



Team Meeting

Notes

Attendees: Chris Winslow, Rebecca Rooney, Carl Platz, Dale Hoff, Debbie Lee, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Sergio Paulo

Regrets: Sandra Eberts, Val Klump

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Allison Voglesong Zejnati, Oliver Dumville, Rachel Wyatt, Rajendra Poudel, Victor Serveiss

Guest: Erika Jensen (GLC)

1. Roll call, approval of draft agenda, and acknowledge October meeting summary

- A brief roundtable introduction was carried out.
- October RCC meeting summary was acknowledged.
- Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Erika Jensen (Executive Director of GLC) Presentation

- The GLC and GLFC have been supporting the IJC's effort in the development of Science Strategy and eventually implement it. The GLC has done a lot of work historically on the Great Lakes Regional collaboration strategy and helped to get the Great Lakes what is now the GLRI off the ground. There are likely some lessons learned from that process, which might be applicable here regarding how that process had worked.
- Laying the groundwork for the discussions and eventually implementing the strategy, GLC has included the Science Strategy in its 2022 for 2023 FY annual statement of federal priorities for Congress and the administration.
- GLC stated that it funds cross cutting planning efforts to coordinate and develop regional science and data collection in the Great Lakes including the International Joint Commission, Decadal Science Plan and the US Geological Survey Science Plan. Additional science priorities are also included to ensure that Great Lakes science and data gathering gets adequately reflected. GLC continues messaging with Congress and the administration that support for Great Lakes science is important to both understand the impact of our restoration efforts and to forward-looking to understand what future threats are.

- The GLC coordinates priorities with other regional organizations and coordination of Great Lakes science. Federal science was also included in GLC's statement, which has laid out the groundwork from a messaging standpoint.
- The Science Strategy provides a great umbrella and framework. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered, such as what specific science questions we want to answer, who is going to do what, and what the various roles and responsibilities are, and so on.
- The GLC has gone through the similar process with Great Lakes regional collaboration. The GLC can serve as a convener and facilitate of interested parties in helping support convening and bringing partners and stakeholders to the table to start having these conversations.
- The GLC has been doing a kind of groundwork, collaborating with GLFC too, to be helpful in supportive as the effort goes forward. The GLC will communicate and closely coordinate with the IJC and the GLFC to make sure that we're not going off in a direction that is not aligned with what we're all thinking, so that we're on the same page.

Discussion:

- It was discussed that how the GLC will have an open ear for Canada's issues, needs, contributions, and responsibilities to Great Lakes science plan. The GLC was established on the U.S. side as a compact agency of the eight states and maintains a partnership with the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. As the GLC implements its activities and work, it has been done in a binational, collaborative way with the provinces at the table. The GLC has had very strong advocacy role on behalf of the states to the U.S. Federal government. On the Canadian side, we have been working with GLFC to address the entire Great Lakes issues.
- The Great Lakes Cities Initiative has been leading to generate greater Canadian federal investment in Great Lakes resources. The GLC has been sharing our lessons learned in information from what we have done on the U.S. side to help inform what they are leading in Ottawa.
- The GLC often makes statements of positions of the Commission through its policy resolution process, for which it always has the Ontario and Quebec delegations at the table for inputs. If something is very U.S. focused, it always has been included how this translates cross-border and what the equivalent or complementary side of this is in Canada.
- For the science strategy, the GLC can bring in provincial partners, Canadian federal partners, and Canadian researchers and scientists to the extent it is able to, as well as forming collaborative groups and forums. Hence, for the most part, GLC operates binationally to the best of its ability.

- It was recognized that a unified voice is needed, which will be really powerful for addressing Great Lakes issues, such as the science strategy.

