

**Great Lakes Water Quality Board
205th Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

July 9, 2019
Teleconference

U.S. Member Participants

Dave Ullrich (Co-Chair)
Jon Allan
Sandy Bihn
Jane Elder
Frank Ettawageshik
Stephen Galarneau
Joe Tomandl III

Canadian Member Participants

Rob de Loë (Co-Chair)
Sandra Cooper
Mark Fisher
Michael Goffin
Chris Hilken
John Jackson
Ling Mark
Mark Mattson
Gayle Wood

U.S. Member Regrets

Marvourneen Dolor
Brandon Hofmeister
Chris Korleski
Kelsey Leonard

Canadian Member Regrets

Irving Leblanc
Mark Wales

Commission Staff

David Burden – Director, Great Lakes Regional Office
Matthew Child – Great Lakes Regional Office
Sally Cole-Misch – Great Lakes Regional Office
Ryan Graydon – Great Lakes Regional Office
Allison Voglesong Zejnati – Great Lakes Regional Office

Commission Liaisons

Christina Chiasson (for Paul Allen) – Canadian Section
Victor Serveiss – U.S. Section

Secretariat

Antonette Arvai – Great Lakes Regional Office

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the 205th meeting of the board. Members and other participants identified themselves on the phone. Members were informed that Karen Sands's term with the board finished in June 2019. Co-chairs also noted the appointments of the six new Commissioners– on the Canadian side Pierre Béland (Chair), Merrel-Ann Phare and Henry Lickers; on the U.S. side Jane Corwin (Chair), Robert Sisson and Lance Yohe. A letter of congratulations was sent from the WQB Co-Chairs to the new Commissioners shortly after their appointments in mid-May.

2. Reflections from IJC Priority-Setting Workshop (R. de Loë)

Efforts have been undertaken by staff to explore how the Commission and its boards could advance issues of importance on the health of the Great Lakes, particularly in the context of identifying priorities and work planning. To help advance this, a workshop was held in early June 2019 to work toward a more coordinated and strategic approach to work planning and its fit within Triennial Assessment of Progress planning.

The workshop included co-chairs and members from the three Great Lakes advisory Boards. A range of issues were identified for longer-term priority themes, to be provided to the Commission for consideration and action. The outcomes of the workshop will be shared with the Commission in the coming months to inform their discussions on a direction for longer-term work on Great Lakes issues and how the boards may best support that.

3. Enhancing the Effectiveness of WQB Operations (D. Ullrich)

The WQB Co-Chairs will change as of January 1, 2020 and now is an ideal time to discuss the strengths and opportunities to improve the effectiveness of WQB operations and to pass this feedback on to the incoming co-chairs. A survey was sent to members in May to identify opportunities for improvement and inform the meeting's discussions. Some of the key points that emerged from the survey responses included, enhancing communications of board reports/products; restructuring the board on a project basis rather than standing work groups; narrow focus to a few issues; ensure work is value added; and enhance cross-board collaboration. It was also noted by co-chairs that some of the identified items may be appropriate for implementation in the near future and others more appropriate for the consideration of in-coming co-chairs. A summary of the board's discussion will be circulated to members for further comment.

ACTION ITEM: The Board Secretary will circulate a document summarizing the board's discussion on enhancing the effectiveness of WQB operations for members' comment.

ACTION ITEM: The feedback received from board members will be consolidated and provided to the incoming WQB Co-Chairs for their consideration.

4. Work Group Activity Updates (R. de Loë)

Work group co-leads provided a report-out of their activities since the last WQB meeting on May 9, 2019.

Legacy Issues (G. Wood)

Members were provided with updates on the work group's manure management and nuclear decommissioning projects. The work group is finalizing the manure management report in response to board member comments received in May. The final report is expected to be submitted for final board approval in mid-July.

In early April an informational, background document on the state of nuclear power plant decommissioning in the basin was submitted to the WQB for review. The report is currently being revised in response to board member comments. The final report is expected to be submitted for final board approval in mid-July. A draft consultant report, which will outline actions the governments could take to ensure that nuclear power plant decommissioning minimizes risks to the environmental and human health of the Great Lakes, is to be submitted to the work group in mid-July.

Engagement (F. Ettawageshik on behalf of co-leads K. Leonard and M. Mattson)

Members of the work group will be presenting at the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) Conference on July 18-19 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Members have also been assisting the IJC Communications

Team in organizing a session with the United Tribes of Michigan and Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority to provide their input to the Commission on the health and vitality of the Great Lakes.

Emerging Issues (J. Elder)

Members were provided updates on the work group's climate change adaptation and wetlands projects. The work group has submitted for each project a document for board review and comment. One document includes a summary of the work group's work and advice on climate change adaptation and resiliency to be submitted to the Commission. The second document is a proposed letter from the WQB to the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly, seeking their input on a series of questions identified by the work group based on their wetlands work. This input would help further inform the advice of the board to the Commission on coastal wetlands protection.

ACTION ITEM: Members are to provide their written comments on the two documents to the Board Secretary by end-of-day July 19th, 2019.

ACTION ITEM: The work group will revise the documents in response to board member comments received and submit the revised documents for final board approval.

5. Great Lakes Issues (D. Ullrich)

Members were provided an opportunity to bring Great Lakes issues to the attention of the board. Issues discussed included, increased frequency of high (and low) Great Lakes water levels, the link to climate change and implications for water quality; presence of cyanobacteria in source and tap water of Adrian, MI; and a recent visit by the Great Lakes Guardians to Georgian Bay as part of an awareness campaign related to the impacts of climate change on ecosystems.

The co-chairs noted a recent request from the IJC's Science Advisory Board Research Coordination Committee (SAB-RCC) to review their draft report on nutrient adaptive management. A board member was identified to provide a review and comment on the report.

ACTION ITEM: The member's comments on the SAB-RCC report are to be sent to the Board Secretary, who will forward to relevant staff.

6. Next WQB Meetings (D. Ullrich)

The board's next meeting will occur in Ottawa, Ontario in conjunction with the IJC Semi-Annual Meeting being held the week of October 21-25, 2019. The board meeting will likely take place on Wednesday October 23rd with the board's appearance before the Commission on Thursday October 24th; however these dates are still to be confirmed. The co-chairs requested that, if possible, members attend the board appearance.

7. Public Comments & Adjourn (Co-Chairs)

No members of the public were present on the call. The Co-Chairs thanked members and others for their participation and adjourned the meeting.