



Notes

Attendees:

RCC: Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Erich Emery, Dale Hoff, Jason Borwick, Kathy McKague, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Sandra Eberts, Debbie Lee, Réjean Couture.

Regrets: Ian Campbell, Val Klump,

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Dave Burden, Alison Voglesong Zejnati, Mark Burrows, Rajendra Poudel, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss

1. Roll call, approval of draft agenda, and acknowledge of January 2022 Meeting Summary
 - Agenda is approved as presented.
 - Meeting record of January 2022 is acknowledged.

1. Great Lake Science Strategy status and next steps
 - Draft contractor report has been reviewed by the Steering Committee. Intensive feedbacks will be incorporated by the end of March.
 - The project core-team has suggested to change Science Plan to Science Strategy since the report is not a complete plan.
 - The workgroup will develop a highlight report to summarize the contractor's report, and plan to deliver the report to Commissioners for approval in June.
 - One of the efforts that needs to take is to identify the key audiences and how to communicate with them. There are a lot of initiatives in the Great Lakes region related to the development of Science Strategy. Examples of these are the USGS report to Congress, the SMART Great Lakes, and the National Association of Marine Labs.
 - It is commented that there is a need to distinguish the Science Strategy from GLRI. Otherwise, it may impact GLRI's authorization. It is critical to clarify that this effort is an add-on rather than a repeat of GLRI. It needs to be very clear what this is and what this is not. This is for addressing what we do not know, and it needs to be up front on how different this is from the other efforts.
 - It is also mentioned that it may be challenging regarding how to distribute the \$ and who will be the manager of the \$ once the Strategy gets funded.
 - It also needs to make sure we can align up with and possibly leverage off the Great Lakes Authority that was introduced recently. There is a push for a Canadian GLRI type program that is being advanced by Great Lakes Caucus. It needs more connection with Canadian efforts.

- Dave Burden will forward the document of Great Lakes Authority to the RCC members (done).
2. Ongoing project progress reporting
- GW-SW Conceptual Framework report
 - The report has been submitted to the Commissioners for approval. A follow up and outreach plan developed by staff has also been submitted to the Commissioners for approval. We should hear back from Commissioners before the Semi-Annual Meeting.
 - The report has the following recommendations:
 - GW-SW modelers, funders of research, and users of research products and tools should use this conceptual framework as a guide for basin-wide modeling to answer specific spatial and temporal questions.
 - Federal and state/provincial governments should maintain and enhance their three-dimensional hydrogeological data collection, surveillance, and monitoring programs in areas where GW-SW conditions are changing rapidly.
 - The lead government GW-SW modeling agencies should develop a basin-wide monitoring enterprise plan.
 - The federal agencies with the strongest technical skills in GW-SW modeling should lead an effort to compile a joint technical scoping document with terms of reference for the development of a binational numerical GW-SW model for the Great Lakes basin.
 - The IJC, in collaboration with the GLWQA Annex 8–Groundwater Subcommittee and the Great Lakes Commission, should support a binational collaborative entity organized around the topic of Great Lakes GW-SW modeling, management, and policy.
 - Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
 - Project has been progressed on schedule. The contractor has generated a report describing the five case studies for expected stressors. The core-team will meet with contractors to review the report and figure out how to address unknown stressors.
 - The workgroup is in the process of planning a workshop that will be held this summer. The goal of the workshop is to produce an overarching Early Warning System Framework with steps that can be followed for identifying potential stressors, screening out key stressors, applying appropriate analytical tools to assess the risk of the stressors, and making adequate recommendations for actions.
 - Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
 - The workgroup had a meeting on Feb 23. This is a very good workgroup consisting of all major players.
 - Workgroup Co-chairs are pleased with the contractor’s work so far, including document/literature review and preparation of one-on-one survey.

