



## IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee Twenty Third Meeting Summary

September 12, 2018 – 2:45pm-4:00pm

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<b>U.S. Members</b>	<b>Canadian Members</b>	<b>Commission Staff</b>
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Mike Murray	Andrea Kirkwood	Li Wang
Joe DePinto	Christina Semeniuk	Glenn Benoy
Scott Sowa	John Livernois	Victor Serveiss
	Clare Robinson	David Burden

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Regrets: Dave Allan, Bob Hecky, Dale Phenicie, Lucinda Johnson, Henry Lickers

### 1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed all in attendance, and roll call was taken. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

### 2. Reminders/Updates

#### Advisory Board contracts

Members were reminded that the details of IJC advisory board work plans and associated request-for-proposals (e.g., scope, budget, etc.) should not be discussed with potential contractors.

#### Energy Transport work group report

The draft Energy Transport work group report is nearly complete, and a draft will be circulated to the work group in the coming days for discussion on the next work group call. The revised report will be sent to the SPC and RCC for review in early October; members who are interested in reviewing the report should budget time in the October 1-5 timeframe. The goal is to complete the report for submission to the Commission prior to the Fall Semi-Annual meeting.

#### TAP Study Board

The TAP Study Board is made up of the SPC, RCC, WQB and HPAB co-chairs and four Indigenous representatives. The Study Board is responsible for producing a report in fall, 2019 that will form the basis of the Commission's 2020 TAP report. A two-round online survey tool has been developed to identify topics that will be addressed by the Study Board report. The round one survey has generated a long list of topics, and the second round survey will whittle those down to a short list for further discussion with Commissioners. The Co-Chairs would welcome SPC member input on which topics should be considered for the Study Board report.

- Actions:**
- i) Secretary to email the long list of Study Board topics to SPC members.
  - ii) SPC members to provide their input directly to the Co-Chairs on priority topics by September 24, 2018.

### 3. Review of Candidate Work Plans

Twelve of 14 SPC members participated in the online survey to select up to three preferences from the six candidate work plans developed previously. The results of the poll are as follows:

- Great Lakes Ecosystem Valuation (11 votes)
- Urbanization in the Great Lakes Basin: Emerging Issues Related to Urban Population Growth and Climate Change (10 votes)
- Phosphorus Export from Agricultural Watersheds - A Synthesis of Recent IJC Projects (6 votes)
- Operationalizing an Early Warning System for the Great Lakes (5 votes)
- Economic and Policy Drivers of Agricultural Nutrient Management Practices (3 votes)
- Aquaculture in the Great Lakes (0 votes)

The SPC was reminded that a full SAB Comprehensive Science Plan work plan will be submitted to the Commission for the Fall Semi-Annual meeting. Bob Hecky previously agreed to serve as SPC point person for the project.

The Co-Chairs suggested the SPC consider developing one of the top two vote-getters as an SPC work plan submission, and develop the other one for subsequent submission. Each of the top two work plans were reviewed and discussed, with key discussion points summarized below.

#### Ecosystem Valuation

- The work plan involves original research including a survey-based approach to elicit ecosystem valuation. Several economic valuation methods will be used.
- IAGLR has recently issued a series of economic impact studies focused on the economic benefits of restoration at Great Lakes Areas of Concern. These studies provide helpful context but are not ecosystem economic valuations.
- The work plan should consider broader ecosystem service valuations.

#### Urbanization and Climate Change

- In 2009 the IJC issued a report titled *The Impact of Urban Areas on Great Lakes Water Quality*, which should be acknowledged in the work plan.
- The work plan could consider scenario analyses of future climate conditions and related impacts. Since original research on scenario analyses is a large undertaking, a qualitative synthesis could be pursued. A decision needs to be made whether to focus on individual impacts and/or cumulative impacts.
- Commissioners have previously expressed interest in green infrastructure.

Based on SPC member input, the degree of maturity of each candidate work plan, and the availability of project leadership there was general agreement that the Ecosystem Valuation work plan should be developed for submission by the Fall Semi-Annual meeting deadline.

John Livernois and Christina Semeniuk agreed to serve as co-chairs. Henry Lickers volunteered to serve on the Work Group.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to self-identify for the Economic Valuation work group.

#### **4. Fall Semi-Annual Meeting**

Logistics for the IJC Fall Semi-Annual meeting were reviewed.

There was general agreement that suitable topics for the SPC meeting agenda include the TAP Study Board priority topics, work group updates, and a detailed discussion of the Declining Offshore Lake Productivity draft work group report.

**Action:** Members are encouraged to submit agenda items for the Fall Semi-Annual SPC and SAB meetings.

#### **5. Other Business & Adjournment**

Members congratulated Scott Sowa on his promotion to Divisional Program Director at The Nature Conservancy. Scott's new program area spans the entire Great Lakes basin.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal.  
Please forward any errors or omissions to [childm@windsor.ijc.org](mailto:childm@windsor.ijc.org)*