

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board  
195<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Summary of Discussion**

January 23, 2017

Teleconference

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**U.S. Member Participants**

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)  
Jon Allan  
Sandy Bihn  
Anne Cook  
Jessica Dexter  
Marvourneen Dolor  
Jane Elder  
Frank Ettawageshik  
Karl Gebhardt  
Karen Sands

**Canadian Member Participants**

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)  
Rob Fleming  
Betty Matthews-Malone  
Mark Mattson  
James Wagar  
Mark Wales  
Gayle Wood

**Observers**

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  
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office

**Commission Liaisons**

Victor Serveiss – US Section  
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

**Secretariat**

John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

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

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the teleconference. Members and other participants identified themselves over the phone.

**2. Status of the Commission**

The Great Lakes Regional Office Director provided an update to members on the status of the Commission following change within the U.S. government the previous week. Members were informed that until further notice, current U.S. Commissioners would continue in their roles with the Commission. The Board was further informed that following approval of its most recent work plan, work on current and future projects could continue for the remainder of the current and next fiscal years.

### **3. Triennial Assessment of Progress Report Update**

The Commission released a draft Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for public consultation on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Members were sent a news release at that time that included a link to the draft report. The public consultation period will run until April 15<sup>th</sup> and the Commission would appreciate review and comment on the draft report by the Board as well. Comments on the Technical Appendix to the draft TAP report are also welcome.

Following the staff briefing, a potential review of the report was discussed and the Board Co-chairs committed to developing an approach with the intention of gathering input and feedback from all members.

**ACTION ITEM:** Co-chairs to work with the Board secretary to develop a plan for a full member review of the draft TAP report. The plan will be communicated to members once it is completed.

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

#### *Legacy Issues (G. Wood & J. Dexter)*

An update was provided to members for the work group's Lake Erie and PBDE projects. Members were informed that the work group had completed its final work group report for the Lake Erie project in 2016 and that they will be hosting a workshop to explore some of the report's findings in further detail on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Windsor, Ontario. It is expected that the workshop report will be completed by the end of February and a public webinar will be held in March to discuss the findings with a larger audience. A final work group report for the project will be complete in late spring or early summer. The work group will also be hosting a workshop for its PBDE project on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Windsor, Ontario. The workshop will follow-up on work completed previously on this topic and a report on the proceedings is expected in March with a final work group report to follow shortly after.

Members discussed the two workshops and a copy of the list of participants was requested for the Lake Erie project.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff support for the Legacy Issues Work Group to send a copy of the list participants for the upcoming Lake Erie Workshop to interested Board members.

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

Members were informed that the work group had updated the previously approved executive summary for its climate change project and that it had been submitted to the Commission for consideration in December. Two of the recommendations that were included in the project summary have been incorporated into the Commission's recently released draft TAP report. The project summary has been posted on the Board's webpage.

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

Members were given a very brief summary of the event public hosted by the work group during the Board's 194<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Thunder Bay. The work group will begin planning for an event during the Board's upcoming April meeting in Chicago.

#### *Indicators (D. Ullrich)*

Members were provided a brief update on the Board's involvement in Science Advisory Board led projects related to indicators including a project related to information coordination and flow.

**5. 2017 – 2018 Work Plan (R. de Loë)**

Members were informed that the Commission had approved the Board's 2017 – 2018 work plan during its December executive meeting. While all components of the plan were approved, Commissioners provided additional direction for certain projects which was communicated to the Board via a letter dated January 20, 2017. The Commission's letter and additional directions were discussed and the co-chairs thanked members for all their hard work in developing the plan.

**6. Next Meetings (D. Ullrich)**

The Board discussed the remainder of its 2017 meeting schedule which is as follow:

- April 18 – 19: Chicago, IL
- July 26<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 to 11:30 AM ET: Teleconference
- October – Ottawa, ON: Will be held in conjunction with the Commission's Fall Semi-Annual Meeting once the dates have been set

Members discussed the potential activities for the Chicago meeting including a tour of local Areas of Concern as well as some of the invasive species prevention and mitigation efforts and infrastructure that have been developed in the area.

During the discussion it was also suggested that an additional teleconference be scheduled to discuss the Board's comments on the draft TAP report prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to work with the Co-chairs to determine a time and date to conduct a teleconference to discuss the Board's review and comments regarding the draft TAP report in advance of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Public Comments & Adjourn**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Co-chairs thanked outgoing members Betty Mathews-Malone, Dean Jacobs and Mike Ripley for all of their excellent work on behalf of the Board over the past few years.

No public comments were received.