

**152nd Meeting of the International Joint Commission
Science Advisory Board
March 25, 2009
Conference Call – 14:00 to 16:30 EST**

**Meeting Record
Members Present**

William Bowerman.....Clemson University, Pendleton, SC
David Carpenter.....University at Albany, Rensselaer, NY
Michael J. Donahue (U.S. Co-chair).....URS Corporation, Farmington Hills, MI
Pierre Filion.....University of Waterloo, ON
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
Susan Schantz.....University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, IL
Marcia Valiante.....University of Windsor, ON

Members Absent

John Carey (Canadian Co-chair).....NWRI, Burlington, ON
Milton Clark.....United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago, IL
Miriam Diamond.....University of Toronto, ON
Hugh MacIsaac.....University of Windsor, ON
Jeffrey Ridal.....St. Lawrence River Institute, Cornwall, ON
Deborah Swackhamer.....University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
William Taylor.....University of Waterloo, ON
Richard Whitman.....USGS, Porter, IN

Liaisons, Scientific Presenters, and IJC Staff

Peter Boyer (Secretariat).....International Joint Commission, GLRO
Douglas Alley.....International Joint Commission, GLRO
Joel Weiner.....International Joint Commission, Ottawa
Ken Hyde.....Presenter – US National Park Service
Melanie Neilson.....Presenter - Environment Canada

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Donahue called the meeting to order and the secretary read a roll call of those who had signed on to the call.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Invited Scientific Presentation

Great Lakes Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative” PART 2, Paul J. Horvatin, Chief, Monitoring and Reporting Branch, USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office and Melanie Neilson, Manager, Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance, Ontario Science and Technology Branch, Environment Canada.

4. Invited Scientific Presentation

“The Nearshore Waters of Lake Michigan and type E Botulism” Mr. Ken Hyde, Wildlife Biologist, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, U.S. National Park Service.

5. Work Group Updates

- Nearshore Framework – The status of this activity is unchanged since the last update.
- Eutrophication – A Weight of Evidence workshop has been completed and a weight of evidence analysis is being conducted at the University of Ottawa. This activity is scheduled to have its report available for the June reporting deadline.
- Beach Closures – Dr. Taylor noted that the new name for the priority is “Beaches and Recreational Water Quality”. He said that the WG will have its report ready for the deadline of June 1.
- Fish Consumption – Dr. Carpenter reported that 4 contracts have been completed and that 6 papers will be presented at IAGLR in May. He requested that the full set of reports be circulated to the WG members.
- Chemicals of Emerging Concern – Dr. Klecka said that a successful expert consultation had been held in March to review data and policy. He said that the WG is now reviewing the material generated from the session to identify the state of science and the gaps. He said that the WG report will be available by a June 1 deadline.

- AIS – Dr. Koonce reported that the work of the WG was on track and that there would be completed by June 1. Dr. Koonce requested that the reporting templates that were discussed as guidelines for the Work Groups be re-circulated. The secretary also clarified that the operational deadline for completion of WG reports is June 1.

6. Emerging Issues

No emerging issues were identified for discussion.

7. New Priorities – Discussion of Topics for the 2009 – 2011 Priority Cycle

Dr. Filion suggested that follow up to the report “The Impact of Urban Areas on Great Lakes Water Quality” be considered for the next cycle and focus on jurisdictional issues and best practices. He said that particular emphasis needs to be placed on interacting with the municipal level.

Mr. Weiner responded that the Parties to the Agreement were Federal authorities, and that there are protocol issues about relating directly to municipalities, even with respect to the IJC. He said that the issue of a reference to address land use may be raised at the IJC Semi Annual meeting discussion with governments.

The secretary said that three other topics were identified by the Board in a response to an earlier email: (1) Beach Health, (2) Climate Change, and (3) Land Use. Dr. Klecka added two others – (4) Human Exposure to CECs and (5) Performance Assessment of WWTPs.

Dr. Donahue commented that the impact of climate change is inherent in all of the priorities and is a given reality that affects everything that we do. He said that he did not perceive it as a standalone issue at this time.

Dr. Koonce commented that one of the strengths of the 2007 – 2009 Priorities was the integrated focus of the nearshore as a theme. He asked whether it would be desirable to carry forward a theme forward to 2009 – 2011 and if so, how would one transition towards the new work? He added that a concern with the process, is that it took too long to commence, and needed to start earlier in the next cycle.

Dr. Findlay said that it appears that there are no criteria for selecting priorities and he viewed this as a major failing. He asked how one knows that the issue they have identified as a priority is truly important

Mr. Weiner noted that if the priority work under the Agreement is to provide the basis for a Commission Biennial report to Governments i.e. the 15th

Biennial will be based on the output from the current cycle, then the key question is what do the Commissioners want to address in their 16th Biennial report?

8. Other Business

Professor Valiante introduced the final version of the Groundwater Report and recommended that it be accepted and approved by the Board. There were no further comments or objections and the Report was so approved by all present.

9. Future Meetings

- The Secretary indicated that the plans for the joint WQB/SAB meeting in June were coming together and that a draft agenda and further information would be forwarded shortly under separate cover.
- #154 – Week of October 5, 2009 at IJC Biennial Meeting to be determined
- #155 – January 5, 2010, Teleconference, 1-4 PM EST

Dr. Donahue invited comments from Board members on the teleconference approach.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.