

Meeting Record 6th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Held in Conjunction with IJC Fall Semi Annual Meeting
Cartier Place Suite Hotel, Ottawa, ON

U.S. MEMBERS PRESENT:

By Phone: John Dellinger (US Co-Chair)	Concordia University, Mequon, WI
Elaine Faustman	University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Seth Foldy	Physician and Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
Matthew Keifer	Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, WI
Russell Lopez	Northeastern University, Boston, MA
Peter Orris	University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL

CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim K. Takaro (Canadian Co-Chair)	Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC
Kate Bassil	Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON
David Buckeridge	McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, QC
Laurie Hing Man Chan	University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Margaret Sanborn	Family Physician (Chesley, ON) and McMaster University, ON
Howard Shapiro	Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON

SECRETARY:

Jennifer Boehme	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
-----------------	---

OTHER ATTENDEES:

By Phone: Shahbaz Ahmed	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Paul Allen	Liaison, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON
Martin Breutzel	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Tom Moon	Invited Speaker, Emeritus Prof. of Biology, University of Ottawa
Harold Schwartz	Invited Speaker, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
Victor Serveiss	Liaison, International Joint Commission, Washington DC, USA

Summary of Discussion, Wednesday, October 22, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions (Tim Takaro):

The Canada co-chair welcomed participants; members introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was revised to incorporate time for a teleconference with co-chairs and staff for the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) to discuss the revisions to, and coordination with IRLWWB, on the recent HPAB proposal to the International Watershed Initiative (IWI). The revised agenda is attached.

2. Transboundary Activities:

The group discussed present activities, the briefing submitted to Commissioners on the health risks associated with nutrients and pathogens in aquifers in the Fraser Sumas Basin that traverses the border between British Columbia and Washington State. The impacts of farming practices (manure application, irrigation) and climate change were identified as major triggers for increasing nutrients and pathogens. The inactivity of local and regional governance bodies was discussed. Staff also indicated that the IJC has worked on the topic of groundwater in the past and that it would be within the mandate of the Board. For future activities, Matt Kiefer suggested a focus on social impacts of health via a social media project to sample human responses about water quality issues in Fraser-Sumas Basin. Peter Orris also recommended an outreach approach using an educational public meeting. Board members agreed that these types of projects fit within the alerting function of the HPAB, and may also be an applicable approach for partnering with other basins, and expanding work in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods (LOW) Basin. IJC staff clarified that the Commission has typically deferred to the Columbia River Treaty and does not have a watershed management board for the Columbia River.

3. Health and Environmental Databases:

Kate Bassil provided an update on the ethics review process for the environmental health survey at Toronto Public Health, and a draft work plan was discussed. The need for a communications strategy for this work and its present manuscript was raised as a gap in the current work plan, especially for presentation of the survey results and manuscript at meetings within the Great Lakes Basin.

Action Item: Secretary to schedule a work group teleconference to refine the work plan and establish a time line for submission to Commissioners for approval.

4. Teleconference with International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board [IRLWWB] Co-chairs and staff (Mike Goffin (Canada), Col. Kopowski (US), Nick Heisler (IJC)):

The HPAB and IRLWWB co-chairs discussed its conditionally approved proposal to review human health risks and impacts in the Rainy-LOW watershed. IRLWWB co-chairs indicated the scope of the review be well received by the IRLWWB and its community, particularly the sections devoted to algal toxins. The review's scope and timeline was discussed relative to the Lake of the Woods Plan of study, and tightening the timeline for the HPAB review was suggested.

Invasive species and harmful algal blooms were flagged by IRLWWB participants as potential topics for an HPAB fronted social media project in the basin. The HPAB requested feedback on potential health contacts in the basin for consultation during this round of review, and was directed to Kelli Saunders and her database of contacts. The HPAB was invited to submit two health related questions for pending survey for flood impacts in the Rainy River basin.

Action Items: Work group for IWI health proposal will approve the final revisions. Secretary to: collect and submit Rainy River Survey questions from HPAB members and deliver them to Nick Heisler; circulate revised proposal to IRLWWB via Secretaries and staff. Matt Keifer to inquire with his contacts at the Minnesota Department of Health for contacts; Nick Heisler to follow up with Kelli Saunders for same.

5. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern.
John Dellinger provided an update on Identification Task Team activities related to seven CMCs proposed by the Parties (here, EPA and EC). Reviews for two CMCs have been shared with the ITT as an example for future products for the 5 remaining CMCs. It is likely that these two reviews will shortly move forward for consideration by the Annex 3 Co-chairs and Subcommittee, on track for December submission to GLEC.
6. Human Health Indicators: General Discussion and Phase 2.
Two contracts for Phase 2 are active: 1) Cyanotoxins Review in coordination with LEEP; 2) Human Health Indicators Review. The first deliverables for each review included Table of Contents and a report outline. The work group agreed to schedule a teleconference for the Cyanotoxins Review to discuss its deliverables and the scope of the report outline. However the work group declined to schedule a similar teleconference for the Human Health Indicators review contractor, instead requesting the contractor to submit a revised, more detailed report outline, with a teleconference considered after the revised Report Outline is received.
Action Item: Secretary will schedule a teleconference with work group and Cyanotoxins Review contractor to discuss the TOCs and report summary; contact Human Health Indicators Contractor re: submitting a more detailed Report Outline.
7. The Board heard invited presentations from Tom Moon and Harold Schwartz to speak on health risks of pharmaceuticals aquatic environments (see agenda for presentation titles).
8. HPAB and IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress Report.
Participants discussed the Commissioners purpose statement and proposed additional language around the need for baseline data for human health indicators. Suggested language: "Establish the baseline data of proposed health indicators information in the Great Lakes; The report should increase public awareness of human health risk related to use and degradation of the Great Lakes resources."
9. Board members gave input on the content and scope of the HPAB slide deck for its presentation to Commissioners. Co-chairs encouraged members remaining for the Commissioner update on Oct.23, 2014 to participate in the presentation.
10. November Teleconference – To be determined via Doodle Poll following the October 2014 semi-annual meeting in Ottawa.
11. Meeting adjourned 3:30 PM.

AGENDA

6th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board
Cartier Place Suite Hotel, Room Cartier #1
180 Cooper St, Ottawa, ON K2P 2L5.

Wednesday Oct. 22, 2014

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM PDT

8:00 – 8:10 AM	Welcome to HPAB members, Introduction of Canadian Co-chair, and Review of Agenda.	Tim Takaro (Chair) Marg Sanborn
8:10 – 8:30 AM	New Member Introductions for David Buckeridge, Seth Foldy, and Elaine Faustman.	Tim Takaro
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Transboundary Activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on nitrate and E.coli levels in levels western Border regional wells and Fraser River. • Scoping new activities, board member involvement and work plans. 	All
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Human Health and Environmental Databases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 2 activities: Status of transboundary survey ethics review. • Survey Work Plan for Presentation to Commissioners. 	Database Integration Working Group
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break.	
10:15 – 10:35 AM	Teleconference with International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board Co-chairs and staff.	All
10:35 – 10:50 AM	Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification Task Team update. 	John Dellinger (by phone)

10:50 – 11:50 AM	Invited Presentations Pharmaceuticals in the Surface and Drinking Water of First Nation Communities in Canada. Fish on Drugs: A Precautionary Tail.	Laurie Chan Harold Schwartz Tom Moon
Noon – 1:00 PM	CANCELLED: Lunch – University of Ottawa hosted by Laurie Chan. Lunch in hotel restaurant as alternative.	All
1:10 – 1:40 PM	Human Health Indicators: General Discussion and Phase 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyanotoxins Review – TOC and Report Outline. • Human Health Indicators Review – TOC and Report Outline. 	Human Health Indicators Working Group/All
1:40 – 2:30 PM	HPAB and IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners call for advice on report purpose • HPAB scope of effort. 	All
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Break.	
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion points and preliminary slides. 	All
3:30 PM	Adjourn Members	
3:30 PM- 5:30 PM	Great Lakes Science Boards Co-chairs Meeting.	John Dellinger, Tim Takaro, Marg Sanborn