

**The Great Lakes Science Advisory Board**  
**Science Priority Committee**

Meeting # 5 Record

October 26-27, 2015

Cartier Place Hotel, Ottawa, ON

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## **Meeting Record**

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Science Priority Committee under the 2012 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Held in Conjunction with the IJC Semi-Annual Meeting  
Cartier Place Hotel, Ottawa, ON.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carol Miller, (U.S. Co-Chair), WSU	Dave Lodge, Univ. of ND
Jeffrey Ridal, (Can. Co-Chair, SPC), SLRI	Lucinda Johnson, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth
Robert Hecky, Univ. of Minn.-Duluth, (Ret.)	Michael Murray, NWF
Henry Lickers, Akwesasne	Dale Phenicie, CGLI
Stephen Renzetti, Brock Univ.	Scott Sowa, TNC
Christina Semeniuk, Univ. of Windsor	Chris Metcalfe, Trent University

Regrets: Clare Robinson, Western Ontario Univ. David Allan, University of Michigan

### SECRETARIES:

Raj Bejankiwar, SPC, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

### LIASONS:

Vic Serveiss, IJC, Washington DC, USA

### OTHER ATTENDEES:

Jerome Marty, Science Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Li Wang, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Antonette Arvai, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Matthew Child, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Cindy Warwick, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada  
Mark Burrows, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Aniqa Shams, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

## **Record of Discussion, Monday, October 26, 2015**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions:**

All members introduced themselves, followed by Henry Lickers traditional opening ceremony. During a short review of the agenda; the co-chair suggested slight changes in the agenda. The first afternoon session was extended to 1.5 hours- 2 hours. The 2 hour fertilizer workgroup session was open to discussion to everyone and instead there will be one large work group session. A second health break was scheduled for 4:45pm. Carol's TAP update was moved to the next day as she was delayed in joining the meeting.

### **2. Workgroup Status Reports:**

a. **Communication Indicator Workgroup:** A question was raised about terminology. Commissioners prefer to use the term vital signs; however SPC members are using different terminology. It was decided that members will keep using their own terminology. Christina presented a PowerPoint based on updates from communication indicator work. A draft report will be sent out for feedback from SPC members with an anticipated timeline of Jan 2016 for submitting the final report.

A question was raised regarding communicability with respect to public contact in a form of a recommendation. It was explained that there is a solicited group for each indicator. Also, the indicators evolve overtime, which makes this review a continuous process. The intention of the report is to figure out what should be emphasized in order to tell a more compelling story. RCC can use this report to determine what projects to focus on based on missing data.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **A draft of the communication indicator report will be circulated among SPC members for review. A conference call will be scheduled following the review, in order to discuss some minor points.**

b. **Indicator Gap Analysis:** Li presented a PowerPoint based on the RCC contract to review the available data to support the IJC's Great Lakes indicators. This report will be circulated upon request from individual members. This report looks at finding partial data for the other indicators. SOLEC looked at ecosystem indicators only, so there is a lot of missing data. There will be a workshop held by the RCC contractor in December 2015 that will focus on identifying future improvements on great lakes indicators.

c. **Fertilizer and Manure Workgroup:** Mike presented a PowerPoint updating members and staff on the work group. Timeline was discussed, however not confirmed. It was mentioned that the contract can be scaled back, and working group members can take on a larger workload, if needed due to financial or time constraints involving contractor.

A question was brought up with respect to including a mandate on global change. It was discussed that global change was relevant, however the scope of this project is focused solely on assimilating data in the western basin and there is a money constraint. This project has a budget limit of 35 thousand dollars. Additional topics discussed included use of data on point sources (e.g., NPDES program on U.S. side), additional contributors to involve, and additional modeling experiences in the Basin (including Grand River, Ont.)

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Gather names for additional members to get involved in the fertilizer and manure work group, as well as members outside of SAB. WQB and RCC members will be contacted, but relevant experts outside of IJC can also assist with this report. Adam Yates (Western Ontario U.) was suggested.**
- **Mike will contact Carrie Vollmer-Sanders (The Nature Conservancy) and Adam Yates to be a part of this project, and we will identify others to involve as individuals are identified in near-term.**

- **Fertilizer and manure group is looking for potential contractor names; suggestions can be submitted to Mike, Dave and/or Raj. Mike will send request to Li on how the RCC could contribute (both as WG members and in identifying contractors).**
- **We may solicit input/bids by two potential contractors, and then decide on one party to move forward.**
- **Mike, Dave and Raj will develop contract language, based on work plan; Raj/staff will work with selected contractor to finalize contract.**

d. **Information Coordination and Workgroup:** Lucinda presented a PowerPoint based on information coordination and workflow. Workgroup is requesting WQB members input on this project; however no member has been identified yet. A workshop will be scheduled by the contractor for end of February. Based on presentation, question about temporal dimension was raised. It was stated that temporal dimension is imbedded and found in the inventory. This report is building on the communication indicator report, however it is more general. Assistance from members was required to identify criteria by which to identify case studies. This report will also look outside of the basin as there can be valuable data found elsewhere.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **If members are interested in the information coordination and workflow project, they should contact Lucinda.**
- **Cindy will send Lucinda a report based on Great Lakes environmental metrics. This report address different questions but it may be of some assistance.**

e. Dave presented key recommendations from IJC's 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> biennial report. The recommendations were shortened to five different points. The five points focus on nearshore framework. It was decided that SPC will not wait to submit recommendations with TAP.

