



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Twenty Sixth Meeting
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

May 14, 2019 – 1:00-2:30pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Dave Allan	Bob Hecky	Victor Serveiss
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Pierre-Yves Caux
Lucinda Johnson		Li Wang
Scott Sowa		

Regrets: Henry Lickers, Christina Semeniuk and Joe DePinto

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The Canadian Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed. The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

Staff reported that Canadian Commissioner appointments are expected imminently; once Canadian Commissioners are appointed quorum is restored. U.S. Commissioners have been endorsed by the Foreign Relations Committee and are awaiting Senate endorsement.

The IJC Canadian Section’s Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Advisor (and SAB Liaison) position is expected to be filled effective May 27, 2019.

2. Board Membership

Several SPC positions are vacant due to recent resignations and term expirations. Staff are responsible for recommending new members to the Commission for their consideration and approval. Staff stated they believe it is essential that the SPC be consulted on new member nominations.

Members reviewed and discussed the list of potential SPC members that was prepared based on prior input from members and staff, and the IJC’s public call for self-nominations.

3. Work Group Updates

Fertilizer Application – Supplemental Analysis (Mike Murray)

The contractor has revised their draft report that incorporates the most recent five years (2006-2011) of Canadian fertilizer sales data, which was made publically available after the original analysis. The draft report will be sent out to the full SAB for review, and a final version will then be transmitted to the Commission. A manuscript is also planned.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnson)

A Work Group report outline has been prepared which builds off of the contractor report that was submitted in November, 2018. Work Group report preparation will get underway shortly. An IAGLR 2019 session titled 'Building an Early Warning System for the Great Lakes' will feature five speakers; the session will explore the types of data, kinds of analyses, and process to identify threats that need to get acted on through the early warning system.

Stressor Interactions (Dave Allan)

A project workshop was held April 9+10, 2019 in Windsor, ON to refine the contractor's preliminary analysis. The contractor report is expected in July, with the Work Group report to follow in autumn.

Declining Offshore Lake Productivity (Bob Hecky)

The work group report will be finalized soon and will be sent out to the full SAB for review.

Great Lakes Science Plan (Bob Hecky)

This is a project of the full SAB. A draft work plan has been prepared by the work group, and an initial task under consideration is to summarize research-related expenditures in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Executive Committee Co-Chairs may be asked to help facilitate federal agency input. The U.S. Congress has also tasked the U.S. Geological Survey with scoping a coordinated Great Lakes science plan on the U.S. side of the basin, and the work group has had a discussion with USGS staff to explore synergies between our initiatives.

HPAB's Harmonized Fish Consumption Advisory Work Plan (Jeff Ridal)

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne has approved their participation in the project, and the project is awaiting a Commission approval decision.

WQB's Animal Feeding Operations (Mike Murray)

The WQB work group report has been peer-reviewed and is expected to be finalized in June. The report brings a policy and management focus and is complementary to the SPC's fertilizer report.

RCC's Nutrient Adaptive Management (Staff)

The report was recently sent to the SPC for review, and is expected to be finalized soon. The contractor has submitted five project-related manuscripts to the *Journal of Informatics*.

RCC's Connecting Channels (Jeff Ridal)

The project is examining available information on the connecting channels in the basin, including the Straits of Mackinac. The project will rely primarily on a literature review supplemented by interviews with subject matter experts.

4. Advisory Board Priority-Setting Workshop

Members were reminded that due to a variety of factors (e.g., loss of Commission quorum in December 2018, U.S. Government furlough in December 2018-January 2019) the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) deep dive on nutrients-related and climate change-related topics will not proceed. Instead, resources have been refocused on identifying priority topics for IJC's Great Lakes-related advisory boards for the coming triennial periods. Opportunities for improved coordination between boards is also under consideration.

A workshop is planned for June 3+4, 2019 in Windsor, ON. It will be professionally facilitated and representatives of SPC, RCC, WQB and HPAB plus staff will be in attendance. The outputs of the workshop will be considered by Commissioners once quorum is restored. Although it is expected that substantial advisory board efforts may be directed towards the identified priorities moving forward, IJC's independent advisory boards will retain their ability to advance other projects that they identify as important.

In the discussion that followed a number of clarifications and suggestions were offered:

- The TAP Study Board's previously identified topics (nutrients and climate change) can receive additional consideration at the workshop.
- Existing draft SPC work plans (included in the call agenda packet) could be revisited to contribute to the priority themes that emerge from the workshop based on short, medium and long-term timeframes.
- Priority themes should consider areas where the governments' programs are not active i.e., gaps.
- In addition to issue-based priority themes (e.g., nutrients) the boards' could also focus on the theme of adaptive management as a process-based theme across topics. Another process-based theme relates to the data and management and the SPC's *Information Coordination and Flow* project report could be utilized.

Action: Secretary will forward the workshop agenda packet when it is finalized, and members are invited to provide additional input prior to June 3.

5. Other Business & Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50p.m.

*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*