



CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

RCC: Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Dale Hoff, Erich Emery, Ian Campbell, Kathy McKague, Marty Blake, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Réjean Couture, Sandra Eberts, Val Klump.

Regret: Rebecca Rooney, Debbie Lee

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Dave Burden, Mark Borrow, Rob Philips, Victor Serveiss

1. Roll call, approval of draft agenda, and call summary of RCC Dec 17 call
 - No change on meeting agenda and on call summary of Dec 17.
2. New work plans for the next funding cycle
 - **Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2**
 - This work plan fills the gaps for the Parties in improving Annex 4 Adaptive Management Framework. The project identifies gaps in governance structure and helps Annex 4 Nutrient Adaptive Management achieve its goal.
 - It was suggested replacing “Ecosystem” with “Nutrient” in the title.
 - It was suggested that this effort is Lake Erie focused, but may consider expanding it to the other Great Lakes. This is because the current effort of nutrient management on Lake Erie may be expanded to Lake Ontario. The main concern for Lake Ontario is different from Lake Erie in that the main issue is harmful algal blooms caused by excess nutrients from agricultural practice in Lake Erie, but the main issue is Cladophora caused by non-point source of urban runoff in Lake Ontario.
 - WQB members, Chris McLaughlin and George Elmaraghy, have agreed to join the workgroup.
 - SPC members, Mike Murray and John Livernois, also expressed interest in joining the workgroup.
 - **Making the Most of Community Science**
 - There is a great interest in community science by both governments and non-profit organizations, as well as public. There is a need in thorough evaluation of the practice, coordination, and protocol standardization. This project will fill such gaps.
 - The workgroup co-leads are planning a call on February 17 to improve the work plan.

- The project will look at existing programs in agencies and synthesize best practice.
- The work plan will have a link with indigenous monitoring; it will link scientists and public.
- There are a lot of synergy on this effort, including USGS, EPA, and NOAA.
- It was brought up if the project needs to have a workshop component. If it does, we need to include budget for it.

3. Current project updates

- **GL Science Plan**

- This is the second year of the project.
- A virtual workshop has been planned for April 8-9 and April 15-16. It is a 4-half day workshop.
- The first 2-half day workshop focuses on 5 science disciplines and the second 2-half day focuses on the 5 lakes.
- The workgroup is recruiting leads for the breakout sessions, and welcome names for breakout session leads and workshop participants.
- It was mentioned that we may want to encourage or recruit early career scientists.
- It was also mentioned that engaging early career scientists will need to be included in the next phase of this project when we focus on how to get there.
- SPC Nutrient Synthesis (NS) project may have a minor overlap with this project since the NS project will also recommend science need on nutrient related science.
- It was requested that staff send the workshop participants' list to the RCC members (Done).

- **Operationalize GL Early Warning System**

- Great progress has been made since the start of the project in September 2020.
- This project has a very large workgroup with over 40 members.
- The workgroup has had calls to identify known, suspected, and unknown stressors from five topic areas (chemical, biological, nutrient, climate change, and human-behavioral).

- **GL Hydrological Conceptual Model**

- The workgroup has had three calls since the start of the project in September 2020. It is in the process of identifying two types of stakeholders.
- The first type is a limited number of stakeholders to be interviewed represent the main agencies most likely to have essential resources to support not only the development, but also the implementation and ongoing maintenance, of a basin-wide hydrologic model.
- The second type of stakeholders includes much broader audiences who will be surveyed using online method to better understand the stakeholders' perspectives, priorities, and potential contributions to the basin-scale model.

4. GL Connecting Waters draft final report

- This report reemphasized the use of connecting waters instead of connecting channels.

- It is reworked into two recommendations and one consideration.
 - The workgroup plans to write a review article based on the report to be published in JGLR.
 - It was commented that it reads well and looks good. The RCC did not recommend further revision. The only concern is that RCC members from government agencies may not feel comfortable regarding the report's recommendation of increasing funding. Sandy will send the report to USGS for a policy review and then decide if the report needs to be reworded (Done).
5. Collaboration with the other boards' projects
- SPC Nutrient Synthesis
 - The project workgroup had three calls.
 - Contractor has made good progress on literature review.
 - Debbie Lee from RCC serves as a member of the workgroup.
 - SPC TEK
 - Workgroup had two calls.
 - It is still in the process of completing the work plan.
 - Rebecca Rooney from RCC serves as a member of the workgroup.
 - WQB Horizon
 - No RCC member stepped up to serve on the workgroup of this project.
 - No update was provided.
6. GL board Co-chairs' call briefing
- IJC commitments in TAP 2020
 - There are three commitments with some levels of IJC commitment for each.
 - It was broadly discussed and was suggested that these commitments can be incorporated into the next round of work plans.
7. Other business
- It was asked about the timeline for new work plans
 - The timeline is roughly: starting to brainstorm ideas in April meeting, finalizing work plans in December, and final approval by commissioners by April.
 - Long time RCC member, Dr. Ian Campbell, will be assigned to a new job. RCC may start to consider a replacement in near future.
 - Next RCC meeting – will be hold during April Semi-annual meeting.
8. Adjourn
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