



IJC Science Advisory Board Videoconference Meeting Summary

April 14, 2021 – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller (SPC & SAB Co-Chair)	Gavin Christie (RCC & SAB Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (SPC Secretary) Lizhu Wang (RCC Secretary)
Chris Winslow (RCC Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (SPC Co-Chair)	Dave Burden
Michael Murray	Jerome Marty	Mark Burrows
Mic Isham	Maggie Xenopoulos	Rob Phillips
Lucinda Johnson	John Livernois	Victor Serveiss
Michael Twiss	Nandita Basu	
Sandra Eberts	Mike McKay	
Erich Emery	Ian Campbell	Guest
Dale Hoff	Rebecca Rooney	Jen Vanator
Val Klump	Ram Yerubandi	
Mike Slimak	Kathy McKague	
	Rejean Couture	

1. Welcome and Round Table Introductions (with a special welcome to new members, acknowledge October 22, 2020 meeting record, and approval of draft agenda)
 - Provided warm welcome to the new SPC Canadian member Dr. Mike McKay, and thanked Dr. Gail Krantzberg for agreeing to serve as the Canadian Co-chair of SPC.
 - The SAB members briefly introduced themselves and acknowledged the meeting record of SAB meeting held on October 22, 2020.
 - Agenda approved as presented.
2. Shared Priorities
 - Board mission compliance
 - Commissioners ask us to report on this, by reviewing what we have been doing, and how we have met the mandate and detailed functions. Both RCC and SPC meetings of this week had discussed this item.
 - It was discussed that the Board may want to decide how to report out on this item to the Commissioners. SAB may want to use the points discussed today and present them at the Board appearance.

- The core mandate of SAB is to “provide advice on research to the Commission and to the Great Lakes Water Quality Board”. The SAB does not need to be asked to provide research advice to the Commission, which means our advice is quite unconstrained.
 - The other core mandate to “provide advice on scientific matters referred to it by the Commission, or by the Great Lakes Water Quality Board...” is rarely exercised; there have not been any recent requests from WQB or the Commission to SAB. Most of the projects have been derived through bottom-up processes.
 - Both SPC and RCC discussed this topic in their meetings this week. It was agreed that SAB has been providing research findings and identifying research needs. In examining the products produced, it seems all projects partially or entirely meet SAB mandates.
 - SAB has been considering projects around the need to support TAP reports. RCC has looked across its projects, and the project deliverables fit to the mandate and TAP fairly well. RCC raised an issue unique to RCC that some agency members have to wear different hats and excuse ourselves at some occasions regarding making recommendations to the Parties.
 - There was a general agreement that Board report promotion and dissemination should be a key focus moving forward. Activities such as presenting reports via public webinars and professional conferences should be a standard operating procedure, as part of a project Communications Plan.
- Commissioner engagement with Board
 - There was general agreement that the SAB should seek regular engagement with Commissioners. SAB would like to engage the Commissioners subject to their availability and interest.
- Coordinate Appearance messaging
 - The Board went over the Board appearance slide template.
 - SAB wants to spend more time discussing its mandates and how the Board has met them.
 - SAB may want to talk about TAP 2023 Term of Reference document. The TAP framework selection of report topics and how Board projects support that topic(s) should be part of the discussion.
 - SAB may also want to note our recent efforts to advance the SMART requirement of the Commissioners.
 - Highlight the strength of each Committee.

- It was suggested that we engage with Commissioners on what their priorities are for the Board. It feels like there could be more information flow from the Commission.
3. 2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress – Co-chairs provided an update on draft 2023 TAP Terms of Reference, including anticipated Board involvement and input on potential topics.
- The draft Terms of Reference includes two parts. One part is to develop a TAP framework, which provides a guideline that can be followed for the next several TAPs. The other part is to develop an outline of TAP 2023.
 - The Great Lakes Board Co-chairs had a call last week to discuss what the draft document proposed, and the Co-chairs were generally in agreement with the approach and agreed it should move forward. The framework is still in the early stages.
 - It would be challenging for the TAP to provide a comprehensive review of all priority areas. One option is something similar to the process used for the 2017 report, but focus on just a handful of priority recommendations in the final report based on several criteria (possibly related to perceived significance of threats, rate of change, etc.).
 - There is also a value in providing the state of knowledge on a given topic without necessarily stating recommendations. The evidence can be presented in a way that the Parties are drawn to the conclusions and appropriate next steps.
 - The central question for the TAP is what progress has been made, and whether further or different progress is needed.
 - May want to use Google Analytics to see how frequently prior TAP reports have been accessed. The Commission’s IT staff can assist with this. The results for 2017 TAP and 2020 TAP can be compared.
4. Ongoing Project Updates
- Decadal Great Lakes Science Plan (SAB project)
 - The project has completed two rounds of online surveys and held a workshop by disciplines last week.
 - The workgroup will hold the second workshop by lakes tomorrow and Friday.
 - Over 100 scientists and Great Lakes practitioners participated in the 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 workgroup leads were very grateful to those who participated in the workshop.

