



Meeting Notes

Attendees:

RCC Members: Debbie Lee, Gavin Christie, Val Klump, Michael Twiss, Yves Michaud, Chris Winslow, Tom Speth, Sandy Eberts, Kathy McKague,

IJC Staff: Lizhu Wang, Victor Serveiss, Rob Phillips, Mathew Child, Mark Burrous, Dave Burden

1. Roll call and approval of draft agenda

- Agenda is approved as presented.
- December RCC meeting records is approved without further change.

2. Projects update

a. Connecting Channel.

- The workgroup has received the draft contractor's report that has incorporated some comments from RCC members.
- Some comments from a RCC member were not fully incorporated. A request has been made to ask the contractor to incorporate all the comments, and the contractor has agreed to do so.
- The draft version of the report was sent to the indigenous contacts who are relevant to the connecting channel.
- The IJC Commissioners have been suggesting that the board report recommendations need to be SMART. To meet this requirement, staff suggested producing a cover letter outline for workgroup's review to address this requirement. Staff is in the process of developing a guidance on how to include SMART in the board reports. Hence, the suggestion of developing a cover letter for this report is only a tentative suggestion.
- It was suggested that more discussion is needed regarding the details of the cover letter if we use a cover letter to address such a need.

b. GL Early Warning System.

- Workgroup has received the contractor's final report. The workgroup decided to develop a short workgroup report based on the contractor's report.
- The Core-workgroup has completed the first draft of the workgroup report and it has been sent to the large workgroup for review and input.
- It is discussed that this report also needs to incorporate the SMART requirement from the Commissioners. It will be discussed further regarding how to address this requirement.

c. Great Lakes Science Plan and USGS Science Plan.

- The project has established a Core-Workgroup (10 members) and a large advisory workgroup (near 30 and is in the process of finalizing).
- The Core-Workgroup had its first call on Jan 8, and will have calls on Feb 12 and Feb 26).
- Progress has been made by the contractor in synthesizing the current science expenditure on Great Lakes.
- Workshops are tentatively schedule for this year.
 - 1st workshop – the week of Aug 3rd 2020
 - 2nd workshop – Week of Nov 2nd and 16th 2020
- The USGS science plan report has been submitted to the USGS Budget, Planning and Integration Office on January 29. Several workgroup members have provided input to the report.

3. Work plans status

a. Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling

- Great Lakes basinwide model integration framework for groundwater and surface water management work plan is ready to be submitted (2nd phase of the project).
- The workgroup leads are planning to have a presentation to the Commissioners regarding the work done for the 1st phase and the plan for the 2nd phase. No date is set up for the presentation yet.
- This effort will collaborate with all other USGS/NOAA national modeling efforts and the local modeling efforts on both Canada and the US. Several 3-D models have been developed for specific areas independently. Now, it is the time to work on this at a binational scale with a big picture vision.
- The workgroup, collaborating with others, also submitted a complementary proposal to the USGS Power House, which will amplify the impacts of the RCC's effort.

b. Inventory of Agriculture BMP Research and Researchers

- This is a work plan that needs only small amount of budget on the list. It may need more discussion regarding its priority relative the other work plans.

c. Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System

- This work plan is built on the 1st phase of the Great Lakes Early Warning Systems project. The 1st phase proposed an organizational structure of the system and this phase will address the analytical aspects of the system.
- This work plan will address three scenarios – known stressors, suspected stressors, and unknown stressors in case studies.
- This is a 2-year project. The deadline for RCC members to provide input on the work plan is Feb 21.

4. Work plan prioritization process

- a. Commissioners priorities
 - GLRO Director provided a summary and background of the commissioners priorities.
 - These are aspirational priorities with focus on transboundary waters; climate change and adaptive management are among the high priorities; a lot of them are inter-connected.
 - The Commission looked at the past reports, which have made many recommendations. Some of them are not realistic, not specific, and are difficult for the Governments to implement.
 - Commissioners would like the report recommendations to be SMART:
 - **SPECIFIC** – Clearly define expected result
 - **MEASURABLE** - Quantify objective to know when achieved
 - **ACHIEVABLE** - Realistic ways of achieving objective
 - **REALISTIC** - Consider constraints (environment, resource, mandate)
 - **TIME-BOUND** - Specify target date for achieving objective

Staff will be provided with clearer guidance for addressing this requirement.
- b. Co-chairs' call on prioritizing board work plans.
 - The Great Lakes board co-chairs have been discussing how to prioritize the boards' work plans. The consideration includes to link with GLWQA/Annex, link with Commissioners priorities, cross board collaboration, and fill critical gap.

