



CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

RCC: Gavin Christie, Debbie Lee, Chris Winslow, Dale Hoff, Erich Emery, Kathy McKague, Marty Blake, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Réjean Couture, Sandra Eberts, Val Klump.

Regret: Ian Campbell,

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

1. Approval of draft agenda

- Agenda was approved as presented.
- This is the last meeting for Debbie Lee as the RCC U.S. Co-chair since she will be stepping down for the Co-chairs' role and serve as a RCC member starting October 1, 2020.
- The RCC Canadian Co-chair and RCC members expressed deep appreciation about the significant contributions that Debbie has made.

2. GL Connecting Channel workgroup report

- The workgroup leads have generated a summary report based on the contractor's report, which focuses on the interaction roles of connecting waters considering water resources, ecosystem, societal, economic, hydropower, and indigenous lands.
- During the past, such interconnection roles have been largely ignored.
- The workgroup summary report focuses on three recommendations – two of them are related to water body and political boundary designations and the third one is related to monitoring and management actions need to be taken.
- **Discussion:**
 - It was mentioned that the first two recommendations are not mentioned in the contractor report and some specific recommendations from the contractor report are not incorporated in the third recommendation.
 - It was decided a subgroup of the RCC will convene a call to discuss and address this issue.
 - This subgroup includes Sandy Eberts, Michael Twiss, Rebecca Rooney, Dale Hoff, Ram Yerubandi, Victor Serveiss, and Lizhu Wang.

3. GL Science Plan update

- The GL Science Plan project has made substantial progress:

- The research expenditure survey is near completion.
- The Steering Committee had several meetings to decide the early phase activities.
- The early phase activities include a 3-round online survey, followed by a virtual workshop.
- The round-1 survey has been sent out with a closing date of next Monday (September 14). This survey was sent to the list created by the workgroup (271 topic area experts), IAGLR members, GLIN members, HOW members, and GLFC distribution list. This survey is not only for identifying research priorities but also for increasing the public awareness and support.
- A project workgroup Co-chairs and contractor/staff meeting will be carried out next Thursday (September 17) to review the results of the round-1 survey and plan for the round-2 survey.
- **Discussion:**
 - Members are interested in receiving the preliminary or more updated research expenditure survey report.
 - It was mentioned that the survey participants may need more hydrologists' participation.
 - It was also mentioned that it would be nice if the contractor can separate amount of grant fund from the other funds.
- **Action Item:**
 - Staff send the preliminary expenditure report to RCC (done).

4. GL Hydrological Conceptual Model

- The current workgroup members are Sandy Eberts (Co-lead), Réjean Couture (Co-lead), Ram Yerubandi (RCC), Drew Gronewold (SPC), Howard Reeves (Annex 8 Co-chair), Helen Zhang (OMECP), and Jon Allan (WQB).
- It was suggested to add Dr. Lauren Fry from NOAA to the workgroup.
- **Discussion:**
 - The RCC would like to see this list of workgroup members.
 - Sandy and Ram will chat on USGS funded parallel project for collaboration, after RCC call.
- **Action Item:**
 - Staff add Lauren Fry to the workgroup and send the workgroup member list to RCC (done).

5. Operationalizing GL Early Warning System

- The contract process has been completed with a contract signed with LimnoTech and AEMCO.
- It was mentioned that a presentation was given by the workgroup Co-chairs through a webinar organized by the USEPA lab at Duluth with over 100 participants.
- An external workgroup has been established with variety expertise. Rebeca Looney and Ram Yerubandi would like to join the workgroup.

- The project will be carried out through a process of literature review, three case studies, and a workshop. This is a two-year duration joint project with SPC.

6. Project development for the next funding cycle

- ***Phase-2 of Nutrient Adaptive Management***

- This is a policy review project focusing on the first three recommendations of the phase-1 report. The three recommendations are to:
 - (1) Define Lake Erie’s eutrophication problem aligning with Great Lakes nutrient adaptive management (GLNAM) Framework with integrated watershed and lake modeling approach as a long-term, sustainable institutional arrangement to provide the rationale for institutionalizing the Framework based on collaboration across government agencies and jurisdictional lines. (2) Use the GLNAM Framework to inform coordinated planning and implementation of Lake Erie’s watershed/lake modeling and nutrient reduction management, including identifying key players currently participating in implementing GLNAM Framework, identifying gaps and unmet needs that must be addressed to further advance the GLNAM Framework, and providing status reports on progress achieved. (3) Establish and integrate monitoring programs as part of the GLNAM Framework on a long-term continuous basis and evaluate results to learn and adjust research, modeling, and management decisions.
 - This project will:
 - (1) Assess the progress Annex 4 has made in establishing a Great Lakes nutrient adaptive management framework.
 - (2) Evaluate to what extent the DAPs have achieved coordinated planning and implementation of a nutrient adaptive management framework.
 - (3) Identify integrated monitoring programs.

Discussion: it was mentioned that the SPC’s Great Lakes Nutrient Synthesis project will also evaluate DAPs. Hence, these two projects may want to have a discussion to avoid overlapping and ensure complementary. RCC project lead will look at the SPC project work plan to make modification to the RCC work plan if needed.

- ***Making the Most of Citizen Science***

- Project lead has developed an early draft work plan.
- The project will:
 - (1) Identify existing citizen science resources available to evaluate current and emerging water quality issues.
 - (2) Compile state and federal agency guidelines on “credible data”.
 - (3) Assess if existing citizen programs and resources meet desired academic and agency data rigor.
 - (4) Identify training components of existing citizen programs and resources that could provide adequate information.

- (5) Compile best practices across existing materials.
- (6) Identify and create professional development services and make them available to citizen science practitioners.

Discussion: A couple of RCC members really liked the work plan idea. It was mentioned that the WQB survey and report may be helpful for the development of the work plan.

- 7. Board Co-chair Discussion with Commissioners on GL monitoring
 - This agenda item is deferred to be discussed during RCC virtual meeting in October due to time limitation.
 - 8. Develop agenda items for virtual RCC and SAB meetings
 - Will be discussed by the Co-chairs and communicated with all members through emails due to time limitation.
 - 9. Other Business
 - None
 - 10. Adjourn
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