

Meeting Record 7th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Thursday, April 16, 2015
Alliance for the Great Lakes | Board Room
150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 700 | Chicago, IL 60601

U.S. MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Dellinger (US Co-Chair)
Seth Foldy
Russell Lopez

Concordia University, Mequon, WI
Physician and Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim K. Takaro (Canadian Co-Chair)
Kate Bassil
David Buckeridge
Laurie Hing Man Chan
Margaret Sanborn

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC
Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON
McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, QC
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Family Physician (Chesley, ON) and McMaster University, ON

REGRETS:

Michael Beach
Elaine Faustman
Matthew Keifer
Howard Shapiro

US Centers for Disease Control
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, WI
Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON

SECRETARY:

Jennifer Boehme

International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

OTHER ATTENDEES:

By Phone: Shahbaz Ahmed
Paul Allen
Sam Dorevitch
Trish Morris
Victor Serveiss

International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON
Invited Speaker, University of Chicago School of Public Health
Director, IJC Great Lakes Regional Office, Windsor, ON
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Washington DC, USA

Summary of Discussion, Thursday, April 16, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions (John Dellinger):

The US co-chair welcomed participants; members introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was revised to accommodate 3:00 PM leave time for many members. Remarks were heard from guest Trish Morris, the new Director for the GLRO.

2. Transboundary Activities:

The group discussed development and a draft of a transboundary map for nitrate levels in the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer with data and input from Environment Canada and the Washington Dept. of Ecology. Edits to the map were discussed and staff flagged the potential sensitivity on contouring the data given feedback from Environment Canada.

The deliverable from the contract reviewing selenium in aquatic systems is expected from Michael Kosnett in May 2015. The Board will review and edit the contractor product with the aim of submitting a final health review and request for public release to Commissioners. Laurie Chan suggested developing an annex to the final product detailing available selenium levels in the 5 watersheds where the IJC has water quality responsibilities. The Board will present the health review concept to Commissioners to gauge their interest before developing a work plan and additional review topics.

A response is due to the IRLWWB re: their review of IWI Proposal Rainy River/Lake of the Woods Human Health Review, and their request for additional information before endorsement on February 10, 2015. Members indicated that a more specific proposal might be developed around cyanobacteria, Hg in fish, or social correlates of health and that further discussion with IRLWWB co-chairs would be helpful.

Action Item: David Buckeridge: send comments on the use of contours/isopleth to improve the display of the Sumas Blaine Aquifer data. Jennifer Boehme: 1) look into staff capacity for listing selenium levels in the 5 watersheds where the IJC has water quality responsibilities (St. Croix River Basin, Great Lakes-St Lawrence Basin; Rainy River Basin; Red River Basin; Souris River Basin); 2) contact secretariat for IRLWWB and see if an in-person meeting at the April 2015 Semi-annual Meeting is possible; 3) follow up with Nick Heisler re: the results of HPAB inputs into the past health survey.

3. The Board heard an update on the Identification Task Team (ITT) activities for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern. John Dellinger's role with the group will soon conclude, and there may be potential to nominate another HPAB member for service in a future ITT. The Extended Subcommittee will schedule a meeting by the end of April to provide an overview of technical and process-related comments received and update the group on timing for its public comment period.

4. Health and Environmental Databases:

As the working group for this topic contemplates future activities, Kate Bassil and Jennifer Boehme provided an informational update on the activities of potential Ontario and US partners for health and environmental surveillance. In Ontario, pilot projects will be developed around water and noise and there may be opportunities for the Board to engage or provide input on future pilot projects. Russ Lopez suggested that an HPAB activity might be to perform an analysis of variables collected in the US and Ontario, and the group would like to suggest topics to the Commission. The establishment of a Great Lakes Health Network as outlined by Seth

Foldy was examined and members determined to bring this item forward as a potential project to Commissioners at the April 2015 Semi-annual Meeting.

Action Item: Seth Foldy will provide timeline and budget estimates for the proposed. Kate Bassil will summarize potential work plan ideas for this topic.

