



In-person and Virtual Meeting

Summary

Attendees

Members: Chris Winslow, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Lynn Bouvier, Sergio Paulo, Jennifer Winter (virtual), Ram Yerubandi, Michael Twiss, Sandra Eberts, Val Klump, Deborah Lee, Carl Platz

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Jo Werba, Mark Burrows, Rachel Wyatt, John Wilson

1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Last Meeting Summary, and Approval of Agenda

- All committee members were welcomed to the meeting by the US co-chair.
- Staff member, Li Wang was recognized and thanked for his over 10 years of support and guidance and the committee wished him well in his retirement.
- The committee's February 27th meeting summary was recognized.
- The draft agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved. Members discussed focusing less on project updates and more on strategic priorities as this is what has been requested by Commissioners during the committee's appearance. Members were also informed that the SAB co-chairs met with Commissioners Acker and Chiblow prior to the Semi-Annual meeting where they discussed some strategic priorities which will be covered under agenda item 5. Members requested that information on the current Commissioners be provided to them to prepare for their appearance. The impact of the committee's projects was also discussed including the importance of being able to clearly communicate to people about them. Members were informed that GLRO Communications staff have recently developed one-page summaries of all ongoing board projects that will be used to promote them with a variety of audiences.
 - *Action Item:* Staff to provide link to Commissioner's bios to members.
 - *Action Item:* Communications staff to provide the GLRO one-page project summaries to members.

2. 2024 Funding Cycle Work Plans

The committee discussed the following new proposed projects and their work plans that were included in the GLRO's recent budgetary submission to Commissioners for approval.

- **Great Lakes Early Warning System (GLEWS) Pilot Project - Twiss**
 - Member Micheal Twiss provided some background and an update on recent activities for this project. This proposed is based on the GLEWS Phase 2 project recommendation that a pilot study be completed to test the framework using known threats in the Great Lakes. The two case studies identified in the work plan are aqueous nitrogen and waterborne antimicrobial resistance.

- During the discussion it was suggested that the Annex 4 (Nutrients) co-chairs be asked to participate in the project as work group members since they are doing a lot of work related to nitrogen.
- **Climate Migration and Its Impact on the Great Lakes Ecosystem**
 - Member Debbi Lee briefed the committee on the proposed project which will focus on the possible impacts of human climate-driven in-migration on Great Lakes water quality. The purpose of the project is to assess whether sufficient planning tools and predictive information exist and to identify potential gaps in tools and information that may be useful to governments in addressing this issue.
 - Members discussed the proposed work plan and a number of minor modifications were identified including the need to specifically define migration, differentiate between rural and urban areas, and address or include water quantity in some way. While it is too late to update the work plan for inclusion in the recent GLRO budget submission, any changes will be used in the development of the contractor’s Statement of Work and eventual contract.
 - *Action Item:* The project co-lead with support from staff will update the work plan based on the discussion.
- **Other Potential Projects**
 - The committee discussed the development of a template or process to be used while proposing and evaluating new projects. This will be the focus of the committee during its next couple of meetings.
 - Since the committee has a large number of ongoing projects and has two new project proposals, no new topics or issues were discussed. There was a suggestion that an ongoing list or “parking lot” of potential issues that could eventually be considered for projects be developed.
 - *Action Item:* The development of a new project proposal and evaluation process and the development of an “issues parking lot” will be included in the next meeting agenda.

3. On-going Project Updates

- As was discussed at the beginning of the meeting and to save time to discuss other issues, brief updates were provided to members for the following ongoing committee projects:
 - Great Lakes Early Warning System
 - Microplastic Monitoring and Risk Assessment
 - Great Lakes Winter Science
 - Great Lakes Science Plan
 - Great Lakes Community Science
 - Great Lakes Environmental Atlas
- The committee and GLRO staff provide ongoing support to the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) and the Great Lakes Association of Science Ships

(GLASS). Members requested an update for both programs be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting. The need to further involve the committee and its members in both programs was suggested and will be discussed at the next meeting.

- *Action Item:* CSMI and GLASS updates along with further discussion of committee involvement with these programs will be added to the next meeting agenda.

4. Other Great Lakes Boards' Projects Involvement

- As part of the meeting package, members were provided with a list of all GLRO board projects. Members involved in those projects were provided an opportunity to update the committee.
- Members were also encouraged to review the list and let GLRO staff know if they'd like to be involved in any of the projects. Staff will connect interested members with the appropriate project leads.
- Committee member Eric Boisvert provided an update on a project related to mining activities in the Rainy River area.
- Members were informed by GLRO staff that the WQB is in the initial stages of starting a project on Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) in support of the next Triennial Assessment of Progress report and they may be requesting the committee's participation at some point.

5. Preparation for SAB meeting - Strategic Priorities

- In preparation for the full meeting of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) later in the day the committee identified and discussed a number of strategic priorities that members feel should be discussed with Commissioners. These priorities will be discussed at the SAB meeting with the Science Priority Committee (SPC) and any potential overlaps will be split between the two committees to avoid duplication during their appearances before Commissioners the following day.
- The following priorities were identified and discussed:
 - "Coordinating" role of the committee
 - Improve coordination of the work being done by the IJC, other boards and committees and government agencies.
 - Develop a process to identify new projects and develop work plans.
 - Contractor selection process – issues and frustration with the US State Department contracting process and its limitations.
 - Science Plan – promote the plan and committee member engagement to try and ensure alignment with various government programs.
 - Communications Efforts – improve knowledge transfer of board reports and their findings.
 - GLASS and CSMI – increase committee member involvement.
 - Early career researcher engagement – identify different mechanisms such as contracting requirements, graduate students, conferences, etc. to involve newer researchers in the committee's and IJC's work.
 - IAGLR – 2024 annual conference is scheduled for May 20-24 in Windsor. A session on the Science Plan will be held on the 21st.

6. Board appearance preparation

- The committee is scheduled to appear before Commissioners on Thursday, April 11th at 1:30pm.
- Members were provided with a draft of the committee's presentation for its' appearance before Commissioners prior to the meeting. Members were reminded that Commissioners had asked that all boards limit their presentations to approximately 20 minutes to allow for discussion during the remaining time. In order to save time, all project updates should be very concise and in order to steer the discussion part of the appearance it was suggested that a slide be added for "Strategic Priorities" and include all of the items discussed under agenda item 5.
- The committee reviewed and discussed the draft presentation slides.
- Following the discussion, it was requested that the updated draft presentation be sent to members following the meeting for review. Members were asked to provide any additional changes to staff via emails so the presentation can be updated prior to the appearance if needed.
 - *Action Item:* Staff to send the updated draft presentation to members following the meeting.
 - *Action Item:* Members to provide any additional changes to the presentation to staff for incorporation into the presentation before the committee's appearance.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm