



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee  
Forty-fourth Meeting  
Meeting Summary**

**January 19, 2023 – 2:30-4:00pm Eastern Time**

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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)
Mike Murray	John Livernois	Li Wang
Bob Sterner	Jerome Marty	Mark Burrows
Donna Kashian	Nandita Basu	Allison Voglesong Zejnati
Drew Gronewold	Maggie Xenopoulos	Rajendra Poudel
		John Allis
		Heather Stirratt

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Regrets: Karen Kidd, Mike McKay, Mic Isham, Joe DePinto

Guest: Jen Vanator

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and round table introductions were completed. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

**2. Project Updates**

Great Lakes Science Strategy (Gail Krantzberg)

The Great Lakes Science Strategy was approved by Commissioners in October, 2022 and the formatted Summary report and contractor report were transmitted to governments in November. More recently, supporting materials including a communication and engagement plan, two-page leave behind and frequently asked questions document have been developed. An IAGLR session is also planned, subject to logistical considerations that are being worked on with the conference program co-chairs. A work plan to operationalize the science strategy is planned (see item #3).

Great Lakes Early Warning System – Phase 2 (Lucinda Johnson)

The draft project report is being prepared by the contractor and will be reviewed by the work group once received. An IAGLR session has been approved and SAB and work group members are encouraged to submit a presentation abstract.

Nutrients Synthesis (Mike Murray & John Livernois)

The work group report is close to being finalized, and once completed it will be sent out to SAB members for a red flag review. The intent is to finalize the project by the end of February, 2023.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Jerome Marty, and Jen Vanator on behalf of Mic Isham)

The contractor has submitted their draft report, which includes a literature review, engagement strategy, and a summary of the listening sessions. Once the core team has reviewed the report it will be sent to SPC members for review. A Phase 2 project is planned (see item #3).

Great Lakes Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

The contractor is completing a literature view and database summary, which will be preliminarily discussed at a work group call scheduled for January 31, 2023. The work group has benefitted from the addition of three new members who bring perspectives related to physical science and Indigenous Knowledge.

Valuation of Ecosystem Services (John Livernois)

The last work group call was held in December, 2022. Through discussion, the work group winnowed down the list of potential topics to include harmful algal blooms reduction in the western basin of Lake Erie, or an assessment of coastal wetlands. The work group recently welcomed a new member who will bring an Indigenous perspective. Staff advised that a contractor is expected to be confirmed imminently.

Microplastics Monitoring & Risk Assessment (Staff on behalf of Karen Kidd)

The last work group meeting was held on January 5, 2023 during which the contractor team provided updates on the literature review, and the monitoring and toxicity test database summary. The SAB project overlaps with an assessment being completed by the Southern California Coastal Water Resources Project, and efforts are underway to align complementary activities to the benefit of both initiatives. An IAGLR session is also planned, and the core team is actively recruiting presentation abstract submissions for that session.

### **3. Future Work Plans**

Great Lakes Science Strategy Operationalization (Gail Krantzberg)

A central recommendation of the Science Strategy is for the IJC to engage in dialogue with partners and stakeholders to develop a detailed Science Plan that describes specific science needs and gaps, confirms the needed level of investment, and assesses sustainable management and governance arrangements. The SAB co-chairs have met with the WQB co-chairs to discuss the work plan, and they are supportive of advancing it. In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised:

- Tribal and First Nations involvement is essential, and specific opportunities are being pursued.
- The Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission are key partners who share an interest in advancing development of the Science Plan.
- The SAB and IJC will need to carefully tailor messaging for each of the audiences that will be engaged.

There was general agreement that the work plan should be advanced for submission to the Commission as part of the 2023/24 work plan cycle.

