



Team Meeting

Notes

Attendees: Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Debbie Lee, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Michael Twiss, Sandra Eberts, Rebecca Rooney, Dale Hoff

Regrets: Sergio Paulo, Carl Platz, Ram Yerubandi, Val Klump

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Heather Stirratt, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss, Mark Burrows

1. Roll call, approval of draft agenda, and acknowledge October meeting summary
 - October RCC meeting summary was acknowledged.
 - Agenda was approved by adding an update on Canadian Water Agency and distribution of Great Lake Vessel meeting agenda.

2. GL Science Strategy
 - Contractor report and SAB summary report have been transmitted to the Parties. The Summary report is available online.
 - The Science Strategy report and this initiative have been socialized with GLEC Co-chairs and communicated with other agencies when opportunities arose.
 - Staff and Board Co-chairs have been working on a 2-pager, a rollout plan, and a list of frequently asked questions and answers, which will be distributed for input when they are in final form.
 - It was asked who have received the reports. It was explained that the reports have been sent to the project workgroup members, SAB members, Global Affairs of Canada, U.S. Department of State, USEPA, and ECCC.
 - RCC members are fully supportive to develop a work plan for operationalizing the Great Lakes Science Strategy as a join project with SPC.
 - It was suggested that it would a preference for this project being funded through the IJC Canadian funding process since it is easier to get a specific contractor who can do a good job.
 - It was reemphasized that the initiative needs to be socialized with not only Canadian federal governments but also be socialized with the provincial governments. Presently, the provincial governments do not know anything about this.
 - It was also mentioned that it would be beneficial to socialize the initiative with the academia communities too since academia can lobby while government agencies cannot.

3. Ongoing project – brief progress update
 - *Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System*

The workgroup has received a draft of workshop report. The contractor will draft project final report soon. All work is progressed as planned. The workgroup is tentatively planning to develop a workgroup report.

- Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2

Contractor has developed a draft project report, which was partially reviewed during the last workgroup meeting. The draft report review will be continued during the next meeting in January. The workgroup is planning to use the contractor's report as the workgroup report with a cover letter to summarize key recommendations.

- Making the Most of Community Science

The workgroup has completed a two-day workshop. Contractor team has synthesized it into a report. The report includes an appendix table that include many of the community science efforts with details on their activities. It was mentioned that community science has been considered and discussed in many other occasions such as during the IAGLR conference and the workshop of establishing Great Lakes Baseline, in which community science has been considered under emerging technology.

- Winter Limnology/Science

The project just started a couple of months ago. Since then, a workgroup meeting has been held. The next workgroup meeting is planned in January. The contractor team is conducting literature review and identifying the time and activities for the first workshop that will be held virtually.

- Microplastic study

The project started in late September. So far, two workgroup meetings have been held. These two meetings were mainly focused on identifying what have been done on this topic. One of the co-leads of the project has done work for ECCC and for government in California. The first task of the project is to conduct a literature review. Since a literature review has been conducted during the past years by one of the co-leads, the contractor's review will be built on the existing reviews and will focus on providing answers to the project task questions.

4. New priorities for 2023 funding cycle

- As mentioned during the Science Strategy discussion, the RCC has decided to work with SPC to develop a work plan for operationalizing the Science Strategy.

- Some RCC members also expressed the interest in joining SPC and WQB to support the Great Lakes Atlas project idea. Lucinda Johnson has sent a proposal for the development of Great Lakes Atlas. Once staff has got the permit for distribution from Lucinda, the proposal will be distributed to the RCC members (done).

- Community Science Phase-2

It was generally agreed that RCC wants to develop a work plan to continue the phase-1 work to develop a community science framework and a standardization handbook.

Chris Winslow will put together a work plan outline. The work plan needs to be ready for Commissioners' approval in April.

- New project ideas

It was mentioned that salinity in streams and lakes has been increasing resulted from road salt application and other sources. It has strong influence on surface water and groundwater quality. It was suggested that RCC may want to work with SPC jointly to develop a work plan to address this issue in future.

5. Triennial Assessment of Progress – RCC member roles

RCC members have signed up for reviewing individual sections of the TAP report. Staff have submitted their signed sections and the writing contractor is assembling them. RCC members will provide input once they are assembled. If RCC members are interested in involving early, they can contact individual staff section writer to provide input.

6. RCC Canadian Co-chair transition

After serving as the RCC Canadian Co-chair for more than eight years, Gavin Christie is retiring. Today is the last RCC meeting Gavin will lead. RCC members expressed sincere appreciation to Gavin's contribution to the RCC and IJC.

The responsibility of RCC Canadian Co-chair was officially transferred to Dr. Rebecca Rooney from University of Waterloo.

7. Other business

- Sandy Eberts gave a presentation on RCC's work of the Development of a Great Lakes Groundwater and Surface Water Conceptual Framework to the Tri-County Regional Planning Groundwater Management Board in mid-December 2022.
- Former IJC staff, Wayne Jenkinson, has been heavily involved in the Canadian Water Agency effort who can serve as a good contact for this effort.
- Next meeting time (1.5 hrs); Doodle Poll for February 6, 8, 9, and 10. It was suggested RCC may want to invite presentations on critical topics in future meetings.

8. Adjourn at 12:50 pm
