



## CALL SUMMARY

### Attendees:

**RCC:** Gavin Christie, Debbie Lee, Chris Winslow, Erich Emery, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Réjean Couture, Sandra Eberts, Val Klump.

**Regrets:** Dale Hoff, Ian Campbell, Kathy McKague, Marty Blake

**Staff:** Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Rob Philips, Victor Serveiss

### 1. Introduce and welcome new RCC member

Dr. Réjean Couture – From NRCAN, a Subdivision Head & Program Manager for the Groundwater and Mineral Head & Groundwater Geoscience Program. Has more than 20-years experience for government of Canada with progressively increasing responsibility and authority. Is a well-trained and respected scientist with extensive expertise and research experience in the field of groundwater, climate change, and engineering geology of landslides, as well as science-policy development.

### 2. Approval of draft agenda

Agenda was approved as presented.

### 3. Connecting channel update and discussion

- Contractor report has been finalized.
- The workgroup is working on a summary workgroup report to address the need of SMART recommendations.
- Workgroup also plans to write an article for publication to promote this work since connecting channels do not get the attention that the other parts of the lakes get.
- RCC members' participation in contributing to the article is encouraged. Ram Yerubandi would like to contribute.
- It was mentioned that there is a new version of the guidance of SMART recommendation document. The new version will be shared with the RCC after the call.

**Action Item: Send the updated version of the SMART recommendation guidance document to RCC (done)**

### 4. GL Early Warning System project update

- The project is needed because in some cases regulatory agencies are unable to anticipate accurately some emerging threats and in other cases problems are anticipated, but because of competing priorities or limited resources, agencies determine that the risk does not warrant preventive action, with catastrophic results.
- The first phase project report has approved by the Commissioners. Now, the workgroup is working on the second phase.
- Presentation on phase-1 will be given to the commissioners in July. RCC board members are encouraged to participate.

**Action Item: will send an invitation to RCC when the presentation date/time is identified**

## 5. Great Lakes Science Plan update

- Due to the COVID-19, most of the project activities are done by online conferencing, and the in-person workshops are postponed to undetermined dates.
- The current activities focus on:
  - ✓ 3-round online survey for identifying and raking priority questions.
  - ✓ Identifying topic areas and establishing workgroup leads and members to work on the high priority topic areas identified by the survey.
  - ✓ Organizing a virtual workshop to work on each of the topic areas.
- Had a discussion around whether to include human health as one of the independent topic areas. It felt that the project needs to focus on ecosystem science because it needs to understand physical/chemical/biological science first before we can understand its impact on human health.
- It was mentioned that it also needs to understand who and how the ecosystem science serves in the region. We need to bring people's voice to the table.
- It was suggested that we figure out a way on how to integrate all other science under the umbrella of ecosystem science. It seems that a hierarchical structure can be developed in order illustrate such integration, which could be 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> step of the project.
- It was reminded that we need to focus on the scope of the work plan since we have specific timeline and limited budget for this project.

## 6. New projects (approved in May)

### a. Groundwater and Surface Water Conceptual Modeling

- Establish workgroup
  - Sand Eberts and Rejean Couture Co-leads.
  - Ram Yerubandi from RCC volunteered.
  - Members nominated Drew Gronewold and Howard Reeves to serve on the workgroup
  - Will send an invitation to the other Great Lakes Boards to invite participation.
- Decide on how to get Annex 8 involved
  - Sandy will contact Annex 8 co-chairs to ask how they would like to get involved.
- Establish a list of potential vendors of contract
  - RCC members reviewed the list and identified the highly qualified potential vendors.

**Action Item – Contact Annex 8 to invite participation (done).**

**b. Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System**

- Establish workgroup
  - Lucinda and Michael are the co-leads.
  - Rebecca Rooney and Gavin Christie volunteered.
  - Will send an invitation to the other Great Lakes Boards to invite participation.
- Decide how to get users involved
  - Did not get time to discuss this item.
- Establish a list of potential vendors of contract
  - RCC members will review the list and identify potential vendors for contract.

**Action Item – Members send 3-5 potential vendors for contract with a ranking.**

**7. Project development for the next funding cycle - Select 1 or 2 project ideas to move forward**

Due to time limitation, this item was not discussed in detail. The following lead for each potential project was identified. The leads develop some details on each plan and will discuss them among the leads in July.

- Ian Campbell - Inventory of Agricultural BMP Research and Researchers.
- Debbie Lee/Gavin Christie - Phase 2 of Nutrient Adaptive Management.
- Chris Winslow - Making the Most of Citizen Science.
- Debbie Lee/Gavin Christie - Engaging Private Sectors to Expend Science Capability.
- No lead - Use of Social Science to Tackle Water Issues

It felt that RCC does not have enough expertise for this topic. It is a very broad field and we may want to narrow it down before further consideration. It is suggested to discuss this topic after the IJC's social economic scientist is onboard.

**Action Item – Hold a call among leads for the potential work plan topics during late July.**

**8. Other business**

- a. Membership – indigenous science agencies/organizations
  - Several potential organizations were mentioned.
  - It was also suggested to consult with Commissioner Henry Licker.
- b. Next call
  - Week of August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Adjourn**

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>
9:00-9:05	Roll call Introduce and welcome new RCC member Approval of draft agenda	Co-chairs
9:05-9:15	Connecting channel update and discussion	Michael
9:15-9:20	GL early warning system project update	Michael
9:20-9:45	Great Lakes science plan ( <i>Attachment 1</i> )	Val/Co-chairs
9:45-10:05	<u>New projects</u> (approved in May) a. Groundwater and Surface Water Modeling <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish workgroup</li><li>• Decide on how to get Annex 8 involved</li><li>• Establish a list of potential vendors of contract</li></ul>	Sandy/Réjean
	b. Operationalizing GL Early Warning System <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish workgroup</li><li>• Decide how to get users involved</li><li>• Establish a list of potential vendors of contract</li><li>•</li></ul>	Michael
10:05-10:25	Project development for the next funding cycle- ( <i>Select 1 or 2 project ideas to move forward</i> ) a. Inventory of Agricultural BMP Research and Researchers b. Phase 2 of Nutrient Adaptive Management c. Making the Most of Citizen Science d. Engaging Private Sectors to Expend Science Capability e. Use of Social Science to Tackle Water Issues	Co-chairs/All
10:25-10:30	Other business a. Membership – indigenous science agencies/organizations	Co-chairs/All
10:30		Adjourn