



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee  
Fifty-second Meeting  
Meeting Summary**

**April 10, 2024 – 9:00am-12:00pm Eastern Time  
Melrose Georgetown Hotel  
Washington, DC**

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<b>U.S. Members</b>	<b>Canadian Members</b>	<b>Commission Staff</b>
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Donna Kashian	John Livernois	Lyne Sabourin
Drew Gronewold	Jerome Marty	Rachel Wyatt
Laura Johnson	Karen Kidd (virtual)	Allison Voglesong Zejnati (virtual)
Margaret Noodin (virtual)	Maggie Xenopoulos	

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Regrets: Mike McKay, Bob Sterner, Nandita Basu

Guest: Vianey Rueda

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and round table introductions were completed. The March 11, 2024 meeting record was acknowledged. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

**2. Status of Ongoing SPC Projects**

Microplastics (staff on behalf of Karen Kidd)

The second of two project workshops was held in January, 2024. The second workshop focused on the development of a risk assessment framework, giving consideration to existing work including that of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. Contractor reporting will be completed in spring, and work group reporting is expected by late summer.

Great Lakes Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

The final workshop was held in-person in January, 2024 and used a novel approach wherein participants developed research proposals for several topics. Those proposals were discussed in plenary, which confirmed a number of priority needs related to governance and coordination, vessels and other research infrastructure, and training, among others. Presentations on the project are planned for IAGLR and ASLO. It was commented that connections between land surface hydrology during winter and subsequent water quality in the lakes needs to be better understood.

#### Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Jerome Marty)

A TEK symposium was held recently at Six Nations of the Grand First Nation, which included a panel discussion that featured perspectives from the SPC's TEK project. A number of issues were discussed including access to potable drinking water. The SPC's TEK project has several more community engagements planned. Through discussion, a number of Indigenous communities that are working with non-Indigenous partners to advance incorporating western and Indigenous Knowledge approaches for decision-making were identified. A listing of 144 federally recognized Anishinaabe Nations was shared.

#### Ecosystem Services Valuation – Phase 1 (John Livernois)

The work group report has been finalized, and IJC staff are close to submitting it to the Commission for approval consideration. A Phase 2 project is recommended, which will have a primary focus on the ecosystem services value of coastal wetlands to nutrients sequestration. Partnership opportunities will be explored to advance Phase 2. Through discussion, it was noted that representatives from the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (Central Michigan University, MI) and the Canadian Climate Institute (Ottawa, ON) could be asked to participate in the Phase 2 project work group.

#### Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)

The Science Plan Collaborative met for a two-day hybrid workshop in January, 2024. Progress was made on selecting the topics and sequencing of the six major convenings planned to inform development of the Science Plan. The first convening will be held on June 10/11, 2024 as a hybrid event in Windsor, ON and will focus on governance arrangements. Through discussion, the importance of parallel convenings with Indigenous communities planned as part of the TEK project (which will also include Science Plan-related conversations) was emphasized. We must recognize that data sovereignty considerations means that observations and information may not be able to be shared. Members were also reminded that the IJC is finalizing plans to hire two Sea Grant Fellows through a partnership between Sea Grant, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; the Fellows will help support development of the Science Plan.

#### Great Lakes Atlas - Scoping (Lucinda Johnson)

Two contract procurement attempts were not successful, so some adjustments have been made to the Statement of Work and another Request-for-Proposals has been circulated to a list of qualified bidders.

### **3. Work Plans**

#### Great Lakes Early Warning System (Lucinda Johnson)

The GLEWS Pilot Project draft work plan was previously discussed by the SPC and RCC; based on those discussions a revised work plan has been submitted to the Commission for approval consideration. The work plan will apply and assess the early warning system organizational approach and decision framework developed in earlier phases of the project through two case studies (waterborne antimicrobial resistance and nitrogen). Members were encouraged to self-identify for the project work group, and Laura Johnson volunteered for the nitrogen task team.

Through discussion, there was general agreement that ensuring the participation of federal agencies in the project work group or case study task teams will be very helpful for building ownership and support for an early warning system. IJC staff will request an audience with the

Annex 10 (Science) Ecological Indicator Task Team for a GLEWS presentation. Additional opportunities to profile the project include a 'Lakes Letter' article in the IAGLR newsletter.

Ecosystem Services Valuation (Phase 2) (John Livernois)

This work plan was discussed as part of project updates (see agenda item #2).

Science for Water and Climate Solutions (Laura Johnson)

This work plan could explore practices on land that give us more resilience in Great Lakes water quality. The SAB work that led to the IJC's 2014 Lake Erie Ecosystem Priority report assessed the efficacy of urban and rural beneficial management practices, and that work could be revisited and updated. The topic provides a good opportunity to advance actionable science by improving connections between the research and conservation communities.

#### **4. SPC Appearance**

The draft Appearance PowerPoint slides were reviewed and refined.

Strategic discussion items that should be raised with Commissioners were identified. There was general agreement that it would be helpful if the Commission could correspond with University leadership to communicate the value that the Commission derives from academic membership on its advisory boards, and the benefits to the institution in terms of profile and awareness. Example letters from other contexts were identified and shared.

**Action:** IJC staff will work with Board Co-Chairs to develop a draft letter of recognition.

There was general agreement that broadening awareness of Board members' expertise with Commissioners and possibly other constituencies could be advanced by compiling a members directory.

**Action:** IJC staff will prepare a members directory template for members to review and populate.

Opportunities for early career researchers to contribute to the SAB and its projects were discussed, and there was general agreement that project work groups present an appropriate mechanism. Attendance of ECRs as guests at SAB meetings should also be encouraged.

Contracting through the U.S. Department of State continues to present challenges and alternatives to DOS procurement should be explored.

There was general agreement that improving knowledge transfer of SAB findings and recommendations remains a high priority. The communication and engagement plans that are developed for SAB projects should be expanded to include engagement opportunities with affected communities (and *in* affected communities), particularly as a mechanism to engage with equity deserving groups. In addition Instagram, YouTube and podcasts all present exciting opportunities to broaden the reach of our project outputs.

## **5. Other Business & Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

*Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and reviewed by Lucinda Johnson and Gail Krantzberg.  
Please forward any errors or omissions to [matthew.child@ijc.org](mailto:matthew.child@ijc.org)*