

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
223rd Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

January 30, 2024 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET
Virtual

U.S. Member Participants

Jon Allan (Co-Chair)
Teresa Siedel
Frank Ettawageshik
Sara Hudson
Elizabeth Kirkwood
Joe Tomandl III
Brandon Hofmeister
Kelsey Leonard
Shaili Pfeiffer
Molly Flannagan
Monica Lewis-Patrick
Eileen Murphy
Brandon Hofmeister

Canadian Member Participants

Chris McLaughlin (Co-Chair)
Fe de Leon
Carolyn Johns
Jamie Lavigne
Chloe Stuart
Carolyn DuBois
Michael Goffin
Bonnie Fox
Mark Fisher
Meredith Brown
Brian Tucker
Mark Fisher
Mark Reusser

U.S. Member Regrets

George Elmaraghy

Canadian Member Regrets

Niharika Bandaru
Chloe Stuart

Observers

Melanie Ward – Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Carla Torchia – Environment and Climate Change Canada
James Schardt – US Environmental Protection Agency
Barb Horn – Water Data Collaborative
Samir Qadir – Potomac Hudson Engineering
John Bratton – LimnoTech

Invited Speakers

David Michener, Curator University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and Midwest Co-Lead, Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science
Chris Winslow, The Ohio State University Sea Grant College Program (SAB-RCC US co-chair)
Max Herzog, Cleveland Water Alliance

Commission Great Lakes Regional Office Staff

Heather Stirratt (Director)
Matthew Child (Physical Scientist)
John Wilson (Physical Scientist)
Mark Burrows (Physical Scientist)
Raj Bejankiwar (Physical Scientist)
Rachel Wyatt (Communications Officer)
Antonette Arvai (Physical Scientist)

Sandra Svoboda (Public Affairs Specialist)

Commission Liaisons

Oliver Dumville (Senior Policy Advisor) – Canadian Section Office

Kathy-Lee Galvin (Senior Policy Advisor) – U.S. Section Office

Lyne Sabourin (Senior Water Quality and Ecosystem Advisor) – Canadian Section Office

Secretary - Rajendra Poudel (Economist) – Great Lakes Regional Office

Summary of Action Items

- **WQB Secretary to send information about in-person planned in Alpena to board members.**

1. Welcome and Introduction (Co-chairs)

Co-chairs welcomed everyone for joining the virtual meeting. Co-chair Jon Allan began with an acknowledgment of the lands and the relations to Indigenous people and communities and their suffering. The WQB continues to think through what that means and will continue to try to understand and reflect on how we move forward together. WQB invited University of Michigan's Midwest Co-Lead, Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science curator David Michener.

2. Co-Chairs' Update (Co-chairs)

Co-chairs share monthly written updates to keep WQB members aware of co-chair activities and relevant to board activities. An update of activities of January was provided with particular emphasis on preparations for the 224th in-person WQB meeting at NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan. Meeting preparations are well underway; a full agenda is forthcoming.

3. Project Updates (Co-chairs)

WQB members were given an opportunity to ask questions on written project updates. A summary of the project updates and discussion is as follows.

Climate Change Adaptation and Community Resilience

The International Joint Commission has identified climate resiliency as a priority. To address this, the WQB is conducting a climate resilience project seeking to develop a robust guide of dynamic planning tools, insights and learning opportunities designed for local and regional governments.

Fourth Great Lakes Regional Poll

This is a hybrid poll that uses a concurrent, randomized telephone and online surveys. The poll is scheduled to be conducted in late January/early February 2024. In addition to the online randomized phone poll, the online poll will be open to any participant.

Great Lakes Horizons II: Broadening the Engagement with Four Future Frontiers

The board is conducting a second phase of work to develop communications products that will help translate the Great Lakes Horizons report's four outcomes and their underlying drivers in an understandable and useful manner. These products will include an interactive "quiz" tool and

animated videos intended to engage a variety of audiences. The board will also facilitate dialogues with target audiences. A contractor team was hired in September 2023, the project is expected to be completed by Spring 2025.

