

# Meeting Record for the 137<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board

Wednesday June 8, 2005; 1 PM - 5 PM

Held on the Occasion of the International Joint Commission Biennial Meeting,  
St. Laurent Room A,  
One Johnson Street, Kingston, Ontario

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael J. Donahue (United States Co-chair)	URS Corporation, MI
Isobel Heathcote (Canadian Co-chair)	University of Guelph, Guelph, ON
William Bowerman	Clemson University, Pendleton, SC
John Braden	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
Scott Brown	National Water Research Institute, Burlington, ON
David Carpenter	University at Albany, Rensselaer, NY
C. Scott Findlay	University of Ottawa, ON
Glen Fox	Ottawa, ON
Allan Jones	Burlington, ON
Mohamed Karmali	Health Canada, ON
Judith Perlinger	Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI
Joan Rose	Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Deborah Swackhamer	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Jay Unwin	National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Kalamazoo, MI
Marcia Valiante	University of Windsor, ON

## MEMBERS ABSENT

Milton Clark	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago, IL
David Lean	University of Ottawa, ON
Donna Mergler	University of Quebec, Montreal, PQ

## INVITEES/OBSERVERS

Kay Austin (SAB Liaison)	International Joint Commission, Washington DC
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## SECRETARY

Peter Boyer	International Joint Commission, GLRO
Bruce Kirschner	International Joint Commission, GLRO

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Co Chairs called the meeting to order and recognized the new members. Brief self introductions then followed.

## **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

## **3. 2003-2005 Science Advisory Board Great Lakes Priorities Report**

The secretary reviewed the timeline that the Board had established for the production of the report.

Dr. Heathcote noted that there would be a considerable editing challenge in integrating the various sections, and suggested that a template be developed for authors preparing the next draft. Dr. Braden noted that format of Chapter 4, which prefaced the chapter with an executive summary, was a desirable approach.

Dr. Donahue summarized the template as follows:

- Introduction; define issue, relevance to Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Work Group lead, past focus.
- Background; detailed examination of issue with references.
- Findings (Conclusions); references not needed, value added component.
- Recommendations; supported by preceding analysis.

Dr. Swackhamer added that it had been decided in previous Science Advisory Board reports, that science advisory reporting was a Board responsibility and would be based on activities, rather than organized on the basis of the work groups.

Major comment highlights by chapter were as follows:

### **Chapter 1**

- identify criteria for identification of new chemicals by the Work Group/Board

- include status of Canadian review of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)
- identify presenters
- provide references
- strengthen recommendations
- include discussion of what is not known
- limit discussion to what is necessary to support the recommendation, and be explicit about the relevance of other information
- put description of individual chemical classes as an appendix

The Work Group on Ecosystem Health agreed to revise the chapter, with Mr. Fox as the lead author.

### **Chapter 2**

- clarify reference to "non traditional" diseases
- Silbergeld hypothesis should include other known etiologies for autoimmune diseases
- need for regional health exposure data
- other approaches using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and population studies including meta analysis
- recommendations to be clarified and itemized

The Work Group on Ecosystem Health agreed to revise the chapter with Mr. Fox as the lead author.

### **Chapter 3**

- merge into chapter 2
- bring fish advisory aspects together from chapters 2 and 3
- concern over the specification of the number of children affected, based on methodological issues previously identified in Board discussions
- concern about the use of a single reference for cardio vascular effects - however members familiar with the literature indicated that documentation goes back 10 years
- possible future Board activity identified to address weight of evidence, especially with regard to the approach of the biomedical sciences
- distinction between literature review, and workshop approach noted
- concern that Board alerting function to identify emerging issues could be precluded based on evidentiary rules of procedure

The Work Group on Ecosystem Health agreed to revise the chapter, and incorporate it with Chapter 2.

#### **Chapter 4**

- recommendations need to be developed
- make available the 4 white papers
- reference the Pan Canadian Health Network

Dr. Rose agreed to be the lead author and incorporate revisions into draft 2.

#### **Chapter 5**

- include all orders of government in recommendation 1, and implement it regionally
- link recommendations 1 and 2
- include planning officials
- encourage a mentoring system approach for transfer of successful initiatives
- reference experience of interstate river basin commissions

The Work Group on Parties Implementations agreed to revise the chapter with Dr. Heathcote as the lead author.

#### **Chapter 6**

- include Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- reference to the amount of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Great Lakes fish exceeding health protection levels inconsistent on page 7 and Chapter 1, page 8.

The Work Group on Emerging Issues agreed to revise, with the secretary as lead author.

#### **Chapter 7**

- identify as an interim report
- next steps section needs editing

The Work Group on Emerging Issues agreed to revise, with Dr. Jones as the lead author.

The review was concluded with confirmation that revisions would be submitted to the secretary by June 23 and that draft 2 would be distributed by June 30.

#### **4. Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Kalamazoo, MI, and that Mr. Unwin and the secretary would develop a program for Board review. Confirmation of future meeting dates for meetings #141 and #142 were deferred until the next meeting.