

**151st Meeting of the International Joint Commission  
Science Advisory Board  
January 7, 2009  
Conference Call – 13:00 to 15:00 EST**

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**Meeting Record  
Members Present**

John Carey (Canadian Co-chair).....NWRI, Burlington, ON  
David Carpenter.....University at Albany, Rensselaer, NY  
Milton Clark.....United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago, IL  
Miriam Diamond.....University of Toronto, ON  
Michael J. Donahue (U.S. Co-chair).....URS Corporation, Farmington Hills, MI  
C. Scott Findlay .....University of Ottawa, ON  
Gary Klecka .....Dow Chemical Co., Midland, MI  
Joseph Koonce .....Case Western Reserve University, OH  
Donna Mergler.....University of Quebec, Montreal, PQ  
Jeffrey Ridal.....St. Lawrence River Institute, Cornwall, ON  
Susan Schantz .....University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, IL  
William Taylor.....University of Waterloo, ON  
Marcia Valiante.....University of Windsor, ON  
Richard Whitman.....USGS, Porter, IN

**Members Absent**

William Bowerman.....Clemson University, Pendleton, SC  
Pierre Filion .....University of Waterloo, ON  
Hugh MacIsaac .....University of Windsor, ON  
Deborah Swackhamer.....University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

**Liaisons, Scientific Presenters, and IJC Staff**

Peter Boyer (Secretariat).....International Joint Commission, GLRO  
Kay Austin .....International Joint Commission, US Section  
Douglas Alley .....International Joint Commission, GLRO  
Sean Backus.....Presenter - Environment Canada  
Paul Horvatin .....Presenter - United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Melanie Neilson.....Presenter - Environment Canada  
Vi Richardson .....Presenter - Environment Canada  
Glenn Warren.....Presenter - United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Joel Weiner .....International Joint Commission, CDN Section

## **Final Minutes**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Self introductions were made and Dr. Donahue welcomed everyone to the meeting and called to order.
- 2. Approval of agenda:** The agenda was accepted as presented.
- 3. Invited Scientific Presentation:** Mr. Horvatin highlighted the following points during his presentation:
  - CSMI includes science and research activities as well as monitoring
  - The goal is not to increase the budget but to more effectively manage scarce resources through increased coordination and collaboration
  - The premise is that existing programs are well founded
  - Adaptation of monitoring programs to address new needs is ongoing within agencies and not the purview of CSMI
  - EPA subjects its monitoring programs to outside peer review
  - Most changes to monitoring programs are necessitated by budget reductions rather than scientific rationale

The discussion concluded with reference to Niagara River Secretariat activities under the Four Party Agreement (Environment Canada, Ontario, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New York). Ms. Nielson reported that a binational workshop was being held in February 2009 to develop an exit strategy in light of sustained progress. Dr. Carey asked how the Commission fulfills its role under the Agreement since this initiative occurs outside of the GLWQA.

The presenters suggested that a second presentation on CSMI might be beneficial that highlights examples where Canada/US Great Lakes monitoring programs have realigned to meet new priorities/accommodate budget cuts and/or scaled back as issues are addressed (part of an exit strategy).

## **4. 2007 – 2009 WG Priority Activity Updates**

Mr. Boyer reminded the members that the timeline established for reporting by the workgroups was established by the Commission in their July 8, 2008 memorandum to the WQB and SAB Co Chairs.

- Nearshore Framework - Mr. Boyer reported that an initial draft summarizing the two workshops completed in 2007 and 2008 is being further developed to incorporate WQB comments by John Gannon. He anticipated that a second draft will be available for SAB review in advance of the next meeting to be held in March.
- Eutrophication - Dr. Koonce reported that a workshop will be held at the University of Windsor February 17-18, 2009 which will utilize a weight of

evidence approach. A paper has been prepared for the workshop by Dr. Findlay.

- Beach Closures - Dr. Whitman referred to several reports and work products prepared or being used by the WG including: Burden of Illness in Great Lakes Recreational Waters, Great Lakes Beach Initiative Matrix, Overview of Binational Monitoring Programs, Stormwater and CSO Report - Impact of Hurricane IKE Event. He added that Dr. Findlay's students also completed work on an inventory of modeling programs. He said that the WG will be holding a binational conference.
- Fish Consumption - Dr. Carpenter reminded the Board that a one day session was held in 2008. The WG was focusing on four areas - the rate of consumption of Great Lakes fish, levels of omega 3 in Great Lakes fish, health benefits from fish consumption, and health effects. He said that these will be presented and discussed at an IAGLR session in May 2009. He said that following that meeting, the WG and the HPTF are planning to prepare a joint report.
- Chemicals of Emerging Concern - Dr. Klecka reported that the two major components of the work, the data analysis and the program and policy reviews will be complete by the end of January. The WG is developing the program for an expert consultation to be held in Chicago March 10-11, 2009.
- AIS - Contract work for the Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Policy Framework (AIS RRPf) continues with the literature search complete and several interview surveys undertaken. Surveys of recommended contacts will continue for the next two weeks and the work group will be reviewing and commenting on contractor recommendations for a proposed report structure in late January or early February. The next work group teleconference will be scheduled for early February and tentative dates for the AIS RRPf workshop are March 19-20th at the URS Corporation Office in Southfield, Michigan. We expect a draft final report by March 31, 2009.

## **5. Emerging Issues**

Several topics of interest were raised and briefly discussed:

- Siloxanes - no monitoring in the Great Lakes
- Offshore oligotrophication – failure of lake models to predict open lake status
- Styrene - regulatory status for use as monomer for in situ polymerization (non drinking water)
- Nano Particles - IAQAB March Workshop

## **6. Other Business**

- GLRO Operations and Advisory Committee - Dr. Carey reported that the committee comprised the SAB and WQB Co Chairs, the Director and the Section Secretaries. The committee will meet in person on the occasion of semi annual meetings and report directly to the Commission. The following decisions and recommendations for action have been forwarded to the Commission: (1) IAQAB secretariat not to be provided by GLRO unless

related to directly to GLWQA activities, (2) review the current structure and support the role of the CGLRM, (3) support SAB efforts to reduce costs as recommended by the SAB in its review to the Commission (4) continue to support the multi Board Priorities approach, (5) review role of public information in the GLRO.

- Groundwater Report - Dr. Donahue spoke of the need to complete this activity in a timely manner. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to extend the review by the WQB and SAB until the end of January, with the direction that comments focus on the recommendations. The report will be presented for final Board approval at the March meeting.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Report - Mr. Weiner gave a brief update on the status of the 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial report. He indicated that the authors have encountered significant challenges in its preparation and in hindsight the Boards should have been used to support its development. He said that he and Dr. Vigmostad have been charged with finalizing the report.
- Avian Botulism - Dr. Carey suggested that the Board receive a briefing on avian botulism at its next meeting. Dr. Whitman suggested that Dr. Ken Hyde be contacted.

#### **7. Future Meetings**

No changes were proposed with respect to future meetings #152, #153 and #154.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Since there was no further business of the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. EST.