat summary, several of which have since been advanced as potential work plans (see next item).

4. Proposed Work Plans

Six proposed work plans were included in the agenda packet for review and discussion. During the meeting, the work plan authors reviewed the content of their submitted work plan. Summary points from the questions and answers that followed the introduction of each work plan are included below.

Great Lakes Ecosystem Value (J. Livernois)

- Consider selecting a set of discrete services and describe an analytical framework to assess them. In this way we could 'chip away' at the larger suite of ecosystem services, and part of the value of the study would be to identify and refine a protocol that can be applied to other services.
- Include research gaps.
- Clarify relationship between value of ecosystem services, and cost of altering ecosystems.
- Consider narrowing the spatial extent of the analysis to one lake, or one part of one lake.
- Consider using one or more established economic valuation approaches.
- Investigate what the successor to the Great Lakes Advisory Board is contemplating on this topic.
- Henry Lickers volunteered to join the work group if the project moves forward.

Economic and Policy Drivers of Agricultural Nutrient Management Practices (J. Livernois)

- Incorporate the insights from the USDA's analysis of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program (led by Kevin King, USDA) which includes a 'triple bottom line' assessment. It was noted that the USDA work is focused on the western Lake Erie basin only.
- The SAB-RCC is contemplating a work plan on the efficacy of best management practices.
- The next TAP report may include an emphasis on nutrients given all the recent advisory board work, so this topic could be very complementary.
- An agricultural economist should be recruited for the work group, if the project moves forward.

Aquaculture in the Great Lakes (J. Livernois)

- Consider nutrient loads from aquaculture.

Nutrient Runoff Synthesis (staff & D. Allan)

- The RCC may be interested in partnering with SPC on this project, it will be added as a discussion item for the next RCC call. The WQB might be interested as well. It could be a multi-board collaborative effort.
- The geographic focus of the project is the Great Lakes basin.
- The title could be improved to clarify agricultural watershed sources of phosphorus.

Urbanization in the Great Lakes Basin: Emerging Issues Related to Urban Population Growth and Climate Change (A. Kirkwood)

- The IJC completed a 2009 report titled *The Impacts of Urban Areas on Great Lakes Water Quality* (available at <http://www.ijc.org/files/publications/E45.pdf>).
- The project focus could include a focus on individual topics within the broader theme of urbanization, as well cumulative effects.
- Consider shifting demographics in the Great Lakes basin, particularly in light of climate change. Rigorous demographic study is required to confirm trends and their associated impacts.
- Consider projecting out over various timeframes and complete scenario analyses.
- The project dovetails with the RCC project on surface water-groundwater interactions. Could consider the applicability of modeling.
- First Nations lands and reserves could be considered as a case study given their rapid population growth.

Operationalizing an Early Warning System for the Great Lakes (L. Johnson)

- The project builds on the current SAB Great Lakes Early Warning System project which focuses on operational components. This phase 2 project would emphasize risk assessment procedures and analytical approaches to evaluate potential threats.
- In response to a question about the Parties' State of the Great Lakes indicators, it was clarified that the project will describe different approaches to assess trends associated with emerging threats. Different classes of threats will have different data inputs and analytical approaches associated with them.

The process to confirm priority work plan topics was discussed. There was general agreement that following revisions to the work plans, members should select their top three topics via an online survey. The results of the survey will form the basis of the next SPC call in mid-September.

- Actions:**
- i) Work plan authors to submit revised work plans by August 28.
 - ii) SPC members should select three work plans for further consideration by September 7.
 - iii) Secretary to send Doodle poll for SPC call the week of September 10.

5. Other Business & Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

*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*