
MEETING RECORD FOR THE 125th MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

**Thursday, May 2nd, 2002
Wyndham Hotel, Toledo, Ohio**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Isobel Heathcote (Canadian Co-chair) University of Guelph, Guelph, ON
Michael J. Donahue (United States Co-chair) Great Lakes Commission, Ann Arbor, MI
William Bowerman Clemson University, Pendleton, SC
John Braden University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
Scott Brown National Water Research Institute, Burlington, ON
David Carpenter University at Albany, Rensselaer, NY
Keri Hornbuckle University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Allan Jones Burlington, ON
Donna Mergler University of Quebec, Montreal, PQ
David Stonehouse Evergreen, Toronto, ON
Deborah Swackhamer University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anders Andren University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Milton Clark United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago, IL
Maxine Cole First Nations, Akwesasne, ON
Donald Dewees University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Glen Fox Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa/Hull, ON
Jay Unwin National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Kalamazoo, MI
Ross Upshur Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Toronto, ON

COMMISSIONERS

Dennis L. Schornack (United States Chair) International Joint Commission, Washington, DC

INVITEES/OBSERVERS

Douglas Alley International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
H. Kay Austin International Joint Commission, Washington, DC
Cherie Blair Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Toledo, OH
Marty Bratzel International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Michael Gilbertson International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Matt Horvat Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Toledo, OH
Bruce Kirschner International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Christiena Vyver (intern) International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

SECRETARY

Peter Boyer International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order. Brief self introductions followed.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented. It was agreed that comments regarding the Maumee Remedial Action Plan (RAP) would be held until Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency representatives were present to participate in the discussion.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 124TH MEETING, FEBRUARY 27-28, 2002

A motion to approve the minutes was seconded and approved by all present.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- **International Joint Commission (IJC) Policy Concerning Public Access to Minutes of Meetings of the IJC and Its Boards and Task Forces**

The policy was reviewed and the procedure to approve Board minutes within 45 days of the meeting, as stipulated in the policy was discussed. It was agreed that the secretary would forward the minutes by email to the members with a reasonable period time allowed for comments and the identification of errors or omissions. It was agreed by all present that non response will be assumed by the secretary to mean tacit approval, and the minutes adopted.

- **IJC Inter-board Meeting and Semi-annual Meeting, April 10, Washington, D.C.**

A brief account of the recent meeting was shared by those who attended, noting the collaborative interests by all of the Boards and Council in addressing the current IJC priority activities.

5. SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD 2001-2002 WORKPLAN

- **WORKGROUP ON ECOSYSTEM HEALTH**

Plans are in progress for a workshop next February to address the human health effects of mercury. The workshop will address broader issues associated with effects on the nervous system. A small planning subcommittee, also involving a representative from the Health Professionals Task Force will develop the program and list of participants to be invited.

An examination of the decline of lake trout as a result of exposure to persistent toxic substances will be undertaken at the next workgroup meeting, with several of the principal researchers invited to discuss their findings, with a view to convening a workshop at the next IJC biennial meeting.

A brief discussion on the significance of microbiological contamination was also reported, and it was suggested that this could be a topic for a future priority activity of the Commission.

- **WORKGROUP ON PARTIES IMPLEMENTATION**

The status of the study proposal on the impacts of urbanization on Great Lakes water quality was addressed. It is the intention of the workgroup to finalize the proposal and invite submissions the week of May 6th, 2002.

- **WORKGROUP ON EMERGING ISSUES**

The additional involvement of the Water Quality Board and the government representative from the Binational Toxics Strategy was reported. It has been decided by the Workgroup to keep the scope and focus of the proposed workshop broad, encompassing several themes in addition to those of new chemicals, sources, effects and policies. A revised proposal will be prepared following the workgroup meeting to be held immediately after the Science Advisory Board (SAB) meeting.

6. MAUMEE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION

The Board applied its draft framework entitled: Restoration Consultations - Examining Progress Toward the Restoration and Protection of Beneficial Uses, as a guide for the discussion. Several issues were then identified as being most salient:

- community support and interest in the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) are outstanding, reflecting serious concerns, effective local leadership and the efforts of a locally based RAP coordinator who has greatly facilitated and assisted the planning process. The planned termination of this position could potentially affect the ability of the community to sustain future progress;
- research support from local universities has been excellent, however additional scientific advice on technical subjects such as remediation of non point sources and ecosystem health impacts of Persistent toxic substances would be beneficial; and
- overall progress based on voluntary actions and limited resources has been very significant, but large scale, long term challenges will require increased resources and support from senior levels of government in order to sustain progress and achieve restoration.

7. INVITED SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- **“Trends in water Quality in Lake Erie Agricultural Systems for Environmental Quality (LEASEQ) Rivers and Streams in the LEASEQ Watersheds, 1975-1995,”**

Dr. R. Peter Richards, Heidelberg College, Ohio. A scientific presentation based on papers published in the January-February 2002 issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality, Vol. 31, No. 1 was provided by Dr. Richards. His research quantified changes in the LEASEQ watersheds (Maumee) as a result of agricultural practices since the 1970s. Notably reductions in total phosphorus of 40% and dissolved phosphorus reductions of 75% along with reductions of sediment concentrations of 20% have occurred. Nitrate concentrations have increased, while phosphorus sales are down 40% and nitrogen sales are down 10%. Agricultural acreage is unchanged, however farms are larger, and currently cultivate more soybeans than in the past, up 10%, in a corn, wheat and soybean rotation that is now typical for this region.

8. BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

- Water Quality Board. - No additional activities since the last update was reported on.
- International Air Quality Advisory Board - Further to recent efforts related to atmospheric modeling of mercury, the Board is interested in the broader context of its work in terms of other pathways, especially sediment. Interest in Detroit/Windsor air quality, and the comparative risk assessment of emissions and indoor air quality were reported.
- Council of Great Lakes Research Managers - Several activities were reviewed: a scoping paper on microbial pollution is being prepared; the impacts on

groundwater from climate change is being addressed; there is ongoing interest in the impact of population growth and demographics on water quality; delisting criteria are being developed for RAPs and Lakewide Management Plans; planning assistance for the proposed workshop on emerging issues with the SAB's Workgroup on Emerging Issues is being provided; and it is hoped that a scoping activity to address the development of an integrated observation and monitoring network for the Great Lakes will occur this year. The question of who is responsible for developing delisting criteria under the Agreement, was asked, and it was noted that it is the Parties in cooperation with the State and Provincial Governments under Annex 2, para 4, ©).

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- The SAB recommendation from its 1995-97 Priorities Report, Chapter 1.4, pages 30-34 to review the Agreement was discussed, and it was agreed to bring this work forward in a memo to the Commission.
- Victoria Pebbles nomination to serve as a non-board member of the Workgroup on Parties Implementation was approved for a two-year term.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for meetings #126 and #127 were identified as potentially problematic and it was agreed that alternative meeting times would be requested through e-mail. The proposed meeting date for meeting #129 was accepted to be on May 7-8, 2003.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upon completion of Board business, the motion to adjourn was approved, and the meeting concluded.