

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 179<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Summary of Discussion**  
December 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
One King West Hotel, Austin Gallery, Toronto, ON

**U.S. Member Participants**

Susan Hedman (Co-Chair)	U.S. EPA
George Elmaraghy (for S. Nally)	Ohio EPA
David Ullrich	Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiatives
Don Zelazny (on phone)	NY State. Dept. of Environmental Conservation

**Canadian Member Participants**

Jim Vollmershausen (Co-Chair)	Environment Canada
Sharon Bailey	Ontario Ministry of Environment
Gavin Christie	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Michael Goffin	Environment Canada
Clarence Haverson	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Maxine Kingston	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Louise Lapierre	QC Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment & Parks
Craig Mather	Aurora, Ontario

**Invited Participants**

David Carpenter	Great Lakes Science Advisory Board
Dan Wicklum (on phone)	Great Lakes Science Advisory Board

**Observers**

Cam Davis	U.S. EPA
Mark Elster	U.S. EPA
John Haugland	U.S. EPA
Paul Horvatin	U.S. EPA
Saad Jasim	International Joint Commission, Windsor
Chris Korleski	U.S. EPA
James Schard	U.S. EPA
Jacqueline Serran	International Joint Commission, Windsor
Vic Serveiss	International Joint Commission, Washington

**Commissioners**

Lana Pollack (U.S. Co-Chair)	International Joint Commission, Washington
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**Liaisons**

Dave Dempsey	International Joint Commission, Washington
Cindy Warwick	International Joint Commission, Ottawa

**Secretariat**

John Wilson	International Joint Commission, Windsor
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### **1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)**

The Board Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 179<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board. Members and participants introduced themselves.

### **2. Review and Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)**

The agenda was reviewed and approved with the discussion of the IJC GLWQA Progress Assessment Report (Agenda Item 8) and the discussion of the 2011-2013 Priority Cycle (Agenda Item 7) moved to the second day.

### **3. 178<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary Review and Approval (All)**

Minor changes to the summary were suggested and discussed. The summary was approved as revised.

### **4. WQB Membership Update (Comm. Reps.)**

Members were informed that on the Canadian side, Louse Lapierre, Michael Goffin, and Craig Mather's memberships had been renewed and that Gavin Christie had been appointment as a new member. The renewal and appointment of Ontario government members was also discussed. Members were further informed that on the U.S. side, David Ullrich's membership had been renewed and Scott Nally had been appointed as a new member. The identification of potential new members to represent the states of New York and Michigan was also discussed.

### **5. GLWQA Update (Co-Chairs)**

The Board Co-Chairs jointly provided an update on the status of the current Great Lakes Water Quality negotiations. Since Plenary 3, progress has been made and a final version of the draft Agreement may be completed shortly. Plenary 4 is likely to be held in mid-January. The next steps, in terms of approvals, for both Canada and the U.S were also discussed.

### **6. 2009-2011 Priority Cycle (All)**

Members discussed the reports developed by the Commission's multi-Board work groups as part of the 2009 – 2011 Priority Cycle. The Board was also informed that the Commission is developing a summary of the six priority work group reports for eventual transmission to Governments. In order to assist the Commission with this task, the Board reviewed all of the reports and recommendations and developed the following policy focused recommendations.

**Aquatic Invasive Species – Prevention:** The Parties develop and implement an aggressive binational Aquatic Invasive Species policy that focuses on detection, prevention and rapid response.

**Beaches and Recreational Water Quality:** The Parties develop and validate practical, rapid, reliable and standardized methods to identify, track and quantify pathogen sources; to forecast water quality impacts; and to identify relevant indicators from fecal sources and harmful algal blooms.

**Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption:** The Parties continue to monitor each of the Great Lakes for toxin levels and improve communications with the public regarding the benefits and risks of Great Lakes fish consumption.

**Chemicals of Emerging Concern:** The Parties develop and implement policies of prevention with an emphasis on producer responsibility that are informed by risk-based analysis; impacts of human health and ecological impacts; and the promotion of research, development and implementation of treatment

technologies and control strategies for both point and non-point sources of Chemicals of Emerging Concern.

Nuisance and Harmful Algae: The Parties develop and implement targeted policies to reduce phosphorus loading to the most impaired waters of the Great Lakes basin.

Nearshore Framework: The Parties rapidly develop and implement a critical nearshore framework that builds on existing nearshore work; promotes the coordination and integration of all levels of government and others working in the nearshore; and identifies and eliminates possible nearshore policy gaps and policy barriers to nearshore protection.

ACTION ITEM: Forward the Board's recommendations to the Commission for consideration during the development of its summary report.

### **7. IJC GLWQA Progress Assessment Report (All)**

Members were reminded that they had committed to reviewing the Commission's Progress of Assessment Report at the July meeting of the Board. Since the meeting the Board, as well as the other Great Lakes advisory bodies were formally asked to provide comments on the report by the Commission following its release at the Biennial Meeting in Detroit. In an effort to provide a coordinated response, representatives of the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board (SAB) were invited to the meeting and briefed members regarding its initial review of the report. Each indicator included in the report as well as other possible additions were discussed and it was agreed that the two Boards should work together to as much as possible on this initiative going forward. Overlaps, links and potential collaborative opportunities regarding the Parties' State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC) were also discussed. Commissioner Pollack and other Commission representatives clarified the purpose, scope and outlined possible next steps in the development of the report for members. The Board agreed to review the next draft of the report once it had been updated by the Commission.

ACTION ITEM: Members that would like to submit comments regarding the current draft of the Assessment Report should provide them to the Board Secretariat by January 15, 2012. These comments will then be forwarded to the Commission.

### **8. 2011-2013 Priority Cycle (All)**

Co-Chairs updated members on the current status of the process to identify priorities for the upcoming cycle and asked for member input regarding next steps. Further refinement of the Board's original priority proposals and the other priorities proposed by the Commission's advisory bodies were discussed. Members were in agreement that the Board would continue to support the priorities it had previously identified (Aquatic Invasive Species – Prevention, Nearshore Framework, Indicators to Assess the Health of the Great Lakes, Low Probability/High Impact Events) and would not address budget issues related to its priorities until they had been selected and finalized by the Commission.

### **9. Next Meeting/Meeting Schedule**

It was decided that the next meeting will be held just prior to the Commission's April Semi-Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The Board tentatively agreed to hold the meeting during the afternoon of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 and the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

ACTION ITEM: Confirm schedule of the Commission's April Semi-Annual Meeting, finalize the dates for the Board Meeting and forward to members as soon as possible.