

Meeting Record 8th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board

Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Cartier Place Suite Hotel | Cartier #1
180 Cooper Street | Ottawa, ON, Canada K2P 2L5

CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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
Toronto Public Health, Toronto, ON

U.S. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Seth Foldy (US Co-Chair)
Michael Beach
By Phone: John Dellinger
Matthew Keifer

Physician and Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
US Centers for Disease Control
Concordia University, Mequon, WI
Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Marshfield, WI

REGRETS:

Elaine Faustman
Russell Lopez

University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Northeastern University, Boston, MA

SECRETARY:

Jennifer Boehme

International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

OTHER ATTENDEES:

By Phone: Shahbaz Ahmed
Paul Allen
Peter Berry
Norman Grannemann
Ankita Mandelia
At End of Meeting: Trish Morris
Victor Serveiss
Lizhu Wang

Visiting Scientist, International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON
Invited Speaker, Health Canada
US Co-Chair, Great Lakes Science Advisory Board - Research
Coordination Committee (RCC), USGS, Lansing, MI
Sea Grant Fellow, International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Director, IJC Great Lakes Regional Office, Windsor, ON
Liaison, International Joint Commission, Washington DC
RCC Secretary, International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

Summary of Discussion, Wednesday, October 28, 2015

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Canadian co-chair welcomed participants; members introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda.

2. Human Health Indicators Phase 2

a. *Human Health Indicators Review*

The Board reviewed the status of the revised report, which was recently returned from the contractor and circulated for review by the HPAB working group on human health indicators. The deadline for working group comments is November 6, 2015, at which time comments will be compiled and the group will consider next steps.

b. *Cyanotoxins Review*

The Board discussed ideas for moving forward: 1) other IJC boards could be included in a pre-review; 2) recognized some gaps in the current product that could be covered by IJC staff; 3) a matrix of questions [Attachment 2] that could be presented to the contractor to answer directly was shared. The Board discussed upcoming activities by agencies in Canada and the U.S. regarding cyanotoxin monitoring.

Collaboration areas between the HPAB and the RCC were examined following information shared by the RCC U.S. co-chair on current U.S. activities related to monitoring, analysis and policy. Of particular note is that SOLEC is only looking at finished water as part of their indicators suite in their upcoming report on Great Lakes Indicators in contrast to HPAB additional concern about source water and human health risks. The RCC secretary notified the group of an upcoming report on data availability developed by the RCC and a contractor covering IJC ecosystem and human health indicators, and offered to share the RCC report with the Board once the RCC has completed its review of the contractor product. HPAB experts for the RCC Future Indicators Workshop were identified.

Action Items: The Board Secretary will follow up with the Cyanotoxins Review contractor on selected questions from the Board and request if he can realistically respond to the questions in 30 days. The Board will also ask one of its members to address gaps regarding reproductive toxicity. The Board determined that the cyanotoxins and the Human Health Indicators report will be branded together, but forwarded as two separate volumes to expedite Commission approval process.

3. Transboundary Activities and Project Development

a. *IWI Multi-Board Workshop*

The Board viewed a map identifying IJC watershed boards with water quality mandates or concerns; it was clarified that the Red and Souris River Boards behave like IWI boards, but officially are not. The IWI program, its current priorities, and its previous day's workshop were summarized. Data harmonization was discussed as an IWI priority and synergies with the Board's GI illness mapping project could be applied as a test case.

Action Items: The IWI report will be circulated to the Board, and the HPAB's recent publication on database integration will be forwarded to IWI Board contacts.

b. Proposal topics for IWI November 2015 – International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB)

Following the August 2015 IRLWWB meeting, a list of IRLWWB activities with opportunities for HPAB involvement were shared with the IRLWWB. Upon confirmation by IRLWWB membership, two projects under consideration for IWI proposal development are: 1) human health reviews for identified possible contaminants from mining; and 2) drinking water impacts and other human health concerns related to possible petroleum spills. For the mining human health impacts project, the HPAB will ask the IRLWWB for assistance identifying three contaminants of interest for specific locations in that watershed that could be used to develop human health reviews. The petroleum transport human health impacts topic will be developed around potential drinking water contaminants from petroleum transport identified by the IRLWWB. A draft proposal will be shared between Boards, with the aim of submitting the proposal for consideration by the IWI review committee in November 2015.

Action Items: For human health impacts from mining project, additional scoping activities with IRLWWB will be pursued to support a proposal in a future IWI cycle. For project, Proposal development for the human health impacts of petroleum spills topic will aim for a November 2015 submission date.

c. Health Review of Selenium in Aquatic Systems

The Board discussed the idea of combining the contractor and the IJC staff work to create a plain language review for the public. It was suggested to approach the contractor first about creating a plain language product. The Board was cautioned that though data previously assembled on selenium in IJC watershed could be mapped, it should be qualified that the data is spread across 40 years of monitoring.

4. Great Lakes Activities & Project Development

a. Mapping Gastrointestinal Illness Surveillance Data

The Board determined that the Great Lakes Basin and International Rainy – Lake of the Woods (IRLWWB) basin would be a reasonable place to pursue this mapping project. A work plan under development would propose a proof-of-concept activity tying together precipitation, water source and transboundary data combined in one map.

Action Item: Develop a work plan to examine GI Illness in the Great Lakes Basin for submission to the Commission in April 2016. A similar project in the IRLWWB could be considered in the future for funding under an IWI umbrella.

b. Social Media

A blog post on health applications of social media surveys was developed by a Board member for IJC's newsletter, renewing the HPAB Request for Information on social media projects. No response to this renewal was reported, though some NGOs expressed support for the spirit of the project but could not provide assistance. Applications of popular web crawler technology were discussed, and for a future meeting, an affordable crawler would be identified with the aim of a trial run with targeted questions. Benefits of aligning with small conferences were considered, such as the Canadian Water Resources Association.

