



CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

Debbie Lee, Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Erich Emery, Ian Campbell, Kathy McKague, Michael Twiss, Patricia Chambers, Sandy Eberts, Tom Speth, Val Klump,

Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Pier-Yves Caux, Victor Serveiss

1. Roll call and update/approval of agenda

- Pier-Yves Caux provided a brief self-introduction – Glenn Benoy has left IJC to work for DFO. Before Glenn's position is filled, Pier-Yves is serving as an interim liaison for SAB.
- The agenda is approved with modification of moving the Great Lakes Science Plan item up.

2. Update on the status of IJC commissioners

- We are still waiting for the appointment of new Canadian and U.S. commissioners.
- The Canadian commissioner candidates could be put to the government for decision at an upcoming cabinet meeting any time between now and mid-April. We have no indication whether that would likely happen sooner or later.
- The White House sent the names of the U.S. commissioner nominees again to the Senate last month (which was required because the Senate in the previous session of Congress did not act upon the nominations). We are now waiting for the Senate to take action on the nominations, but have no indication on when that might happen. For the time being we have only two U.S. commissioners (Commissioners Pollack and Moy).
- Currently, we do not have a quorum of commissioners and so cannot get any commission decisions on issues.

3. TAP update

- The original plan is that the TAP Study Board conducts a 'deep dive' on nutrients and climate change topics for the 2020 TAP report. It plans to complete draft Study Board report by June, to be ready for Commission review in September, and to complete finalization of the report by December, 2019.

- Due to the loss of Commission quorum in December 2018 and the U.S. government employee furlough, staff could not advance contracting assistance to complete the nutrients and climate change assessments in the available time.
- The Commission staff have been reconsidering the activities originally planned for the Study Board and TAP, and have been having informal discussions with IJC advisory board co-chairs on a potential path forward. Once the Commission has a quorum, staff plan to engage with Commissioners to discuss the proposed path forward that has two emphases:
 - First, a TAP will be prepared that responds to the IJC's responsibilities under the Agreement, and would include consultations on the Progress Report of the Parties, a 'scorecard' of progress towards the recommendations included in the 2017 TAP report, and an assessment of progress for each of the Annexes.
 - Second, resources would be directed to setting priorities for the IJC's Great Lakes-related advisory boards for the coming years. Priority setting is expected to involve the Commission, advisory boards, and staff.
- It was commented that there are plenty materials and thoughts from RCC to contribute to the development of priority setting. It was asked if the timeline for the original plan would still hold for the new plan, such as the development of draft report by June and finalized report by December; it was explained that due to the uncertainty on the timing of having a Commission quorum, the timeline is still under development.

4. Projects update

- ***Great Lakes Connecting Channel***
 - This is a joint RCC/SPC workgroup project. It focuses on identifying critical issues facing the Great Lakes connecting channels. It will also assess the monitoring and monitoring infrastructure needs;
 - The 1st workgroup call was held on Oct 30, and the last call was on Dec 7, and we will have the next call in March.
 - The contractor has produced a list of literature under review, developed a list of interview questions for input from the workgroup, and will interview various people and stakeholders who are familiar with, working on, and cared about the connecting channels using these questionnaires.
 - It was mentioned that the USGS has technology trainings on sampling large rivers. Although it is not specific for the Great Lakes connecting channels, it may be useful for this project for identifying monitoring technique and infrastructure needs. The Great Lakes Science Center may a good source of this.
 - Contractor will contact various people to identify what has done and what are important issues for the connecting channel. We are looking for input from the RCC for the names who can be contacted.
- ***Great Lakes Nutrient Adaptive Management***
 - The contractor submitted the final report in Oct 2018. The workgroup has decided to develop a workgroup summary report based on the contractor's report. Considerable progress has been made in writing the workgroup summary report, with some setback by the U.S. furlough. The team has completed two sections of

the report and will complete other sections by the end of March. The report will consist of recommendations for Annex 4 to consider.

- It was asked if there is a table of content available and it was answered that there is a table of content available on the google linked site.

- ***GL Early Warning System***

- The contractor submitted the final report in November, 2018. The workgroup leadership has decided to produce a summary report largely based on the contractor's report. Because the contractor's report has recommendations largely based on contractor's opinion, the workgroup's recommendation may be somewhat different. The targeted completion date of the summary report will be summer 2019.
- The contractor's report will be distributed to the workshop participants and the entire workgroup. A Doodle Poll is in place for the next workgroup call for seeking input to the workgroup summary report.
- A session has been planned at the 2019 IAGLR. There will be six talks to present the results of current study; visions of the next steps on how to operationalize the warning system; and syntheses on how to use sediment fossil record, Algal Taste and Odor Compounds and Toxins in Drinking Water Treatment in the early warning system.

5. Potential advancing of new work plans

- Both projects have been identified as high priority, but have not got commissioners' approval yet.
- ***Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling***
 - A near-complete work plan has been developed, which needs to be finalized in near future. The USGS has an open RFP for surface and ground water that could potentially provide fund to the proposed framework, which needs to be formulated in science questions. This may be a long shot, but it may worth the effort. If not funded, we can try this again next year.
 - It was asked how this work is related to the national water model, and it was explained that this will include the use of the national water model. Debbie and Sandy will talk about how the USGS RFP and NOAA's funding effort can be intertwined.
- ***Decadal Great Lakes research program***
 - There is no further change of the work plan since the version being distributed in October meeting.
 - Because IJC resources may be redirected to resetting priorities related to the future TAP report for the Great Lakes-related advisory boards for the coming years, this project may need to be linked with this overall priority setting related to Great Lakes science.
 - It was asked if we want to look for the possibility of getting foundation fund to work on this project; and it was suggested that since the work plan is still in the initial phase, IJC priority identification will take time, and the work plan will not

be approved until we have a quorum of commissioners, it may be a good idea to get foundation fund to get the project started.

6. Semi-annual meeting, RCC in-person meeting, next RCC call

- ***Semi-annual meeting*** - It looks like we will not have the Semi-annual meeting as we originally planned for the April 29-30 and May 1-3 due to the delayed in the confirmation of new commissioners. Presently, the Semi-annual meeting dates are undetermined.
- ***RCC in-person meeting*** – we did two Doodle Polls for finding a date in February 2019 for a RCC in-person meeting. However, the maximum available members are only 6 so we could not find a date for the meeting. It is mentioned that the Ontario provincial government will not approve its RCC members to travel for such a meeting. Hence, the next in-person meeting will be at the next Semi-annual meeting.
- ***Next RCC call*** – Li will send Doodle Poll for April 4/29, 5/1, and 5/2.

7. Other business

- ***Impact of U.S. government shutdown on RCC activities***
The majority of U.S. RCC members are federal government employees and IJC U.S. staff are also federal employees. We will avoid scheduling or cancel RCC activities during the time when the U.S. government is shutdown.



DRAFT AGENDA

Time	Topic	Lead
9:00	Roll call and update/approval of agenda	Co-chairs
9:05-9:15	Status of Commissioners & next semi-annual meeting GL Board membership open call (Attachment 1)	Staff
9:15-9:25	TAP update	Matthew/Dave
9:25-9:40	Projects update <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Connecting channelb. GL nutrient adaptive managementc. GL early warning system	Michael Debbie/Gavin Michael
9:40-9:50	Potential advancing of new work plans <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Groundwater and surface water modelingb. Science plan – linkage with future TAP	Staff
9:50-9:55	RCC in person meetings, next RCC call	Co-chairs/All
9:55-10:00	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Impact of U.S. government shutdown	Co-chairs/All
