

Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 187th Meeting
Summary of Discussion
February 18th, 2015

Teleconference

US Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Bill Creal
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
Susan Hedman
David Mengebier
Matthew Thompson
Robyn Wilson

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Mike Goffin
Caroline Gravel
Chris Hilkene
John Jackson
Dean Jacobs
Mark Mattson
Russ Powers
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

Observers

Diane de Beaumont – Environment Canada
Caroline O’Neill – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Lyman Welch – Alliance for the Great Lakes

Commissioners

Lana Pollack – US Chair
Dereth Glance – US Commissioner

Commission Staff

Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Sarah Keating – 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 Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 187th Meeting of the Board. Members and other participants identified themselves over the phone.

2. Work Group Updates

Legacy Issues (G. Wood & M. Thompson)

Updates were provided to members for the work group’s Lake Erie, PBDEs and PCB projects. Members were informed that a work plan has been completed for the Lake Erie project that will focus on an evaluation of Lake Erie watershed plans and governance relative to nutrient management. Members were reminded that the work plan for the PBDE project was approved by the Commission back in December. The work group is currently attempting to identify contractors

and would appreciate help from the Board with this effort. Once a list of contractors has been compiled a request for quotes will be sent out.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to circulate the request for contractors for the PBDE project to the Board for consideration. Board members should forward any suggestions to the secretary.

The work group would like to delay the PCB project due to its commitments to the other two projects. However, it would be interesting if the WQB could request assistance from the SAB on the science side of the issue which could be used to inform the project in subsequent years.

Emerging Issues (C. Hilken)

Members were briefed on the status of the work group's climate change project as well as the intention of the group to start a number of watching briefs. A work plan and list of potential contractors have been assembled for the Climate Change project. The next steps will be for staff to start the contracting process. The first work group watching brief will focus on *Fossil Fuel Production and Transport in the Great Lakes Basin*. Other possible watching brief topics include: Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products, Mining Activities, and Microplastics. The work group will be consulting with the SAB prior to deciding on a next area of focus to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.

Public Engagement (M. Dolor & M. Mattson)

Members learned that during the most recent in-person meeting of the work group, it was decided that the focus of their work would be on strengthening people's connections to the Great Lakes and complementing many of the Commission's ongoing outreach efforts. Specifically, the workgroup is in the early stages of planning a number of projects including: a public poll focusing on the Great Lakes and the Commission; an analysis of the Commission's social media public engagement; participating in the organization of a conference track for the Commission's upcoming Windsor conference in November with an emphasis on cultural aspects of the Great Lakes; and organizing the public event for the Board's May meeting in Buffalo.

Indicators (D. Ullrich)

Members were informed that work continues on refining the 6 communication indicators, with the Board taking the lead on the fish indicator portion of that project. The Commission is looking to wrap up the indicators priority with the production of a final high level report and should be completing all of the work associated with this effort by November, 2015. The results of this process will help aid in the production of the Commission's Triennial Assessment of Progress report.

3. 2015 – 2016 Work Plan (John Wilson)

Members were reminded of the requirement under the Commission's Directive to the Board to submit a yearly work plan for discussion and approval at the Spring Semi-Annual meeting. As part of this process, the Co-Chairs requested that all of the Board's work groups submit their updated work plans by March 20th. This should be a fairly straight forward process as most of the work groups have recently updated their work plans.

ACTION ITEM: Work group Co-Leads to submit updated work plans to the Secretary by March 20th, 2015.

Submission by March 20th will allow sufficient time for the full Board to review the various work plans prior to submission to the Commission. A detailed timeline for this process will be forwarded to the Board.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to send the timeline for work plan revisions and submission to the Board

4. Next Meeting Date & Adjourn (Co-Chairs)

The next meeting of the Board will be held May 13th and 14th in Buffalo, NY. The focus of the meeting will be on the Board's role and responsibilities relative to the Commission's Triennial Assessment of Progress report. A public event will likely be held the evening of May 13th and a tour of the remediation work on Buffalo's waterfront will likely be held on the afternoon of May 14th.

5. Public Comment (Co-Chairs)

Lyman Welch of the Alliance for the Great Lakes thanked the Co-Chairs for the opportunity to observe the meeting. Mr. Welch commended the Commission on its LEEP report and provided suggestions for the Board related to its public engagement for meetings and work on indicators.