

Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 180th Meeting
Summary of Discussion
April 24th & 25th, 2012
Embassy Suites Hotel, Delegate Room, Washington, D.C.

US Member Participants

Susan Hedman (Co-Chair)	US EPA
Patty Birkholz	Michigan DEQ
Lori Boughton (on phone)	Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
Steve Davis (for T. Cosby)	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (Ohio)
Thomas Easterly	Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
G. Elmaraghy (on phone for S. Nally)	Ohio EPA
David Ullrich	Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiatives
Don Zelazny (on phone)	NY State. Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Canadian Member Participants

Mike Goffin (Co-Chair)	Environment Canada
Sharon Bailey (on phone)	Ontario Ministry of Environment
Eric Boysen (on phone)	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Gavin Christie	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
N. Wood (on phone for C. Haverson)	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Maxine Kingston (on phone)	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Louise Lapierre (on phone)	QC Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment & Parks
Craig Mather	Aurora, Ontario

Invited Participants

Saad Jasim	International Joint Commission
Raj Bejankiwar	International Joint Commission
Li Wang	International Joint Commission
Ted Yuzyk	International Joint Commission

Observers

Cam Davis	US EPA
Diane de Beaumont (on phone)	Environment Canada
Jennifer McKay	Environment Canada
John Nevin	International Joint Commission

Liaisons

Dave Dempsey	International Joint Commission, Washington
Cindy Warwick	International Joint Commission, Ottawa

Secretariat

John Wilson	International Joint Commission, Windsor
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1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The US Co-Chair introduced Mike Goffin as the newly appointed Canadian Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board (WQB). The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 180th meeting of the Board. Members and participants introduced themselves.

The meeting was held concurrently with the Commission's Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)

The agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions or changes.

3. 179th Meeting Summary Review and Approval (All)

The summary was approved with no additions or changes and will be made available on the Commission's website.

4. WQB Membership Update (Comm. Reps.)

Members were informed that on the Canadian side, Mike Goffin had recently been appointed as Co-Chair, Eric Boysen's membership had been renewed and that Clarence Haverson had been appointed as a new member. Members were also told that there were no vacancies and that membership was up-to-date on the US side.

5. GLWQA Update (Co-Chairs)

The Board Co-Chairs jointly provided an update on the status of the current Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement negotiations. Members were informed that a draft of the Agreement has been completed and that it is currently going through the approval process in both the US and Canada. The next steps, in terms of approvals, for both Canada and the US were discussed. Co-Chairs also provided a more detailed briefing on Nutrients and Ecosystem Indicators, as those issues relate to the Agreement, to help inform further discussion regarding the Commission's Lake Erie Ecosystem and Assessment of Progress Priorities.

6. 2012-2015 Priority Cycle Update (GLRO Director)

Board members were briefed by the Great Lakes Regional Office (GLRO) Director on the 2012-2015 Cycle and associated activities to date. The budget for the Priorities had been tentatively approved during the executive portion of the Semi-Annual meeting. The Director also provided an update on recent GLRO activities.

7. Assessment of Progress Priority (IJC Staff & Dave Ullrich and Gavin Christie)

Commission staff briefed the Board on the overall Assessment of Progress Priority as approved by the Commission. The Board informed staff that they would only be interested in participating in the Ecological Indicators project which is being jointly led by the Water Quality and Science Advisory Boards. The Ecological Indicators workgroup Co-Chairs, Dave Ullrich and Gavin Christie, updated members on recent activities related to this project. The work group is proposing to hold a workshop in July in Chicago. The Board would like to ensure that a balance of science and policy perspectives is included within the work group and during the workshop. The Board also discussed the possibility of a joint WQB/SAB meeting to review the Ecological Indicators work group report once it is completed and prior to transmittal to the Commission at the Fall Semi-Annual Meeting.

8. Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (IJC Staff & Co-Chairs)

Board member representative Steve Davis gave a brief overview of the nutrient management and algal blooms issue in Lake Erie. Commission staff briefed members on the overall Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority. The Commission is asking that projects for this Priority be completed by December 2012. New work plans will be developed for the next two years of the cycle and will focus on governance and implementation issues. The Board has been asked to develop a report on the legislative/regulatory framework related to nutrient management in the Lake Erie basin. Members were updated on activities to date which have included the development of a proposed workplan outline and the formation of a WQB Lake Erie work group. The Board discussed the project and further refined its scope to ensure that the Commission is provided with a useful product. The report developed by the Board will be completed by December 2012.

9. Aquatic Invasive Species (IJC Staff & Gavin Christie)

Commission staff provided a briefing to members on its AIS-related activities. Members were further briefed on the Commission's ongoing AIS Rapid Response Plan project. This project is a continuation of the priority work of the Commission from the previous cycle and is funded, in part, through the US EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

10. Semi-Annual Schedule and Board Appearance (Co-Chairs)

Co-Chairs briefed members on the remaining Board related activities scheduled for the Semi-Annual meeting. Members were told that they are more than welcome to attend any of the activities but are not required to do so.

11. Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule (All)

A Board meeting will be held on October 16 -17, 2012 in Ottawa, ON. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Commission's October Semi-Annual Meeting.

A possible joint WQB/SAB meeting was also discussed. The meeting could be held in either August or September as part of Great Lakes Week which is being held in Cleveland the week of September 10th, 2012.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to follow-up with the SAB on possible dates for a joint meeting and confirm whether there is a suitable time to hold it during Great Lakes Week in September.