

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
196th Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

April 18 & 19, 2017

Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Sandy Bihn
Anne Cook
Jessica Dexter
Marvourneen Dolor
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Karl Gebhardt
Tinka Hyle
Simone Lightfoot
David Mengebier

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Mark Fisher (April 19)
Michael Goffin (April 19)
Christopher Hilken
John Jackson
Russ Powers
James Wagar
Mark Wales
Gayle Wood

Invited Guests

Louise Clemency- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (April 18)
Gene Fleming – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (April 18)
Jennifer Miller – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (April 18)
Richard Nagle – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (April 18)
Frank Veraldi – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (April 18)

Observers

Doon McColl – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Carolyn O’Neill – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Andrea Paine – Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (April 18)
Carla Torchia – Environment and Climate Change Canada (April 19)

Commissioners

Lana Pollack – U.S. Chair

Commission Staff

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office
Jennifer Boehme – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Victor Serveiss – US Section
Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

Secretariat

John Wilson – Great Lakes Regional Office

TUESDAY, APRIL 18th, 2017

Tour of Local Great Lakes Restoration Sites in Southeastern Chicago and Northwestern Indiana

Members toured a number of sites in southeastern Chicago and northwestern Indiana where environmental restoration efforts have been completed or are ongoing. The sites visited included:

- Northerly Island
- Burnham Wildlife Corridor
- Jackson Park
- 63rd Street Breach
- Wolf Lake
- Indiana Harbour CDF
- Former US Steel site
- Pine Station

The tour was expertly led by the Board's US Co-Chair and the following people:

- Gene Fleming (US ACE)
- Frank Veraldi (US ACE)
- Jennifer Miller (US ACE)
- Louise Clemency (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Richard Nagle (US EPA)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th, 2017

Environmental Law and Policy Center – Suite 260, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL

1. Opening Comments and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 196th Meeting of the Board. Members and other participants identified themselves and new members, Mark Fisher and Tinka Hyde, were recognized.

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

The agenda was reviewed and approved with no additions or changes

3. Reflections on Day One Tour

Members reviewed and discussed the sites visited on Day 1 of the meeting. Members were generally very impressed with all of the great restoration work that has been completed and is ongoing in the area.

4. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report Update and Discussion

Members received an update from Commission staff on the TAP report review process. The Commission is currently compiling all comments received during the public review period that ended April 15th. Comments to be considered include those submitted by the Board. The Commission will be deciding on the next steps for the report during their upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting in May. Next steps will likely include the development of recommendations to governments which were not included in the draft report and which the Board obviously has not had an opportunity to review.

ACTION ITEM: Co-Chairs to request that the Board be afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the Commission's TAP report recommendations once they are developed.

Members discussed the report development process including ways in which it could be improved for the next reporting cycle. While there were efforts to involve the Board in the process initially, members felt that they were not adequately engaged in all aspects of the report development and production. Members also raised concerns with the timing and sequencing of the various reports that feed into the TAP report including the Progress Report of the Parties, and the State of the Great Lakes Report. The Board will continue to discuss different approaches that could be considered by the Commission for the next TAP report and will provide recommendations once those discussions have been concluded.

ACTION ITEM: The Board will develop advice and recommendations related to improving the Triennial Assessment of Progress Report development and production process that will be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration at a later date.

5. WQB Indigenous Peoples Engagement (R. de Loë)

The Board's November meeting in Thunder Bay focused on First Nations, Métis and Tribal perspectives on Great Lakes water quality and related issues. Following the meeting, a proposed Indigenous Peoples Engagement policy for the Board was developed and forwarded to members as a memo for discussion. Members discussed the memo and a few minor changes to the document were identified. Members were supportive of the document and it was decided that, with the discussed changes, it would be adopted as a Board policy. It was further decided that the policy would be posted on the Board's webpage and forwarded to the Commission as well as the other Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Boards for their information and consideration.