Watching Briefs

The board develops and maintains watching briefs to summarize significant developments, events and information in a factual manner on specific, defined topic areas. They are periodically updated and serve to keep the board informed on issues which have or could impact the waters of the Great Lakes.

Fossil Fuel Development and Transport

The WQB discussion under this watching brief included the Michigan decision to permit a tunnel for Line 5 (oil pipeline that spans the Straits of Mackinac underwater).

Great Lakes Nuclear

Recent developments highlighted included that Holtec announced it plans to build two SMR-300 reactor units and bring back online the Palisades nuclear plant, currently in decommissioning, on Lake Michigan in Covert Township.

Manure Collaborative

The cover note and contractor report were transmitted to governments for notification of posting and posted on the WQB website in December 2023. The Collaborative spent the past several months exploring the possible transition of the Collaborative to another entity to continue operation independent of the IJC/WQB. The release of the report and cover note will hopefully spur further conversation and action toward a transition.

Microplastics Monitoring and Risk Assessment (Science Advisory Board project update)

The work group is in the process of developing sampling protocols for ambient lake water, tributaries, sediments, shoreline debris, and biota. The work group conducted the second workshop on January 17-18, 2024, in Windsor.

Social Dimensions

The work group members reviewed and finalized the scope of work and submitted for further action in early November. The contract went through small business set aside and open category and is now being advertised for large businesses. This project needs specialized expertise on human dimensions and environmental management. The work group hopes to receive the bids and select the contractor for the project in February 2024. The work group is actively seeking a few members from within and outside IJC boards. The work group expects the work on the Social Dimension project will begin March 2024.

4. **Indigenous Knowledge and Science** – *David Michener [University of Michigan, Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledges and Science]*

The purpose of this session was to impart Indigenous knowledge and sciences among the members and participants and to continue Indigenous session topics in WQB meetings.

The US National Science Foundation funds the [Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Sciences](#) (CBIKS). The Center has its headquarters located at University of Massachusetts Amherst with 8 hubs in Australia, Canada, Pacific Islands, and the United States. The college of Menominee Nation Institute of Sustainable Development and University of Michigan Botanical Gardens are the midwest hubs of the Center. The Center is looking at the intersections of

climate change, cultural foodways and resources planning. There are more than 53 co-principal investigators in the Center. The funded team has extensive and diverse experience in knowledge co-production using braiding methods. 57 Indigenous nations are involved, and more are anticipated. The CBIKS mission is based on “the integration and the examination on how to effectively, efficiently, and ethically integrate Indigenous Knowledges into science research, education, knowledge exchange and broader participation.” CBIKS has 3 primary components: Hubs, Working Groups and a Knowledge Base.

Hubs carry out place-based, transdisciplinary research on climate change, heritage places, and foodways. Working Groups use qualitative methods to research the braiding processes used in Hubs. The CBIKS long-range research goal is to better understand the details and nuances of effective and ethical knowledge-braiding methods in specific Indigenous homelands, ultimately leading to improved and more ethical scientific research in knowledge co-production frameworks. CBIKS has the potential for long lasting impacts in the practice and ethics of science.

5. **2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress Report (TAP) Overview** – *Antonette Arvai, John Wilson and Rachel Wyatt [Great Lakes Regional Office]*
The IJC’s 2023 TAP Report was released in November 2023. IJC Great Lakes Regional Office staff provided an overview of the 2023 TAP report communications and outreach activities, potential future TAP report priorities and a potential 2026 TAP report timeline.
6. **SAB Community Science Project Update** – *Chris Winslow [SAB-RCC] and Max Herzog [Cleveland Water Alliance]*
The Community Science is a flagship project of Science Advisory Board’s Science Priority Committee. This project aims at enabling Great Lakes best management practices, e.g., common study design framework led by Water Data Collaborative.
7. **Next Meeting and Closing Remarks** (*Co-chairs*)
The 224th WQB meeting will be in-person and will be held in NOAA’s Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, MI on May 15, 2024. Board members will travel on May 14th to Alpena and return back home on May 16th or 17th. Some interesting events are being planned in coordination with the NOAA’s Thunder Bay Sanctuary Superintendent.