



Team Meeting

Notes

Attendees:

RCC members: Debbie Lee, Dale Hoff, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Sergio Paulo, Val Klump.

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Rachel Wyatt,

1. Welcome, roll call, approval of agenda, and approval of last RCC meeting summary.

- Co-chairs welcomed attendees and had a roll call.
- Draft agenda was approved as presented with an addition of RCC new membership status update.
- October 2023 RCC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. New project ideas for 2024 funding cycle

- Great Lakes Early Warning System (GLEWS) Pilot project

This is proposed as a joint project of RCC and SPC. The Co-leads of the current Great Lakes Early Warning System project, Michael Twiss and Lucinda Johnson, will lead this new effort to develop a draft work plan to be reviewed by the SPC in its January meeting. The work plan will be distributed to RCC through emails and be discussed during its February meeting.

- Climate Migration and Its Impact on GL Ecosystem

The outline of the work plan developed by Debbie Lee was briefly reviewed.

- The proposed work will:
 - Review existing literature on climate migration.
 - Identify factors that could drive or limit migration in the Great Lakes Region.
 - Identify vulnerable geographies for degraded water quality due to climate migration.
 - Identify migration predictive and planning tools and climate adaptation tools at regional and local scales, and identify gaps in existing tools.
 - Provide advice on how anticipated impacts of climate migration on water quality can be minimized.
- It was decided that RCC will move forward with this effort. Debbie will refine the work plan outline and circulate it to SPC during its January call. SPC will decide if it wants to join the project as a SAB project after its meeting.
- It was also suggested that this proposed work is relevant to the WQB's "On the Great Lakes Horizon: Scenarios, Opportunities, Threats, and Responsive

Governance” report. It was suggested that this work plan outline be circulated to WQB Co-chairs to see if they have any concerns or want to join the effort.

- Ram expressed interest in co-leading the effort.
- It was noted that there is a website (The Climate Disaster Is Here) that presents what the future temperature will look like
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/oct/14/climate-change-happening-now-stats-graphs-maps-cop26>
- Development of videos to summarize major outcomes of GL board projects
 - This project idea is still under consideration. Sergio asked for the work plan template and may consider putting an outline together. Michael is also interested.
 - Staff will distribute the work plan template to RCC members (done).
- Other topic ideas – RCC will not develop the other topic ideas into work plans, but will keep these ideas on file for future consideration and may incorporate some of them into the GLEWS Pilot work plan. These project ideas include:
 - Challenge in nutrient reduction to control HABs and nutrient deficiency of fish productivity (e.g., identification of tipping point).
 - Risks of increased wildfire frequency and severity.
 - Salinization of the Great Lakes watershed and its waters.
 - Microbial resistance - monitoring and impact.

3. On-going projects progress update

- Great Lakes Early Warning System

Project workgroup report has been completed and a briefing package has been submitted to Commissioners for approval. Once the report is approved by Commissioners, it will be posted on SAB website and transmitted to the Parties. Because one of the recommendations of the report is to develop a pilot project to test and improve the warning system, the next step of this effort will focus on the development of a work plan for the pilot project.

- Microplastic Monitoring and Risk Assessment

The project team held an in-person workshop in September 2023 to develop a framework for monitoring plastic pollution in the Great Lakes that would support its use as a sub-indicator for State of the Great Lakes reporting under GLWQA. A workshop report has been produced and sent to the workshop participants for comments. The workgroup is in the process of developing sampling protocols for ambient lake water, tributaries, sediments, shoreline debris, and biota.

The workgroup is currently planning the 2nd workshop to be held on January 17-18, 2024 in Windsor. The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Develop recommendations to inform a threshold-based ecological risk assessment framework for ambient water and sediment in the Great Lakes that would contextualize the results of a monitoring program and inform the potential inclusion of microplastics as a sub-indicator for ecosystem health under the State of the Great Lakes reporting.

- Develop recommendations for a management framework linked to the threshold-based ecological risk framework and to inform decision-making about the inclusion of exposure and effects data as part of the risk assessment and management frameworks.

- *Great Lakes Winter Science*

The workgroup has completed a literature review report and a summary of winter science database. Two virtual workshops were carried out in May and September in 2023 to explore winter science gaps, needs, and priorities, and identify training, infrastructure and coordination to meet the needs of those science priorities.

An in-person workshop has been planned to be held in Windsor on January 31 and February 1, 2024. The goal of the workshop is to integrate winter science priorities with existing and future capacities and to develop recommendations for sustainably meeting winter science needs. Outputs from the two previous virtual workshops will inform the discussion and generation of recommendations in this workshop.

- *Great Lakes Science Plan*

A Science Plan Collaborative has been established with over 30 members representing government agencies, research institutions, and NGOs, as well as Indigenous communities. The Collaborative members shall support and participate in the development of a detailed and actionable Great Lakes Science Plan.

The Collaborative had its first meeting virtually on November 15, 2023 and has scheduled an in-person/hybrid meeting on January 24-25, 2024. The goal of this workshop is to build relationships, confirm organization of the Collaborative, and structure the six project workshops identified in the project work plan.

- *Community Science Handbook*

The project is to develop a community science handbook. A contractor team has been retained, and the workgroup and contractor team had a kickoff call. The contractor team feels the project can be completed ahead of schedule based on the amount of work needed.

- *Great Lakes Environmental Atlas I - A Scoping Exercise*

The project is to scope the content and characteristics of a modern and interactive Atlas that could maximize its utility to users. Project Scope of Work has been submitted to the Department of State. It is hoped that the RFP will be sent to potential vendors in a couple of weeks.

4. 2024 IAGLR presentation abstract

The GL Science Plan project leads have submitted a GL science plan session that includes GL boards' ongoing projects to the 2024 IAGLR conference in Windsor. The session has been accepted by the conference with an abstract deadline of January 12. The following ongoing RCC/SAB projects have been identified for submitting abstracts, and the lead abstract authors for each project is as follows:

- Microplastic project – Rebecca and Karen
- GL Early Warning System – Michael and Lucinda
- Winter Science – Michael and Maggie
- Community Science – Chris and Ram

It was also suggested that some of the new proposal ideas can also be presented.

5. Other topics

- April Semi-Annual meeting at Washington DC
 - RCC meeting – April 10, AM
 - SAB meeting – April 10, PM
 - Reception – April 10, evening
 - Board appearance – April 11, AM
- Indigenous competency training
 - Under discussion – potentially to be held from 1-5 pm on Tuesday April 9 during Semi-Annual meeting.
- New RCC membership update
 - A briefing note to nominate Lynn Bouvier from DFO as a Canadian RCC member has been submitted to Commissioners for approval. A briefing note to nominate Jennifer Winter from OMECP as a Canadian RCC member has been prepared and will be submitted to Commissioners for approval within the next couple of weeks.
- Next RCC call – February 2024, a Doodle Poll to follow.

6. Adjourned at 11:30 AM