

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

**Summary of Discussion**

October 24 & 25, 2017

Ottawa, Ontario

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**U.S. Member Participants**

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)  
Sandy Bihn (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Anne Cook (Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – phone)  
Jane Elder  
Frank Ettawageshik  
Tinka Hyle (Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – phone)  
Kelsey Leonard  
Simone Lightfoot (Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – phone)  
David Mengebier (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Karen Sands

**Canadian Member Participants**

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)  
Sandra Cooper  
Mark Fisher (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Michael Goffin  
Christopher Hilken (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
John Jackson  
Ling Mark (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Mark Mattson (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Russ Powers  
Mark Wales (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>)  
Gayle Wood

**U.S. Member Regrets**

Jon Allan  
Jessica Dexter  
Marvourneen Dolor  
Karl Gebhardt

**Canadian Member Regrets**

James Wagar

**Invited Guests**

Aly Alibhai – Métis Nation of Ontario (alternate for James Wagar)

**Commission Staff**

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office

**Commission Liaisons**

Victor Serveiss – US Section  
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

**Secretariat**

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

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## **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Tour of sites in the City of Ottawa**

Members toured sites in the City of Ottawa where efforts have been undertaken to protect and restore the waters of the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. The sites visited included:

- Hydro Ottawa Chaudière (Akikodjiwan) Falls Hydroelectric Facility
- Britannia Water Purification Plant (including a presentation on Ottawa's Combined Sewer Storage Tunnel project)
- Brewer Park Pond Restoration Site

The tour was led by and organized with the assistance of the following people:

- Meredith Brown (Ottawa Riverkeeper)
- Greg Clarke (Hydro Ottawa)
- Sasha McCulloch (Hydro Ottawa)
- Lyndsay Armstrong (Hydro Ottawa)
- Jeff Westeinde (Windmill Development Group, Ltd)
- Lyndell Coates (City of Ottawa)
- Louis Julien (City of Ottawa)
- Steven Courtland (City of Ottawa)
- Randy Dempsey (City of Ottawa)
- Rebecca Rose (City of Ottawa)
- Allan Gonthier (City of Ottawa)
- Jennifer Lamoureux (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority)

### **WQB Public Meeting**

The WQB hosted a public meeting the evening of October 24<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized by the Board's Engagement Workgroup and focused on a panel discussion of current and emerging environmental challenges affecting watersheds at local, regional and global scales. The discussion was moderated by author and journalist Roy MacGregor and panelists included Dr. Rob de Loë (University of Waterloo and WQB Co-Chair), Dr. Jesse Vermaire (Carleton University), Meredith Brown (Ottawa Riverkeeper) and Verna McGregor (Minwaashin Lodge, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation). The meeting was well attended, with the room filled to its maximum capacity of 102 people.

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## **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **The Albert at Bay Hotel – Spring and Summer Salon, 435 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON**

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

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board, recognizing that the meeting was taking place on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people. Members and other participants identified themselves and new members, Sandra Cooper and Ling Mark, were recognized. Aly Alibhai, attending on behalf of Board member James Wagar, was also welcomed to the meeting. Board members were notified that Antonette Arvai is replacing John Wilson as Secretariat of the WQB.

#### **2. Review and Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)**

The agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions or changes

#### **3. Reflections on Day 1 Tour**

Members reviewed and discussed the sites visited on Day 1 of the meeting. Members found the tour very informative in learning about on-the-ground restoration and prevention activities and efforts. The Board membership was impressed by the protection efforts of the Ottawa River Watershed Council and passed the following resolution:

***The Great Lakes Water Quality Board recognizes the excellent work of the Ottawa River Watershed Council in establishing effective governance mechanisms, raising public awareness and advancing public participation in the protection of the Ottawa River, a major North American river system. And recommends that the IJC and its Boards seek continuing opportunities to reach out and share lessons learned from boundary water management with organizations and individuals engaged in watershed management whether in the boundary waters or domestic water systems.***

ACTION ITEM: The resolution is to be shared with the Commission during the Board's appearance at the October IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

**4. Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMP), Domestic Action Plans (DAP), federal budgets**

Members received an update from Board members, Mike G. and Tinka H., on the LAMP process and the status of the DAPs. Due to time constraints the status of the U.S. and Canadian federal budgets was not discussed.

***LAMPs***

The stages of the LAMP development process are outlined in the GLWQA and has four main components, an assessment of the state of the lake; identification of science gaps and priorities for action; identification of the parties to address science and action priorities; and engagement with the public and Indigenous peoples. The Lake Superior LAMP was issued in September 2016, the Lake Huron LAMP is currently being drafted, and will be followed by the issuance of LAMPs for Lake Ontario, Erie and Michigan in subsequent years. It was noted by a Board member that although engagement with Indigenous peoples on LAMP development has improved, it is still lacking the actions/commitments of Indigenous peoples and does not adequately reflect their interests. It was further noted that engagement of individual citizens needs to be improved to encourage them to take action on lake issues. It was suggested that during the Board's review on the pending Lake Huron LAMP, the Board may wish to consider commenting on the LAMP development process (e.g. was there sufficient engagement with the public and Indigenous peoples? was it effective?).

