



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee  
Forty-sixth Meeting  
Meeting Summary**

**April 26, 2023 – 9:00am-12:00pm Eastern Time**

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<b>U.S. Members</b>	<b>Canadian Members</b>	<b>Commission Staff</b>
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Drew Gronewold	John Livernois	Oliver Dumville
Donna Kashian	Jerome Marty	Rajendra Poudel
Bob Sterner (virtual)	Maggie Xenopoulos	Raj Bejankiwar
	Mike McKay	
	Karen Kidd	
	Nandita Basu (virtual)	

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Regrets: Joe DePinto

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and round table introductions were completed. The March 29, 2023 meeting record was acknowledged. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

**2. SPC Projects Nearing Completion**

Great Lakes Early Warning System – Phase 2 (Lucinda Johnson)

The project contractor report is currently being revised to incorporate input from the work group. The work group has elected to develop a cover memo/foreword to forward the report to the Commission, which will be done over the summer. A manuscript is planned, and an outline is currently being prepared. An IAGLR 2023 session on early warning systems will be held, which will include two presentations related to the SAB GLEWS project. In the discussion that followed it was clarified that the intended audience of the report is the Parties. The work group has made efforts to ensure a collaborative approach, including involving federal agency staff on the work group and as participants at the project workshop.

Nutrients Synthesis (John Livernois)

The work group report is currently being finalized, which goes beyond what was included in the contractor report. The work group report includes four action-related recommendations and three science-related recommendations, which in some cases are refinements of previous IJC recommendations. The report identifies the need for improved understanding related to socioeconomic drivers. A draft Communications Plan has been developed by IJC staff that links the

SPC nutrients synthesis report with the RCC's nutrients adaptive management report. A manuscript is planned for the Journal of Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management.

### 3. Other Ongoing SPC Projects

#### Great Lakes Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

The project contractors have substantially completed the literature review and database summary. Interviews with stakeholders and knowledge holders is ongoing. The first of three project workshops is scheduled for the first week of May. The urgency of the project is underscored by the fact that 2023 was one of the years of lowest Great Lakes ice cover on record. In the discussion that followed a number of clarifications were made:

- In addition to positivist western science, the project is considering TEK as well as other non-traditional measures e.g., dates of marina openings and closings.
- The shipping season will be (positively) impacted by longer periods of ice-free conditions, although erosion and other negative effects will also be experienced.
- The project is considering both empirical studies and trends, as well as model outputs.
- The first project workshop will utilize Mural software ([www.mural.co](http://www.mural.co)).
- The Water Quality Board's Climate Adaptation project will benefit from the Winter Science project findings.

#### Ecosystem Services Valuation – Phase 1 (John Livernois)

A contractor team has been retained to support the Phase 1 scoping exercise. A policy relevant binational topic that is translatable and transferable will be selected for deeper analysis through Phase 2 (subject to Commission approval). The project is benefiting from a work group that includes policy-makers and policy-influencers. The project workshop will be held in June, 2023 and representation from federal agencies is expected.

#### Microplastics (Karen Kidd)

The project contractor team has completed an initial draft literature review which documents the state of the science of microplastics in the Great Lakes. An IAGLR 2023 session is planned (1.5 days) and the contractor will be present and taking notes. Two project workshops are planned – the first will focus on a standardized monitoring approach for water, sediment and biota and the second on a risk assessment framework. The project has also benefitted from a collaboration with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. The project team is planning a call with the Chesapeake Bay microplastics team to share information and insights. In response to a question it was clarified that a pilot project in the Great Lakes has not been discussed by the work group to date, but it may come up during the project workshop(s).

A more general discussion followed about the IJC Board contracting process, and there was general agreement that the Boards must work hard to get the word out about upcoming contracts.

It was also suggested that if the Board elects to proceed with a covering memo/foreword to transmit a contractor report to the Commission (versus a stand alone work group report) then the memo must clearly spell out the Board recommendation(s) and the extent to which the Board endorses the report.

#### **4. New Projects**

##### Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)

Commissioners have approved the SAB work plan that will support the development of a detailed Science Plan through six workshops. A Collaborative (i.e., work group) of organizations will be convened to emphasize knowledge co-production and ensure the users of the Science Plan are involved in its development. A Town Hall is planned for IAGLR 2023 to discuss the project and solicit input from IAGLR attendees. A manuscript is also being prepared on the Science Strategy, which lays the foundation for the Science Plan.

##### Great Lakes Atlas (Lucinda Johnson)

The Parties' 1995 Great Lakes Atlas serves as inspiration for a proposed new and online Atlas that presents data and information on the Great Lakes in an interactive format. The work plan was recently approved by Commissioners, which will convene interested entities to scope the Atlas content, source data and information, logistical considerations like hosting and updating, and funding mechanisms. In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised:

- It was recommended that the Atlas include water quantity and involve water quantity data and information holders.
- There is a NSERC Alliance grant focused on creating a continuous time series water quality data portal that may provide source information for the Atlas; it will need to be determined whether dynamic data is better suited to platforms like the Great Lakes Observing System's Seagull program.
- There may be partnership opportunities when it comes time to develop the Atlas; for example, IAGLR has an interest in the educational component of the project and will be developing ideas to pitch to foundations.
- Because the Atlas has information on the status of the Great Lakes, it is hoped that the Parties will play a meaningful role in the project.

##### Traditional Ecological Knowledge – Phase 2 (Jerome Marty)

The work group is pleased to confirm that Jenn Vanator of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission has confirmed she will serve as co-chair. A work plan is under development that proposes an additional five listening sessions with Indigenous communities. Local coordinators will be hired to convene the listening sessions, and a contractor may synthesize the findings into an overall report. It was noted that a number of projects and grants that members are involved with emphasize meaningful and respectful engagement with Indigenous communities.

#### **5. Triennial Assessment of Progress**

The draft TAP report will be circulated for Board review on May 1, 2023 with input requested by May 18. There was general agreement that members will provide their comments via a shared file.

#### **6. International Association of Great Lakes Research Annual Conference**

The IAGLR annual conference will be held in Toronto, ON the week of May 8, 2023. There are approximately 50 sessions planned, including three that feature SAB projects (Science Strategy, Microplastics, and GLEWS).

## **7. Board Appearance**

The draft Appearance slides were reviewed, and several minor adjustments were suggested.

## **8. SAB Meeting Preparation**

There was general agreement that project contracting should be discussed with the RCC during the SAB meeting. Terminology associated with Board projects was also briefly discussed, particularly related to replacing 'binational' with 'transnational' or 'multinational'.

## **9. Other Business & Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Lucinda Johnson and Gail Krantzberg.  
Please forward any errors or omissions to [matthew.child@ijc.org](mailto:matthew.child@ijc.org)*