

Great Lakes Water Quality Board – 189th Meeting
Summary of Discussion
July 22, 2015
Teleconference

US Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Sandy Bihn
Doug Busdeker
Bill Creal
Jessica Dexter
Jane Elder
Karl Gebhardt
Susan Hedman
Matthew Thompson
Robyn Wilson

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Mike Goffin
Caroline Gravel
Chris Hilkene
John Jackson
Betty Matthews-Malone
Jean Painchaud
Russ Powers
James Wagar
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

Observers

Carolyn O’Neill – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Marta Soucek – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Lyman Welch – Alliance for the Great Lakes

Commission Staff

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office
Frank Bevacqua – US Section
Mark Burrows – Great Lakes Regional Office
Sarah Keating – Great Lakes Regional Office
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office
Kennan Zhou – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Dave Dempsey – US Section
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

Secretariat

John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the 189th Meeting of the Board. Members and other participants identified themselves over the phone.

2. Follow-Up from 188th Meeting in Buffalo (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs provided an update to members on what has been done as a result of the “Board Operations and Activities Improvement” discussions held during the Board’s last meeting in Buffalo. A number of action items have been identified and the Co-Chairs will be working with staff to address them. Members will be provided with periodic updates and materials as they become available.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary to forward to members and/or post on the Board's Sharepoint site materials related to the refinement of Board operations as they become available.

3. Work Group Updates

Legacy Issues (G. Wood & M. Thompson)

Updates were provided to members for the work group's PBDEs and Lake Erie projects. Members were informed that the PBDE contract will be completed by October. The contractors will be available to provide a presentation to the Board at that time. Members were also updated on the request for proposals and evaluation process currently underway for the Lake Erie project. It is hoped that a contractor will be selected shortly.

Emerging Issues (C. Hilken)

Members were briefed on the status of the work group's climate change project as well as progress made on the development of two watching briefs. The work group has received two proposals for the climate change project and is in the process of finalizing the selection of the contractor. It is hoped that work will begin in early August. A draft watching brief has been completed on microbeads and is ready for review by the work group. The draft fossil fuels development and transportation watching brief is still in progress with the intention to forward a completed draft to the work group for review in August.

Public Engagement (K. Sadaj)

GLRO staff provided a brief update on progress to date regarding a binational public opinion poll that the work group is developing. Member discussed and provided suggestions on the design of the poll including the need to be inclusive of the entire Great Lakes community and encouraged the consideration of previous related polls or surveys to help inform the development of questions and to serve as a good basis of comparison once the poll is completed.

Indicators (D. Ullrich)

Members were informed that work continues on refining the six communication indicators (now referred to as "Great Lakes Vital Signs") which should be completed shortly. The Science Advisory Board's Research Coordination Committee is also starting another indicator project that will focus on the identification of data gaps. The Board will participate as members of the work group for the project. Additional information and updates will be provided to members as they become available.

4. Water Quality Matters Meeting – IJC Binational Great Lakes Water Quality Meeting (Commission Staff & Co-Chairs)

Commission staff provided an update on the status of the Water Quality Matters Meeting scheduled for February 8th and 9th in Windsor, ON. The Board was informed that Commissioners are in the process of reviewing the focus and agenda for the event and will be providing additional information once it is finalized and available. The Board discussed the possibility of organizing and leading a session on PBDEs since that project should be completed by the time of the meeting. The Board also discussed contributing to a possible Lake Erie session.

ACTION ITEM: IJC Communications staff to provide the Board with information regarding the focus of the meeting and the finalized agenda once Commissioners have reached a decision.

5. Next Meeting Date & Adjourn (Co-Chairs)

The next meeting of the Board will be held October 27th and 28th in Ottawa, ON in conjunction with the Commission's Fall Semi-Annual Meeting. The Co-Chairs are considering focusing more on thematic content for the meeting rather than reporting out on activities and will be asking each work group to provide written summaries in advance. They are also considering allocating additional time prior to or after the meeting to accommodate face-to-face meetings of all of the work groups.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretary will solicit written summaries of recent activities from each work group in advance of the Board's October meeting.

6. Public Comment (Co-Chairs)

Lyman Welch of the Alliance for the Great Lakes thanked the Co-Chairs for the opportunity to observe the meeting. Mr. Welch provided suggestions related to public engagement for its meetings and identified a number of Great Lakes issues that the Board and the Commission may want to consider including nuclear waste storage and algal blooms on Lake Erie.