

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board  
197<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Summary of Discussion  
July 21, 2017**

Teleconference

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**U.S. Member Participants**

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)  
Jon Allan  
Anne Cook  
Jane Elder  
Frank Ettawageshik  
Karl Gebhardt  
Kelsey Leonard  
David Mengebier

**Canadian Member Participants**

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

**Observers**

Carolyn O'Neill – Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

**Commission Staff**

Raj Bejankiwar – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Michael Mezzacapo (Intern) – Great Lakes Regional Office  
Trish Morris – Great Lakes Regional Office

**Commission Liaisons**

Cindy Warwick – Canadian Section

**Secretariat**

Antonette Arvai (Acting) – Great Lakes Regional Office

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**1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)**

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the teleconference. Members and other participants identified themselves over the phone.

**2. Advice for Improving the Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report Development Process**

A draft memo of advice to the Commission on improving the next TAP Report development process was provided to Board members in advance of the call. This memo was drafted based upon Board discussions that occurred at the previous Board meeting in April 2017. Members discussed suggested revisions to the memo. The Board agreed to forward the memo to the Commission with the discussed changes.

ACTION ITEM: The Board secretary will forward the updated memo to the Commission.

**3. Work Group Activities**

Written summaries of each work group's activities (Legacy Issues, Emerging Issues and Engagement) were provided to members in advance of the meeting. Members were asked to voice any comments or questions on these summaries.

Legacy Issues Work Group

No questions or comments.

Emerging Issues Work Group

The Emerging Issues work group is currently promoting the findings and recommendations from its January 2017 report on *Climate Change Adaptation in the Great Lakes* through various public forums. The work group requested that members forward suggestions for meetings and/or conferences at which they may present their climate change adaptation work.

Engagement Work Group

No questions or comments.

**4. Engagement Work Group Public Event**

The Engagement Work Group updated members on planning of the public event to be held during the Board's face-to-face meeting in Ottawa on October 24-25. Potential activities include a tour of the Rideau and Ottawa Rivers during the day of October 24, with a public meeting to follow in the evening. The work group will continue to work with Board members and contacts at the Ottawa Riverkeeper to further flesh out details of both events.

**5. 2018 – 2019 Work Plans**

Members discussed the Board's draft 2018-19 work plan that includes the following: General Board Activities, Legacy Issues, Emerging Issues and Engagement. The work groups developed work plans that focused on continuing current projects and identifying next steps for each to ensure that the Board is maximizing the value of the work already completed. The Engagement Work Group noted some additional activities that were not reflected in their work plan, which includes follow-up work to the Binational Poll and a strategy for the implementation of the Board's *Indigenous Peoples Engagement Policy*. Members will have until August 4th to submit written comments on the work plans. The updated work plans will be submitted to the Commission for their consideration during its Fall Semi-Annual Meeting being held the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ACTION ITEM:** Board members to submit written comments on the draft work plans to the Board secretary by August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Under the Board's work plan of General Board Activities, discussion on the current TAP report ensued. Members enquired as to the status of the TAP report and what further role the WQB may be playing. IJC staff informed the Board that the final TAP report is currently being drafted, considering Board and public comments as well as developing recommendations as directed by the Commission. It is expected the final report will be released in Fall 2017. Currently the schedule for completing the TAP does not include further engagement with the Board. The Board expressed that it would like to receive a copy of the report in advance of its release to the public. Additionally, Co-Chairs are willing to review the report prior to its finalization, if time permits in the TAP development schedule.

**ACTION ITEM:** Staff will communicate to the Commission regarding the TAP Report (1) the Board's request to receive a copy in advance of the public release and (2) the Co-chairs willingness to review the report prior to finalization.

## **6. Legacy Issues Work Group – PBDEs Report**

The Legacy Issues Work Group recently completed its report on *Addressing Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers in the Great Lakes Basin: Searching for Solutions to Key Challenges*, which was distributed to members prior to the meeting for their review and comment. The report was discussed by the members and some comments offered. Members have until July 27<sup>th</sup> to provide their written comments.

ACTION ITEM: Upon completion of the Board comment period, the work group will revise the report based upon written and verbal comments received and send the final report to Co-Chairs to start the report approval process.

## **7. Legacy Issues Work Group - Watershed Management of Nutrients**

The Legacy Issues Work Group is currently drafting its report on *Watershed Management of Nutrients in Lake Erie*. The draft findings and recommendations of this report were distributed to members in advance of the meeting. The draft findings and recommendations were discussed and some comments provided by members. The work group will take these comments into consideration as it finalizes its report.

ACTION ITEM: The work group will finalize its report, considering the comments received, and submit it to the Co-Chairs to initiate the Board review process.

## **8. Great Lakes Issues**

Members were provided an opportunity to bring potential issues of concern in the Great Lakes to the attention of the Board. Issues discussed included the U.S. federal budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program; algal bloom predictions; and “uncontrolled” releases from facilities/infrastructure (e.g. combined sewer overflows, landfills, mine tailings ponds) as a result of extreme precipitation events. The latter is something that could be considered as part of the work being undertaken by the Board’s climate change group.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The Board’s next meeting is taking place on October 24-25, in conjunction with the IJC’s Semi-Annual Meeting. Members discussed potential locations for the Board’s face-to-face meeting in 2018. Members agreed to hold their Fall 2018 meeting in Hamilton, ON. Other locations suggested for future meetings included, Milwaukee, WI; Green Bay, WI; and Toledo, OH.

## **10. Public Comments & Adjourn**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Co-chairs thanked members for participating in the call and their continued hard work.

No public comments were received.