

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board  
207<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Summary of Discussion**

February 5, 2020  
Teleconference

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**U.S. Member Participants**

Jon Allan (Co-Chair)  
Sandy Bihn  
Frank Ettawageshik  
Stephen Galarneau  
George Heartwell  
Brandon Hofmeister  
Elizabeth Kirkwood  
Monica Lewis-Patrick  
Kelsey Leonard  
Joe Tomandl III

**Canadian Member Participants**

Gayle Wood (Co-Chair)  
Sandra Cooper  
Mark Fisher  
François Houde  
John Jackson  
Ling Mark  
Mark Mattson  
Chris McLaughlin  
Mark Wales

**U.S. Member Regrets**

Jane Elder  
Chris Korleski

**Canadian Member Regrets**

Mike Goffin  
Chris Hilkene  
Irving Leblanc

**Observers**

Ash Kumar (for Mike Goffin) - Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Paula Gardner (member of public) – M-Live Michigan News

**Commission Staff**

David Burden – Director, Great Lakes Regional Office  
Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Ryan Graydon – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Allison Voglesong Zejnati – Great Lakes Regional Office  
John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

**Commission Liaisons**

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

**Secretariat**

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

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**1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)**

The new WQB Co-chairs, Gayle Wood and Jon Allan, welcomed everyone to the 207<sup>th</sup> meeting of the board. Members and other participants identified themselves on the phone. Ms. Wood and Mr. Allan started their terms as co-chairs January 1, 2020, replacing previous co-chairs Rob de Loë and Dave Ullrich. The co-chairs expressed their excitement in their new roles in leading the WQB and

building upon the excellent foundation established by Mr. de Loë and Mr. Ullrich. Members were informed that Jane Elder's and Chris Hikene's term with the board will finish at the end of February. They were recognized at the previous meeting of the board in October 2019, and were again thanked for their valuable contributions since joining the board in 2014.

## **2. Co-Chairs Update (Co-Chairs)**

The co-chairs will begin providing regular written updates to members to ensure timely communication of co-chair activities relevant to board operations and to ensure members feel engaged and connected between meetings. The co-chairs' first update on the call included items on, calls with other advisory board co-chairs; cross-board collaboration efforts; a letter to Commissioners; and attendance at upcoming meetings. Members were welcomed to contact co-chairs with any questions.

## **3. Triennial Assessment of Progress Update (D. Burden)**

Great Lakes Regional Office Director David Burden provided a brief update on the IJC's triennial assessment of progress 2020 (TAP) 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 Great Lakes Advisory Boards have been requested to provide input on a draft report outline, in particular any documents, materials and information that can be used to develop the content of the report. A draft report will also be sent to the Great Lakes advisory boards for review in late spring.

**ACTION ITEM:** Members are to provide input and comments on the draft TAP outline to the Board Secretary by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **4. Board Project Updates (G. Wood)**

Members were provided a written update, in advance of the meeting, on board projects and activities. Members were provided an opportunity to ask questions about the updates.

### ***Nuclear Decommissioning Project***

A consultants' report was submitted in fall 2019 and the findings presented to the board at the October 2019 WQB meeting. Considering member input from the October board meeting, a project gap was identified, specifically gathering lessons learned from the Big Rock nuclear plant decommissioning in Petosky, Michigan. As a result, a site visit has been scheduled at the end of February to gather input from invited members of the local Indigenous community and other community leaders. The outcomes of the visit will be an additional piece of information to inform the development of the draft report. An expert workshop is also expected to be held in the spring of 2020.

### ***Manure Management Project***

The board's manure management report was approved by the Commission and posted on the WQB's website in late January. Key board members are currently working with IJC communications staff on the implementation of an engagement follow-up plan that includes activities such as, a press release, social media postings and webinars with audiences, such as Annex 4, regulators, agricultural organizations, ENGOs and the interested public.

### ***Engagement***

Initial planning began for the WQB's public meeting, being held in conjunction with the May 13-14 WQB meeting. Prior to the WQB meeting members were requested to provide suggestions on potential format and topics. Suggestions included a moderated panel discussion, a fireside chat style discussion, interviews or a film screening followed by panel discussion. Topics suggested

ranged from drinking water quality; community-level actions in local areas of concern (AOCs); harmful algal blooms; polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); or themes relevant to recent/current WQB work (e.g. climate adaptation, nuclear decommissioning). Interested members of the board will form a committee to further flesh-out the planning and logistics for the public meeting.

#### **5. 2020-2021 Draft Work Plans (J. Allan)**

In October 2018, the WQB submitted work plans for approval by the Commission. Shortly after submission the Commission lost quorum and no decision was made. Prior to the February WQB meeting the 2018 work plans were revisited and reviewed by the board over a one month review period. Member comments were compiled and circulated to the board in advance of the February meeting. The work plan includes three proposed projects – (1) identifying emerging long-term system-scale threats to Great Lakes water quality by examining trends and projected futures and recommending governance strategies to anticipate and respond to these threats, (2) exploring potential approaches to integrating decision-making for, the standards for the amounts and types of chemicals added to products; standards for the acceptability of toxicity; and requirements for re-design options and (3) conducting a third binational poll that will survey Great Lakes basin citizens' attitudes, beliefs and understanding of challenges facing the lakes and efforts to protect them.

Comments of a substantive nature were discussed by the board and edits identified in response. The work plan will be revised in response to written comments and discussions during the February WQB meeting call. The final work plan will be circulated to members. Work plans are to be submitted to the Commission for approval decision by early March.

**ACTION ITEM:** Members are to provide any final suggested language on the work plan to the Board Secretary by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. Great Lakes Issues (G. Wood)**

Members were reminded to submit issues, along with a short description (less than a page), in advance of WQB meetings for inclusion in an upcoming agenda. When an issue is brought forward the board will have discussion on actions, if any, to be taken (e.g. development of a watching brief).

Staff member Victor Serveiss, identified green infrastructure as a potential project for the board to consider – an issue the board previously developed a proposed work plan for in 2017.

The board will include this item in their running list of Great Lakes issues. This issue, along with the 2017 work plan, can be revisited at a later date by the board as a potential, future project.

#### **7. Next WQB Meetings (J. Allan)**

The board discussed its remaining 2020 meeting schedule, as follows:

- **208<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** May 13-14, 2020 – Bloomfield Hills, MI at Cranbrook Institute of Science
- **209<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** July 29, 2020 @ 2:30 – 4:00 PM Eastern - Teleconference
- **210<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Week of October 19-23, 2020 (October 21 TBC) – Ottawa, ON in conjunction with the IJC Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

Members will be notified of the October meeting date as soon as the IJC Fall Semi-Annual Meeting schedule is confirmed.

#### **8. Public Comments and Closing Remarks (Co-Chairs)**

No members of the public were present at the end of the call. The co-chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.