



CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

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

Regret: Debbie Lee

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

1. Roll call, approval of draft agenda, acknowledge of Feb 9, 2021 meeting record
 - Not change to Feb 9, 2021 meeting record.
 - Agenda accepted as presented.

2. Shared priorities of boards
 - Board mission compliance
 - It was commented that all RCC reports fit well with the needs of IJC and meet the mandates of RCC. RCC should be able to demonstrate how its projects are linked to its mandates.
 - Roles of RCC are different from SPC. RCC members are research managers and most of them are at the executive level who guide research and bring agencies perspective to the table. They know the up-to-date science, what research has been done, and what additional reaches are needed.
 - In contrast, SPC members are largely academia scientists with specialized expertise in particular science areas.
 - The RCC and SPC have been working together closely since the last 5-6 years. They have worked on some projects jointly and on other projects by joining workgroups.
 - RCC members also have restrictions by their agency mandates. Although RCC members are supposed to work at professional and personal capacity, at times they cannot separate them completely, so they have to excuse themselves at times. This is the challenge of RCC is facing. In contrast, SPC members do not have such restrictions.

 - TAP 2023 board involvement
 - The effort was initiated by the WQB Co-chairs and Commissioners in the development of a TAP Term of Reference. The purpose is to establish a workgroup and to provide guidance for the workgroup that will develop an assessment timeline, method, and collaboration process (the assessment

framework) that addresses the requirements outlined under Article 7(k) and that will assist the Commission in meeting the commitments outlined in its 2020 TAP recommendation. This assessment framework will be used initially to assist the Commission in producing its 2023 TAP report, which may only focus on selected issues and will ultimately be used as the basis for future TAP reports

- The Great Lakes boards Co-chairs had a call last week and agreed to serve on the workgroup. Presently, the document is only a draft. Great Lakes boards Co-chairs will get back to board members about further development of the TAP framework.
- The RCC has recognized that the recent SMART recommendation effort is an effective way to make more impacts. The RCC agency members have the opportunity to promote board report recommendations.
- Annex 10 has been working on the 2022 SOGL report. We may consider inviting Annex 10 Ecosystem Indicator and Reporting Task Team to give a presentation to RCC.

- RCC Indigenous members

- The RCC agrees that an Indigenous member may be added to the Committee.
- The RCC liaison has connected Commissioner Lickers and he has suggested a person from the Sault St. Marie area to be potentially nominated to the RCC.
- The SAB directive suggests RCC to have 14 members. It is also a requirement that the number of members from Canada and U.S. needs to be balanced. We may ask Commissioners if we can add one more Indigenous member in the next opportunity.
- Trent University has a longstanding College of Indigenous studies called Peter Gzowski College at Trent University. We may want to contact its director about people who might be appropriate for a representation of Indigenous RCC member.

3. Ongoing project progress

- GL Connecting Waters

- The report of the project is in its final stage.
- It has been sent to WQB and SPC for red-flag review.
- We have received comments from WQB and liaisons.

- GL Science Plan

- The project has completed two rounds of online surveys and held a workshop by disciplines last week.
- The second workshop by lakes will be held tomorrow and on Friday.
- Over 102 scientists and Great Lakes practitioners participated in the first workshop. The participants were highly motivated, and the discussion was excellent. Each session yielded rich contributions to the development of research priorities, identification of resource needs, and other elements essential to the development of the IJC's Decadal Great Lakes Science Plan.
- The workshop was well planned and organized, and having notes takers in breakout sessions is big help.

- Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
 - The project started only several months. The workgroup has had 3 calls.
 - The work so far largely focused on identifying a list of known, suspected, and unknown stressors.
 - The next step will be identifying one stressor from each of the known, suspected, and unknown stressors to develop case study scenarios.
- GL Hydrological Conceptual Model
 - The workgroup leads will present the work to the WQB meeting tomorrow.
 - The project will help understand groundwater, build framework to support future numerical models, develop conceptual frame that incorporate stakeholder input, and identify resource needs.
 - The results from the first-round stakeholder survey have been summarized. Due to the smaller number of participations, the survey was resent to the list of about 120 people.
 - The workgroup and contractor are in the process of identifying elements and structure of the conceptual model.