3. GL Science Strategy

- The Commission approved the Great Lakes Science Strategy summary report and the contractor report for transmittal to the governments and posting them to the SAB website in October. There was also a discussion at the December 2022 Great Lakes Summit (mandated in the agreement every three years) among the three commissions and the GLEC Co chairs. There was a brief discussion of the strategy with Mike Goffin and Chris Korleski and their staff.
- IJC Commissioners further discussed how to operationalize the Great Lakes science strategy last week in Windsor.
- The Commission approved the Communication and Engagement Plan.
- Commissioners reviewed and discussed the two-pager and the frequently asked questions. Overall, they felt that a better job is needed about how to convince the audience regarding why the investment in science is needed. Hence, we need to be more concise with less details for the two-pager and to add more background details and convincing material to the frequently asked questions. Both need to focus on the target audience and answer challenging questions.
- There are several events that the IJC and its board may consider attending, such as the Canadian Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Summit on February 15th and the U.S. Great Lakes Day in March 9th.
- One RCC member would like to have a package that can be sent to his internal organizational network.
- It was suggested that IJC would like to be informed when RCC members participate in activities related to this effort.
- The project workgroup is planning to have a Town Hall and a poster at the IAGLR conference in May.
- The workgroup leads and contractor are also developing a manuscript based on the report for a journal article.
- It was mentioned that the AFS annual meeting will be in Grand Rapid this year, which is a good opportunity to socialize this effort.
- The IJC financially supported a Science Vessel Coordination Workshop on January 12, 2023. The agenda is available at: [PDF 2023 draft agenda V7.pdf](#). The workshop recording is also available at: [GLASS12Jan2023.mp4](#). The GLC is producing a meeting record that will be completed within a couple of weeks. IJC staff presented the Science Strategy effort briefly at the workshop. The workshop participants had a great interest in and discussed the infrastructure component of the Strategy.
- It was mentioned that all the U.S. and Canadian federal agencies have their own science strategies and plans. They are pushing forward to get funded. The question

will come up is how this Science Strategy will tailor in with what the agencies are already asking.

4. New work plans

- Great Lakes Atlas
 - The project has been planned for two phases. The current phase is to develop a scoping exercise.
 - This project will a joint work plan of SPC, WQB, and RCC.
 - RCC members are eager to contribute information, data, and maps, including GLERL, USACES, NRCan, AAFC.
- Operationalize GL Science Strategy
 - This will be a joint project of RCC and SPC.
 - The Communication and Engagement Plan has been approved by Commissioners. The work plan for this project will include the key points included in the Communication and Engagement Plan.
 - Staff will develop a draft work plan for RCC and SPC to review. The deadline of completion of the work plan is March 1.
- Community Science Phase-2
 - The first phase of the project is expected to complete in summer 2023. The first phase report will recommend developing a standard handbook for community science.
 - Chris Winslow will develop a highlight of the phase-2 work plan, which will be developed into a full workplan.

5. Ongoing project – brief progress update

- Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System
 - Have received a draft of contractor report.
 - Core workgroup members provided input.
 - After the contractor incorporates the inputs, report will be sent to large workgroup for review.
- Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
 - Have received a draft of contractor report.
 - The report has been reviewed and discussed in the last two workgroup calls.
 - The report provides a lot of useful information, which will be very helpful to Annex 4.
 - Contractor will submit the final draft report within a couple of weeks.
 - The next workgroup call will finalize the report and decide what the next step will be.
 - The workgroup has decided not to create an additional summary report, instead placing a cover memo to summarize recommendations.
- Making the Most of Community Science

- The Canadian Co-chair of the project retired from the board, and it is looking for a new Co-chair from Canadian members. Ram has volunteered to serve as the Co-chair.
- The contractor has completed a draft contractor report and has been reviewed by workgroup members. The project has been progressed as scheduled.
- Winter Limnology/Science
 - Since the start of the project, two workgroup calls have been carried out.
 - There is much more information than it has been anticipated. There are 110 manuscripts for the past five years dealing with Great Lakes winter science.
 - Winter science is a very broad field, and a lot of grounds need to cover.
 - The contractor has completed literature review.
 - Two virtual and one in-person workshops have been planned. It has started the process of identifying workshop participants.
- Microplastic study
 - Since the start of the project in October, the workgroup has been having monthly calls.
 - The workgroup has planned a special session at the 2023 IAGLR Conference.
 - The project has a strong link with work in southern California Coastal Water Research project. The workgroup leads have a strong tie with the California risk assessment framework and TOMEX database of toxicity data that they have compiled.

6. Other business

- Triennial Assessment of Progress
 - Individual sections authored by staff have been submitted to the contractor.
 - Mar 10, 2023 - Draft TAP Report will be completed and delivered to GLRO for concurrent review.
 - Mar 13-Apr 4, 2023 - Concurrent review by GLRO staff, liaisons and communications staff (~3 weeks). Report will be sent to Board for review on May 1.
- Next meeting – will be held at the IJC Semi-annual meeting on April 26, 2023

7. Adjourn at 3:00 pm
