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**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Fourteenth Meeting
Teleconference Meeting Summary**

March 14, 2017 – 2:30pm to 4:00pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Scott Sowa	Andrea Kirkwood	Victor Serveiss (U.S. Liaison)
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Glenn Benoy (Canadian Liaison)
Lucinda Johnson	Clare Robinson	Li Wang
Joe DePinto	Henry Lickers	Mark Burrows
Dave Allan		Antonette Arvai

Regrets: Bob Hecky, Christina Semeniuk, Dale Phenicie

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The Canadian Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed through a roll call. A brief update on the Water Quality Board's ongoing project was requested under Item 6 (other business). The draft agenda was approved as amended by consensus.

2. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP)

Staff provided an overview of TAP-related reporting, which includes the detailed Technical Appendix, draft TAP report, and information on consultations planned throughout the month. Through discussion, it was clarified that the version of the Technical Appendix released for comment is similar to the version SPC members contributed to on a chapter-by-chapter basis, but with the recommendations removed. Similarly, the draft TAP report does not include any recommendations, although recommendations will be included in the final version of the TAP report.

Action: The Secretary will circulate the table of SPC member advisors for each Technical Appendix chapters, and a list of recommendations included in the penultimate draft of the Technical Appendix.

Action: By April 3, Board members are encouraged to provide their input on the Technical Appendix chapter(s) they advised on, and the draft TAP report, and the completeness/appropriateness of the list of draft recommendations.

3. Work Group Updates

Information Coordination and Flow (Scott Sowa)

Since the last SPC meeting progress has been made on each of the three project objectives. A Prezi has been developed by TNC staff using an IJC template, which focuses on showing relationships and jurisdictions as it applies to information flow in the Great Lakes. The project database has also been updated to include more accurate and comprehensive data on ~120 entities that collect, manage and/or deliver information in the basin at various scales. Lucinda Johnston stated she may be able to get assistance to improve the relational capacity of the database. The project work group report will not include case studies on recreational use and aquatic invasive species general objectives, but rather will focus on high level findings. The report will also provide recommendations to IJC to more comprehensively address barriers to the flow of information across the Agreement's nine general objectives, and the important roles of several organizations in that process.

Through discussion, it was clarified that an updated Prezi and database should be ready for review and discussion at the May 3, 2017 SAB and SPC meetings. There was general agreement that the work group report should be circulated to the SPC, RCC and Water Quality Board (WQB) for review prior to finalization, and that those reviews could occur concurrently.

Fertilizer Application Work Group (Mike Murray)

Since the last SPC meeting, the project contractor (LimnoTech) has made substantial progress on all of the project components, which include fertilizer source data synthesis (spatial and temporal), the capacity of watershed models to distinguish fertilizer source, and the capacity of monitoring programs to assess sources of phosphorus. Two full work group meetings have been held, with another scheduled for March 27. The Annex 4 Committee was briefed on the SPC project at their February 8, 2017 meeting. Some key findings reported by the contractor to date were highlighted, including differences in data availability between jurisdictions related to commercial fertilizers and manure, tile drains and confined animal feeding operations. The final contractor reporting is expected in early summer, and the work group report will be developed thereafter. Through discussion it was clarified that although the project will include some assessment of the relative influence of the 4Rs (right place, right rate, right time, right source), it will not include a detailed assessment of the effectiveness of different best management practices.

Energy Transportation and Water Quality Work Group (Dave Allan)

Since the last SPC call additional work group members have been recruited; currently the work group consists of eight IJC advisory board and 11 external members, with good binational representation. There have also been several calls with external subject matter specialists, and one meeting of the Work Group, to refine the project scope of work. The scope will focus on a synthesis of science on the impacts of unrefined liquid hydrocarbons on Great Lakes water quality and ecological processes. A request-for-proposal (RFP) was recently issued to 10 potential contractors, and the proposal deadline is March 14. The intent is to select a preferred contractor and finalize a contract through the Canadian procurement system by March 31, 2017. The contractor's draft report is expected by September 30, 2017 and final report by November 15, 2017.

Declining Offshore Lake Productivity (Joe DePinto)

This project will investigate the role of nearshore retention of nutrients and implications for offshore productivity. A science synthesis report will be produced which will include an assessment of relevant models. A project budget of \$75,000 CAD was approved by the Commission in October,

2016. A work group has been formed which includes 16 members (most are external to IJC) with broad expertise; an additional two invitees have not yet confirmed. On the initial work group call there was good input on ongoing related efforts, and discussion of the tasks that should be included in the contractor scope of work. An RFP has been issued to 12 potential contractors, and proposals are due March 24, 2017. Final project reporting should be completed by March, 2018. The work group co-chair observed that there is potential overlap between this project and the RCC's modeling project on adaptive management so communication will be important.

Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnston)

GLEWS is a joint SAB project which will develop and apply analytical and decision processes to identify emerging environmental stressors and threats; a contractor budget of \$65,000 CAD was approved by the Commission for the project. The project work group currently consists of IJC advisory board members. Since the last SPC call, a session at the International Association of Great Lakes Research conference on GLEWS has been confirmed. The IAGLR session is co-chaired by the GLEWS work group co-chairs, and will feature seven speakers. A work group call is being scheduled to discuss the tasks that should be included in a contractor scope of work, and discuss adding external members to the work group.

4. Research Coordination Committee Work Plans

Staff provided an overview of two RCC work plans, for information purposes, that have been approved by the Commission. The work plans were distributed to SPC members prior to the call.

- i. Use of Modeling Approaches to Effect Ecosystem Management through Adaptive Management – this project will review and assess models related to Lake Erie nutrient reduction. The project budget is \$50,000 USD, and work group members are being recruited. Through discussion, there was general agreement that due to their related focus on models, close communication between the RCC work group and the SPC projects on fertilizer application and declining offshore lake productivity is required.

Action: Joe DePinto, Jeff Ridal and Scott Sowa agreed to join the RCC Adaptive Management project work group.

- ii. Review of Options Towards Development of a Fully Integrated Groundwater/Surface Water Model for the Great Lakes Basin – this project will involve preparation of a literature review and an expert workshop examining surface water/groundwater data integration opportunities on a binational basis. The project budget is \$55,000 USD. Clare Robinson and Christina Semeniuk are members of the project work group.

5. IJC Spring Semi-Annual Meeting

The planned itinerary sent with the agenda packet was reviewed. Through discussion, there was general agreement that the SPC should include some discussion of new and emerging issues, and strategies for moving forward given the current political climate in the basin. There was also general agreement that there needs to be more proactive collaboration between the Great Lakes advisory boards; collaboration is occurring with RCC but not so much with the WQB. This should be discussed when the advisory board co-chairs meet on May 3. A more fulsome discussion on May 3 and 4 would be enhanced with additional SPC meeting time on May 4.

Action: Secretary to arrange for SPC meeting space from 8:30-10am on May 4.

6. Other Business

Staff provided a brief update on the WQB's project assessing watershed management plans (WMP) for the basin of Lake Erie. The Board's report assessed the key WMP success factors for achieving nutrient load reductions, and was released in fall 2016. A workshop was held on February 1+2, 2017 to build support for the findings of the work group report by defining and developing standard components that should be part of watershed management plans, including key factors critical to the successful development and implementation of watershed management plans. A webinar is planned for spring, 2017 to share the report and workshop findings to a broader audience.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Carol Miller and Jeff Ridal.
Please forward any errors or omissions to childm@windsor.ijc.org*