5. Human Health Indicators Phase 2: Updates on the status for two existing contracts for this activity were provided.
The final deliverable for the cyanotoxins review (Todd Miller) is due May 1 and will be circulated to the working group on receipt. John Dellinger requested development of a work plan to query Poison Control Center Data (AAPCC) to supplement the results of Miller's report before finalizing a product for the Commission.
The final report from the Human Health Indicators Review (David Carpenter) was circulated to the working group. The working group requested that this product be circulated to the Board and IJC staff for 2 weeks of comment. After all comments are received by the Secretary, the working group will consider comments as part of an effort to finalize a product for submission to the Commission.
Action Item: Jennifer Boehme will 1) reach out to Annex 4 Nutrients liaison Raj Bejankiwar to update the HPAB on annex activities for the June teleconference; 2) circulate the Human Health Indicators deliverable to Board members and IJC staff.
6. 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.
7. The Board heard an invited presentation from Sam Dorevitch (Chicago School of Public Health) on Climate Change and the Great Lakes: impacts on nutrient loading and harmful algal blooms. This presentation was well-received, and provided considerations for project development in the Rainy River - Lake of the Woods watershed and those described below.
8. Project Development. An update for developing projects was given by Jennifer Boehme. The Social Media Request for Information will be released shortly for a 3 month period. Climate change activities on water and air health effects were discussed, with climate adaptation and preparedness frameworks as an overview to guide project development. Issue focuses include cyanobacteria, drought, storm events, and flooding (esp. impacts on CSO's and water supplies). Discussion of a human health session at IJC's upcoming Great Lakes Watershed Meeting St. Clair Centre, Windsor, Ontario (November 18-19, 2015) centered around an overview of the concept of One Health and its connection to stakeholder involvement with watershed management. Panelist suggestions included Margo Parks (University of Northern British Columbia); Sam Dorevitch, and Ray Copes (Public Health Ontario).
9. HPAB and IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress Report.
The Board examined its previous advice to Commission the TAP process and the questions in the current request for advice. The Board elected to spend the May 2015 teleconference deliberating on an appropriate response to this request.

Action Items: Jennifer Boehme will assemble an information packet on this topic in advance of the May teleconference and work with co-chairs to craft discussion points.

10. Board members gave input on the content and scope of the HPAB slide deck for its presentation to Commissioners at the IJC April Semi-annual meeting by John Dellinger, Seth Foldy, and David Buckeridge.

Action Item: Jennifer Boehme will schedule a teleconference for the three presenters to refine slides.

11. Meeting adjourned 3:15 PM.

AGENDA

7th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Thursday April 16, 2015

Alliance for the Great Lakes | Board Room
150 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 700 | Chicago, IL 60601

9:00 AM – 3:45 PM CDT

7:45 – 8:45 AM	Breakfast Meeting on Potential Climate Change activities (hotel restaurant)	Tim Takaro and all interested
9:00 – 9:10 AM	Welcome and Review of Agenda.	John Dellinger (Chair) Tim Takaro
9:10 – 9:20 AM	Opening remarks by GLRO Director	Trish Morris
9:20 – 10:30 AM	Transboundary Activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transboundary map for nitrate levels, Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer (<i>Attachment 1</i>). • Human Health Review of Selenium in Aquatic Systems. • Responding to IRLWWB review of IWI Proposal Rainy River/Lake of the Woods Human Health Review (<i>Attachment 2</i>). 	All
[10:15 – 10:30 AM	<i>Break Cancelled.</i>	
10:30 – 10:40 AM	Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification Task Team update. 	John Dellinger
10:40 – 11:20 AM	Human Health and Environmental Databases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides laying out status of potential partners in Ontario and CDC. • Surveys and potential projects. • Work plan for Great Lakes Health Network (<i>Attachment 3</i>). 	Database Integration Working Group
11:20 AM – Noon	Human Health Indicators Phase 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyanotoxins Review, Contractor Report Update. • Human Health Indicators Review, Final Contractor Report. • Presentation at IAGLR 2015, Burlington, VT. 	Human Health Indicators Working Group/All

AGENDA

Noon – 1:00 PM	Catered Lunch and Invited Presentation: Climate Change and the Great Lakes: impacts on nutrient loading and harmful algal blooms.	(John Dellinger) Samuel Dorevitch (confirmed)
1:00 – 1:40 PM	Project Development. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Media Request for Information Update.• Climate Change – report out from April 16, 2015 Breakfast discussion.• Great Lakes Watershed Meeting St. Clair Centre, Windsor, Ontario (November 18-19, 2015)	All
1:40 – 2:40 PM	HPAB and IJC’s Triennial Assessment of Progress Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official HPAB response to call for advice on report (<i>Attachment 4</i>).	All
<i>[2:30 – 2:45 PM</i>	<i>Break Cancelled.]</i>	
2:40 – 3:15 PM	Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion points and preliminary slides (<i>Attachment 5</i>).	All
3:15 PM	Adjourn	