

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
206th Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

October 23, 2019

Ottawa, ON

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Jon Allan
Sandy Bihn
Jane Elder
Steve Galarneau
Frank Ettawageshik
George Heartwell
Elizabeth Kirkwood
Monica Lewis-Patrick
Joe Tomandl III

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Sandra Cooper (phone)
Michael Goffin
Christopher Hilkené
François Houde
John Jackson
Irving Leblanc
Ling Mark
Mark Mattson
Chris McLaughlin
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

U.S. Member Regrets

Brandon Hofmeister
Christopher Korleski
Kelsey Leonard

Canadian Member Regrets

Mark Fisher

Observers

John Bratton – LimnoTech Inc. (phone)
Fred Carey – Potomac Hudson Engineering
Samir Qadir - Potomac Hudson Engineering (phone)
Eleanor Renaud – member of the public
Carla Torcia – Environment and Climate Change Canada
Elder Rose Wawatie – Kitigan Zibi Nation

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
David Burden – Great Lakes Regional Office (Director)
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Chrissy Chiasson – Canadian Section
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office
Allison Voglesong Zejnati – Great Lakes Regional Office
John Wilson (phone) – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Victor Serveiss – U.S. Section
Russell Consor – Canadian Section (for Paul Allen)

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Opening Water Ceremony

The 206th Meeting of the board was opened with a traditional water ceremony conducted by Elder Rose Wawatie of the Kitigan Zibi Nation.

2. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The co-chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting, recognizing that the meeting was being held on the unceded territory of the Algonquin people. New members, George Heartwell, Elizabeth Kirkwood, Monica Lewis-Patrick, Chris McLaughlin and François Houde were recognized and welcomed to their first meeting. It was also recognized that it is the last in-person meeting for members Jane Elder and Chris Hilkene. They were thanked for their valuable contributions over the almost six years they have served on the board, since it reformed in 2014. The Co-Chairs noted that their service on the board will be completed December 31st, 2019 and that their Commission appointed successors are WQB members Jon Allan and Gayle Wood. Ms. Wood, on behalf of the board, thanked the Co-Chairs not only for their six years of strong leadership and guidance, but also for the sense of camaraderie that they have built among a diverse group of members.

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

The agenda was modified to add an update on Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) planning (added as Item #9).

4. Presentation: Decommissioning Practices of Nuclear Power Facilities (J. Jackson)

The consultants for the Legacy Issues Work Group’s nuclear decommissioning project, Fed Carey, John Bratton and Samir Qadir, presented the findings from their recent work. The consultants’ work focused on identifying significant environmental risks related to the decommissioning of nuclear power facilities in the Great Lakes basin and suggested actions that could be taken to minimize those risks. Following the consultants’ presentation, board members were asked to provide suggestions to the work group on topics for the focus of board recommendations.

ACTION ITEM: Board members to provide suggested topics for the focus of recommendations to the Board Secretary by November 6, 2019.

5. Work Group Updates (D. Ullrich)

Work groups provided a report-out of their activities since the last WQB meeting on July 9th, 2019.

Legacy Issues (G. Wood)

An update was provided to members for the work group’s nuclear decommissioning and manure management projects. A final consultant report on nuclear decommissioning was submitted to the work group and its findings presented to the WQB (preceding agenda item). A background document on the state of nuclear power plant decommissioning in the basin has been completed and posted on the WQB website. A third report has also been completed that outlines the costs and financing of nuclear power plant decommissioning. These reports will be used by the work group in considering priority areas for recommendations and developing a draft work group report. The work group will be holding an experts workshop in spring 2020, with a final report to the board expected by the fall 2020.

In July 2019 the board approved the work group’s report on the oversight of animal feeding operations for manure management. It has been submitted to the Commission for approval to publicly release. The work group has also developed a proposed follow-up plan to reach and engage with various target audiences.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder & J. Allan)

Members were provided with updates on the work group’s wetlands and climate change adaptation projects. A letter from the WQB to the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly is pending final board approval. The letter requests feedback from the Coastal Assembly on critical questions that arose from the board’s

wetlands work, which includes a consultant report and webinar. The response to the letter will inform the WQB's next steps and any potential further engagement with the Coastal Assembly.

In September 2019 the board approved a document summarizing the outcomes of engagement efforts to further explore the climate adaptation recommendations from the WQB's 2017 report, particularly ways to advance leadership and action toward binational cooperation on climate adaptation and resilience strategies. This document has been submitted to the Commission for approval to post.

Engagement (M. Mattson)

Board member Frank Ettawageshik and staff member Raj Bejankiwar presented at the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Conference on July 18-19 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. They presented on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the role of the IJC, the WQB's role and results from the WQB's two binational Great Lakes basin polls. Members also worked with the IJC Communications Team to organize a July 25th session with the United Tribes of Michigan and Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority to provide their input to the Commission on the health and vitality of the Great Lakes. The work group will also be planning for the next binational poll, to occur in 2020.

The work group also discussed the need for clarity around the purpose of the WQB's public events, ensuring that it is complementary to the IJC's public consultation role.

