



**Attendees:**

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

Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Rob Phillip, Victor Service

**Call Summary:**

1. Roll call and approval of draft agenda
  - No change to the draft agenda.
2. Projects update
  - Connecting channel
    - Contractor has provided an incomplete draft report to the workgroup for input.
    - Michael Twiss served as a chair for the Ontario CSMI data synthesis and sharing workshop, and mentioned that no one is in charge of Lake Ontario connecting channel priority.
    - Michael Twiss mentioned that he will make comment on the Lake Ontario LAMP to indicate connecting channel is still missing in the report. There may not be any information on connecting channel, but that needs to be mentioned.
    - The Blue Accounting announced a wetland database.
    - Workgroup will have the next call in September.
  - Great Lakes nutrient adaptive management
    - The final draft workgroup report has been sent to the other Great Lakes Boards for curtesy review with a deadline of July 22.
    - As a result of this project, NOAA will have a GLRI Annex 4 proposal to work on the improvement of Lake Erie nutrient modeling.
    - The contractor has published two articles, which will be forwarded to the RCC.
    - Once the other boards' comments have been incorporated, the report will be copy edited by IJC communication team and sent to the RCC for approval before it is submitted to commissioners for approval.
  - Great Lakes early warning system
    - The contractor's report has been received months ago, but the workgroup feels it does not meet all the needs. The workgroup is working on writing a workgroup

report. The workgroup has developed an outline, and the report has been partially written.

- The workgroup organized session at the IAGLR in June with five presentations on the topic of building early warning systems.

### 3. Advancing of new work plans

- Groundwater and surface water modeling
  - The work plan is finalized and ready to be submitted for approval.
  - The work plan includes the development of management framework and hydrological models;
  - A team of sub-workgroup members submitted a proposal to the USGS. Although it was not funded, it was rated high, and could be resubmitted next year.
  - It was mentioned that a group of Canadian scientists are continuing the work to develop a groundwater model for the Southern Ontario.
  - Due to budget limitation, this work plan will not be presented to the Commissioners for approval next week. Although the project is identified as a high priority, it will be considered after the Great Lakes science plan project.
- Great Lakes science plan and its linkage with the USGS Science Forum
  - The workgroup has provided input to the USGS Integrated Great Lakes Science Forum.
  - It was asked that how this USGS effort feeds into the GLWQA. It was mentioned that although this is a U.S. only effort, the IJC and the other Great Lakes commissions have proposed to incorporate language in the USGS report to identify the need of binational efforts.
  - It was decided that the work plan will combine the part of surveying expenditures on research and monitoring of the Great Lakes with the other parts of the project, including conducting two workshops and the development of Science Plan.
  - The work plan will be presented to the Commissioners' meeting next week for approval.
  - It was mentioned that the budget for this project may not be sufficient to cover all the needs. Seeking external funds could be an option.
  - It was mentioned that if the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health has included content related to Great Lakes science plan. Kathy will check it out and let the RCC know.

### 4. GL Advisory Board priority setting

- Workshop in June 3-4 and next step.
  - Had a very productive workshop in identifying priorities. It was well attended, especially from SAB-RCC.
  - Five priority areas identified by the workshop:
    - Fulfill responsibility to provide advice on longer term emerging issues by identifying drivers and stressors/threats that may affect the Great Lakes in the future.

- Prepare an Integrated Science Plan for the Great Lakes to comprehensively assess the most pressing research and monitoring priorities and ensure they are addressed in a coordinated fashion.
- Advance our understanding of Great Lakes water quality as a determinant of human health, with particular emphasis on traditional knowledge.
- Explore how private sector resources and equity can be applied to achieve Great Lakes protection and restoration.
- Overcome the communications and engagement challenges associated with the complexity of Great Lakes' science and systems.
- Have received contractor's report and reported to the Commissioners on the progress.
- For IJC's priorities, the reported theme priorities will be considered together with the inputs from public meetings for identifying IJC's priorities.

#### 5. Other business

- The next Semi-annual meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Oct 21-25 in Ottawa. RCC and SPC meetings usually occur during Wednesday and Thursday (23 and 24).
- Next call – Sep 9-10 for a doodle poll.
- IJC had a wonderful session at IAGLR; thanks to the IAGLR arrangement.