

Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 185th Meeting
Meeting Summary
September 24 & 25, 2014
held at Windsor, ON

US Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair) (Sept. 25)
Sandy Bihn
Doug Busdeker
Cameron Davis (alt. for Susan Hedman) (Sept. 25)
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
David Mengebier
Marc Miller
Mike Ripley
Matthew Thompson
Robyn Wilson (via teleconference)

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Rob Fleming
Mike Goffin
Caroline Gravel
Christopher Hilkené
John Jackson
Dean Jacobs
Betty Matthews-Malone
Mark Mattson
Jean Painchaud (via teleconference)
James Wagar
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

Commission Staff

Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office (WQB A/Secretary)
Dave Dempsey – US Section (WQB Liaison)
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section (WQB Liaison)
Marty Bratzel – Great Lakes Region Office
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office (Sept. 24)
Hugh McDiarmid – Great Lakes Regional Office (Sept. 24)
Amy Yang - Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Rob de Loë)

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the 185th Meeting of the Board, extending a special welcome to Rob Fleming who has joined the Board as a Provincial representative, and explained that the U.S. Co-Chair had another commitment and would join the Board later in the meeting.

Members introduced themselves. Marty Bratzel has joined IJC as a contract staff member until January, 2015 to assist the Board's Work Groups with development and implementation of their Work Plans.

2. Review of June 26, 2014 Meeting Record and Approval of September 24/25, 2014 Agenda (Rob de Loë)

The meeting record from the June 26, 2014 teleconference was reviewed, and there was consensus that the record should be amended to specify important activities and milestones.

There were no suggested changes to the draft Agenda circulated as part of the meeting package.

3. Work Planning Process and Activities (Rob de Loë)

The Canadian Co-Chair summarized the progress that has been made since the last meeting, resulting in the three draft Work Plans that formed part of the meeting package. Review and discussion of those draft Work Plans forms the main focus of the meeting.

The Canadian Co-Chair summarized the outcome of an IJC workshop on the Triennial Assessment of Progress Report that was held for Board Co-Chairs, Commissioners and staff on September 17, 2014. The workshop focused on developing the process, roles and responsibilities associated with the Triennial Assessment. A key message that was received by Workshop participants is that Commissioners believe the Board is essential to the Triennial Assessment process, and that the Board should assign the Triennial Report a high priority in its Work Plans.

There was general agreement that:

- The Board needs to be kept informed of developments related to the Triennial Assessment;
- The Public Engagement Work Group may be able to play a role in public consultations held as part of the Triennial Assessment process; and,
- The Board should respond to the Commissions written request for advice on the Triennial Assessment Report purpose.

ACTION: Board Co-Chairs to develop advice on the Triennial Assessment Report purpose and communicate same to the Commission at the October, 2014 Semi-Annual Meeting.

4. Public Engagement Work Group (Marvourneen Dolor and Mark Mattson)

The Work Group Co-Leads provided an overview of the draft Work Plan. Major discussion themes included:

- A primary focus of the Work Group should be on providing advice to Commissioners on how to improve the effectiveness of IJC's engagement activities. Different 'publics' will require different engagement strategies;
- The Work Group is well positioned to provide advice on the public engagement aspects of the Triennial Assessment of Progress Report, as well as the work of other WQB Work Groups;
- Through the examples of Tribes and First Nations, there was acknowledgement that different ways of engagement are needed for different communities;
- There was broad support for the Public Event planned for the evening of September 24, and that similar events should be planned for future WQB meetings to the extent possible.

ACTION: Public Engagement Work Group Co-Leads to revise the draft Work Plan to reflect Board discussion and forward to the WQB Co-Chairs on or around October 2, 2014, for subsequent submission to the Commission for the October Semi-Annual meeting.

5. Emerging Issues Work Group (Mike Ripley and Christopher Hilkene)

The Work Group Co-Leads provided an overview of the draft Work Plan. Major discussion themes included:

- WQB meetings should have a standing item on Watching Briefs;
- The Work Group needs to coordinate its work with Annex 9 to ensure a complementary regulatory/policy/program focus on climate change adaptation;

- There was general agreement that the Work Group’s climate change related products should showcase best management practices, emphasize key sectors, and consider cumulative impacts;
- The Work Group should consider the ecological, social and economic dimensions of emerging issues;
- The Work Group should contextualize its analyses to inform the Commission’s Triennial Assessment of Progress.

ACTION: WQB Secretary to maintain a log of Watching Brief topics, for consideration at each WQB meeting.

ACTION: Emerging Issues Work Group Co-Leads to revise the draft Work Plan to reflect Board discussion and forward to the WQB Co-Chairs on or around October 2, 2014, for subsequent submission to the Commission for the October Semi-Annual meeting.

6. Legacy Issues Work Group (Gayle Wood and Matt Thompson)

The WQB Co-Chairs clarified that the Work Group has been renamed to avoid any confusion with the Commission’s Triennial Assessment of Progress effort.

The Work Group Co-Leads provided an overview of the draft Work Plan. Major discussion themes included:

- In general terms, the Work Group should complete focused assessments of legacy pollutants with emphasis on roles, programs and policies;
- There was general support for an initial focus on PBDEs on a basin-wide scale, with particular emphasis on activities that can achieve a period of further reductions in the lakes.

ACTION: Legacy Issues Work Group Co-Leads to revise the draft Work Plan to reflect Board discussion and forward to the WQB Co-Chairs on or around October 2, 2014, for subsequent submission to the Commission for the October Semi-Annual meeting.

7. Indicators (Dave Ullrich)

The U.S. WQB Co-Chair provided some context and a description of recent activities related to Indicators. Major discussion themes included:

- Issues related to a smaller number of key Indicators;
- The need for ongoing coordination between WQB and other IJC Boards, and between the Commission and the Parties;
- Need to consider both the measuring function, and the communicating the findings to the public function;
- The importance of improving transparency as to how Indicators are measured.

8. Conclusions & Next Steps (Rob de Loë & Dave Ullrich)

The Co-Chairs summarized some overarching themes that apply to all Work Groups and Work Plans, noting that synergies exist between Work Plans, especially the Public Engagement Work Plan and the Emerging Issues and Legacy Issues Work Plans. All Work Plans should continue to develop their focus on the Triennial Assessment of Progress Report, and Work Groups should expect a reasonable level of staff and/or contractor support to achieve their Work Plan priorities.

The next meeting of the Board will be held via teleconference in November, 2014.

ACTION: A/Secretary to send out a Doodle poll to confirm next teleconference date.

If Members are interested in attending the Spring Semi-Annual Board appearance scheduled for the morning of October 23, 2014 in Ottawa they should contact the A/Secretary for more information.

If Members receive requests for information related to IJC activities, they are encouraged to forward the request to the A/Secretary who can direct the request appropriately.

Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Rob de Loë and Dave Ullrich. Please forward any errors or omissions to childm@windsor.ijc.org.