6. Cross-Board Collaboration (*R. de Loë*)

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 SAB Science Priority Committee's (SPC) Interacting Stressors project. A WQB member was present to provide an update on the Interacting Stressors project. This project seeks to examine the impacts of stressor pairs (e.g. invasives and toxics) and recommend science and management priorities to further address or evaluate the importance of stressor interactions. The SPC work group is currently developing a draft report with a final report to the Commission expected in early 2020.

7. Great Lakes Issues (*D. Ullrich*)

Members were provided an opportunity to bring Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. Issues raised included, impacts of climate change on lake levels and the implications for water quality; PFAS impacts on source water and drinking water quality; glyphosphate use around Lake Superior negatively impacting the waters and plants harvested by First Nations; groundwater as a hydrologic driver of nearshore and river system health; need for seven-generation (long range) planning; groundwater threats such as deep injection wells, septic systems, and nitrates; climate change impacts on water infrastructure (drinking, waste and storm); water affordability; and the need to develop possible future scenarios to predict demands for Great Lakes resources.

8. Presentation: IJC Great Lakes Communication Strategy

IJC Communications Staff provided a presentation on an updated draft 2020 Great Lakes Communications and Engagement Strategy. The presentation included proposed key messages, target audiences, projects and products. The strategy also included efforts to better incorporate the IJC's Great Lakes advisory boards into the process such as, issue-based engagement with target audiences based on board priorities; engagement with target audiences at the start and throughout board projects; and development of multi-media products for board reports. Members had an opportunity to provide comments on the strategy, some of which included, ensuring decision-makers are a target audience; using social-media as much as possible; taking advantage of graphics to display information; and ensuring selection of easily-accessible venues when trying to reach frontline communities. Members were requested to provide any additional

feedback via the Board Secretary. The IJC Communications Staff will be considering the input from the advisory boards before finalizing the strategy and presenting it to the Commission.

ACTION ITEM: Board members to provide feedback on the draft 2020 Great Lakes Communications and Engagement Strategy to the Board Secretary by November 1st, 2019.

9. Update on Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP)

Great Lakes Regional Office Director David Burden provided a brief update on the IJC's TAP 2020 planning. The IJC is moving forward with a one-volume TAP that will include comment on the Progress Report of the Parties; emphasize the input received through the IJC's June-October 2019 consultations; provide high level commentary on select topics; and consider the Parties' State of the Great Lakes report. The WQB has a key role to play and will be engaged throughout the development of the report. Members will continue to be kept updated on the progress of the Commission's triennial assessment of progress, as well the role the WQB will play as the process moves forward.

10. Enhancing the Effectives of WQB Operations

On the July 9th WQB teleconference call the board spent significant time discussing opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the WQB's operations and a summary was shared for comment with board members. The board discussed the various member comments in order to finalize the document as a means to pass on advice to the incoming co-chairs. The following points were made by members during the discussion: agreement on dissolving the current standing work group structure and forming project-based work groups, but retain an engagement group; need for project selection criteria and prioritization method; a key value-add for the WQB is to better utilize its role in reviewing and assessing the progress of the Parties; ensuring board meetings allow adequate time for discussion; and having recommendations actioned by governments is not the only measure of success.

ACTION ITEM: A final version of the document will be provided to the board as a record of discussion. The Co-Chairs will use this document to pass on advice to the incoming WQB Co-Chairs.

11. WQB Appearance Before Commissioners

A draft slide deck of the WQB presentation to the Commission at the October IJC Semi-Annual meeting was reviewed with members for their input. The deck included highlights of recent Board activities, enhancing board effectiveness, and key messages. Members were asked to provide key messages to be passed on to the Commission some of which included, the IJC as a champion of binational action, taking the long-view and holding the Parties accountable for their actions and progress; an urgent need to address issues such as climate impacts and drinking water threats; and that the board is interested in hearing the Commission's priorities to inform the board's decision-making process.

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary to update presentation slides based on feedback received from the Board. Board co-chairs and work group/project leads will present these slides to the Commission at the October IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

12. Schedule of 2020 WQB Meetings

The general timeline for WQB meetings for the 2020 year was reviewed:

- January/February 2020 – Teleconference
- April 22, 2020 (TBC) – Washington D.C. - In conjunction with IJC Semi-Annual Meeting
- July/August 2020 – Teleconference
- Fall 2020 – Canadian location in Great Lakes basin

ACTION ITEM: Board Secretary will poll the membership to identify an optimal date for the teleconference calls. The Co-Chairs and Board Secretary will discuss potential dates and location for the fall, in-person meeting.

13. Public Comments

Eleanor Renaud, member of the public, suggested the board use its public meetings as an opportunity to gain input on rating/prioritizing the topics of interest being considered by the WQB. This input could be used in the board's process for identifying projects.

14. Closing Water Ceremony

The 206th Meeting of the board was closed with a traditional water ceremony conducted by Elder Rose Wawatie of the Kitigan Zibi Nation. The co-chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.