



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

March 29, 2023 – 1:30-3:00pm Eastern Time

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

Regrets: Donna Kashian, Joe DePinto

1. Welcome and Introductions

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Members were advised that two U.S. vacancies exist and efforts are underway to fill those positions considering input provided by existing members.

2. Project Updates for Other Board Projects that have SPC Participation

RCC Nutrients Adaptive Management (John Livernois)

The project is assessing progress towards establishment of an adaptive management framework for Lake Erie. The project report is nearing completion and includes 6-8 recommendations that focus on improving institutional approaches. The report is complementary to the SPC's Nutrients Synthesis project and the release of both reports will be coordinated and aligned.

WQB Great Lakes Horizons (Lucinda Johnson)

The contractor report is currently being finalized. The report includes narratives and accompanying graphics of four future scenarios; signposts that show the likelihood of a scenario occurring; and strategies for Great Lakes governance that can better anticipate and respond to such emerging environmental conditions and threats. The WQB has prepared a work plan for the 2023/24 work plan cycle that will prepare outreach and engagement tools associated with project outputs.

HPAB Fish Consumption (Karen Kidd)

The project focuses on fish consumption advisories in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is a partner. A workshop was held in October 2022 that focused on a review of fish contaminant data and risk assessment; the draft workshop report is currently under review. A second workshop is scheduled for May 2023 at Akwesasne to explore approaches for communicating fish consumption advisories. The project is expected to include discussions on the lack of harmonization in fish consumption advisories across the Great Lakes.

HPAB Microbial Study (Mike McKay)

The project is inspired by an early-1900s IJC assessment of fecal pollution across the transboundary, including the Great Lakes. The project is assessing approaches to apply molecular and genomics tools to modernize and strategically plan for advancing microbial source water quality assessment in three areas: microbial source tracking; harmful algal blooms; and ecosystem/human health assessment (metagenomics). Separate workshops have been held for each of the three areas, and a draft project report has been prepared and is undergoing review. The HPAB is preparing a work plan for the 2023/24 work plan cycle that will use the project outputs to inform a pilot study, possibly for Lake St. Clair. It was noted that enhancing use of 'omics technologies to study microbial contamination aligns well with the SAB Great Lakes Science Strategy recommendation for the establishment of Centers of Excellence.

3. Bridging Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Jerome Marty provided a presentation (attached) that included an overview of the project and its report outputs which include a literature review, engagement plan, and the results of an initial listening session. It was noted that project analysis and engagements have highlighted the importance of language and learning language, and that TEK is a lived experience. Careful use of terms is also needed e.g., knowledge sharer vs. knowledge holder.

Planned next steps include seeking additional work group membership, and completing a Phase 2 work plan that involves additional listening sessions and final reporting in mid-2024. There was general agreement that the Phase 2 work plan should be discussed further at the April SPC meeting.

Action: SPC members are requested to self-identify to join the TEK work group and/or nominate external candidates, by contacting matthew.child@ijc.org.

4. Work Plans

Development of a Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)

The final draft work plan that was circulated with the meeting agenda packet was reviewed. A primary focus of the work plan is to organize and convene six workshops to inform the development of a Great Lakes Science Plan.

In addition, an IJC delegation was present at Great Lakes Week in Washington DC on March 7-9, 2023 and several U.S. legislators and their staff and House Committee staff were briefed on the (completed) Science Strategy and the (anticipated) Science Plan. Activities planned in the coming weeks include a Town Hall session being held at IAGLR 2023, and a manuscript on the completed Great Lakes Science Strategy is in preparation.

Great Lakes Atlas (Lucinda Johnson)

The final draft work plan that was circulated with the meeting agenda packet was reviewed. The project is inspired by the Parties' 1990s Great Lakes Atlas and Resource Book. The work plan proposes a scoping exercise, which will include engagement with the Parties and others.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Phase 2) (Jerome Marty)

As noted during the TEK project discussion, a Phase 2 work plan is proposed to complete additional listening sessions and finalize project reporting. The Phase 2 work plan will be discussed more during the April meeting, and submitted for Commission consideration after that.

Other Topics

During the last meeting the SPC discussed the topic of salinization of the Great Lakes. This topic did not rise to the top for the next work plan cycle, but it can be considered for subsequent work plan cycles.

If necessary for budgeting purposes, the SPC can discuss prioritization of the three work plans during the April meeting.

5. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report

The Agreement requires that the IJC assess the progress of the federal governments towards their responsibilities on a triennial basis. A draft 2023 TAP report is expected to be ready for review by the IJC's advisory boards on or about May 1, 2023. In the discussion that followed it was noted that many SAB members will be attending/presenting at IAGLR (May 8-12, 2023) and there was general agreement that a 30-day review period for Board input is reasonable.

6. Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

The Spring Semi-Annual meeting logistics document circulated with the meeting agenda packet was reviewed. The SAB will meet on Wednesday April 26 and the SPC Appearance is scheduled for Thursday April 27. Potential agenda items for the meetings include prioritizing board work plans (if necessary), discussing board work plans, and confirming IJC-related sessions/events planned for IAGLR.

For the SPC Appearance, there was general agreement that the spring presentation could be modeled after previous presentations, although effort should be made to limit the amount of text and information on each slide.

7. Other Business & Adjournment

In response to a question, it was clarified that the Biden Administration has nominated two new Commissioners, although it is unknown when their Senate confirmation process will occur. Canadian Commissioners may extend their terms to the end of 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 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*