



In-person Meeting

Notes

Attendees:

In-person: Gavin Christie, Chris Winslow, Carl Platz, Debbie Lee, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Michael Twiss, Ram Yerubandi, Sandra Eberts, Sergio Paulo, Val Klump

Virtual: Rebecca Rooney, Dale Hoff,

Staff: Lizhu Wang, Heather Stirratt, Rob Phillips, Victor Serveiss, Mark Burrows (virtual), Rajendra Poudel (virtual)

1. Welcome - Extended round table introductions, approval of agenda, and acknowledgement of last RCC meeting summary.
 - Agenda was approved as presented
 - September 2022 RCC Meeting Summary was acknowledged
 - Since there are several new board members, an extended introduction of RCC members were conducted. RCC consists of members from USGS, NOAA, USEPA, USACE, University Water Center, Sea Grant, IAGLR, Great Lakes Research Consortium, NRCan, AAFC, ECCC, DFO, OMECP, and OMNRF. It was emphasized that most RCC members are government agency research managers, research institution leads, or regional science initiative leads. The focus of each agency they lead and the expertise they represent are unique in Great Lakes science. The integration of such uniqueness is an important contribution to solve Great Lakes issues and is important to contribute to IJC's responsibilities.

2. Great Lakes Science Strategy – next step/moving forward
 - The reports (contractor report, work group Summary Report, and the Next Step internal document) have been recently approved by the Commissioners.
 - The next step is to conduct desktop layout for the Summary Report and then transmit the contractor report and work group Summary Report to the Parties.
 - We need to develop a detailed roll out plan.
 - The Next Step document identifies what need to follow regarding how to reach out and who should be reach out, who should lead, how to govern, and where fund flows, etc.
 - It is important to develop a 2-pager for communication, to bring to meeting, and to send a clear consistent message.
 - Presently, the science strategy has been socialized with USEPA, ECCC, GAC, and DOS.
 - The report is not a Science Plan, it is a strategy to identify science and resource needs for filling gaps. It also identifies what the next step should follow.

- To advance the Strategy, it needs to convene a coalition of partners to develop a more detailed Science Plan that will include information on science gaps and priorities, funding requirements, and associated governance arrangements. This process needs to be multinational, inclusive, and transparency.
- It was suggested that there is a need to have a meeting between the effort and all of the relevant Canadian and Ontario agencies since the processes and players differ between provincial and federal agencies. The Freshwater Science needs to be informed about this Science Strategy effort.
- It needs to be clear that this is not GLRI but is in addition to GLRI.

3. Ongoing project - progress update

- Operationalizing Great Lakes Early Warning System
The workgroup and contractor team have completed the identification of analytical approaches using case studies and the development of a draft Early Warning System Framework. A workshop has been completed for soliciting input from experts on both the analytical approaches and the Framework. The draft project contractor report is expected in early 2023.
- Great Lakes Nutrient Adaptive Management Phase-2
The goals of this project are to: (1) assess the progress Annex 4 has made in establishing its Lake Erie Adaptive Management Framework (LE-AMF), (2) evaluate to what extent the LE-AMF has achieved coordinated planning and implementation of a nutrient adaptive management framework, and (3) evaluate the extent the LE-AMF has achieved sustainable institutional arrangements for calculating nutrient loadings and developing research and monitoring programs. The workgroup has been meeting with contractor team monthly. The project team has completed a literature review and synthesis, conducted a stakeholder survey, and discussed the results of the survey among workgroup members and contractor team. The contractor team is preparing a draft report for the workgroup to review. The draft project contractor report is expected in early 2023.
- Making the Most of Community Science
The goals of the project are to: (1) provide a review of existing materials, resources, opportunities, potential roadblocks to conducting community science, and (2) complete the groundwork and provide a framework for the future development of a user friendly, community science handbook. The handbook would summarize best practices and provide a roadmap to develop and deploy a robust and reliable monitoring network. The contractor has completed literature and report review and identifying gaps. A workshop has been scheduled on October 27th and 28th to further identify strengths and weaknesses of existing programs, where current programs host their data, and how they engage participants in their community science.

It was requested to forward the workshop invitation to RCC members (done).

4. Newly started projects - progress update

- Winter Science
This is a joint project of the SAB-RCC and SAB-SPC. The goals are to identify priority winter science gaps and needs and to assess existing research needs including needed infrastructure and personnel. The project was approved by Commissioners in April 2022. A contract has been signed with Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc. and LimnoTech to carry out the project in late September. A workgroup has been formed that includes IJC Board members and external subject matter experts. A project kickoff meeting of the workgroup was held on October 13, 2022.

- Microplastics Monitoring and Risk Assessment
This is also a joint project of the SAB-RCC and SAB-SPC, which was approved by Commissioners in August 2022. The project goals are to advance a coordinated framework for monitoring and risk assessment of microplastic pollution in the Great Lakes. A contractor team (Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Inc. and LimnoTech) has been retained in late September through the U.S. procurement system to carry out the project.

The project tasks include synthesizing recent advance and knowledge in plastics science through literature review, organizing and synthesizing findings of a session at 2023 IAGLR conference and two in-person workshops, creating a publicly accessible database, and developing a framework for monitoring plastic pollution in the Great Lakes. These tasks would support the use of microplastic measures as a sub-indicator in the GLWQA.

- Looking forward – future project ideas, making the most of RCC’s member expertise. It was suggested that the RCC has been very busy and cannot take more new projects except those that have been planned.

The Community Science project will be completed in the summer 2023. A second phase has been considered to develop a community science standard handbook.

The Great Lakes Microplastic Monitoring and Risk Assessment project is planned to complete in summer 2024. A second phase has been planned to assess plastics impacts on human exposures (drinking water, fish and other foods, air) and human health.

5. 2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress Report–RCC input

An Excel sheet with sub-sections of the report outline was distributed to RCC members. Members were asked to sign up the section(s) they have expertise and are interested in providing input.

6. Prepare for RCC Board Appearance – key messages

A pre-prepared slide set was presented, and inputs were solicited.

Presenters of each slide was assigned for board appearance.

7. Prepare for SAB meeting

Discussion will focus on the Science Strategy, especially the Next Step document. This is a very complex process that will involve multinational government agencies, research institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders and rightsholders.

8. Other business

- Next RCC call in December
 - A Doodle Poll will follow for mid-December days.

9. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm
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