ACTION ITEM: The Board secretary will update the proposed policy as discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Following updates to the document, the Board will adopt the memo as an official Indigenous Peoples Engagement Policy

ACTION ITEM: The Secretary will post the Board's new Indigenous People Engagement Policy on its webpage.

ACTION ITEM: The Board secretary will forward the new policy to the Commission and other Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Boards for their information and consideration. The Board Co-Chairs will discuss the new policy with the Commission and other Board Co-Chairs during the upcoming Spring Semi-Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

6. Work Group Meetings

Each of the Board's work groups met separately to discuss current and future projects.

7. Work Group Updates

The work groups reported back from their meetings during the previous session.

Legacy Issues (J. Dexter)

An update was provided to members for the work group's Lake Erie and PBDE projects. Members were informed that the work group hosted a workshop for its Lake Erie project on February 1st and 2nd in Windsor, Ontario. A webinar will be held on May 10th to discuss the findings of the workshop with a larger audience. A final work group report for the project will be complete in the summer. The work group also hosted a workshop for its PBDE project on February 22nd and 23rd in Windsor, Ontario. The workshop report has been completed and it is expected that the final work group report will be completed in early summer.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder & C. Hilken)

Two of the recommendations that were included in the Climate Change Adaption project summary that was

submitted by the Board to the Commission in January have been incorporated into the recently released draft TAP report. The project summary has been posted on the Board's webpage.

Public Engagement (D. Mengebier & R. Powers)

A review of the work group's past projects was given to members including the public events that were held in conjunction with the Board's meetings in Buffalo and Thunder Bay.

8. 2017 -2018 Work Plan

Members discussed initiatives and projects not being undertaken by the work groups for which the Board will provide assistance to the Commission and other Boards in 2017-2018. These included the TAP process and the review of the Parties Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs). Members were informed that the Lake Huron LAMP would be the next plan released and that the Commission would be asking for the Board's assistance in reviewing the draft document. While discussing the LAMP process, members requested that a briefing be provided to the Board on this topic at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Board secretary to ensure that a briefing on the LAMP process be included in the agenda for the Board's next in-person meeting.

Members were also briefed by each work group on upcoming projects for 2017 – 2018.

Legacy Issues

The work group is just beginning to work on the two projects identified in their current work plan which focus on Large-scale Animal Feeding Operations and Nuclear Facilities Decommissioning in the Great Lakes. Statements of Work (SOW) for each of the projects are expected to be completed by early summer. Various Board members who are not in the work group have been identified and agreed to help out with each of the projects.

Emerging Issues

The work group will continue its efforts on Climate Change Adaption. They will now focus on promoting the work done in previous years and engaging the public on the issue. This will include the development of a standard presentation that will be presented at various Great Lakes meetings and conferences. The workgroup will also start a new watching brief shortly that will focus on the issue of Mining and potential impacts to water quality in the Great Lakes. Finally the work group updated members on progress made relative to its Wetlands project. A draft SOW has been completed and the work group will be consulting with the Commission's Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee and the GLWQA Annex 7 Co-Chairs to get their input on the proposed project.

Public Engagement

The work group is currently focusing on planning a public event in conjunction with the Board's next in-person meeting in Ottawa in October. Preliminary plans include holding the event at the University of Ottawa and live streaming the event. The work group has also held some preliminary discussions on the next round of the Binational Poll that will be conducted later this year. The Commission's communications team has already been engaged in the process.

9. Great Lakes Issues

Members were provided an opportunity to bring potential issues within the Great Lakes to the attention of the Board. Issues discussed included Antibiotic Resistant Gene Pollution and the proposed U.S. federal budget.

10. Next Meetings (D. Ullrich)

The Board discussed the remainder of its 2017 meeting schedule which is as follow:

- July 26th – 10:00 to 11:30 AM ET: Teleconference
- October 24th & 25th – Ottawa, ON: Will be held in conjunction with the Commission’s Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

11. Public Comments & Adjourn

Doon McColl, Communications Manager for the Far North Region of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Cairns, Queensland, Australian thanked the Board for the opportunity to observe the meeting.

The Co-Chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.