

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
200th Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

April 25, 2018

Hilton Garden Inn Reagan National Airport
Arlington, VA

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Jon Allan
Sandy Bihn
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Karl Gebhardt
Brandon Hofmeister
Tinka Hyde
Kelsey Leonard
Simone Lightfoot
Karen Sands
Joe Tomandl III

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Sandra Cooper
Mark Fisher
Michael Goffin
Christopher Hilkené
John Jackson
Irving Leblanc
Ling Mark
Russ Powers
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

U.S. Member Regrets

Jessica Dexter

Canadian Member Regrets

Mark Mattson
James Wagar

Invited Guests

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

Observers

Carla Torchia – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office
Nick Heisler – Canadian Section Office (phone)
John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office (phone)

Commission Liaisons

Victor Serveiss – US Section Office
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section Office

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The co-chairs welcomed everyone to the 200th Meeting of the board. It was recognized that the meeting was taking place on the traditional tribal lands of the Pamunkey, Piscataway, Powhatan, Monacan, Nottaway, Chickahominy, Upper Mattaponi, Rappahannock, and Nansemond. Members and other participants identified themselves and new members, Brandon Hofmeister, Irving Leblanc and Joe Tomandl III, were recognized. Aly Alibhai, attending on behalf of board member James Wagar, was also welcomed to the meeting.

The co-chairs commemorated the board's 200th meeting by highlighting letters sent by former EPA Great Lakes Administrator and former President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus and current Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell. They served as U.S. and Canadian WQB Co-Chairs, respectively, during the 1980s. Their letters are provided as an attachment at the end of the meeting minutes.

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

The following changes to the agenda were approved:

- Agenda Item #5 - *Reflections and Next Steps on Multi-Board TAP Workshop* was removed from the agenda. The multi-board workshop that took place the afternoon of April 24th left the issue in a state of flux. As a result, it was agreed to defer discussions on this topic to a later date.
- Agenda Item #8 – *Wetlands Project Update* was discussed as part of Agenda Item #9 - *Work Group Updates*.

Members were provided with a table of Great Lakes Advisory Board projects. As agreed at the October 2017 WQB meeting, this table will be provided in every WQB meeting briefing package as a means of keeping abreast of the work of the other boards.

3. IJC Process for Approval of Board Reports

Staff member Cindy Warwick provided an overview of the Commission's decision process for the approval of board reports and clarified what happens to these reports after approval. It was noted that, as part of this process, the board has an opportunity to influence how a board report should be used via its letter of submission to the Commission. The Commission's decision process is not currently a written, standard procedure. Staff will be working toward a more formalized procedure, considering board member comments. Members had an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions.

4. Great Lakes Issues (R. de Loë)

Members were provided an opportunity to bring potential Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. Issues raised included drinking water, changing demographics and future impacts, special waivers and exemptions for businesses, plastics and protection of Manoomin (wild rice). It was noted a book was recently published on the latter topic titled *Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan*, authored by Barbara J. Barton and published by the Michigan State University Press.

Members were encouraged to provide issues, and any supporting materials, in advance of a meeting to assist with agenda planning and to allow for more fulsome discussions.

5. Reflections and Next Steps on Multi-Board TAP Workshop (D. Ullrich)

A multi-board Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) workshop took place the afternoon of April 24th to which all Great Lakes Advisory Board members were invited. The goal of the workshop was to identify the process and timing of the TAP report; the scope and substance of the TAP report; and to clarify the roles of the boards, staff and Commission in the process. The results of the discussion left many of the workshop items in a state of flux. It was agreed that discussions would be pre-mature and should be deferred.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs will be discussing the outcomes of the TAP workshop with other board co-chairs during the April 25th Great Lakes Advisory Board Co-Chairs meeting.

6. Future Direction and Priorities of the Board (R. de Loë)

In early March a short board survey was sent to members to gain their insights on (1) things that can be done to improve board operations and enhance policy advice to the Commission and ultimately governments and (2) identify potential future topics of study. The results of the survey were provided to members in advance and reviewed during the meeting. Generally, the identified barriers for the board in meeting its mandate included, lack of focus (i.e. too many issues), disconnect with the TAP process, insufficient cross-board interaction and challenges with work planning. Some suggestions to help overcome these barriers included, having better involvement in the TAP process, limit topics and identify priorities, evaluate the work group structure planning and to start cross-board collaboration earlier in the work planning phase. In terms of significant issues facing the lakes, the top issues identified were nutrients/algal blooms, climate change and invasive species. Each member at the meeting was asked to suggest key, actionable items that the board could undertake to help focus its direction. Some of these responses included, focusing on fewer topics through use of selection criteria (e.g. topics the WQB can add value, are not duplicative, likely to influence change, and align with WQB mandate and Commission priorities); producing an annual report; taking on a more consultative/convening role; better understanding the wants/needs of key stakeholders; and using a more forward thinking lens (e.g. given trends seen now are appropriate actions being taken that will be protective of the lakes in the future?). The opportunity for the board to refocus its direction will be through its work plans.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs to consider and discuss board member suggestions and determine next steps for further discussion on the board's July 16th teleconference call.

7. Work Group Meetings

Each of the Board's work groups met separately to discuss current and future projects.

8. Wetlands Project Update (R. de Loë)

This item was covered under Item #9 – *Work Group Updates*, as part of the Emerging Issues Work Group update.