### Great Lakes Atlas (Lucinda Johnson)

In 1987 the first of three editions of The Great Lakes: An Environmental Atlas and Resource Book (the 'Atlas') was published. The Atlas is a large format, paper-back book, and is available in .pdf format online [here](#). A scoping process is proposed to guide revising, updating and expanding upon the Great Lakes Atlas as a subsequent project, so that policymakers, educators and members of the public can apply contemporary Great Lakes visualizations and information to guide decisions, serve as an educational tool, and raise the public's awareness of the inherent value of the Great Lakes. The scoping exercise will involve convening constituencies that generate and use Great Lakes data and information to determine the various ecological, geophysical, economic, social and cultural characteristics and content of a modern and interactive Atlas that would maximize its utility to users.

During a recent call, the WQB co-chairs expressed their support for the project.

Several points were raised during the discussion that followed:

- Most SAB projects involve a literature review, and thus our project reports could provide source material for revisions to the Atlas.
- The Atlas could also identify information gaps and needs that are identified in SAB reports including but not limited to the Great Lakes Science Strategy and Great Lakes Early Warning System.
- Engaging with educators and students as a target audience would yield good insights for Atlas content and format e.g., viewable on a smartphone.
- There is much value in having a portal to navigate between interactive themes, and some exemplars exist e.g., Chesapeake Bay.

There was general agreement that the work plan should be advanced for submission to the Commission as part of the 2023/24 work plan cycle.

### Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Phase 2) (Jerome Marty)

The initial phase of the project was significantly affected by the pandemic, insofar as several in-person listening sessions with Indigenous communities could not proceed due to safety concerns. Additional perspectives are needed to enrich insights that have been gained so far, so five additional in-person engagements are planned. The sessions would be professionally facilitated, with support from IJC staff.

In the discussion that followed it was noted that additional engagements need to strive for geographic balance, and it was clarified that the Phase 2 nomenclature relates to contractual considerations.

There was general agreement that the work plan should be advanced for submission to the Commission as part of the 2023/24 work plan cycle.

### Salinization of the Great Lakes (Staff)

During a recent RCC meeting it was suggested that the SAB could consider the issue of salinization of the Great Lakes. Although many agencies measure chlorides routinely, salinization has generally not been considered from the point of view as an emerging threat. The RCC felt that the topic might be better suited to the SPC's expertise.

It was noted that chloride concentrations have increased severalfold in some large lakes e.g., Lake Simcoe.

**Action:** SPC members are requested to signal their interest in (i) championing or (ii) contributing to a project that examines salinization of the Great Lakes.

#### Work Plan format and timing

Work plans should be developed using the template that was included in the agenda packet. The timing of work plan submission was reviewed (see Attachment); completed work plans should be completed by early March, 2023.

#### **4. Membership**

Mike Murray has reached the term limit specified in the SAB Directive and (alas!) will be retiring from the Board. The U.S. Co-Chair noted that Mike has served on the Board since 2012. Members have deeply appreciated his insights, commitment and collegial approach to advancing the work of the SAB, and the advice that the IJC transmits to governments. Mike has been a very productive member, and in addition serving on several work groups he has also co-chaired the ongoing Nutrients Synthesis project, the 2019 report on an Assessment of Fertilizer and Manure Applications in the Western Lake Erie Basin, and the 2018 report on Potential Ecological Impacts of Crude Oil Transport on the Great Lakes Basin. Keep in touch Mike!

Members reviewed the list of potential SPC candidates circulated with the agenda packet, and additional suggestions were made. It was noted that in addition to expertise, potential members should be good collaborators. Diversity should also be considered in Board composition.

**Action:** SPC members are requested to identify potential candidates for SPC membership.

#### **5. 2023 Meeting Schedule**

The proposed 2023 meeting schedule included in the agenda packet was approved. Meetings at the IJC April Semi-Annual will be in-person, although a virtual option will be provided if needed.

**Action:** SPC members are invited to provide suggestions for a guest speaker(s) for the SAB meeting at the April Semi-Annual.

#### **6. Other Business & Adjournment**

Donna Kashian has taken on additional responsibilities as Director of a UN-sponsored sustainability center of expertise between Wayne State University and the University of Windsor. Drew Gronewold advised that he has a PhD student who is examining bilateral arrangements in U.S.-Mexico water management, and may explore opportunities to engage with IJC for relatable insights.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 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)*