



## Notes

### Attendees:

**RCC:** Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Dale Hoff, Debbie Lee, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Kathy McKague, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Sandra Eberts, Sergio Paulo.

**Regrets:** Eric Emery, Val Klump,

**Staff:** Lizhu Wang, Matthew Child, Alison Voglesong Zejnati, Mark Burrows, Rajendra Poudel, Victor Serveiss

### 1. Welcome and round table introduction

- Special welcome to new RCC members Sergio Paulo and Eric Boisvert
  - Newly appointed RCC Canadian members Sergio Paulo and Eric Boisvert introduced themselves with a round table introduction of other RCC members.
  - Co-chairs and RCC members expressed warm welcome to the new members.
- Approval of draft agenda
  - Draft agenda was approved with an addition of Right of Water discussion at the Other Business agenda item.
- Acknowledge of March 2022 RCC Meeting Summary.
  - March 2022 RCC Meeting Summary was acknowledged without any changes.

### 2. Ongoing project progress reporting

- GW-SW Conceptual Framework report
  - Project report has been approved by the Commissioners and submitted to the Parties
  - A webinar was held on May 24, with 2 commissioners in attendance and a total of 85 participants.
  - It was broadly discussed regarding how the recommendations can be implemented. It was suggested that steps may be taken, and agencies have a role. There is also a need to collaborate with the Annex 8 Groundwater Subcommittee.
  - It also suggested that IJC could support a binational collaborative to organize around the tops of Great Lakes modeling. It may need further discussion regarding how to move forward with this suggestion.
  - It was mentioned that the Hydrological Prediction for the National Weather Service is working on its version 4.0 of the national water model, which extends into Canada. For this version, they will use sub-basin models that can be operated

at a sub-basin specific model. Those models are for flood forecasting or other hazards, which may be different for our purpose.

- There was also a concern that a government member on the board cannot tell government that they need to do something. The implementation to the recommendations needs resource commitment.
- Great Lake Science Strategy status and next steps
  - The project contractor's report is near final.
  - IJC has hired a contractor to work with the project workgroup co-chairs to develop a board summary report with specific recommendations and implementation. The summary report is expected to be completed in July.
  - The project organized a well attended whole-day session at the 2022 Joint Aquatic Science Meeting in May.
  - There is a joint effort of the IJC, GLC, and GLFC to discuss and plan on how to move forward of the Science Strategy.
- Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
  - The project team has completed five case studies, which has been summarized in a case study report.
  - The team is in the process of planning a in-person work workshop to develop an overall early warning framework and use the case study to text the framework.
- Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
  - The project has been progressed as planned with a contracting team of ECT.
  - The workgroup met on May 20<sup>th</sup>, which reviewed the survey questions and invitation list.
  - The survey will be sent out next, and the next workgroup call will be in August to discuss the survey results.
- Making the Most of Community Science
  - Workgroup continued to meet with the contracting team.
  - The contractors obtained a lot of new community science perspectives by attending the JASM meeting in May in Grand Rapids and the Great Lakes AOC conference in Muskegon.
  - Contracting team communicated to the workgroup that they got some good feedback related to indigenous and minority community science efforts. Contracting team has developed an outline of the draft report.
  - Contracting team also created an Excel table where they are collecting all the information about the ongoing community science efforts. There are more than 50 different entries on the list. The table also specifies the types of the organizations, focusing geographic areas, and products.
  - The workgroup is planning to have a workshop in September or October.

### 3. Approved and upcoming projects (progress update)

- Winter Science
  - The SOW of the project has been submitted to the IJC Washington DC office for allocating fund and assigning project code. After that, the SOW will be submitted to the Department of State to be announced in the federal system.
  - It is expected that the contracting process will be completed before the end of September.
  
- Microplastics Monitoring and Assessment
  - This is a work plan in progress. The IJC did a report in 2016 with recommendations on microplastics, but there is limited progress for the Great Lakes. There has been a tremendous progress made including a proposed regulation banning single use of plastics in Canada's National Academy of Science report calling for a national policy and research agenda on plastics. The USEPA report has updated its 2017 report with new knowledge and methods about the effects of plastics. The 2019 plastic science for cleaner future initiative in Canada is a fairly hefty funding release to advance the science on plastics and their ecological effects.
  - To move forward in the Great Lakes region, the project team proposed a work plan with six key deliverables. It includes a state of the science synthesis on plastics knowledge by taking advantage of all the recent research and available database, including information on the environmental levels that are being found in the Great Lakes. It also includes the ecotoxicological effects on different aquatic biota under different environmental exposures.
  - Based on the synthesized information, the project team will develop a framework for monitoring environmental plastic pollution with some standardized methods for field sampling and for lab analysis.
  - It was mentioned that NOAA is also proposing standard analytical methods and the Gulf Coast team has engaged in coral toxicity. NOAA also has a ship on Great Lakes that will sample microplastics for the area it visits.

### 4. Other boards' projects

- Nutrient Synthesis
  - The contractor has submitted its final report.
  - The workgroup is working on developing a workgroup report.
  - Workgroup report is expected to be completed in Oct 2022.
  
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
  - The project is progressed as planned.
  - Workgroup will have a call next week.
  
- Valuation of Ecosystem Service
  - This is a new project.

- Staff is in the process of developing SOW to be submitted to the State Department for seeking a contractor.
- Let staff know if any RCC members are interested in joining the workgroup.

#### 5. 2023 TAP

- A detailed outline of 2023 TAP report has been approved by Commissioners.
- IJC Great Lakes Office staff have been assigned to specific sections.
- RCC members interested in contributing to specific section(s) may want to contact staff assigned to that section.
- The agenda includes a Excel table for RCC members to sign on.
- Staff will resend the Excel table for RCC members to sign on (Excel table has been sent).

#### 6. Input to Binational Priorities for Science and Action - Deadline June 30

- Mandated by the GLQWA, the Parties develops Priorities for Science and Action every three years. The Parties has released its 2023-2025 Priorities for Science and Action.
- The IJC and SAB are identified in the Annex 10 to have a role of providing advice: “The Parties, in cooperation and consultation with State and Provincial Governments, Tribal Governments, First Nations, Métis, Municipal Governments, watershed management agencies, other local public agencies, and the Public, shall: undertake a review of available scientific information to inform management actions and policy development. Priority issues to be addressed through this review of available scientific information shall be established on a three-year basis by the Parties in consultation with the Great Lakes Executive Committee, considering advice developed by the Commission in consultation with the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board.”
- The agenda includes a table of the Priorities for Science for RCC members to comment on. Staff has resent the table to members. Comments are due June 30.

#### 7. Other business

- Great Lakes Public Forum – September 27- 29, 2022 in Niagara Falls, ON.
- IJC Fall Semi-Annual meeting (in-person in Ottawa, ON), it is tentatively scheduled for the week of October 17, 2022.
- Right of water was briefly discussed.
- Lake Erie CSMI workshop is scheduled for Aug 15-16, which is hosted by the Lake Erie Millennium Network and Lake Erie and Aquatic Research Network.
- Next RCC call in September – Staff will send a Doodle Poll for Sept 7, 8, and 9.

#### 8. Adjourn

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