



## Notes

### Attendees:

**RCC:** Gavin Christie, Debbie Lee, Erich Emery, Ian Campbell, Jason Borwick, Kathy McKague, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Rebecca Rooney, Réjean Couture, Sandra Eberts, Val Klump

**Regrets:** Chris Winslow, Dale Hoff,

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

**Commissioner:** Rob Sisson

1. Roll call, Approval of draft agenda, Welcome new member, and Acknowledge of June 16, 2021 Meeting Record
  - Participants had a roundtable introduction. The new IJC staff, Rajendra Poudel, briefly introduced himself and his planned work with IJC.
  - Agenda was approved as presented.
  - Meeting record of September 2021 was acknowledged.
2. TAP Committee update and priority identification process
  - Members reviewed the TAP priorities submitted to the TAP workgroup.
  - It was mentioned that the Groundwater-Surface Water priority currently located in 2029 may need to go to 2026.
  - It was suggested that the selection of priorities should focus on priorities that are common for all boards.
  - Climate change and resulted water warming is an emerging priority for RCC and SPC.
  - Members would like to see the priority selection criteria developed by the TAP workgroup. Staff will distribute it (Done).
  - RCC and SPC may want to work together to rank the priorities.
3. Ongoing project progress reporting
  - GL Groundwater and Surface Water Framework
    - Contractor has completed a draft of project report, and the workgroup members have reviewed and provided comments and suggestions of changes.
    - The contractor will complete the revision of the report within a couple of weeks. After that, the report should be ready for RCC's review and approval.

- The workgroup has decided that the contractor report meets the expectation of the workgroup's report, and there will not be a workgroup report.
- GL Science Plan
  - The last workshop will be held in next week; currently, 46 people have registered for the workshop.
  - The goals of the workshop are to review the draft Science Plan report and answer the follow questions:
    - Can the concise set of compelling, high level scientific questions that are central to Great Lakes science over the coming decade transform our scientific knowledge to meet the understanding and management needs of the Great Lakes ecosystem and its watershed? If not, what is missing or requires greater emphasis?
    - Is the assessment of the gaps in both our understanding and in our capability to develop that understanding of the functioning of the ecosystem complete? If not, how can it be improved?
    - Are the science infrastructure needs including required resources sufficient and realistic for answering scientific questions and filling the science gaps? If not, how can the plan be improved, including leveraging of existing agency base funds, programs, and assets?
  - There will be a morning session focusing on Great Lakes Scientific Research and Monitoring Priorities and an afternoon session focusing on Great Lakes Science Plan Investments and Funding Strategy.
  - The draft Science Plan report was sent to the workshop participants today.
  - The Decadal Science Plan is not just for the next 10 years. It needs to be continued and the 10-year is proposed as a base.
  - The IJC Commissioners will meet with Congressional Great Lakes Task Team in December to discussion how this science plan can be implemented.
- Operationalizing GL Early Warning System
  - This is an effort to look at formalizing a mechanism for providing warning of impending stressors that can manifest as realized threats. We are looking at five stressor categories.
  - Contractor team has developed a full process describing the 1<sup>st</sup> case study (non-P nutrients) and is working on the other four case studies.
  - Michael is working with a group of students to develop their own case studies, which would be an interesting excise to see how it turns out.
  - The next workgroup call will review the outline of the case studies.
  - There will be a workshop in the next year to generalize the case studies into a warning framework.
- Institutional Arrangement of Nutrient Adaptive Management
  - The objective of the project is to assess the progress Annex 4 has made in establishing the Lake Erie Nutrient Adaptive Management Framework. It will valuate to what extent the framework has achieved coordinated planning and implementation of a nutrient adaptive management framework and then

to evaluate to what extent it has achieved sustainable institutional arrangements for calculating nutrient loadings and developing a research and monitoring programs.

- The contractor team includes ECT and AECOM.
- Workgroup Co-chairs met with the contractor team on November 2nd and has scheduled a contractor-workgroup meeting on December 2.

- Making the Most of Community Science
  - Contracting team and workgroup met on October 25.
  - The contractor team seems to have a lot of knowledge on the topic of community science, so they are the right team to work with.
  - The first step is to compile information that currently exists on examples of community science that we are aware of.
  - This is an 18-month project.

#### 4. Briefing on RCC participated other boards' projects

- SPC/WQB Nutrient Synthesis
  - The contractor has completed the draft report and the workgroup has provided input.
  - Had a workshop to:
    - Review conclusions of the contractor's assessment concerning the adequacy of domestic action plans and their implementation for Lake Erie in light of recommendations from IJC reports and other recent literature, and identify any additional issues of concern.
    - Identify priority findings and recommendations from the contractor's assessment thought to be most important in addressing nutrient problems in Lake Erie, including concerning any key management efforts as well as research and monitoring efforts needed.
    - Review and revise recommendations as appropriate concerning programs addressing nutrient-related problems in Lake Ontario.
- SPC/WQB TEK
  - A contractor group out of Vancouver has been selected as a contractor team. There have been some very preliminary discussions between the Co-chairs and the contractor team, and it is expected that the workgroup will be engaged very soon.
  - The RCC member on this workgroup has not been updated on the progress.
- GL Manure Management Framework
  - No progress has been made yet.

#### 5. Other business

- Climate Resiliency Strategy work plan (for awareness)
  - This is a non-board project with a contractor.
  - This project is linked to one of the IJC TAP 2020 recommendations.

- There will be a workshop. If any RCC members are interested in attending, let staff know.
  - It was commented that there is a concern that this project is not connected with federal agencies on this issue and is lacking coordination. We do not want a product submitted to the Commissioners that is out of sync with what the federal agencies or even the state agencies are thinking. It would be better off going to those recognized bodies such as NOAA, USG, US Global change research program, or even IPCC. These expert agencies are the ones setting the stage and the policies.
  - It was responded that the points are very well taken and the Commissioners and certainly staff recognize climate adaptation and resiliency is a very busy space. There are a lot of efforts on this topic. This effort focuses on the transboundary water resource.
- Next RCC call – Doodle Poll for January 12, 13, and 14.