

Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 183rd Meeting

Summary of Discussion

April 30th, 2014

Melrose Georgetown Hotel, Potomac III Room
Washington, D.C

US Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Sandy Bihn
Martha Brand
Douglas Busdeker
Bill Creal (on phone)
Jane Elder
Susan Hedman
Sue McCormick
David Mengebier
Michael Ripley
Matthew Thompson
Robyn Wilson

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Maurice Bitran
Michael Goffin
Caroline Gravel
Christopher Hilkené
John Jackson
Dean Jacobs
Betty Matthews-Malone
Mark Mattson
Jean Painchaud
Russ Powers
James Wagar
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

Observers

Cam Davis – US Environmental Protection Agency

Commission Staff

Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office
Sheila Hamstra – Great Lakes Regional Office
Steve Locke – Great Lakes Regional Office
Hugh McDiarmid – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Dave Dempsey – US Section
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

Secretariat

John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The US and Canadian Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the reconstituted Board under the Great Lakes Water Quality Protocol of 2012 (2012 Protocol). Under the 2012 Protocol, the Board now has a more diverse membership made up of members from all levels of governments, the business and agricultural community, environmental non-government organizations, First Nations/Métis/Tribes, watershed authorities, and Universities.

Stephen Locke, Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office, also welcomed members to the meeting on behalf of the Commission and provided a brief overview of the organization's internal structure and its recent strategic planning exercise.

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. WQB Meeting Schedule (All)

The Co-Chairs provided a brief overview of in-person and teleconference meeting requirements as outlined in the Commission's Directive to the Board.

4. Board Member Introductions (All)

All members of the Board introduced themselves and provided a brief, one sentence statement on their hopes and expectations of the Board under the 2012 Protocol.

5. Review of Current IJC Priority Cycle & Projects (IJC Staff)

Members were briefed by Commission staff on the current Great Lakes Priority Cycle including a review of the Priority setting process and the following 2012-2015 Priorities: *Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority (LEEP)*, *Assessment of Progress towards Restoring the Great Lakes (indicators)*, and *Strengthening Capacity to Deliver Science and Information*.

The discussion focused on attempting to provide clarification regarding the Commission's Priority process, the role of the Board prior to the recent changes in membership and potential areas where members could be engaged with the time remaining in the 2012-2015 cycle.

6. Review of Pre-Meeting Survey Results (Rob de Loë)

The Canadian Co-Chair presented the results and summary of a brief survey that was distributed to members prior to the meeting. The purpose of the survey was to gather information regarding member's motivations, experiences and skills and also sought opinions on current and future Great Lakes issues that could potentially be the focus of the Board's work. The survey revealed that there is a good mix of motivations among members, great depth of skills and experiences, demonstrated ability to recognize current issues and future issues – and to prioritize them, and strong prospects for providing good advice to the Commission.

Members were generally supportive of the survey approach and felt that further surveys would be an efficient method to gather input on various issues. The resulting discussion identified a number of potential areas that the Board believed could be explored in further detail. Members agreed that it was important to focus on issues where the work of the Board would add value and not be duplicative of

other ongoing efforts. Members also established that it was important to focus on a limited number of issues to ensure that the Board is able to address them effectively.

7. WQB Work Planning (*Dave Ullrich & Section Liaisons*)

Members were briefed by the Section Liaisons on the *Detailed Functions* of the Board as outlined in the Commission's Directive. The US Co-Chair facilitated a discussion around possible issues for the Board to address.

During the discussion members identified a number of issues that could potentially be the focus of the work of the Board. These included *Public Engagement & Communications*, *Assessment of Progress*, and *Emerging Issues*. Members agreed, as a basic operating principle, that each member should participate in the work of the Board directly for at least one identified issue. In order to gather additional information and to determine areas where each member would like to participate, Co-Chairs will be following up with members using online survey tools.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs and Secretary to develop an interactive survey to refine and gather further ideas from members on issues that the Board will address in the near term and where members wish to participate directly.

8. Next Steps, Semi-Annual Meeting Schedule & Closing Remarks (*Co-Chairs & Board Secretary*)

The next in-person meeting of the Board was tentatively scheduled for September 24-25, 2014 in Windsor, ON.

The first teleconference of the Board will be held in mid to late June 2014. The purpose of the call will be to discuss the results of the latest survey and the next steps of the Board in terms of work planning. Members will be polled to determine their availability.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to send a poll to members to identify the best time to hold a Board teleconference in June.

The Board Secretary briefed members on the remaining Board related activities scheduled for the Semi-Annual meeting.

The Board Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their participation.