



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

**September 4, 2019 – 2:30-4:00pm**

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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)
Dave Allan	Bob Hecky	Victor Serveiss
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Rob Phillips
Lucinda Johnson	Christina Semeniuk	Li Wang
Mic Isham	Karen Kidd	Mark Burrows
	Jerome Marty	

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Regrets: Scott Sowa, Gail Krantzberg, and Joe DePinto

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

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

A special welcome was extended to the SPC's four new members – Jerome Mary, Karen Kidd, Mic Isham and Gail Krantzberg. The new members on the call introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their background and professional interests.

**2. Work Group Updates**

Fertilizer Application – Supplemental Analysis (Mike Murray)

The contractor report was reviewed by SAB members and has been finalized. The SPC Co-Chairs have prepared a transmittal letter and the report will be discussed by the Commission at their September 10-12, 2019 Executive Meeting.

Declining Offshore Lake Productivity (Bob Hecky)

The work group report was reviewed by the full SAB over the summer, and is currently with staff for final editing. The details of Commission review still need to be confirmed, and is expected in autumn, 2019.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnson)

A Work Group report is in preparation, and should be ready in draft form for discussion at the SPC meeting planned as part of the Fall Semi-Annual meeting.

#### Stressor Interactions (Dave Allan)

The spring, 2019 workshop report has been finalized following review by workshop participants. A draft contractor project report is expected in mid-September with completion of the work group report by late 2019 or early 2020.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the workshop was attended by a diversity of experts and was well facilitated. The contractor and work group reports will try to produce an analysis that informs management and science related to stressor interactions, considering both spatial and temporal variability and nuanced views between impacts associated with single and multiple stressors.

#### Great Lakes Science Plan (Bob Hecky)

This is a project of the full SAB. The project work plan was approved by Commissioners in July, 2019 and a contractor scope of work has been developed and sent to U.S. Department of State for contract procurement by September 30, 2019.

As reported on the previous SPC call, 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 staff are communicating with the USGS lead to advance synergies. The initial USGS report is expected by the end of 2019. The USGS lead has contacted several scientists and stakeholders (including SAB members) and there is an awareness of the IJC work plan.

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

This project is being led by the Health Professionals Advisory Board, with the participation of several SPC members on the work group. The project was approved by Commissioners in July, 2019 and a contractor is expected to be retained soon. The project will take a case study approach with a focus on Akwesasne.

Mic Isham volunteered to join the work group.

#### RCC's Connecting Channels (Staff)

The RCC Secretary reported that the project was initiated in fall, 2018 and the preliminary draft contractor report has been received. The work group report is expected later in 2019.

### **3. Advisory Board Priority-Setting Workshop**

The workshop was held on June 3+4, 2019 and was attended by members of the WQB, SAB and HPAB. The workshop report was distributed as part of the meeting agenda. Lucinda Johnson attended the workshop, and briefly described the five priority themes that emerged from the workshop:

- 1) Fulfill responsibility to provide advice on longer term emerging issues by identifying drivers and stressors/threats that may affect the Great Lakes in the future;
- 2) Prepare an Integrated Science Plan for the Great Lakes to comprehensively assess the most pressing research and monitoring priorities and ensure they are addressed in a coordinated fashion (note that the plan preparation phase of this project was approved by the Commission on July 25, 2019);

- 3) Advance our understanding of Great Lakes water quality as a determinant of human health, with particular emphasis on traditional knowledge;
- 4) Explore how private sector resources and equity can be applied to achieve Great Lakes protection and restoration; and,
- 5) Overcome the communications and engagement challenges associated with the complexity of Great Lakes' science and systems.

Staff reported that Commissioners will be considering the workshop report, along with topics raised by the public and stakeholders during IJC's ongoing consultations, to confirm some priority topics they will want advisory boards to consider for the next round of work planning. The Commission is also expecting that the work plans of the different boards will be coordinated.

In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised:

- The SPC has previously discussed a project that would synthesize the different recent IJC advisory board nutrients-related reports. This should be considered moving forward.
- The SPC has several draft work plans in various stages of development that will need to be considered once Commissioner's priority topics are known. Can existing SPC work plans be adjusted to fit into those themes?
- The workshop did not include a lot of discussion about individual stressors and threats, but rather identified more holistic approaches that can be used to analyze specific topics.
- Although the boards are expected to focus substantial effort on the priorities identified by the Commission, since the boards are independent they may also wish to identify other topics for Commission approval.

There was general agreement that, subject to the Commission articulating their priority topics in the coming weeks, a substantial focus of the board meetings at the October Semi-Annual meeting could be reserved for SPC work plans. For example, the board could consider: What are the topics that the SPC and SAB can assist in advancing? What will be the focus of the related work plan(s)?

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

The SPC and SAB meetings are planned for October 23, and the SPC appearance is scheduled for October 24. Meeting logistics were reviewed, and members were encouraged to book their hotel by September 20 and make other travel arrangements as soon as possible. Since the meetings start early on October 23, members are encouraged to arrive on October 22.

Agenda items for the SPC meeting were discussed. Suggestions included focusing on revisiting existing work plans and/or developing new work plan ideas, in response to Commission identified priorities. The Interacting Stressors draft report may be sufficiently advanced that it can be discussed.

For the SAB meeting, the Science Plan project and Great Lakes Early Warning System preliminary draft report should receive considerable attention.

## **5. Draft Priorities for Science and Action**

The Parties have released their draft 2020-2022 Priorities for Science and Action. The SAB previously agreed that the board should provide input on the priorities for science, as envisioned in the Agreement.

Members self-identified to contribute to input on one or more Annexes, and provide their input to the Secretary by October 2, 2019.

**Action:** Secretary to forward an Outlook calendar request soliciting member input.

## **6. Other Business & Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55p.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](mailto:childm@windsor.ijc.org)*