

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
202nd Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

September 25 - 26, 2018

Hamilton, Ontario

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Sandy Bihn (Sept. 26th)
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Kelsey Leonard
Karen Sands
Joe Tomandl III

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Sandra Cooper (Sept. 26th)
Mark Fisher (Sept. 26th)
Michael Goffin
John Jackson
Ling Mark
Mark Mattson
Russ Powers
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood (Sept. 26th)

U.S. Member Regrets

Jon Allan
Jessica Dexter
Marvourneen Dolor
Brandon Hofmeister
Simone Lightfoot

Canadian Member Regrets

Christopher Hilken
Irving Leblanc
James Wagar

Invited Guests

John Hartig – Great Lakes Policy-Science Advisor, International Association of Great Lakes Research

Observers

Carla Torchia – Environment and Climate Change Canada (Sept. 26th)
Lyman Welch – Member of the public (Sept. 26th by phone)

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
David Burden – Great Lakes Regional Office (Director)
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office
John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Victor Serveiss – U.S. Section
Paul Allen – Canadian Section

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 2018

Tour of sites around the City of Hamilton

Members toured sites in and around the City of Hamilton to view and understand historical and current environmental concerns, including Indigenous perspectives and efforts that have been taken to clean-up and restore the Hamilton Harbour and surrounding watershed.

- Six Nations Polytechnic – presentation by Paul General (Director, Six Nations Wildlife Office)
- Six Nations Drinking Water Treatment Plant
- Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology National Historic Site
- Randle Reef Site at Hamilton Harbour

A special thank you was extended to the following people who led and/or provided presentations during the tour:

- Paul General (Six Nations Wildlife Office)
- Andrew Vanmaele (Six Nations Drinking Water Treatment Plant)
- Richard Barlas (Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology)
- Jon Gee (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Randle Reef tour)

WQB Public Meeting

The WQB hosted a public meeting the evening of September 25th. The event was organized by the board's Engagement Work Group and focused on a panel and audience discussion of progress, success and challenges in restoring the Hamilton Harbour and surrounding watershed. The discussion was moderated by Mark Mattson, WQB member and President of Lake Ontario Waterkeeper. The panelists included Dr. John Hartig (Great Lakes Science-Policy Advisor, International Association of Great Lakes Research), Chris McLaughlin (Executive Director, Bay Area Restoration Council), Scott Peck (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Watershed Planning and Engineering, Hamilton Conservation Authority), Melanie Goodchild (Senior Indigenous Research Fellow and Ambassador, The Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience) and Danielle Boissoneau (Organizer, Hamilton Harbour Waters Walks, Anishnaabe kwe, Old Turtle Clan). The meeting was well attended, with 103 of the 138 people that registered.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 2018

Homewood Suites Hotel – Westdale Room, 40 Bay Street, Hamilton, ON

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 202nd Meeting of the board, recognizing that the meeting was taking place on lands that are the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga and Anishnaabeg peoples and subject to the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Members and other participants identified themselves, including member of the public Lyman Welch. Invited speaker Dr. John Hartig was also introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

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

The agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions or changes. Co-Chairs also provided instructions to members on a voting exercise to be undertaken, throughout the duration of the meeting, in relation to agenda item #11 (Triennial Assessment of Progress 2020). Members were asked to provide input, via a voting process, on potential topics for inclusion in a Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Study Board report that would inform the IJC's TAP report.

3. Reflections on Day 1 Tour and Public Event

Co-chairs thanked board members Russ Powers and Kelsey Leonard for their efforts in planning and organizing both the tour and public evening event on Day 1 of the meeting. WQB member Mark Mattson was also thanked for moderating the evening event.

In reflecting on the Day 1 meeting events, a broader discussion of the purpose of board field tours and public events ensued. Overall members find the board field tours informative and useful in observing on-the-ground work that is taking place and/or in helping to identify emerging issues. Similarly, the board finds utility in hosting public events to both raise awareness of Great Lakes issues and initiatives as well as to hear perspectives from a diverse audience. For future tours it was suggested that sites visited be more closely tied to the on-going work of the board. In terms of the public event it was suggested that their purpose be clearer and to better identify what constitutes a successful event (e.g. number of people in attendance, the diversity of backgrounds represented, media uptake, etc.).

Finally, a request was made to allow for more time for the WQB to meet. It was recommended, and agreed, that the board's two-day meeting schedule be adjusted as follows: Day 1 - field tour (morning), work group meetings (afternoon), and public event (evening); Day 2 – full WQB meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The Engagement Work Group was asked to consider the comments heard and to work with IJC staff to adapt their approach for future tours and public events.

4. Presentation: Great Lakes Clean-up - Areas of Concern

Dr. John Hartig (Great Lakes Science-Policy Advisor) gave a presentation to the board, providing an overview of the history of Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Remedial Action Plans (RAPs), the achievements made and the lessons learned since being identified in the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Dr. Hartig's presentation set the stage for subsequent board discussions as part of agenda item #5 (Areas of Concern: Role of the WQB). Dr. Hartig was thanked for his presentation at both the WQB meeting and the public meeting the evening before.

