



## Notes

### Attendees:

**RCC:** Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Carl Platz, Dale Hoff, Debbie Lee, Eric Boisvert, Eric Emery, Jason Borwick, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Sandra Eberts, Sergio Paulo, Val Klump

**Regrets:** Rebecca Rooney

**Staff:** Lizhu Wang, Heather Stirratt, Mark Burrows, Matthew Child, Rajendra Poudel, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss

### 1. Welcome and roundtable introduction

- Board Co-chairs expressed warm welcomes to the new RCC member Carl Platz and thanked retiring RCC member Erich Emery for his serving on RCC.
- Mr. Carl Platz from USACE has been serving as the Great Lakes Program Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Great Lakes and Ohio River Division since 2016. He is responsible for overall management of the Corps' regional environmental mission and its role in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Mr. Platz also served for several years as the USACE Program Manager for the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program and chaired the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's FishPass Advisory Board.
- Draft agenda was approved as presented
- The June 2022 RCC Meeting Summary was acknowledged

### 2. GL Science Strategy – summary report and next steps

- Reports have been sent out to workgroup members and Great Lakes Boards for high level review.
- Have received a few comments and suggestions. Reports will be finalized in the next couple of weeks.
- The Summary Report describes the key findings and why the strategy is needed.
- The team also developed a Next Steps document, which is envisioned as an internal document. It identifies what the next steps are in a draft form. It consists of efficacy, organization involvement, and governance components. This has never been done for the Great Lakes.
- The Next Step document will get a lot of attentions since it is critical related to how to get there. It will give voice on Science Strategy during the Public Forum. It is a collective effort and needs all work together. We need figure out how to message and articulate this.

- It was commented that there could be differences between Canada and US in terminology related to socializing this effort. The understanding and clear articulation to audience would be very beneficial because the difference in terminology or intent or outcome really play into how the socialization of this strategy is about. It will need a binational strategy even if the mechanisms of how to get there are different.
- It was commented that the summary report has pointed several efforts that are on going. We should not discount the power that we all are working in the same direction. What we need is a mechanism to move this forward.
- The complexity of the implementation of the Science Strategy could be considered an advantage of this effort, which shows the dimension of needs.

### 3. Ongoing project progress reporting

- Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System
  - The project is progressed as planned.
  - We have completed five case studies and developed a draft Early Warning System Framework.
  - A workshop has been planned on September 19 and 20. During the workshop, we will use the case studies to test the draft Early Warning System Framework to find ways to improve it.
- Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
  - The contractor has done a stakeholder survey, which was completed a couple of months ago.
  - The workgroup used two of its monthly meetings to review the survey results and provide comments.
  - A lot of informative information has been revealed, which will be very useful for the project reporting.
  - The contractor will synthesize the survey results and inputs from workgroup in the next month, which will be discussed during the next workgroup call.
- Making the Most of Community Science
  - Workgroup continued to meet with the contracting team.
  - Contracting team has created an Excel table where they are collecting all the information about the ongoing community science efforts. There are more than 50 different entries on the list. The table also specifies the types of the organizations, geographic areas, and products.
  - The workgroup is planning to have a workshop. The save the date has gone out. The workgroup is trying to get two cohorts together to meet twice. Each cohort will meet on two different days. The meeting will involve about 60 people in these two workshops splitting half into one cohort and half into the other cohort.
  - The contractor has done a survey of community science efforts from the Great Lakes region and other regions to identify success stories and roadblocks.
  - The final report is scheduled for March 2023.

#### 4. Newly approved projects - progress update

- Winter Limnology/Science
  - This is a RCC and SPC joint project. The workgroup Co-leads are Michael Twiss and Maggie Xenopoulos
  - Contract has been established with a contractor team - Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc. and LimnoTech.
  - Looking for RCC members to join the workgroup.
  - Dale Hoff has volunteered to join the workgroup.
  - It was commented that winter limnology had come up many times during the Lake Erie CSMI workshop.
  
- Microplastics Monitoring and Risk Assessment
  - This is also a RCC and SPC joint project. The workgroup Co-leads are Rebecca Rooney and Karen Kidd.
  - Project RFP has been announced; the deadline is September 23.
  - Looking for RCC members to join the workgroup.
  - It was commented that there are many efforts studying microplastics and a lot of \$ has been invested.

#### 4. Projects led by other boards with RCC participation

- Nutrient Synthesis – A draft workgroup report has been sent to the workgroup for review.
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge – Discussion was started a year ago. Since then, TEK has been incorporated into IJC's work. The effort started initially internally, then was evolved to a board project. The contractor team has completed a literature review. They convened listening sessions of elders from a number of bands, tribes, and other indigenous organizations. The contractor has done some analyses and will engage in six indigenous listening sessions.
- Other projects– No reporting.

#### 5. Plans for RCC/SAB face to face meetings during Oct 19-20 in Ottawa

- Overview and schedule for meetings:
  - RCC and SAB meeting schedules are in the attachment of the draft agenda.
  - All RCC members have indicated to attend the meetings in person, except Rebecca Rooney.
- Discussion of topics for RCC agenda
  - Report progress on ongoing projects.
  - Spend time to have a focused discussion on how to move forward with the Science Strategy.
  - Bring together RCC membership expertise and the work we do to be shared with the other RCC members, which will benefit all in the work that each member does and together what RCC can do with IJC's efforts.
  - Brian storm forward thinking RCC's priorities and new project ideas.

- GLRO director would like to decide what new projects to fund using the U.S. process by August 1, 2023.
- Discussion of topics for SAB agenda
  - Science Strategy discussion will be the focus.
  - Communicate joint projects.

6. Other business

- Next meeting in December – date TBD

7. Adjourn

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