4. Approved new work plans

- Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
 - The workplan has been approved by Commissioners.
 - The project assesses the progress Annex 4 has made in establishing the Lake Erie Adaptive Management Framework regarding its long-term, sustainable institutional arrangements that fosters collaboration across government agencies and jurisdictional lines, sustainable funding to support the work, and if it can achieve a comprehensive nutrient adaptive management.
 - It will evaluate to what extent the Framework has achieved coordinated planning and implementation of a nutrient Adaptive Management Framework.
 - IJC staff are working with the workgroup Co-chairs to prepare a scope of work for the project suitable for contract procurement and to establish a project workgroup.
- Making the Most of Community Science
 - The work plan has been updated and has been approved by the Commissioners.
 - The primary project goal is to provide a review of existing materials, resources, opportunities, and potential roadblocks to conducting community science. It will provide a framework for the future development of a user-friendly community science handbook. The handbook, possibly developed in a future project, would summarize best practices and provide a roadmap to develop and deploy a robust and reliable community monitoring network.
 - IJC staff are working with the workgroup Co-chairs to prepare a scope of work for the project suitable for contract procurement and to establish a project workgroup.

5. New project ideas for the next funding cycle

- GL Winter Limnology
 - The GLWQA never mentions winter sampling. However, winter algal bloom creates summer hypoxia, and we know very little about it. Winter is an overlooked season across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River, yet we often base our management decisions on models derived from ice-free observations. Winter is the season that is altered the most by climate change across the basin.
 - Two workgroup leads (one from RCC and one from SPC) proposed to have a joint RCC and SPC project to inform the Parties about a topic that urgently needs to be addressed. This project will have strong links with SAB's GL Early Warning System and Science Plan projects.
 - It was mentioned that although the project will focus on the lakes themselves, the influences of watersheds and tributaries may also be important (change in flow, temperature, land use).
 - RCC agency members asked the question that how the project recommendations will look like and such recommendations could be challenged by management and monitoring agencies. Safety, equipment, and resource investment are the limitations.
 - It was also discussed regarding how winter limnology project recommendations will be relevant to the IJC's responsibility (why it comes from IJC). It was mentioned that the SAB's mandate implies it has the responsibilities of identifying programs that need coordination, so the project can make the science happens by identifying the need for binational corporation/coordination.
 - Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks has tried to implement a winter monitoring program. There are many constrains in the effort and it has financial and safety impacts.
 - RCC agency members feel that they have a conflict of interest and wonder if RCC is the right place to carry out this effort.
 - It is generally agreed that the need is urgent, and it needs to be incorporated into the Science Plan as one of the important priority science areas.
- Other priority ideas
 - RCC generally feels that the current projects have the Committee fully occupied and may not have capacity to take more projects.
 - In near future, there may be a need to harmonize watershed data for the GW/SW modeling.
 - It may need a phase 2 project for the Community Science in future.

6. Board appearance

- Key challenges, issues associated with meeting core and complementary responsibilities.
 - IJC has institution structure to have a dialog with the Parties and public.
 - Several key challenges and issues for the RCC to meet its core and complementary responsibilities are identified:

- RCC government/agency membership
- Implementation of board project recommendations
- Priority budget challenge
- Funding mechanism challenge
- CSMI and support vessel coordination
- There was a discussion regarding how to transfer board report to the Parties and public. There will be a communication plan to be submitted along with each board report when the report is submitted to the Commissioners for approval. Workgroup may want to participate in the development of such a Communication plan.

7. Other business

- Future Commissioner engagement
 - i. SAB would like to engage the Commissioners at the level of their availability and interest.
- Ian Campbell -would like to continue his role with RCC in his new job. He wants to wait and see what will work out.
- Next call – Week of June 14.

8. Adjourn



DRAFT AGENDA

Time	Topic	Lead
9:00-9:05	Roll call and Approval of draft agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledge of February 9, 2021 Meeting record (<i>Attachment 1</i>)	Co-chairs
9:05-9:35	Shared priorities of boards <ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Mission compliance (<i>Attachment 2</i>)TAP 2023 board involvement (<i>Attachment 3</i>)RCC Indigenous members	Co-chairs
9:35-9:55	On going project progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">GL Connecting WatersGL Science Plan updateOperationalizing GL Early Warning SystemGL Hydrological Conceptual Model	Michael Val Michael Sandy/Réjean
9:55-10:05	Approved new work plans <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2 (<i>Attachment 4</i>)Making the Most of Community Science (<i>Attachment 5</i>)	Co-chairs Debbie/Gavin Chris/Kathy
10:05-10:35	New project ideas for the next funding cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none">GL winter monitoring (<i>Attachment 6</i>)Others	All Michael
10:35-10:45	Board appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none">Key Challenges, issues associated with meeting Core ResponsibilitiesKey Challenges associated with continuing to address complementary responsibilities	Co-chairs/All
10:45-11:00	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Future Commissioner engagementHow work plans are processed and fundedNext RCC call	Co-chairs
11:00	Adjourn	Co-chairs