



IJC Science Advisory Board Videoconference Meeting Summary

October 15, 2021 1:00pm-2:30pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (SPC&SAB Co-Chair)	Gavin Christie (RCC& SAB Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (SPC Secretary)
Chris Winslow (RCC Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (SPC Co-Chair)	Li Wang (RCC Secretary)
Mike Murray	Karen Kidd	Allison Voglesong Zejnati
Mic Isham	Jerome Marty	Mark Burrows
Lucinda Johnson	Mike McKay	Rajendra Poudel
Mike Slimak	Maggie Xenopoulos	David Burden
Joe DePinto	John Livernois	Rob Phillips
Michael Twiss	Nandita Basu	Victor Serveiss
Debbie Lee	Rebecca Rooney	
Sandra Eberts	Ram Yerubandi	
Erich Emery	Rejean Couture	
Dale Hoff	Ian Campbell	
Val Klump	Jason Borwick	

Regrets: Kathy McKague, Drew Gronewold

Guest: Jen Vanator

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The SAB Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the videoconference, and round table introductions were made.

The April 14, 2021 meeting record was acknowledged, and the October 15, 2021 agenda was approved by consensus.

A special thanks was extended to Carol Miller, who will rotate off the board due to term limits prior to the next SAB meeting. Carol has been an SAB member since 2010 and has served as SPC U.S. Co-Chair since 2014. Carol has brought a unique perspective to the SAB as an environmental engineer and as Director of Wayne State University's Healthy Urban Waters program. Carol's analytical skills, ability to think broadly across disciplines and sectors, and leadership will be missed by all members.

2. Ongoing SAB Project Updates

Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg & Val Klump)

The Work Group Co-Chairs reviewed the information contained in the agenda packet. An agency research program managers workshop is scheduled for late November, 2021 to review the science needs and gaps identified in the draft report and discuss the science infrastructure needs to fill those gaps.

Members were encouraged to start thinking about how we can effectively disseminate and promote the Science Plan once it is finalized in early 2022. Coordination with related activities such as the USGS Science Forum report will also need to be considered.

In response to questions, it was clarified that an SAB review of the final draft is planned, and a project communications strategy will be prepared to guide report dissemination.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnston & Michael Twiss)

The project Work Group has contributed to the selection of five case study topics:

1. Nutrients Other than Phosphorus
2. New Fish Pathogens
3. PFAS/PFOA Impacts
4. Changes in Agricultural Range
5. Changing Competition for Groundwater with Ecological Impacts

A draft report has been developed for case study #1. The remaining case study reports will be developed by the end of the calendar year. A project workshop will be held in 2022 to review the case study outputs, consider approaches for unknown stressors, and generalize the case studies to inform an overall early warning system.

In response to questions, it was clarified that additional subject matter experts would be welcomed to review the draft case study reports.

Individual SPC and RCC Projects (Work Group Co-Chairs)

'Lightening' updates on several SPC and RCC projects were offered, as follows:

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (SPC) – an all-Indigenous contractor has been retained and a project kick-off call was recently held. Next steps include a literature review and accessing the input of several Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Nutrient Synthesis (SPC/WQB) – the draft contractor report is under review by the Work Group. An invitation-only workshop will be held in late October to solicit input for improving the report.
- Groundwater and Surface Water Conceptual Framework (RCC) – the contractor report is currently being reviewed by the Work Group. A separate Work Group report is not anticipated.
- Adaptive Management (RCC) – a contractor was recently confirmed, and a Work Group has been assembled.

- Community Science (RCC) – a contractor was recently confirmed, and a project kick-off meeting will be held soon.

3. New SAB Work Plan – Great Lakes Winter Science

The Work Group Co-Chairs provided an overview of the draft Work Plan which was included in the agenda packet. The upcoming COP 26 meetings underscore that winter science needs are especially important in light of climate change.

There was general agreement that the Work Plan should be finalized and submitted to Commissioners for approval as part of the next Board work plan cycle.

4. 2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress

The Co-Chairs reviewed the preliminary input from RCC and SPC members on topics for the upcoming TAP reports. Potential topics were drawn from ongoing and planned Board projects, the long list of TAP topics that were developed for the 2020 TAP report, and other topics identified by Board members.

In the discussion that followed there was general agreement that:

- Time constraints mean that TAP 2023 will rely primarily on Board projects that are already underway or were recently completed. For recently completed projects the example of the RCC's Connecting Waters report was identified.
- Further winnowing of potential TAP topics for upcoming TAP reports may consider the full SAB and utilize an online survey tool.
- The SAB should consider topics that are important to Board members, as well as topics that it is important the Commission talks to the Parties about.

5. Board Appearances

The Board appearance template circulated with the agenda packet was reviewed. Through discussion, the following points were raised:

- The introductory slides on board role and mandate should be brief since we have elaborated on those aspects in prior appearances.
- The appearance slides should emphasize strategic issues including seeking Commissioners' assistance with dissemination of the upcoming Great Lakes Science Plan report and developing an approach to securing the needed investments for science. The Board could consider the partnership announcement in spring 2021 by NSERC and NSF as an opportunity for the Science Plan to be a test bed of binational cooperation.
- The RCC continues to have concerns that it is difficult for some potential contractors to participate in the U.S. procurement process.
- Work Group leads will speak to their projects. Staff will develop draft SPC and RCC appearance slide decks including talking points, for review by Board members.
- The Board Co-Chairs should signal their availability to assist the Commission with recruitment of the next GLRO Director, which is consistent with Article 8(7)(d) of the Agreement.

6. Other Business & Adjournment

Members were encouraged to visit the updated www.climate.gov website which includes additional tools.

Members were also reminded that the Government of Canada is expected to release its *National Climate Adaptation Strategy* in the next few months (Note: following the SAB meeting the government announced that release of the Strategy is delayed; more information can be accessed at Canada's National Adaptation Strategy - Canada.ca).

No additional other business was raised. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.