1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The U.S. Co-Chair chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the videoconference. Karen Kidd was congratulated as the recent recipient of the Society of Canadian Limnologists’ Rigler Award.

The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Ongoing Project Updates

**Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)**
The first round of a three-round set of online surveys has been completed; the response rate was acceptable although respondents were predominantly Caucasian and from the biological sciences. Round two questions are being prepared and will include some inquiries related to the human-ecosystem connection. For round two, additional efforts will be made to circulate the survey to a broader range of stakeholders. In response to questions, it was clarified that a contractor report and separate work group report will be prepared.

**Great Lakes Early Warning System – Phase 2 (Lucinda Johnson)**
An initial call between the core team and the project contractors (LimnoTech and AECOM) has been held, and a full work group meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020. Board members are encouraged to forward information on existing early warning systems to the work group co-chairs. The project will summarize existing early warning systems and their approaches and develop analytical approaches and a risk assessment framework that will be applied through three case
studies that examine a known stressor, potential stressor and unknown stressor. Both positivist science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge will be emphasized. It was suggested that the project team consider the recent work of the Province of Ontario’s Advisory Panel on Climate Change.

**Action:** Members are requested to send examples of existing early warning systems.

**Nutrients Synthesis (Michael Murray and John Livernois)**
The project will apply insights from recent IJC nutrients-related reports to assess Lake Erie Domestic Action Plans, with a secondary emphasis on Lake Ontario. A project work group is being assembled, and suggestions for external work group members are welcomed. The core group is also communicating with the Research Coordination Committee to ensure alignment with their nascent Great Lakes Nutrients Adaptive Management (Phase 2) work plan, which will focus on governance and modelling. Through discussion, the following points were raised:

- The Nutrients Synthesis project could consider a forthcoming report on a subnational approach to nutrient load reductions, which is an output of a recent symposium held by the Canada-United States Law Institute.
- The first round of the SAB’s Great Lakes Science Plan survey identified science coordination and integrated monitoring as suffering from governance deficits. These issues can be addressed by the SPC and RCC projects.

**Action:** Members are requested to send work group member suggestions.

**HPAB’s Harmonized Fish Consumption Advisory Work Plan (Jeff Ridal)**
The work plan activity on synthesizing fish population and fish consumption advisory information will be completed by post-doctoral researcher at the University of Windsor. Engagement with the Akwesasne community has been delayed due to the pandemic.

3. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge Work Plan**

The draft TEK work plan circulated with the agenda was reviewed and discussed. The work plan focuses on identifying obstacles and opportunities to improve incorporation of TEK into IJC advice, and improving Indigenous engagement on IJC boards. Preparation of the draft work plan also considered related IJC Indigenous engagement activities, and a TEK guidance document being developed by Annex 10.

Through discussion a number of points were raised:

- Several SPC members expressed support and enthusiasm for the work plan.
- The TEK work plan will directly inform other, ongoing board projects.
- The SPC’s 2018 Information Coordination and Flow project report included a short section on TEK.
- Definitions of TEK, positivist science, etc. will be important to consider, as will the political context of management decision-making. It was noted that providing a set definition of TEK may not be easy as it varies between knowledge owners. Instead, highlighting the value of TEK may lead to more helpful outcomes.
• The project will focus on the Great Lakes basin, although lessons and insights from other geographic locations may be considered as appropriate, in particular in jurisdictions involving the IJC (transboundary waters).
• SPC members are encouraged to think about work group membership, which should include internal (i.e. IJC board) and external candidates. In addition, SPC is encouraged to think about how to deliver the project with the support of a contractor.

There was general agreement that the work plan should be advanced for review by IJC advisory board members who have expressed an interest in the work plan.

Action: SPC members are requested to self-identify for work group membership.

4. Preparation for IJC Appearance

Appearance logistics and the draft PowerPoint slides were reviewed.

Opportunities for the Commission to memorialize the 50th Anniversary of the Agreement in 2022 were discussed. The Water Quality Board has formed a work group that will be considering this further, although they are not expected to report out until mid-2021. The SPC has previously discussed an update of the 1998 Great Lakes Atlas, as proposed by the University of Minnesota. An update will require the cooperation of Environment and Climate Change Canada and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (they published the original Atlas), and funding partners will also be required. There was general support for pursuing the Atlas project, particularly since it will be online and interactive, and thus provide an education tool. If logistics make it difficult to complete by 2022, it could be announced as an Anniversary project in 2022.

The SPC agreed that an IJC Appearance discussion about improving the efficacy of board and IJC reports was premature; the SPC needs to have that discussion first.

5. Other Business & Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.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