



## Notes

### 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, Rebecca Rooney, Jason Borwick, Debbie Lee

### Regrets:

**Staff:** Lizhu Wang, Dave Burden, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss, Mark Burrows, Matthew Child

1. Roll call, Approval of draft agenda, Welcome new member, Acknowledge of April 14, 2021, Meeting Record
  - Mr. Jason Borwick's nomination to replace Mr. Marty Blake from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has been approved by Commissioners.
  - RCC Co-chairs and members, as well as IJC staff, thanked Marty Blake for his contribution and the recommendation of Jason Borwick to serve on the RCC.
  - RCC Co-chairs and members expressed warm welcome to the joining of Mr. Jason Borwick with a RCC round table introduction.
  - Agenda was approved as presented.
  - Meeting Record of April 14, 2021 was acknowledged.
2. GL Science Plan
  - U.S. Congress requested USGS provide a report with information on Great Lakes science gaps and resources needed to write and execute a science plan. The USGS has submitted the requested report to Congress and is ready for a follow up briefing to the Committee on the report.
  - In case of no response from the U.S. Congress, a backup plan is needed. It would be a good starting point for all Great Lakes basin partners to come together and reach a consensus on a Great Lakes Science Plan.
  - The IJC's effort is the first step, and it needs a following up step to identify how the science plan can be administered and executed.
  - The IJC's effort has made a lot of progress with two online surveys and two workshops. It is anticipated a final report will be available by the end of December 2021.
3. Other Ongoing Projects
  - GL Connecting Waters final report

- The workgroup report is completed and ready to be submitted to the commissioners for approval in July.
  - A follow up plan is developed focusing on key messages and how to reach out to broad audiences.
  - The workgroup will develop a manuscript to be submitted to IAGLR, which will require page charge fund to make the article available online to reach broad readers.
- Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
    - Currently, the workgroup is focusing on identifying five suspected stressors from a large list of stressors identified by the workgroup previously. Each of these five stressors will be used as a case study.
    - These five stressors will be identified using several criteria, including the representation of chemical, biological, nutrients, climate change, and human-behavioral aspects; available adequate data; and representation of positivist science and traditional ecological knowledge. At least one stressor is cross-cutting and extends beyond a single ecological stressor, i.e. human health, socio-economic, geopolitical, etc.
- GL Hydrological Conceptual Model
    - The Great Lakes hydrological conceptual model project started in September 2020 with an objective of developing a hydrological conceptual model that incorporates stakeholder input for the Great Lakes basin.
    - The workgroup has completed virtual interviews of key stakeholders representing the main agencies that 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 workgroup also conducted a broader online survey to better understand the stakeholders' perspectives, priorities, and potential contributions to the basin-scale model.
    - The contractor has developed an initial graphical conceptual model and drafted an outline of report for review.
- Newly approved projects
    - Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2 and Making the Most of Community Science
      - ✓ Scope of Works for both projects have been submitted to the Department of State to be posted.
      - ✓ Staff have been working with the projects' contracting officer at the Department of State to complete all the required documents (SOW, Cost estimate, Proposal evaluation criteria) and to get them ready to be posted.
4. New project ideas for the next funding cycle
- GL Winter Science

- Michael Twiss (RCC) and Maggie Xenopoulos (SPC) have jointly developed a work plan, which is ready for board discussion. The work plan's objectives are to survey the status of winter science as it affects the quality of the waters of the Great Lakes and their watersheds and to assess existing research needs to propose solutions.
  - The workplan proposes to hold three workshops to identify (1) Winter Science Priorities: *What we need to know in order to meet the purpose of the GLWQA*, (2) Winter Science Coordination: *What is needed - from infrastructure, to training, to coordination amongst agencies - to meet science priorities*, and (3) Integrating Winter Science Priorities with Existing and Future Capacities: *Recommendations for sustainably achieving meeting winter science needs*.
  - Lake winter science is related to watershed agricultural activities and how watershed influences lakes; understanding their process is critical.
  - Lake winter sampling is seen as a health and safety impediment, which needs to be considered or adapted and aware of. It is a logistical constraint.
- Community science
    - May consider a phase 2 effort once the phase 1 project has been completed.

#### 5. TAP Term of Reference and TAP 2023 workgroup

- The Great Lakes boards' Co-chairs, led by the WQB Co-chairs, have developed a Term of Reference for the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) report framework and a plan for TAP 2023.
- The board Co-chairs formed a committee to work on this Term of Reference.
- The Committee will have a meeting this week. RCC members had a broad discussion regarding how RCC should get involved. The TAP focuses have been discussed from focused areas to broad topics related to the GLWQA.

#### 6. Other business

- IJC Section Office personnel update:  
Ottawa Office – Camille Mageau has retired, and Pierre-Yves Caux is acting.  
Washington Office – Chuck Lawson has retired, and Susan Daniel is acting.
- Next RCC call (no meeting in July and Aug)  
Doodle Poll for Sep 7-10.