

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
201st Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

July 16, 2018
Teleconference

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Jon Allan
Sandy Bihn
Jessica Dexter
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Kelsey Leonard
Simone Lightfoot
Karen Sands
Joe Tomandl III

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Sandra Cooper
Mark Fisher
Chris Hilkene
John Jackson
Ling Mark
Mark Mattson
Russ Powers
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

U.S. Member Regrets

Karl Gebhardt
Brandon Hofmeister

Canadian Member Regrets

Michael Goffin
Irving Leblanc
James Wagar

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
David Burden – Director, Great Lakes Regional Office
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office
John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Christina Chiasson (for Paul Allen) – Canadian Section

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 201st meeting of the board. Members and other participants identified themselves on the phone. Members were informed that Tinka Hyde has moved positions within the US EPA and is no longer a member of the board. Additionally, Karl Gebhardt will be retiring from his position with the Ohio EPA at the end of August and will be leaving the board at that time. Co-chairs welcomed new GLRO Director David Burden.

2. Cross-board Collaboration (D. Ullrich)

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. It was further noted that cross-board collaboration will become increasingly important as the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) process moves forward.

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 recently held a workshop in May 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. An update on the Interacting Stressors project will be provided at the next WQB meeting.

3. TAP 2020 Update (R. de Loë)

Members were provided an update on the development of an approach for producing the TAP 2020 report. A draft directive was provided to advisory board members in April 2018 that clarified the objectives, roles and responsibilities for boards and the IJC in developing the TAP 2020 report. Following several meetings amongst advisory board co-chairs, the draft directive was revised and submitted to the Commission for their consideration at the end of June. The directive creates a Study Board (SB) comprised of advisory board co-chairs and Indigenous board members (First Nations, Métis and Tribal). The SB is to develop an independent report that focuses on a select number of issues that will provide a sound science base for the TAP report. The SB report will draw heavily on the work that has been completed by, or soon to be completed by, the advisory boards. The SB report is to be submitted to the Commission by the end of December 2019. Furthermore, the SB report will be made available to the public after receipt by the Commission. The Commission approved the directive and appointed the SB members on July 13th.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will circulate the approved directive to WQB members.

4. WQB Future Directions (R. de Loë)

At the WQB's 200th meeting in April, members discussed steps that could be taken to better focus the work of the board and enhance the policy advice to the Commission and ultimately governments to affect change. From those discussions a *WQB Future Directions* document was drafted that proposes an approach to achieving this by aligning more closely with the TAP process and having clearer criteria for the selection of projects undertaken. The document was provided to members in advance of the call. During the call members provided feedback and suggested revisions to the document. Members were supportive of the document and it was approved with the revisions identified. This internal WQB document is to be used by members as a guide for their work planning.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will circulate the revised, final *WQB Future Directions* document to members.

5. 2019-2020 Work Plan Project Ideas (D. Ullrich)

Members were updated on two WQB related items: (1) On June 28th a letter from the Commission was sent to the Parties endorsing the WQB's 2017 polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) report recommendations and (2) On July 10th the WQB's *Second Binational Great Lakes Basin Poll* report was released. Work groups provided a brief update on their current projects and presented their proposed projects for the upcoming 2019-2020 work cycle.

Legacy Issues (G. Wood & K. Sands)

Members were provided with updates on the work group's manure and nuclear projects. In late June, a revised manure contractor report was returned to the work group in response to expert review comments that identified many factual errors and inaccuracies. The work group is now moving forward with developing a draft work group report and planning for a November 2018 workshop. For the nuclear project the work group is revising the statement of work to sharpen the focus and scope of the contractor work. The aim is to have a contract in place by late September/early October 2018.

The Legacy Issues Work Group identified two potential projects for the 2019-2020 work plan. The first is on a new approach to standards development for PBDE/flame retardant containing products that integrates product safety, toxicity and product re-design. The Commission has previously indicated its interest in the board pursuing the development of a work plan for this project. The second proposed project is on coordination between wastewater treatment and drinking water treatment facilities relevant to current and emerging contaminants. While the work group feels this is an important issue, it requires further scoping before developing a work plan and the topic will be re-evaluated in a future work cycle. As a result, the work group proposed to move forward with work plan development for the PBDEs project.

Engagement (R. Powers & K. Leonard)

Immediately following the release of the binational poll on July 10th, WQB members Kelsey Leonard and Mark Mattson presented a webinar that highlighted the findings of the poll. Members expressed interest in the number of participants on the webinar and the media coverage the poll received. Members were informed this information will be provided as soon as it becomes available. The work group has continued its planning and organization of the WQB's 202nd meeting being held in Hamilton, ON in September. The meeting will include a tour of the Six Nations of the Grand River and Randle reef and an evening public event.

For the 2019-2020 work cycle the work group will continue, working with IJC communications staff on developing an inventory of communication partners; building long-term collaboration with Indigenous groups by hosting listening sessions; and hosting public engagement events.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will share with the board information on media coverage and public uptake of the binational poll report.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder)

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 2016 climate change work via facilitated discussion with panel members and meeting participants. Potential engagement opportunities, to be held in fall 2018, include the Latonell Conservation Symposium, Great Lakes Restoration Conference and Great Lakes Commission Meeting. The work group is also advancing its wetland work by hosting a webinar-based engagement session in the fall with select wetlands experts from around the basin to further explore key findings/issues identified in the contractor report.

The Emerging Issues Work Group proposed a project for the 2019-2020 work cycle that seeks to gain a better understanding of the long-term threat horizon to the Great Lakes by examining changes in population growth, demographics and economics that drive threats. This is to be a two-year project and will include a case study focused on impacts of extreme weather. The work group is currently exploring how this project might build-upon or be informed by the work of the SAB's GLEWS project.

Next Steps

Work groups are to develop draft work plans for the projects presented. Draft work plans are to be submitted to the co-chairs by August 30th. A board call will be scheduled for September 7th specifically to discuss and provide feedback on the draft work plans. Final work plans are to be submitted to the Commission by October 4th.

ACTION ITEM: Work groups will draft work plans for their identified projects and submit to co-chairs by August 30th.

6. Great Lakes Issues (D. Ullrich)

Members were provided an opportunity to bring any Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. The board was made aware of an offshore wind turbine pilot project taking place in Lake Erie near Cleveland, OH. There is concern that the small, six turbine project, will manifest into a much larger 1,400 turbine project. The board was also apprised of extreme weather events in Wisconsin near Lake Superior. The extreme weather resulted in higher than normal water levels causing increased shoreline erosion and sedimentation. It was noted that similar situations of extreme weather causing negative impacts was seen in 2017 along Lake Ontario shorelines.

7. Next WQB Meetings (R. de Loë)

The board discussed its meetings for the remainder of 2017:

- Work Planning - September 7, 2018 (Teleconference) – time to be determined
- WQB 202nd Meeting - September 25-26, 2018 (Hamilton, ON)

Members were reminded that for the Hamilton meeting, a daytime field tour and evening public event are scheduled for September 25th. The full day WQB meeting will be held on September 26th. Members were encouraged to arrive in Hamilton on September 24th.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will send a doodle poll with time options for the September 7th board call.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will send a draft agenda and travel information for the September meeting by the end of July.

8. Public Comments & Adjourn (Co-Chairs)

No public comments were received. The Co-Chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.