It was noted that the recommendations lacked any reference to Indigenous populations; however Indigenous populations are impacted in every aspect.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **David will consult with Henry on including a point on impact on Indigenous populations.**
- **The draft will be completed in two weeks, at which point it will be circulated among SPC members. The final draft will be sent to Commission from co-chairs.**

f. Steve presented an outline of the independent reports to IJC and Environment Canada on economic costs of HABs in Lake Erie. The key question from this was regarding the economic valuation to avoid another 2012 HABs outbreak. The economic cost determined was 70 million based on the IJC's report.

Steve pointed out that some initial upfront costs have been already made: Toledo has made a three million dollar investment in water treatment; however Ohio EPA announced that it needs continuous monitoring. Smaller treatment plants need to upgrade their water treatment facilities and technology. IJC's report is conservative in value estimates.

Environment Canada's report took a different approach. One of the most important implications from their report was looking at nonuser valuations. This data is valuable as it shows people are thinking differently about the environment. IJC's report did not include non-users. They also looked into future uses and the impact if no interventions are done. Their report looked at Ontario only. Environment Canada is inflated in their value estimates. There is a lack of communication between contractor and Environment Canada. Commission will decide if this report should be posted on the website during executive meeting of current semi-annual.

g. Matthew presented a brief overview of LAMP. Volunteers are needed to review specific lakes or be a part of the process for all the lakes, depending on individual preferences. Bob, Dale, Chris and Michael volunteered to be a part of LAMPs review process.

3. Jerome Marty, the guest speaker presented a PowerPoint based on transportation of petroleum products in the Great Lakes, with an emphasis on ships and pipelines.

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Cartier Place Hotel, Ottawa, ON.

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

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### SECRETARIES:

Raj Bejankiwar, SPC, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

### LIASONS:

Vic Serveiss, IJC, Washington DC, USA

### OTHER ATTENDEES:

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Cindy Warwick, IJC, Ottawa, ON, Canada  
Mark Burrows, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Aniqa Shams, IJC-GLRO, Windsor, ON, Canada

## **Record of Discussion, Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

- The meeting began with information coordination flow working group, along with anyone else that was interested in joining. This working session ran from 8:30am to 9:30am. There were two objectives from the summary document; developing strategies for maximizing lessons learned and developing a path forward; working on case studies.
- Workshop scheduled for early 2016. Workgroup's role is to provide input on agenda, invitees and speakers. This will most likely occur in Ann Arbor. A doodle poll will be sent out requesting attendance of members.
- Request for proposals: More heavily American than Canadian participation, however a greater balance is needed.
- Criteria: AIS, water quality, socioeconomic impact, health impact and temporal frequency
- Water quality objectives: pbd, annex 4 (nutrients), annex 6, promote growth of algae, consumption of different kinds of fish and AIS