- The final report can be disseminated in many ways and for several outcomes, and will be discussed with the commissioners for their decision.
- Great Lakes Early Warning System - Phase 2 (SAB project)
 - The project has a large work group and its members have identified a long list of known, suspect, and unknown stressors.
 - The next step is to select three stressors from the long list for detailed case study analysis.
- Q & A on individual SPC & RCC projects
 - One Board member commented that the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes provides an opportunity for the SAB to make a contribution. For example, the SAB could advance proposed revisions to the Great Lakes Atlas and Resource Book. We know the WQB is planning something, we would like the WQB to be aware of our interest.

5. New Work Plan topics

- Winter limnology (SAB project)
 - In the GLWQA, only one season (spring/summer) is mentioned for sampling. Winter limnology relates to several Agreement Annexes and we know a little about it. Winter has been the season of the greatest changes for large lakes.
 - Winter limnology is an important topic, and more science is urgently needed. This need has been raised during discussions about the Early Warning System project, the Science Plan project, and climate change discussions.
 - TEK could also contribute to understanding of winter conditions.
 - There was a workshop by CIGLR in 2019, which proposed number of questions.
 - Surface and groundwater project stakeholder surveys address spatial/temporal scales also related to winter limnology.
 - The two Co-leads of the proposal feel this should be a joint project.
 - One Committee Co-chair commented that this proposed work may align most closely with the Science Priority Committee. It was mentioned that for any projects we were considering now, we have got to think about how they align with the Board mandates and how they can inform TAP reports.
- Round robin of ideas being considered by RCC & SPC
 - SPC proposed a 2-stage approach to the ecosystem valuation project. The first stage would conduct a scoping exercise to inform a more comprehensive second stage.
 - RCC may consider a 2nd phase of community science.

6. Recently Approved Work Plans (seek input for contractor scopes of work and workgroup membership)

- SPC - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - The project was approved in March 2021.
 - The project is currently seeking workgroup members. There have been some initial discussions with IJC staff about the timeline and how contracting can be done. IJC staff will help in contracting and one of the workgroup members has reached out to a potential contractor on the U.S. side. It is important to get a right contractor with experience on both sides of the border.
 - The workplan will include six in-person listening sessions, and a workshop.
 - A member mentioned that we may want to use the term of positivist instead of western science.

- RCC – Community Science
 - This is probably the first phase of a two-phase project.
 - The primary project goal is to provide a review of existing materials, resources, opportunities, potential roadblocks to conducting community science, and 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 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 establish the project workgroup.

- RCC – Nutrients Adaptive Management (Phase 2)
 - The project will assess the progress Annex 4 has made in establishing the Lake Erie Adaptive Management Framework with emphasis on 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 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 establish the project workgroup.

7. Other business

- Vendor selection under U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Schedule system
 - The U.S. contracting process is slow and is limited to the individuals on the GSA Schedule or other lists
 - Potential contractors have complained it is a long and difficult process to get on this list.

- The process is limiting the number of contractors who are eligible to bid on IJC Board projects. Members expressed support of bring this up to be discussed during Board appearance.
- Others
 - All SAB members are encouraged to participate in Board appearance.

8. Adjourn



IJC Science Advisory Board

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Draft Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Lead</i>
1:00-1:15	1. Welcome and Round table introductions – with a special welcome to new members Acknowledge October 22, 2020 meeting record (Attachment 1) Approval of draft agenda	SAB Co-Chairs
1:15-2:00	2. Shared priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Board Mission compliance (Attachment 2) ii. Commissioner engagement with Board iii. Coordinate Appearance messaging (Attachment 3) 	SAB Co-Chairs
2:00-2:15	3. 2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress – Co-Chairs to provide update on draft 2023 TAP Terms of Reference, including anticipated Board involvement and input on potential topics (2020 TAP report can be accessed at https://www.ijc.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/2020-TAP-Report-online.pdf)	SAB Co-Chairs
2:15-2:25	4. Ongoing Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Great Lakes Science Plan (SAB project) ii. Great Lakes Early Warning System (Phase 2) (SAB project) iii. Q&A (if any) on individual SPC & RCC projects (Attachment 4) 	Gail Krantzberg & Val Klump Lucinda Johnson & Michael Twiss
2:25-2:40	5. New Work Plan topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Winter limnology (SAB project) (Attachment 5) ii. Round robin of ideas being considered by RCC & SPC 	SAB Co-Chairs Maggie Xenopoulos & Michael Twiss

2:40-2:55	6. Recently Approved Work Plans (Attachment 6) – seek input (i) for contractor scopes of work and (ii) Work Group membership	SAB Co-Chairs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. SPC - Traditional Ecological Knowledge ii. RCC – Community Science iii. RCC – Nutrients Adaptive Management (Phase 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mic Isham & Jerome Marty Chris Winslow & Kathy McKague Debbie Lee & Gavin Christie
2:55-3:00	7. Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vendor selection under U.S. GSA Schedule system ii. Other? 	SAB members
3:00	8. Adjourn	SAB Co-Chairs