***DAPs***

The Parties established phosphorus reduction targets for Lake Erie in 2016, as committed to under the GLWQA. Targets were established for the western and central basins, but not yet for the eastern. A plan is currently being developed to determine the science needed to identify a target for the eastern basin. The Parties will re-evaluate the feasibility of establishing a target in 2020. Draft DAPs have been developed by both the U.S. and Canada to meet the western and central basin targets. In Canada, the draft DAP was developed jointly with Ontario and received comments from approximately two thousand people, which are currently being addressed. A second draft will soon be released for further consultation. In the U.S. the federal government collaborated with the 5 Lake Erie basin states to develop an overarching federal-state DAP, which summarizes each of the states' individual plans. Public comment was received on the individual state plans, and most recently, the overarching plan. The comments received on the overarching plan are currently being addressed. Separate consultation processes with Indigenous peoples were undertaken by both the U.S. and Canada. The final DAPs, for both the U.S. and Canada, are expected to be released in February 2018, as committed to by the Parties under the GLWQA.

## **5. Cross-Board Communication (R. de Loë)**

The issue of improving cross-board communication was raised by a Board member prior to the meeting. The Board discussed potential approaches to improving cross-Board communication that included, routinely circulating a summary table of Great Lakes Board projects as part of the WQB's meeting information packages; convening a multi-Board meeting tied to the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report process; and maintaining an internal Board calendar of events, report comment deadlines, meetings, and workshops. Board members were supportive of all these approaches. The multi-Board meeting approach needs to be explored further with the other Boards and Commissioners.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Board Secretary will include a summary table of Great Lakes Board projects in each WQB meeting information package.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Board Secretary will work with staff who prepare the table to devise logical ways of grouping related items and projects together.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Board Secretary will explore options for the development and dissemination of an internal calendar of events and deadlines.

**ACTION ITEM:** The WQB Co-Charis will discuss the suggestion of a multi-Board meeting with other Board co-chairs during the Great Lakes Advisory Board Co-Chairs meeting and with Commissioners during the WQB appearance at the October IJC Semi-Annual meeting.

## **6. Work Group Meetings**

Each of the Board's work groups met separately to discuss current and future projects. Work groups were also directed to discuss and refine any key messages they wished to have conveyed to the Commission as part of the WQB's appearance during the October IJC Semi-Annual meeting.

## **7. Work Group Updates**

The work groups reported back from their meetings, held during the previous session.

### ***Legacy Issues (D. Ullrich)***

An update was provided to members for the work group's PBDE and Lake Erie projects, which are concluding, and on the manure and nuclear projects, which are underway. Members were informed that the PBDEs report is currently being reviewed by Commissioners for approval for posting. One of the recommendations of this report is for the IJC to convene a multi-stakeholder meeting that explores a different style of regulatory development that integrates the topics of flammability standards, toxicity standards and product re-design. The WQB is willing to assist the IJC in leading this effort. The Lake Erie report was recently submitted to the Board for review, with an October 25<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments. The manure project contract began in mid-September and is assessing regulations around the management of manure from animal farm operations; their strengths, weakness and how they may be improved. The RFP for the decommissioning of nuclear power facilities has been developed and is awaiting posting by the U.S. Department of State. The nuclear watching brief is currently being developed by IJC staff with input from work group members.

### ***Emerging Issues (J. Elder & C. Hilken)***

Board members Jane E. and James W. presented the findings and recommendations of the WQB's Climate Change and Adaptation report at the Healing Our Waters Conference in mid-October. To continue the climate change work the work group has proposed, as part of its 2018-2019 work plan, to convene a binational leadership strategy meeting to explore how the preliminary strategies from the WQB's 2016

expert consultation could be developed. The issues of mining, fossil fuel transportation and development and microplastics continue to be tracked via watching briefs.

***Public Engagement (D. Mengebier & R. Powers)***

The contract for the binational poll is to be signed soon and results are expected by March 2018. Per the WQB's *Indigenous Peoples Engagement Policy*, the poll will strive to ensure an appropriate portion of Indigenous peoples are represented. The work group has also proposed, as part of its 2018-2019 work plan, to host a focus group that will drill down and ask more detailed questions on some of the issues raised in the poll. The work group continues to organize public events in conjunction with WQB meetings and continues to put an Indigenous peoples lens on all the work that is does.

**8. WQB Appearance before Commissioners**

A draft slide deck of the WQB presentation to the Commission at the October IJC Semi-Annual meeting was reviewed with members for their input and included, highlights of recent Board activities; the Board's 2018-2019 work plan; and a final proposed slide on Board priority issues/issues of concern, the purpose of which is to prompt discussion on alignment of Board priorities with those of the Commission. Members felt that the topic of Board priority issues is important and warrants additional time for discussion and should be deferred to a later date.

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary to update presentation slides based on feedback received from the Board. Board Co-chairs and work group co-leads will present these slides to the Commission at the October IJC Semi-Annual meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary to include an agenda item on the topic of priority issues at an upcoming Board meeting.

**9. Schedule of 2018 WQB Meetings**

Proposed 2018 meeting dates were discussed by the Board, resulting in the following schedule:

- January 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM ET (Teleconference)
- Date TBD - In conjunction with IJC Spring Semi-Annual (Washington D.C.)
- July 16 at 2:00 PM ET (Teleconference)
- September 25-26 (Hamilton, ON)

Due to various Board member scheduling conflicts, a date for a January teleconference call was not decided.

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary will poll the membership to identify an optimal date for a January teleconference call.

**10. Public Comments & Adjourn**

No members of the public were in attendance. The Co-Chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.