9. Work Group Updates (D. Ullrich and Work Group Co-Leads)

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

Legacy Issues (G. Wood and K. Sands)

An update was provided on the work group's manure and nuclear projects. The final manure contractor report, submitted at the end of February, underwent an expert review. The review identified inaccuracies on the jurisdictional information presented (mostly on the U.S. side). The contractor has agreed to correct the factual errors. A corrected copy is to be returned to the work group by early May, at which time next steps will be discussed.

The request for proposal for the nuclear decommissioning project was posted in early April. The bidding period has closed and proposals received will be evaluated in early May. The nuclear watching brief continues to be updated.

The work group discussed potential projects for the 2019-2020 work cycle including (1) a new approach to standards development for PBDEs/flame retardants that integrates toxicity standards, safety standards and product design and (2) the capacity for drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities to treat existing and new/non-regulated chemicals.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder & C. Hilken)

An update was provided on the work group's climate change and wetlands work. The PowerPoint presentation on the climate change work has been converted into a video, which is expected to be available for download on the WQB website by early June. The next phase of the climate change work will focus on participating in, and engaging with experts, at various conferences and gatherings to advance the need for a binational climate change adaptation and resiliency strategy.

The work group received the final wetlands contractor report in early April. A significant conclusion of the work is that there is no regional, coordinated plan for net wetlands gain nor is there is link to the functionality of the wetlands gained. The contractor report will be used as an internal board document to help frame discussions with experts to delve deeper into what a long-term, coordinated strategy would entail. The work group expects to complete this by the end of the Fall 2018.

Public Engagement (K. Leonard & R. Powers)

The binational Great Lakes basin poll was completed in late March, to which the work group has added key findings and highlights. The work group report will be submitted to the board for review and approval in early May. The work group will be working with IJC communications staff to aim for the report's release in mid-June. One significant change in the 2017 poll approach, compared to the 2015 poll, was a targeted effort to survey Indigenous persons.

Efforts are being made to develop a calendar of Indigenous events/conferences as well as a broader calendar of events for the region. This can be used by the board to identify opportunities for member participation or attendance at events.

Planning continues for a field tour and public event during the board's September meeting in Hamilton, ON. This will include a visit to the Six Nations Lands of the Grand River and Hamilton Harbour and a public event with the Bay Area Restoration Council.

10. WQB Appearance before Commissioners (R. de Loë)

A draft slide deck of the WQB presentation to the Commission at the April IJC Semi-Annual meeting was reviewed with members for their input and included highlights of recent Board activities, enhancing cross-board collaboration, and next meetings.

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 April IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

11. Schedule of 2018 WQB Meetings

The board discussed the remainder of its 2018 meeting schedule:

- July 16 at 2:00-3:30 PM ET (Teleconference)
- September 25-26 (Hamilton, ON)

The September meeting will include a field trip and public event on the 25th and the WQB meeting on the 26th. Members were encouraged to arrive on the 24th.

12. 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.

David Ullrich
Co-Chair, Great Lakes Water Quality Board
Washington, D.C.

April 25, 2018

Dear David,

I was delighted to learn about the 200th Great Lakes Water Quality Board jubilee annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Please convey my warmest congratulations to GLWQB members on this very special occasion.

It is with great pride that I remember the years I was together with you and all of us had the responsibility and the commitment to protect, restore and enhance the Great Lakes. The fact that prompt concern was raised over the ecological balance of one of the most spectacular natural treasures, the Great Lakes – which had already been disturbed at that time – is tremendously important. The Water Quality Board comprised of members from Canada and the United States had to overcome public indifference and red-tape to avert the threat posed to the Great Lakes. After evaluating the situation, WQB regulations were adopted, ensuring the future of the Great Lakes. The work needs to go on.

All WQB members who were at the very start of the process and those who continue it today deserve deep respect and gratitude.

I wish you all unrelenting enthusiasm, commitment and determination as you work to preserve the Great Lakes for future generations.

May success be with you always!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Valdas Adamkus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Valdas Adamkus



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

April 20, 2018

Dear Co-Chairs of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board,

It is my distinct pleasure to send you warm greetings on the occasion of the 200th meeting of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. This is a remarkable achievement. Collectively you have contributed consistently to a binational legacy of care and attention.

The work of the Board and its underlying legislative instruments have been powerful mechanisms to gently encourage our respective governments to protect, conserve and revitalize the magnificent bodies of water that we share. The identification of Areas of Concern and development of Remedial Action Plans in collaboration with the governments and citizens of many jurisdictions have stood the test of time.

Throughout the years we have seen amazing evolution in our scientific understandings and technological developments. Successive Boards have been influenced by contextual considerations of liberalized trade, demographic changes and intensive industrial development. In regular renegotiations of the Agreement they have adjusted their governance model and management approaches, incorporating the best of international norms.

But your work is far from complete. The Great Lakes Basin is a living laboratory in which to champion sustainability and resilience. You have the capacity to influence based on sound and credible scientific analysis. Your leadership has never been more important as we begin to experience the impacts of climate change.

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I remember with fondness and respect my Co-Chair Valdas Adamkus as well as those Board members and stakeholders who collaborated with dedication and enthusiasm. I am grateful to those who preceded us and those of you who continue that work.

May I humbly reinforce just how vital binational institutions like yours are in healthy democracies. In my role as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Ontarians have demonstrated to me that the iconic Great Lakes are a fundamental part of our identity. I urge your sustained commitment to their future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Dowdeswell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Dowdeswell