- This work has also looked at domestic plans and Annex 4 framework, and compared the Great Lakes effort with the Chesapeake Bay program.
 - There are challenges in watershed land practice data collection, and a need of coordination and collaboration on funding among states, binational, and federal governments.
 - There are still outstanding questions regarding to if the Annex 4 Adaptive Management Framework has motivated states' efforts and whether it helps the multiagency budget process and allocation. Also, we need to know what monitoring is needed to measure progress and how a coordinated program can be defined.
- Making the Most of Community Science
 - The project was delayed and now it is on track. Considerable progress has been made on literature review.
 - Contractor has started also to pull together and conducted an inventory of community science groups.
 - The workgroup Co-chairs had a meeting with the contractor to clarify the scope of the work to make sure that they focus on surface water and do not get into some of the other potential areas.
 - A member of the contracting team, Cleveland Water Alliance, also conducts other community science related activities. The IJC project also draws additional funds from other agencies for initiating many other related activities.
3. RCC/SPC joint work plan for 2022-2023 - Winter Science
- The work plan has been reviewed by RCC several times.
 - The work plan was sent to GLEC Co-chairs for review and received positive comments.
 - Work plan has been submitted to Commissioners for approval. We should know the result within a week or so.
4. Other Boards work plans for 2022-2023 funding cycle
- Five work plans were submitted to Commissioners for approval:
 - Climate Change Adaptation for Community Resilience Across the Great Lakes Region (WQB)
 - Follow-up and Critical Analyses of the Third Great Lakes Regional Poll Data (WQB)
 - Great Lakes Winter Science (RCC/SPC)
 - Valuation of Great Lakes Ecosystem Services -phase 1 (SPC)
 - Climate Change Influence on Human Health Indicators in the Great Lakes (HPAB)
 - There will be opportunities for RCC members to join the workgroup for each project.
 - The Great Lakes Authority Act ([H.R. 7131](#)) was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives last week by Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH). Along with Rep. Kaptur, who serves as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, Reps. Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Bobby Rush (IL-02), Paul Tonko (NY-20), Gwen Moore (WI-04), Dan Kildee (MI-05), Brad Schneider (IL-10), Joe Morelle

(NY-25), and Haley Stevens (MI-11) are original cosponsors. The bill would create the Great Lakes Authority, which would be a federal entity focused on the economic interests of the eight Great Lakes states.

- According to Rep. Kaptur's office press [release](#), the Great Lakes Authority would:
 - Promote economic development and job creation, and create world-class workforce education, training, and adjustment institutions to spur economic growth in communities disproportionately affected by the outsourcing of jobs.
 - Restore and protect the Great Lakes which are the principal source of surface freshwater in North America.
 - Foster innovation to strengthen and expand domestic manufacturing and promote cleaner and more sustainable power production.
 - Establish and administer funding mechanisms to finance clean energy, green infrastructure, water infrastructure, and broadband infrastructure projects.
- The bill would authorize \$30 million in funding for the Great Lakes Authority beginning in fiscal year 2023, and \$50 million each fiscal year thereafter. The bill has yet to be referred to a House Committee.

5. 2023 TAP Outline

- The TAP Framework is a work in progress. The RCC members generally like the contents.
- The RCC members are very busy and would like to contribute by providing critical reviews.

6. Incorporation of social economic into future RCC projects

- Presentation by Dr. Rajendra Poudel - Reinvigorating Social Science in the Great Lakes Region.
- It was requested that secretary distributes the PPTs to RCC members (done).
- If Rajendra is looking for agency contacts, let the RCC members know. Both Jason and Sandy can help.

7. Agenda items for SAB meeting on April 1

- May want focus on reviewing and discuss projects that are carried out jointly by RCC and SPC.
- It would very helpful if the microplastics work plan is discussed.

8. Other business

- GLEC is looking for presenters at the Public Forum
 - The science strategy and GLEW projects are potential topics to be presented during the Public Forum.
- Next RCC Call – Decide later.

9. Adjourn
