



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

June 28, 2023 – 1:30-3:00pm Eastern Daylight Time

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair) Donna Kashian	Gail Krantzberg (Co-Chair) John Livernois Jerome Marty Maggie Xenopoulos Mike McKay Karen Kidd Nandita Basu	Matthew Child (Secretary) Victor Serveiss Oliver Dumville Mark Burrows Rajendra Poudel Raj Bejankiwar Allison Voglesong Zejnati Rachel Wyatt Heather Stirratt

Regrets: Joe DePinto, Bob Sterner, Drew Gronewold

1. Welcome and Introductions

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting. The April 26, 2023 meeting record was acknowledged. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. SPC Project Updates

Nutrients Synthesis (John Livernois)

The work group report and associated contractor report were recently approved by the Commission for transmittal to the Parties, and posting to the IJC website. A communications plan has been developed to guide report roll-out, which includes engaging the GLWQA Annex 4 (Nutrients) and Annex 2 (Lakewide Management) Binational Partnerships, and a public webinar. Report roll-out will be aligned and coordinated with the RCC’s Nutrients Adaptive Management report which is currently being finalized. A manuscript for submission to Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management is in preparation. In the discussion that followed it was clarified that the Great Lakes Executive Committee will be engaged through its Annex 2 and Annex 4 committees.

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

The contractor’s final report has been submitted, and the Work Group will be developing a short summary report. Both reports will be sent to the Commission for approval following Work Group and SAB sign-off. The report will recommend a pilot project that will use the Early Warning System Framework developed through the Phase 2 project. A manuscript is also being prepared.

Microplastics (Karen Kidd)

The contractor has revised the literature review, and additional datasets have been added to the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project database. The first of two workshops is being planned for September 12&13, 2023 in Ann Arbor, MI. The focus of the first workshop is the development of a harmonized monitoring framework. The project team also held a successful 1.5 day session at the IAGLR Annual Conference in May, 2023. In the discussion that followed several points were raised:

- The contributions of tire wear particles to total microplastics loads in aquatic ecosystems is currently unclear. However, they are a dominant microplastic type in stormwater runoff.
- There was general agreement that the project – like all SPC projects – should articulate the management implications of Great Lakes science.
- The UN recently released a plastics report accessible [here](#).

Great Lakes Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

The first of three project workshops was held on May 1&2, 2023. The virtual workshop assessed winter science gaps and needs. A second workshop is planned for September that will address science infrastructure and operational needs. In the discussion that followed it was noted that a forthcoming paper found that winter processes (e.g., freeze-thaw) are associated with increases in tributary phosphorus concentrations.

Ecosystem Services Valuation – Phase 1 (John Livernois)

The project workshop was held on June 29, 2023 to select a topic for deeper analysis that addresses a key ecosystem service, is policy relevant, and could be applied to other benefit-transfer studies. Key workshop outputs included taking a regional approach (e.g., assess a range of Areas of Concern, or coastal wetlands) and the need for ongoing ecosystem services monitoring and evaluation that is well coordinated. A final workshop output – incorporating cultural and spiritual values – was discussed by members and there was general agreement that that the current project should recognize the importance of this topic, but it should not be added to the scope of the current project because it deserves its own analysis. Several examples of ongoing work related to cultural and spiritual values were identified, including a study getting underway in the St. Louis River Estuary, and publications related to Lake Superior’s Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (<https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-13655-280102>) and Lake Superior Manoomin (report accessible [here](#)). A particularly well-developed literature exists for Australia and New Zealand locations and communities.

Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)

The IAGLR Town Hall was held on May 9, 2023 and was attended by approximately 70 people. Since the Town Hall 27 online survey responses have been received. Additional promotion of the survey link is being developed and will be sent to SAB members to forward to their contacts, as appropriate. The approved Work Plan is being converted into a contractor Statement of Work, and the six planned workshops/convenings will emphasize management and governance arrangements, interweaving TEK, and more fully developing the investment themes identified in the approved Science Strategy. A Collaborative will also be formed, and discussions with the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission are already underway. In the discussion that followed it was recognized that management and governance arrangements need to be developed through Collaborative and workshop discussions to ensure relevance and buy-in. The Science Plan is expected to feature prominently in the 2023 TAP report.

Action: Maggie and Jerome volunteered to join the Science Plan Work Group.

Great Lakes Atlas (Lucinda Johnson)

The project Work Group co-chairs have been confirmed (Lucinda Johnson and Jon Allan) and the development of a contractor Statement of Work is underway. It was clarified that IJC leadership will be discussing the project with the GLEC Co-Chairs in July.

Action: Nandita volunteered to join the Great Lakes Atlas Work Group.

3. TEK (Phase 2) Work Plan

The project proposes a series of listening sessions with Indigenous communities, and an associated report. Through discussion it was clarified that Work Group members identified in the draft Work Plan were selected based on the most suitable role for them in the project, and project reporting will be made available to interested entities. Planned listening sessions will be coordinated with engagements that are needed as part of the SAB's Great Lakes Science Plan project and the WQB's Climate Resiliency project.

The Work Plan was approved for submission to the Commission.

4. New Board Projects

As noted above, Nandita volunteered to join the Great Lakes Atlas Work Group, and Maggie and Jerome volunteered to join the Science Plan Work Group.

Action: SPC members who are interested in joining the RCC Community Science Work Group are asked to self-identify.

Based on available funding for the current U.S. fiscal year that ends September 30, 2023 it may be necessary to delay one of the new SPC projects to the fiscal year that starts October 1, 2023. This would mean a two or three month delay from status quo. There was general agreement that the Great Lakes Atlas project would not suffer if it was delayed by two or three months.

5. TAP Update

Based on input provided by the SPC and other advisory boards, a revised version of the draft TAP report has been provided to Commissioners. Preliminary feedback has been positive, and additional revisions requested by Commissioners are being incorporated by staff. Commissioners are expected to approve final TAP content in July, after which detailed copy editing, French translation, and the development of communications products will be completed. The report will be released in late 2023.

6. Upcoming Meetings

A September virtual meeting will be confirmed via a Doodle poll.

The Board will meet in-person as part of the IJC Fall Semi-Annual meeting, which is scheduled for the week of October 16, 2023 in Ottawa. Great Lakes advisory board appearances will be scheduled soon.

There was general agreement that staff should arrange a guest speaker for the SAB meeting, potentially related to the Government of Canada's recent announcement for new investments in freshwater science and Great Lakes management.

7. Other Business & Adjournment

Victor Serveiss is retiring, although he may be back under contract until a permanent replacement for his position is confirmed. Members thanked Victor for his contributions and service, and wished him well on his retirement.

It was noted that several members recently participated in a documentary developed by Radio Canada called '[La semaine Verte](#)', which is expected to be featured in autumn, 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 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*