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Information coordination flow workshop: Lucinda will give contractor a list of potential experts; Steve Gold (Macomb County Director of Health and Community Services and Wayne State Univ.), Stacey Cherwaty-Pergentile (Environment Canada/SOLEC) Brenda Lucas (Executive Director at Southern Ontario Water Consortium), Susan Hedman (LAMP collaboration webinar- will try to obtain slides for webinar), Dylan Nield (Technical Advisor for Lake Ontario Waterkeeper), Karen Bakker (Research chair-UBC). Any other names of potential experts can be emailed to Lucinda, Scott or Antonette. If any SPC members are interested in attending the workshop, contact Lucinda, Scott or Antonette.**
- The formal SPC meeting reconvened at 9:30am- Agenda was briefly reviewed and accepted. Co-chairs led a discussion on increasing productivity and transparency of SPC committee, this stemmed from discussions with some SPC members the prior evening. Members expressed their lack of understanding about other meetings occurring this week, for example the multi-board co-chairs meeting or the international watershed initiative (IWI) multi-board workshop meeting.
- International watershed initiative: overlap of projects and SPC can benefit them and they can benefit SPC. However, there is a significant lack of collaboration among different committees in the IJC. Members want to know about the location of meetings and who is hosting a month in advance via email or calendar invite.
- IJC needs to increase their consultation with Indigenous population and meet their legal obligation to include participation from Indigenous groups in both nations
- Members expressed that in the June 2015 Windsor meeting minutes, there was no mention of the change of wording- vital signs. However, co-chairs stated that members should keep using their own terminology and commissioners will call it vital signs.
- Update was given by Mike concerning the fertilizer work group discussed the previous day. IWI meeting may help provide more expert names.
- Carol provided an update of the Triennial Assessment of Progress report (TAP). The parties are working on a progress report of the parties (PROP), which is planned to come out before USA administrative changes occur. Currently, preprop work is going on. A question came up as to how much input does the board give as opposed to Commission. The operational and reporting of the metrics should also be reported on and included in chapter three. The next step is to have a separate meeting with IJC staff and extract valuable information from the HABs report for TAP.
- Coordination within the three boards (RCC, WQB and SPC) was stated as being very difficult. Members discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting- April semi-annual was one option. Also, whether to hold one large session, followed by a break up into different boards was discussed as another potential option.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **At co-chairs meeting, SPC co-chairs should discuss with other board co-chairs about holding a joint meeting once a year, or encourage more collaboration between different boards. This should also be brought up to Commission and the GLRO Director.**
- Dr. Steven Renzetti will not be renewing SPC membership, as he is acquiring a new administrative role. He will provide potential experts to replace him.
- By February, we will have new SPC members, replacing members whose membership has expired. A total of 23 memberships are expiring across SAB and WQB. Every year a third of the members will have an expiration date and some members will be asked to stay for another two years and other members for three years. It is not an automatic renewal system.
- Dave Lodge will not be renewing SPC membership, as he will now be a director of a new Sustainability program at Cornell University.
- Carol provided an update on the Flint water issue in Michigan.
- Chris provided an update on the Ontario Source Water Protection Act that was passed recently. There is a role for IJC in providing advice to their council.
- Antonette provided update on microplastic workshop in April 2016. This workshop was awaiting approval from Commissioners today. Feedback is needed about agenda, topic areas, and participants and if any members are interested in participating.
- Secretary gave a brief overview of the typical schedule of semi-annual meetings.
- Next SPC meeting is scheduled for February. It will be a conference call. A doodle poll about availability will be sent to members. Next meeting will begin with emerging issues and members are encouraged to send news articles along. Also, providing reading materials in advance is highly encouraged. The next face to face meeting is proposed for the April 2016 Semi-Annual in Washington.
- African Great Lakes Summit will be occurring next year and is seeking expressions of interest in the Summit at this time.
- Henry closed the meeting with a traditional opening ceremony.



**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
SAB Science Priority Committee Meeting**

October 26-27, 2015  
Cartier Place Hotel, Room 1  
180 Cooper St  
Ottawa ON K2P 2L5  
Canada

Webinar Link For October 26<sup>th</sup>:

<https://pwgsc-nh.webex.com/pwgsc-nh/j.php?MTID=m1b55eb12b33064124b4ed55352adf3fb>

Webinar Link for October 27<sup>th</sup>:

<https://pwgsc-nh.webex.com/pwgsc-nh/j.php?MTID=m1202e632d1c69dcecf93fdef35c6553f>

Teleconference:

Call-in toll-free number: 1-877-413-4781 (US)

Conference ID: 956 291 7

**Draft Agenda**

**Day 1: October 26, 2015**

12:00 PM to 01:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome by Chair Jeff Ridal (5 min)</li> <li>▪ Introduction (SPC members, secretaries, liaisons and other guests) 10 min</li> <li>▪ SPC ongoing projects reporting out (status reports)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication Indicator Work/ “Vital signs” Indicators (Christina/Scott) 10 min</li> <li>• Fertilizer Workgroup (Mike and Dave) 10 min</li> <li>• Information Coordination and Workflow (Scott and Lucinda) 10 min</li> <li>• Economic Impact of HABs (Steve/Raj) 10 min</li> <li>• Indicator Gap Analysis – Contractor Work (Li) 10 min</li> <li>• Biennial Reports/recommendation prioritization work ( David Lodge) 10 min</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ IJC’s Report on <i>Triennial Assessment of Progress</i> (TAP): Summary of IJC’s call with board co-chairs in September</li> </ul>
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	(Carol Miller) 15 min	
01:30PM- 1:45PM	Health Break	
01:45 PM to 04:45PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakout sessions</li> </ul>	
01:45 PM to 04:45PM	Info Coordination WG	Fertilizers WG
<p>5:00 PM Guest Speaker : Dr Jerome Marty (Science Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada) Topic: TBD</p> <p>6.00 PM Dinner &amp; Social: Venue TBD</p>		
<b>Day 2: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015</b>		
8:30 AM to 09:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakout session's cont..... (may prepare few slides for reporting out to the entire SPC)</li> </ul>	
09:30 AM to 11:00 AM	<p>Chair: Carol Miller</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info Coordination WG Reporting Out</li> <li>• Fertilizers WG Reporting Out</li> </ul>	
11:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Break	
11:15 AM to 12:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging issues and current hot button/ IJC's meeting</li> <li>• Actions items/next steps</li> <li>• Next face to face meeting date</li> </ul>	
12:00 AM	Adjourn	