

**150th Meeting of the International Joint Commission  
Science Advisory Board  
October 28, 2008  
Capital Hill Hotel and Suites  
88 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON  
MacKenzie Room**

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**Meeting Record  
Members Present**

William Bowerman ..... Clemson University, Pendleton, SC  
John Carey (Canadian Co-chair).....NWRI, Burlington, ON  
Miriam Diamond.....University of Toronto, ON  
C. Scott Findlay ..... University of Ottawa, ON  
Gary Klecka ..... Dow Chemical Co., Midland, MI  
Joseph Koonce ..... Case Western Reserve University, OH  
Jeffrey Ridal.....St. Lawrence River Institute, Cornwall, ON  
Susan Schantz ..... University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, IL  
William Taylor.....University of Waterloo, ON

**Members Absent**

David Carpenter ..... University at Albany, Rensselaer, NY  
Milton Clark..... United States Environmental Protection Agency, Chicago, IL  
Michael J. Donahue (U.S. Co-chair)..... URS Corporation, Farmington Hills, MI  
Pierre Filion ..... University of Waterloo, ON  
Hugh MacIsaac ..... University of Windsor, ON  
Donna Mergler ..... University of Quebec, Montreal, PQ  
Deborah Swackhamer ..... University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
Marcia Valiante..... University of Windsor, ON  
Richard Whitman ..... USGS, Porter, IN

**Liaisons, Invited Guests, and IJC Staff**

Kay Austin ..... International Joint Commission, US Section  
Peter Boyer (Secretariat)..... International Joint Commission, GLRO  
Bruce Kirschner ..... International Joint Commission, GLRO

## **Final Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Carey called the meeting to order and self introductions followed.

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

The agenda was accepted by the Board as it was presented.

### **3. Invited Scientific Presentation:**

*“The Michigan Bald Eagle Biosentinel Program 1999-2008: Trends in Contaminants, Eagles, and Nesting Chronology”* Dr. William Bowerman, Professor of Wildlife Ecology-Ecotoxicology, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University.

Dr. Bowerman presented his research findings per attachment 1. He concluded by noting that #1 cause of eagle mortality in Michigan involves collisions with cars. Dr. Carey noted that there is a lack of useful information coming out of water quality monitoring programs other than what is being reported by SOLEC. He asked whether the question should be what we need to know rather than what the lab can analyze, and suggested that surveillance and monitoring scarce resources in the Great Lakes could be more effectively deployed. He said that there are many non detect measurements that are regularly repeated that provide no information and are costly to maintain. Dr. Carey added that, for example, biological indicators such as benthic invertebrates might be more relevant than chemical measurements. Dr. Koonce commented that in general the Great Lakes is significantly under monitored compared to other regions such as Chesapeake Bay and that in his view more monitoring is needed not less. He cautioned against redesigning monitoring programs, if it meant that there would less monitoring. Dr. Taylor added with the increasing development and application of ecological and physical models, monitoring should be driven by modeling needs to be most effective. Dr. Carey suggested that each WG could address monitoring needs under the nearshore priority, and in that way perhaps an overall strategy might emerge. Dr. Findlay suggested that the WGs be so advised of SAB comments in this regard and be requested to address monitoring needs in the their reports.

### **4. Business Arising from the 149<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Carbon Offsets for Travel to IJC Meetings

The secretary reviewed the correspondence received by the Board, in particular the email from the RO administrative officer dated May 27, 2008 “There are no provisions for payment of costs that were not incurred, or for paying costs in lieu of travel.” After a brief discussion the Board approved the following changes to its practice and schedule of future meetings:

General:

- Board meetings will continue to be held on a quarterly basis with dates and times as approved by the Board.
- The Board will meet in person twice a year and in teleconference/videoconference twice a year.
- Remote (conference call/videoconference) meetings will be scheduled as half day meetings unless additional time is required.
- This change will be reviewed by the Board and evaluated for its effectiveness in one year's time.

Future Meetings:

- # 151; January 7, 2009; Teleconference 1PM - 4 PM EST
- # 152; March 25, 2009; Teleconference 1PM - 4 PM EST
- # 153; Week of June 8 to be determined, in association with the IJC Centennial Celebration in Niagara Falls and jointly with the WQB; in person meeting
- # 154; Week of October 5, 2009 to be determined, in association with the IJC Biennial Meeting and Conference in Windsor, Ontario; in person meeting

## **5. IJC 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Report Update**

A discussion centred on the scientific foundation of the report, given the limited reporting of information received by the Commission from the Parties. The SAB agreed to offer to the Commission to provide scientific assistance as required to review the data and information, and the report itself.

## **6. Commission correspondence to the Board: September 8, 2008**

The Commission correspondence was acknowledged by the Board. Dr. Koonce said that it appeared implicit in the Commission correspondence that the multi board approach was perceived as being successful; however he did not know yet whether that is the case. Dr. Carey commented that under the Regional Office Operations Committee some of the management issues inherent with the current operations of the Boards are being addressed. For example, he said that there is a role for the Council if the right people are at the table, i.e. the research managers.

## **7. SAB Scientific Advice to the IJC: Role of the Board under the 2007 – 2009 Priorities and Other Scientific issues in Addition to the 2007 – 2009 Priorities**

Dr. Findlay suggested the emerging issues appear as a standing item on future SAB agendas. Dr. Koonce agreed and added that thumbnail descriptions of topics could be provided, and the Board could address each issue as an action item for future activities. Dr. Carey suggested that Great Lakes monitoring be identified as an emerging issue. Several other topics were also referenced: Dr. Paul Hebert – Barcode of Life, offshore oligotrophication, avian botulism in

relation to algal toxins, and the integration of fisheries and water quality issues.

**8. Other Business**

No items were identified.

**9. Future Meetings**

Future meeting dates per agenda item #4.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting was adjourned.