Action Item: This item will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting in early 2016.

c. *Climate Change*

The climate change working group will continue to convene to discuss liaising with the Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee, discuss climate change and stressors, and assess inclusion of climate change in all Board projects. The Board was informed that the Commission met with the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, and that climate change is being discussed.

5. *Great Lakes DepthH Network*

The Board was informed that there is measured interest from Commissioners in this proposal, and a list of Commissioner questions on the proposed work plan were shared for consideration as part of the Board presentation to the Commission.

6. *Health Impacts of drought in the context of climate change*

The Board heard an invited presentation from Peter Berry (Health Canada) on health impacts of drought in the context of climate change. This presentation was well-received, and provided considerations for the role of the HPAB climate change work group, especially in regards to stressors and adaptive management.

7. *HPAB Strategic Planning/Workteam organization*

The HPAB co-chairs opened the discussion by mentioning that they have been struggling with this item. They stated that the purpose of this chart was to organize meetings and divide the Board's workload and that it did not represent a strategic plan. Much discussion was given to Board priorities and what boxes should remain on the graphic. It was stated that it is difficult to build this chart until the Board knows what the Commission wants it to do. At the end of this discussion, the boxes remaining were the following: Human Health Indicators, TAP, DepthH Network, IWI Proposals, GI Illness in the Great Lakes, potential Poison Control Study, and Selenium. The division of workload and leadership was left for subsequent HPAB discussion.

8. *HPAB and IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress Report*

a. *Report out from Seth Foldy on meeting with Commissioners and Great lakes board co-chairs, September 17, 2015.*

IJC's TAP process in relation to the Parties' Report on Progress was explained. The Parties report release of their document next October 2016, with release of IJC's TAP scheduled for January 2017.

b. *TAP Webinar Participation (Oct. 2015)*

The U.S. co-chair reported out his participation, and the Board discussed relative lack of data support for human health indicators compared to selected ecosystem indicators.

c. *Approaches for optional, expertise-based TAP assistance*

Board members received an invitation to serve as subject matter experts during the writing of TAP Chapters. The Indicators Working Group will examine methodology from the Science Priority Committee for identifying as small group indicators as Great Lakes Vital Signs, with the aim of performing a similar exercise. The U.S. RCC co-chair explained the need for HPAB input on the RCC gap indicator project, and the Board volunteered two members for consideration as liaisons to the RCC gap indicator project workshops.

Action Item: The secretary will circulate a list of TAP chapters requesting Board members participation in chapter development.

9. Planning for HPAB Presentation to the IJC

The Board and IJC staff commented on the scope and content of the HPAB slide deck in support of the co-chairs presentation to Commissioners.

10. Spring 2016 In-Person Meeting Dates/Locations

The Board decided to hold their next meeting during the Spring 2016 Semi-Annual Meeting.

11. Meeting adjourned 3:45 PM.

8th Meeting of the Health Professionals Advisory Board**Wednesday Oct. 28, 2015**

Cartier Place Suite Hotel
180 Cooper Street | Ottawa ON K2P 2L5

9:15 AM – 3:45 PM ET**1-877-413-4781; ID 4399414**

9:15 – 9:25 AM	Welcome and Review of Agenda.	Tim Takaro (Chair) Seth Foldy
9:25 – 10:05 AM	Human Health Indicators Phase 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Health Indicators Review, Status update for review of Contractor Deliverable. • Cyanotoxins Review, Discussion of compiled comments from review of Contractor Deliverable (<i>Attachment 1</i>). 	Human Health Indicators Working Group/All
10:05 – 10:45 AM	Transboundary Activities and Project Development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IWI Multi-Board Workshop report out • Proposal topics for International Watershed Initiative Nov. 2015 - International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board. • Health Review of Selenium in Aquatic Systems (<i>Attachment 2</i>). 	AI Seth Foldy, Laurie Chan; Jennifer Boehme
10:45 – 10:55 AM	Break.	
10:55 – 11:35 AM	Great Lakes Activities & Project Development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping Gastrointestinal illness surveillance data. (<i>Attachment 3</i>). • Social Media. • Climate Change 	Human Health Indicators Working Group/All
11:35 – 11:50 AM	Great Lakes DepthH Network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work plan approval and next steps. 	Database Integration Working Group
11:50 AM – Noon	Speaker Preparation/ Lunch Transition	
Noon – 1:15 PM	Catered Lunch and Invited Presentation: Health impacts of drought in the context of climate change (<i>Attachment 4</i>).	(Tim Takaro) Peter Berry, Ph.D. Health Canada

AGENDA

1:15 – 2:00 PM	HPAB Strategic Planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Working Group Priorities & Organizational Chart (<i>Attachment 5</i>).	All
2:00 – 2:30 PM	HPAB and IJC’s Triennial Assessment of Progress Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Report out from Seth Foldy on meeting with Commissioners and Great Lakes board co-chairs, September 17, 2015.TAP Webinar participation (Oct. 2015)Approaches for optional, expertise-based TAP assistance	Seth Foldy/All All Jennifer Boehme
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 (<i>Attachment 6</i>).	All
3:30 – 3:45 PM	Spring 2016 In-Person Meeting Dates/Locations.	All
3:45 PM	Adjourn HPAB Members.	
3:45 -5:15 PM	The Great Lakes Advisory Board and HPAB Co-Chairs Roundtable Meeting.	Tim Takaro; Seth Foldy