



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

September 15, 2016 – 10:30am to 12:00pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (Co-Chair)	Jeff Ridal (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Dave Allan	Andrea Kirkwood	Victor Serveiss (U.S. Liaison)
Mike Murray	Christina Semeniuk	Li Wang
Lucinda Johnston	Clare Robinson	Antonette Arvai
Joe DePinto	Henry Lickers	
Dale Phenicie		

Regrets: Bob Hecky, Scott Sowa, John Livernois

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The U.S. Co-Chair chaired the call and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was confirmed through a roll call. Additions to the agenda included the Water Quality Board's upcoming work plan items (wetlands, and animal waste), and the SAB's advice on the Parties' science priorities. The draft agenda was approved as amended by consensus.

2. Review of July 25, 2016 SPC Meeting Action Items

The Canadian Co-Chair reviewed the actions items from the previous meeting. Many of those actions relate to the SPC work plans that are included below in agenda item #4.

The Ecological Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms topic was discussed, and it was clarified that direct and indirect impacts of HABs are included. Mike Murray, Andrea Kirkwood and Joe DePinto expressed interest in work group membership. Due to other work plans already in the queue and the tight timeline to submit work plans for the next cycle (work plans are due no later than October 10, 2016) there was general agreement that this topic be considered for a subsequent work plan cycle.

3. Existing Work Group Updates

Information Coordination and Flow (Lucinda Johnston)

Since the last SPC meeting the contractor has submitted their final report and participated in a webinar briefing to SPC and other IJC advisory board members. The findings and recommendations included in the contractor report will be synthesized and the work group will sharpen and rank those. In this way, the work group plans to improve the specificity and relevance of the material provided by the contractor. The work group hopes to substantially complete its work by the end of October, 2016.

Fertilizer Application Work Group (Mike Murray)

The project scope of work, evaluation rubric and list of suggested contractors was finalized and submitted to the IJC's Washington DC office in June, who in turn submitted it to the Department of State (DOS) procurement group. DOS recently determined that they would use their HUBZone (historically underutilized business zone) vendor list which does not include any of the SPC's suggested vendors. Hopefully the work group will receive qualified bids soon, which will have to be reviewed expeditiously in order to get the contract finalized by September 30, the U.S. fiscal year end.

Energy Work Group (Dave Allan)

The project scope of work, evaluation rubric and list of suggested contractors was finalized and submitted to the IJC's Washington DC office in July. In August the work group was notified that due to budget issues at IJC's U.S. Section the project was withdrawn for procurement action in the current U.S. fiscal year. It will be considered for funding in the next fiscal year which starts October 1, 2016. The U.S. Congress needs to approve the U.S. budget before DOS can initiate procurement action. The work group includes some external work group members, and additional external members are still being recruited.

4. New/Proposed Work Groups

Declining Lake Productivity (Joe DePinto)

This project is being led by Bob Hecky and Joe DePinto. Background on the project was presented, including the history of phosphorus load reductions through to the 1980s, with a return of nearshore eutrophic conditions starting in the 1990s (due in part to dreissenid mussels) while offshore zone is nutrient deficient. This contrast is very relevant for the nutrient targets work being completed through Annex 4 of the Agreement. Decisions regarding nutrient reductions to address nearshore enrichment may have significant implications for offshore fish production and contaminant concentrations in fish.

The draft work plan, which was circulated to SPC members prior to the meeting, was reviewed in some detail. The project budget needs to be finalized, although \$75,000 is under consideration. Through discussion, there was agreement that nearshore to offshore transport is an important process requiring additional science analysis. It also raises the management issues related to evaluating ecosystem services; trade-offs between offshore and nearshore services need to be evaluated and the nearshore is where most people experience the lake. Additional work group expertise may be required to advance this issue. It was also clarified that although several contractors may be required to complete the tasks included in the draft work plan, one contractor

would be preferred. It was suggested that the work plan specifically identify key research questions and gaps that need to be filled based on the analysis that is undertaken.

Andrea Kirkwood volunteered to join the work group, and additional SPC members are also welcome. Members agreed to forward their suggestions for external work group members via email.

Action: SPC members are requested to self-identify if they are interested in joining the Declining Lake Productivity work group, and to suggest external work group members.

Water Quality Board potential work plan priorities – chemical mixtures, wetlands, animal waste (Jeff Ridal)

The WQB has at least three topics that may require some SAB involvement. These projects require discussion with the WQB Co-Chairs related to timelines, relative priority, what WQB needs from SAB, etc. There may be an opportunity for some dialogue at the October Semi-Annual Meeting. It was clarified that at least one HPAB member is interested in the chemical mixtures issue.

Emerging Stressors and Threats (Carol Miller)

This is a joint SAB project which was initially discussed at the April, 2016 meeting as ‘early warning systems’. It is hoped that the WQB and HPAB will participate as well. The focus of the project is on proactively identifying emerging stressors and threats using an approach that can be repeated at regular intervals in the future.

A preliminary draft work plan circulated prior to the meeting was reviewed. Through discussion it was acknowledged that in addition to environmental risks there are also important issues of coordination, and barriers to acting on emerging issues at the appropriate time. The budget amount should also be reviewed since it may need to be increased, or the scope reduced. Several members agreed that social science expertise on the work group would be very helpful, and members were asked to forward contact information for suitable potential work group members.

Henry Lickers, Carol Miller, Lucinda Johnston, Christina Semeniuk and Mike Murray confirmed their interest in participating on the work group. Other interested SPC members were asked to self-identify. Work group members were asked to provide any comments they have on the draft work plan by September 28, 2016.

Action: SPC members are requested to self-identify if they are interested in joining the Emerging Stressors and Threats work group, and to suggest external work group members.

5. October 25, 2016 SAB and SPC Meetings

Logistics for the SAB and SPC meetings being held during the IJC’s Fall Semi-Annual meeting in Ottawa were circulated with the agenda, and were reviewed. The SAB will meet during the morning of October 25, with a separate SPC meeting that afternoon. SPC members are welcome to attend the reception and SPC’s Commission appearance.

Note: Since the call, the Reception has been confirmed for 6:30pm on October 24 and the SPC’s Commission appearance for 11:00am on October 26.

Work Group members are requested to attend the SPC's Commission appearance, and to provide input to the SPC's presentation to the Commission. The Secretary will send a PowerPoint template prior to the Semi-Annual meeting.

6. Other Business

The Secretary reported that on September 14, 2016 the Commission endorsed the SAB's advice on the Parties' priorities for science. The Commission complemented the SAB on their thorough and timely advice. The advice will be formally transmitted to the Parties, and posted to the IJC website.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50pm.

*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*