5. Areas of Concern: Role of the WQB

The board had discussion regarding the role they could potentially play to help advance the AOC efforts. Suggestions included: identifying where funding should be focused and communicating the social and economic benefits of such investments; communicating the successes of clean-up efforts being undertaken; over the long-term (and after delisting) explore how these watersheds will be managed environmentally, socially and economically; and explore creative funding/collaborative financing opportunities.

6. Great Lakes Issues

Members were provided an opportunity to bring potential Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. Issues raised included: continuing to promote the concept of prevention and maintaining a healthy relationship between humans and the natural world; plastics and the need for more research on their effects on freshwater ecosystems; and drinking water in light of the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in Michigan.

7. Work Group Meetings

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

8. Work Group Updates

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

Legacy Issues (G. Wood and K. Sands)

An update was provided to members for the work group's nuclear decommissioning and manure projects. The nuclear power plant decommissioning project is expected to have a contract procured by the end of September 2018. A GLRO intern has also been developing an informational, background document on the state of nuclear power plant decommissioning in the basin.

The work group is developing a draft report on the oversight of animal feeding operations for manure management project, based upon a contractor commissioned report. They are also in the process of planning and organizing an expert workshop to be held on November 13-14, 2018. They also plan to have a webinar, with a larger group of experts, in late February 2019.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder & M. Fisher)

WQB member Mark F. has replaced Chris H. as the Canadian Co-Lead of the Emerging Issues Work Group. Chris was instrumental in guiding many of its initial projects and efforts including the microplastics watching brief and the ongoing climate change project. Chris remains a member of the work group.

Members were provided with updates on the work group's climate change and wetlands projects. The work group will be hosting engagement sessions with key agencies/organizations to seek input on the work group's 2017 climate change work via facilitated discussion with panel members and meeting participants. The work group is hosting two sessions, one at the Latonnell Conservation Symposium (November 15, 2018), and one at the Great Lakes Restoration Conference (October 17-18, 2018). There are also plans to host a webinar in January 2019 on their work.

The work group is also advancing its wetland work by hosting a webinar-based engagement session in November 2018 with select wetlands experts from around the basin to further explore key findings/issues identified in the March 2018 contractor report.

Public Engagement (K. Leonard & R. Powers)

The work group's recent efforts have been focused on the planning and organization of the field tour and public event for this meeting of the WQB. They will continue to plan for tours and public events as part of their upcoming 2019-2020 work plan. This will include reflecting on and considering the past years' experiences in refining the structure and goals of the field tours and public events.

9. Cross-board Collaboration

In an effort to increase cross-board collaboration and communication, WQB members serving on other advisory board work groups have been requested to provide updates on the progress of these projects at each WQB meeting.

Currently, WQB members serve on the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) Great Lakes Early Warning System (GLEWS) project and the Interacting Stressors project. The GLEWS work group held a workshop in May 2018 to develop a framework for a Great Lakes Early Warning System as a means to identify a preliminary list of emerging ecosystem threats and stressors. The results of that work shop are currently being developed into a report, which should soon be ready for review by the work group. The Interacting Stressors work group has recently procured a contract and the work group will be starting-up soon.

10. 2019-2020 Work Plans

Members discussed the draft 2019 – 2020 work plans that were submitted by each work group to the board prior to the meeting. The work plans had been previously revised based on board discussions on a

September 7th call. Members identified some final revisions to be made. The work groups will work with IJC staff to make these revisions and submit their final work plans to the co-chairs by October 4th. The updated work plans will be submitted to the Commission for their consideration during its Fall Semi-Annual Meeting to be held the week of October 22nd.

ACTION ITEM: Work groups to work with staff to update draft work plans and submit to co-chairs by October 4th.

11. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) 2020

Members were reminded of the Commission's July 2018 directive to form a TAP Study Board that will develop a report providing advice and guidance to the Commission on matters of Great Lakes water quality and government progress in meeting the general and specific objectives of the GLWQA. The Study Board Report will do a deep dive on two or three topics and be used as one element in the Commission's triennial assessment of progress. The Study Board has undertaken efforts to identify an initial list of potential topics. The WQB Co-Chairs, as members of the Study Board, wished to seek the input of the board on topics it felt were of importance. The initial Study Board list was provided to members, allowing them an opportunity to place up to five votes on those topics they felt were of greatest importance. The topics that received the most votes included climate change adaptation, plastic pollution, nutrients and lakewide management. Each member was then provided an opportunity to give their input on the voting results. Overall, the board members were supportive of the resulting prioritization of topics. The co-chairs will consider the board voting results and input as it continues to work with the Study Board and Commission in identifying the Study Board Report topics. Members will continue to be kept updated on the progress of the Study Board, and more broadly the Commission's triennial assessment of progress, as well any further role the WQB may play as the process moves forward

12. Schedule of 2019 WQB Meetings

Proposed 2019 meeting dates were discussed by the Board, resulting in the following:

- January 2019 – Teleconference
- April/May 2019 – U.S. Great Lakes basin location (potentially in Wisconsin)
- July 2019 (Teleconference)
- Late October 2019 – In conjunction with the IJC Semi-Annual Meeting (Ottawa, ON)

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary will poll the membership to identify an optimal date for a January and July teleconference call. Co-Chairs and Board Secretary to have further discussion on potential dates and location of the U.S. in-person meeting.

13. Public Comments & Adjourn

No members of the public were in attendance at the conclusion of the meeting. The co-chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.