

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 194<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Summary of Discussion**

November 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Fort William Historical Park, Canot du Nord  
Thunder Bay, Ontario

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**Canadian Member Participants**

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)  
Rob Fleming  
Michael Goffin  
Marcel Gaucher  
Christopher Hilkene  
John Jackson  
Dean Jacobs  
Mark Mattson  
Frank Ettawageshik  
Russ Powers  
James Wagar  
Gayle Wood

**United States Member Participants**

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)  
Sandy Bihn (phone)  
Anne Cook (phone)  
Jessica Dexter  
Marvourneen Dolor (phone)  
David Mengebier  
Mike Ripley  
Karen Sands (phone)

**Invited Participants**

Josephine Mandamin - Wikwemikong First Nations  
Jean Camirand – Métis Nation of Ontario  
Mayor Keith Hobbs – City of Thunder Bay  
Merrel-Ann Phare – The Phare Law Corporation  
Angelique EagleWoman – Lakehead University  
Jennifer Ballinger – Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Chief Pierre Pelletier – Anishinabek Nation  
Jim Zorn – Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Tim Pile – Métis Nation of Ontario  
Trent Desaulniers – Métis Nation of Ontario  
Debbie King – Pays Plat First Nations

**Observers**

Chief Edward Wawia – Red Rock First Nation  
Samuel Pegg – Lakehead University  
Jim Bailey – Lakehead University  
Lisa Lyman  
Gary Bouchard – Pays Plat First Nations  
Sue Hamel – Parks Canada  
Rick Reynen – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Joseph Tyance – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
Marilee Chase – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Robin Lessard – Parks Canada

John Parks - Damsa  
Alex Belanger  
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik – Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Ellen Mortfield - EcoSuperior

**Commissioners**

Benoît Bouchard – Canadian Commissioner

**Commission Staff**

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Frank Bevacqua – US Section  
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office (phone)  
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office (phone)  
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section  
John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

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**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**Opening**

The Co-Chairs opened the 194<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board. Members and other participants identified themselves.

Elder Josephine Mandamin performed a traditional opening ceremony and prayer for the meeting.

**Welcome**

Mayor Keith Hobbs of Thunder Bay provided some opening remarks and welcomed everyone to Thunder Bay.

Jean Camirand, President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council also welcomed all meeting participants to the area.

**National Perspectives on Aboriginal and Tribal Matters**

Merrel-Ann Phare of The Phare Law Corporation and Angelique EagleWoman, Dean of Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University gave presentations regarding aboriginal and tribal matters from a national perspective in both Canada and the United States respectively.

Topics presented and discussed included:

- Basis for Tribal Water Rights in the U.S.
- Reservation System in the U.S.
- U.S. Water Law Systems
- Tribal Environmental Regulation
- Indigenous Peoples' Water Rights and Responsibilities – history, present and future

**Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

During the session the Board explored the concept of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and how it could or might be considered for incorporation into future work and projects. Presentations were given by Board members Dean Jacobs of Walpole Island First Nations and James Wagar of the Métis Nation of Ontario as well as Jennifer Ballinger of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Topics presented and discussed included:

- What is TEK from the First Nations, Métis and Tribal perspectives
- Potential Sources of TEK
- Examples of Methods for Collecting TEK
- Analysis and Use of TEK including applicability for decision makers
- Examples of TEK from various communities and projects

### **Closing Remarks for Day 1**

Following the day's discussions the Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their participation and reminded people of the panel discussion being hosted by the Public Engagement Work Group that evening.

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## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

### **Welcome and Review of Day 1 Activities**

Elder Josephine Mandamin opened Day 2 of the meeting with a traditional ceremony and prayer.

Regional Grand Chief Pierre Pelletier of the Aniskinabek Nation welcomed all participants to the second day of the meeting.

### **Regional Perspectives**

Perspectives of indigenous people on Lake Superior were presented and included regional initiatives such as the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Jim Zorn of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and Tim Pile from the Métis Nation of Ontario gave presentations.

Topics presented and discussed included:

- Métis perspective on the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan and Areas of Concern
- Métis Commercial Fishing
- Lake Superior US Treaty Areas and Reservations
- Tribal Sovereignty and Treaty Rights
- Lake Superior Tribal Projects

### **Local Perspectives**

Mike Ripley, WQB member and representative of the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Trent Desaulniers from the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Debbie King from Pays Plat First Nations presented examples of local aboriginal projects and initiatives.

Topics presented and discussed included:

- Addressing Impacts to Treaty Resources
- St. Marys Rive AOC and Beneficial Use Impairments
- Collaboration Projects between Tribes and First Nations
- Mining Projects and Impacts in the Lake Superior Area
- Parks Canada – National Marine Conservation Area
- Fisheries Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Dam Removal
- The Voyageur Canoe Expedition

- Wetlands and Habitat Studies and Enhancement
- Source Water Protection for First Nations

### **Closing Comments and Adjourn**

The Co-chairs thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Elder Josephine Mandamin closed the meeting with a traditional ceremony and prayer.

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### **Other WQB Activities**

#### *Prince Arthur's Landing Tour*

On the morning of November 9<sup>th</sup> members took a tour of the City of Thunder Bay's Prince Arthur's Landing that included a visit to the park's Spirit Garden and discussion of the Indigenous foundations of the community and region. The tour was led by Paul Pepe, Manager of Tourism Thunder Bay.

#### *Public Event*

The Board's Public Engagement Work Group hosted a panel discussion on the evening of November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Fort William Historical Park. The discussion entitled "The Great Lakes: The First Nations, Métis Nation and Tribal Perspective", was moderated by Work Group co-lead Mark Mattson and panelists included Dr. Rob Stewart of Lakehead University, Harold Michon of Rocky Bay and WQB members James Wagar and Dean Jacobs. The event was attended by approximately 30 people and was live streamed by InfoSuperior with the assistance of Dr. Jim Bailey from Lakehead University.

*\*Note: Copies of any of the presentations or materials from the meeting are available from the Board secretariat.*