



Notes

Attendees:

RCC: Chris Winslow, Ian Campbell, Marty Blake, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Sandra Eberts, Rebecca Rooney, Jason Borwick, Debbie Lee, Rebecca Rooney

Regrets: Gavin Christie, Réjean Couture, Val Klump, Dale Hoff, Kathy McKague, Erich Emery

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Dave Burden, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss, Matthew Child, Rajendra Poudel

Commissioner: Rob Sisson

1. Roll call, Approval of draft agenda, Welcome new member, Acknowledge of June 16 Meeting Record
 - Agenda was approved as presented.
 - Co-chair welcomed Mr. Jason Borwick again and explained how board members can get involved in board projects by leading or joining project workgroups.
 - Meeting record of June 2021 was acknowledged.
2. Presentation on State of Great Lakes report – progress/status
 - Canadian co-lead of the State of Great Lakes report team, Nancy Stadler-Salt, gave a presentation describing the schedule, current status, and report development process.
 - Most of the draft sub-indicator reports have been completed. The Indicator Team will host webinars on the indicators on Oct 5, 6, and 7 to look for scientific expertise inputs.
 - It was asked whether the webinar can be attended by students and others. It responded that it is invitation-only, but Nancy will check with the Indicator Task Team.
 - The invitations have been sent out to Annex 10 subcommittee and Ecological Indicator Task Team members.
3. TAP priority identification
 - The summary of priorities identified by the Study Board in 2018 has a very good coverage on the priorities and can be used as a starting point for brainstorming.
 - The following additional priorities were identified by RCC members:
 - Connecting waters, especially monitoring infrastructure and data collection.
 - Changing thermal structure of the Great Lakes.

- Winter science of Great Lakes.
- Topics related to fisheries, especially the need of synergy between fish and nutrients.
- Carbon sequestration in watershed and lakes.
- Climate adaptation.
- Link with GL Science Plan report deliverables.
- Look at the science priorities identified in Great Lakes Science Plan report.
- Staff will synthesize the priority list and put it on GoogleDoc so that Committee members can rank them (Done).

4. Briefing Ongoing Project progress

- Great Lakes Connecting Waters final report
 - Staff and workgroup have developed an engagement and follow-up plan.
 - There will be webinars to present the report to Commissioners on Oct 23 and to the Annexes 2 and 10 on Oct 24.
- Science Plan
 - The project has completed two rounds of online surveys and two workshops to identify science priorities and resource need.
 - Contractor is in the process of synthesizing the reports (2-3 pages each) provided by the workshop session leads.
 - It plans to have a research manager workshop in late in November.
- Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
 - The workgroup has identified nutrients other than phosphorus as the first pilot case study. The contractor is in the process of developing the case study outline.
 - The next workgroup call will identify additional four indicators for potential other case studies.
- GL Hydrological Conceptual Model
 - The contractor has completed the first draft of project report.
 - Workgroup is in the process of providing feedback on the report.
 - The report will be finalized in late October.
- Institutional Arrangement of Nutrient Adaptive Management
 - The deadline of posting the RFP is September 8. The State Department will send the proposal(s) to IJC to be evaluated either this week or next week.
- Making the Most of Community Science
 - The State Department has received two proposals.
 - The proposals have been evaluated by IJC staff.
 - It is expected that the State Department will make decision and sign a contract in the next week.

5. New project ideas for the next funding cycle

- GL Winter Science

- The work plan was submitted by Michael Twiss (RCC) and Maggie Xenopoulos (SPC) jointly. The 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.
 - It was commented that this is a cutting-edge science need. It may need to focus on identifying gaps and questions and to provide solution and answers to fill gaps. It needs to make the deliverables to be able to answer questions.
 - There are many activities on agriculture fields in winter, and it is suspected it will translate into the lake in winter, which is unknown.
 - There is a confluence between Great Lakes winter ecology and climate change. New technology and indigenous knowledge can help provide answers.
 - Dale Hoff is interested in serving on the workgroup.
- Other new ideas
 - Changing thermal structure and carbon sequestration mitigation.
 - Legacy nutrient issues may be bigger than we thought. Groundwater plays an important role. The Department of Energy has a project with over \$10 million at the Great Lakes regional scale and watershed scale using models to look at transport and import legacy nutrients.

6. Prepare Board Appearance

- The Great Lakes Board Co-chairs will meet to identify what should be focused on. RCC members will have opportunity to provide input once we have a draft presentation. Some project leads may be asked to present part of the presentation.
- Member would like to see what was presented in the last Semi-annual meeting. Staff will send the last presentation to members (Done).

7. Other business

- Next RCC call – There will be a joint meeting between RCC and SPC in October. A Doodle Poll will follow.