



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

June 8, 2022 – 12:30-2:00pm Eastern Time

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair)	Mike McKay	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Mike Murray	Maggie Xenopoulos	Victor Serveiss
Drew Gronewold	John Livernois	Li Wang
Bob Sterner	Karen Kidd	Mark Burrows
Donna Kashian		Rajendra Poudel

Regrets: Nandita Basu, Joe DePinto, Jerome Marty, Gail Krantzberg, Mic Isham

Guest: Jen Vanator

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Membership Update

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the videoconference, and round table introductions were completed. A warm welcome was extended to the SPC's newest member, Dr. Donna Kashian.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Project Updates

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

The contractor has completed the case studies report, and the core team will be meeting soon to discuss the draft decision framework. The project was presented at the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, as well as at a 'coffee hour' virtual series on climate variability and community responses.

Nutrients Synthesis (Mike Murray & John Livernois)

The contractor report was recently finalized, and a standalone work group report is under preparation. The work group report will focus on key findings and recommendations; the recommendations will have a SMART focus and will include direction on who should implement them. The SAB will be asked to review the work group report later in the summer, with work group report finalization expected this autumn.

Great Lakes Science Strategy (Bob Sterner & staff)

A full-day Great Lakes Science Strategy session was held as part of the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting. The session featured twelve presentations plus a panel discussion. The session was well

attended, and a good discussion occurred. The final contractor report has been submitted and a separate summary report is being prepared. In addition to the summary report, an implementation plan will be prepared to provide a 'roadmap' for building support for the strategy and its implementation. In response to a question, it was clarified that the science gaps and needs identified in the contractor report can be used to inform related science assessments e.g., Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative planning.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Jen Vanator on behalf of the Work Group Co-Chairs)

The contractor has completed its literature review, which incorporates input from the work group. An engagement strategy has been developed which envisions four listening sessions. The communities that will host the listening sessions are being identified based on input from the work group.

Great Lakes Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

A full-day winter science symposium was held as part of the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting. The session featured 20 presentations and was well attended. Several science gaps and needs were discussed that are relevant to the SAB's winter science project. Since the project work plan was approved this spring, staff have developed a contractor Scope of Work that will be advertised through the U.S. procurement system. A contractor is expected to be confirmed by September.

Valuation of Ecosystem Services (John Livernois)

Lucinda, Maggie, and Bob have self-identified to join the project work group and additional SPC participation would be welcomed. Since the project work plan was approved this spring, a draft contractor Scope of Work has been developed. The project will scope a more detailed project that will proceed as a subsequent phase.

3. Strategic Positioning

Lead Commissioner/SAB Co-Chairs Meeting Report-Out

Lead Commissioners Beland and Sisson met with the SAB Co-Chairs and staff on April 1, 2022 for their quarterly call. The primary focus of the discussion was on the Great Lakes Science Strategy. Commissioners signaled their willingness to help advance the Strategy with legislators and others. Briefings with U.S. legislators were held December 7, 2021 and with Canadian legislators as part of Great Lakes Day on Parliament Hill on May 30, 2022. It is acknowledged that implementing the Strategy will require different approaches in Canada vs. U.S.

The Microplastics Monitoring and Risk Assessment draft work plan was briefly discussed, and Commissioners are looking forward to the recently approved Winter Science and Valuation of Ecosystem Services projects getting underway. For all board projects, the boards are encouraged to consider how individual projects leverage other efforts and contribute to the broader set of Commission priorities.

Water Quality Board Radionuclide Report (report by Mark Burrows)

The process to arrange additional engagements with regulatory agencies is progressing, with meetings being set up over the summer. Once those engagements are complete, the Commission will decide what follow-up activities are needed, including what role (if any) the SAB might play.

Triennial Assessment of Progress Report & Great Lakes Public Forum

The IJC's TAP responsibilities and reporting timeline were reviewed. Commissioners have approved the 2023 TAP report outline, and the report will be prepared by staff with contractor assistance. SAB members are encouraged to self-identify to serve as technical advisors for one or more individual report sections; activities are expected to include review and input of draft section outlines, and review and input of completed draft report sections.

Action: Secretary to circulate a fillable TAP section 'sign up' sheet.

The Great Lakes Public Forum is confirmed for September 27-29, 2022 in Niagara Falls, ON. Preliminary details can be accessed at <https://binational.net/2022/05/26/great-lakes-public-forum-2022/>. Several 'TED-talk' style presentations are planned that address Great Lakes issues and progress by select Annexes.

The IJC expects to hold three separate sessions to gather input on the Progress Report of the Parties (PROP). Two, hour-long sessions are likely as part of the Public Forum, as well as an additional off-site evening session geared to the broader community. There may be an opportunity for SPC members to participate in those engagements e.g., breakout group facilitator.

Staff would welcome SPC member suggestions for groups and individuals who are working on relevant issues that could help shape the public meeting agenda and format. Staff are also preparing a contractor request-for-proposals solicitation to create an online PROP input survey and conduct qualitative analysis of transcripts from the session proceedings, which will provide a basis for the TAP chapter summarizing public input. Contractor suggestions would be welcomed.

4. Next Meetings

A Doodle poll will be sent to schedule the next SPC meeting.

At present an in-person Fall Semi-Annual meeting is planned for the week of October 17-21, 2022. Members will be advised once meeting dates and format are confirmed.

Action: U.S. members who have not enrolled in the U.S. travel system are requested to do so.

5. Other Business & Adjournment

David Burden's term as Great Lakes Regional Office Director will be ending soon, and a sincere thanks was extended to him for all his many and varied contributions over the past four years.

Drew Gronewold alerted the SPC to a recent water levels report that highlights the difficulty in communicating complex issues. Additional details will be sent to members.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 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*