

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 191<sup>st</sup> Meeting**  
**Summary of Discussion**  
January 27, 2016

Teleconference

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**Canadian Member Participants**

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)  
Rob Fleming  
Mike Goffin  
John Jackson  
Dean Jacobs  
Betty Matthews-Malone  
Mark Mattson  
Russ Powers  
James Wagar  
Mark Wales  
Gayle Wood

**U.S. Member Participants**

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)  
Sandy Bihn  
Bill Creal  
Jessica Dexter  
Jane Elder  
Karl Gebhardt  
David Mengebier

**Observers**

Cam Davis – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Carolyn O’Neill – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik – Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Marta Soucek – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

**Commission Staff**

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Christine Indrigo – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office

**Commission Liaisons**

Dave Dempsey – US Section  
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

**Secretariat**

John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

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**1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)**

The following changes to the agenda were approved by the Co-Chairs prior to the start of the meeting:

- Item 6 – Binational Poll to be moved up in the agenda to Item 3 and the other items would follow as originally listed
- Addition of Item 8 – Update on Board Membership

The Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the 191<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board. Members and other participants identified themselves over the phone.

## **2. Follow-Up from 190<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Ottawa (Co-Chairs)**

The Co-Chairs provided an update to members with regard to making Board products publically available. During the last meeting in Ottawa, it was decided that the Board will strive to ensure that all products it completes will be made available publically. Specifically, the Board discussed the Emerging Issues Work Group's watching briefs on *Fossil Fuels* and *Microbeads*.

Both watching briefs have been reviewed and updated by staff and members of the Work Group in preparation for posting on the Board's website. Volunteers from the Public Engagement and Emerging Issues Work Groups are also working with IJC Communications staff to develop a series of articles based on the watching briefs that will be used in the Commission's newsletter and blog and also distributed widely through social media.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs and staff will continue to ensure that all Board products are made available publically whenever practical and appropriate.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to post updated versions of the watching briefs on the WQB website

ACTION ITEM: The series of articles based on the watching briefs will be published by the Commission

## **3. Binational Poll Project (D. Mengebier)**

Members were provided with a brief overview of a draft report recently completed by the contractor for the Binational Poll Project. Initial results were presented and discussed by members. The project steering committee is currently working with the contractor to finalize the draft before forwarding to the full work group and Board for comment and discussion. The Public Engagement work group will be meeting in-person in February. The meeting will include a presentation of the report by the contractor as well as a detailed discussion of the results and next steps for the project.

ACTION ITEM: Work group to provide an update on progress following their meeting in February

## **4. Update on Work Group Activities**

### *Legacy Issues (G. Wood & M. Thompson)*

An update was provided to members for the work group's Lake Erie project. Members were informed that the work group had received a draft report from the contractor and were beginning the review process. It is expected that the contract will be completed by the end of March.

### *Emerging Issues (J. Elder)*

Members were briefed on the status of the work group's climate change project. The work group received and reviewed a draft interim report from the contractor and is generally pleased with the direction and content. Comments have been provided to and discussed with the contractor and the work group is now looking forward to a response and completion of the final draft which is expected in February.

### *Public Engagement (M. Mattson)*

The work group's primary focus, the Binational Poll Project, was discussed under Agenda Item 3. Members were provided with an update of the other activities of the group which includes assisting with making the Board's watching briefs publically available. The work group will be holding an in-person meeting in February in Windsor.

*Indicators (D. Ullrich)*

Members were provided a brief update on the Board's involvement in three Science Advisory Board led projects including: Vital Signs Indicators, Identifying Future Improvements to Great Lakes Indicators, and Information Coordination and Flow.

**5. 2016 – 2017 Work Plan (R. de Loë)**

Members were briefed on the Board's 2016 – 2017 work plan that includes the following components: General Board Activities, Legacy Issues, Emerging Issues, Public Engagement and Indicators. As requested by the Co-chairs during the last meeting, the work groups developed work plans that focused on continuing current projects and identifying next steps for each to ensure that the Board is maximizing the value of the work already completed. The work plan was discussed and a number of minor issues were identified. Once the work plan has been finalized it will be submitted to the Commission and discussed with Commissioners during the Spring Semi-Annual meeting in Washington.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to finalize work plan for submission to Commission prior to Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

**6. PBDE Project Work Group Report (J. Jackson)**

The Emerging Issues work group recently completed its report on PBDEs in the Great Lakes Basin which was distributed to members prior to the meeting for review and comments. Comments received by the work group were discussed and some new comments were offered.

ACTION ITEM: Work group to revise draft report based on comments received and send to Co-Chairs to initiate report approval process.

The Board also discussed the next step in the approval process and how the report would be forwarded to the Commission. Since this is the first work group report to be completed since the Board was reconstituted, the Co-Chairs committed to developing a *Board Report Approval Procedure* that they will send to members for review and comment.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs, with support from the Secretary, to develop a *Board Report Approval Procedure* and circulate to members for review and comment.

**7. Public Comment (Co-Chairs)**

No public comments were received.

**8. Board Membership Update (Commission Staff)**

Commission staff provided a brief update to members on recent membership activities. A number of memberships were recently renewed and individuals were given either a two or three year term. The variance in length of term was done in an effort to stagger membership expiration in future years.

**9. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn**

The next meeting of the Board will be held April 18-19, 2016 in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Commission's Spring Semi-Annual meeting.