5. Plans to advance/disadvantage new priorities

- a) Phase 2 of Nutrient Adaptive Management
 - Will be developed for the future round of work plans;
 - Need someone to put key bullet together;
- b) Making the Most of Citizen Science
 - It is not critical for this priority to fit the C6 priorities;
 - Since we do not have fund for this, we may consider use in-house resources, i.e., staff time.
 - Christ will produce a 3-pager in late March to be available for the discussion during the in-person meeting in April.
 - GLEWS may benefit from Citizen Science;
 - One of the liaisons expressed supports of this since it includes Indigenous and Citizen priority;
- c) Engaging Private Sectors to Expend Science Capability
 - This priority will be tabled since more thoughts are needed.
 - The three commissions (GLC, GLFC, and IJC) have been working with the UM Water Center conducting a Social Economics assessment project with private fund.
- d) Use of Social Science to Tackle Water Issues
 - Table this priority for more thoughts.

6. Decision on GL Research Inventory website tool

- a. Decision on the proposal to:
 - a) Download the database files and shut the website down.
 - b) Provide the GLFC with a table of their projects so that they are not lost, since GLFC is our most significant “customer”.
 - c) Post a static web page indicating that RI.ijc.org is currently unavailable while a new approach of gathering and assessing information about Great Lakes research is developed. This will keep the RI.ijc.org link alive in case we want to use it again. On the static webpage, we could include a list of other sites where such information is available – i.e. GLRI, USGS, EPA, NRCAN, ECCC etc.
 - d) Take on the task on how we can carry out an advance science plan.

Background:

- a. Website tool was launched more than 10 years ago and has been upgraded with the same operating system as the new IJC website. However, additional improvements are needed to have the capability of searching information from other websites and to ensure the site is maintained and updated in compliance with the latest operating system version and IT security patch.
- b. Due to limited use of the website tool, inability of inventory research from other websites, and resource needs for maintenance and update, RCC needs to reevaluate the cost vs benefit of continuing to maintain this website tool.
- c. Last RCC call discussed this issue but did not make final decision due to time limitation.

RCC approved the proposed actions.

7. Other business

- a. RCC/SAB in-person meeting in Washington DC.
Details of the schedule for the RCC activities are in the distributed table.
Hotel registration deadline is March 21, 2020.
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Conference Call

DRAFT AGENDA

Time	Topic	Lead
10:30-10:35	Roll call and approval of draft agenda Approve Dec. RCC meeting records (<i>Attachment 1</i>)	Co-chairs All
10:35-10:55	Projects update a. Connecting channel. b. GL early warning system. c. Great Lakes Science Plan and USGS Science Plan.	Michael Michael Val/Debbie
10:55-11:15	Work plans status a. Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling b. Inventory of Ag BMP Research and Researchers c. Operationalizing GL Early Warning System (<i>Attachment 2</i>)	Sandy/Yves Ian Michael
11:15-11:30	Work plan prioritization process a. Commissioners priorities (<i>Attachment 3</i>) b. Co-chairs call (<i>Attachment 4</i> – New GL boards work plans)	Co-chairs/All Co-chairs
11:30-11:45	Plans to advance/dis-advance new priorities a. Phase 2 of Nutrient Adaptive Management b. Making the Most of Citizen Science c. Engaging Private Sectors to Expend Science Capability d. Use of Social Science to Tackle Water Issues	Co-chairs/All
11:45-11:55	Decision on GL Research Inventory website tool • Decision on the proposal to: a) Download the database files and shut the website down. b) Provide the GLFC with a table of their projects so that they are not lost, since GLFC is our most significant “customer”. c) Post a static web page indicating that RI.ijc.org is currently unavailable while a new approach of gathering and assessing information about Great Lakes research is developed. This will keep the RI.ijc.org link alive in case we want to use it again. On the static webpage, we could include a list of other sites where such information is available – i.e. GLRI, USGS, EPA, NRCAN, ECCC etc.	Co-chairs/All

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11:55-12:00 Other business

Co-chairs/All

- RCC/SAB in-person meeting in Washington DC (*Attachment 5*)

12:00

Adjourn
