

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



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**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Fortieth Meeting
Videoconference Meeting Summary**

March 21, 2022 – 1:00-2:30pm Eastern Time

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Mike Murray	Jerome Marty	Rob Phillips
Drew Gronewold	Mike McKay	Victor Serveiss
Mike Slimak	Maggie Xenopoulos	Li Wang
Mic Isham	John Livernois	Mark Burrows
Bob Sterner	Nandita Basu	Raj Bejankiwar
		Antonette Arvai
		Rajendra Poudel
		Allison Voglesong Zejnati
		David Burden

Regrets: Karen Kidd, Joe DePinto

Guest: Jen Vanator

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Membership Update

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed members to the videoconference, and round table introductions were completed. Warm congratulations were extended to Dr. Lucinda Johnson, incoming U.S. Co-Chair and Dr. Bob Sterner, new U.S. member.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Project Updates

Project updates were provided for Science Advisory Board-Research Coordination Committee (RCC), Water Quality Board (WQB) and Health Professionals Advisory Board (HPAB) projects that have Science Priority Committee participation on their work groups.

RCC Hydrological Model (Drew Gronewold)

The project report will be submitted to Commissioners in the coming days for approval. The report includes the contractor's contributions with a foreword from the RCC Co-Chairs.

RCC Nutrients Adaptive Management (Mike Murray and John Livernois)

The project is assessing the extent to which an adaptive management framework is being institutionalized. The last work group call was held in February, 2022 during which a stakeholder survey was finalized. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022, which dovetails well with the anticipated completion of the SPC's (related) nutrients synthesis project.

RCC Community Science (Mike Murray)

The project was recently initiated, and a literature review is underway. A project work group meeting is expected soon.

WQB Great Lakes Horizons (Staff on behalf of Gail Krantzberg and Lucinda Johnson)

The project contractors have completed a 'systems mapping' exercise through four regional consultations with external stakeholders. Input will be aggregated, and a work group call is expected in the coming weeks to discuss results. During the summer and autumn, several scenarios will be developed to examine future drivers and threats to Great Lakes water quality, and develop strategies to proactively address those threats.

WQB Manure Management (Mike Murray)

The project aims to pilot a process to create a framework for Great Lakes manure management to help implement the WQB's 2019 manure management report recommendations. Two subwatersheds will be examined (Auglaize River in Ohio and Medway Creek in Ontario). The project will be featured in an upcoming article in IJC's Great Lakes Connection.

HPAB Fish Consumption (Staff on behalf of Karen Kidd)

The project will develop common approaches to frame fish consumption advisories that consider a variety of factors and address the concerns of fishers and First Nations for the Saint Lawrence River. The project timeline has been impacted by the pandemic and staffing changes with one of the contractors. A draft report table of contents will be developed soon, and a project work group meeting will be held this spring to review the draft and initiate engagements with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne.

HPAB's Microbial Water Quality (Staff on behalf of Mike McKay)

The project was initiated in fall 2021 and will apply molecular and genomics tools to advance microbial source water quality assessment. Four workshops will be held, including one held in January 2022 that focused on microbial source trackdown. The next workshop will examine PCR techniques for tracking harmful algal blooms.

3. Work Plans

The SAB's Great Lakes Winter Science and the SPC's Valuation of Ecosystem Services work plans have been transmitted to Commissioners for approval consideration. A decision is expected prior to the April 1, 2022 SAB meeting.

In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement it would be helpful to set up a Microsoft Teams site for the SPC to facilitate communication, file sharing and editing, etc.

Action: Secretary to work with IJC IT staff to set up Microsoft Teams site for SPC.

4. Strategic Positioning

Triennial Assessment of Progress Report

The 2023 TAP report outline was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that the priority topics previously identified by the SAB are included in the outline, and the report will utilize several SAB project outputs for source material.

Board members were invited to reflect on how the SPC can contribute to the TAP report. In the discussion that followed there was general agreement that more time is needed to digest the outline, and additional discussion about how SAB can contribute is needed.

There was also general agreement that in the meantime SPC members could self-identify to serve as advisors for one or more sections of the report. In particular, members could review report section outlines prepared by staff/contractors, and later on the draft report sections prepared by staff/contractors.

Action: Secretary to circulate sign-up table for members to advise on TAP report sections.

Water Quality Board's Radionuclides Recommendation

The WQB recommendation on updating the radionuclides inventory was reviewed, and it was confirmed that Commissioners have received the report, but they have not commented on the recommendation. In the discussion that followed it was noted that completing a comprehensive inventory of radionuclides is a large and complex project, particularly if risk is assessed. There was general agreement that the SPC's current expertise related to radionuclides and nuclear decommissioning is limited, which may inform pathways for SPC involvement moving forward. Other opportunities exist to advance this issue, including the Parties updating the radionuclide inventory through Annex 3.

Members agreed that the recommendation should be discussed further during the April 1 SAB meeting, and Commissioner input should be sought on what expectations they have of SAB and HPAB moving forward.

5. Upcoming Meetings

Potential agenda items for the April 1 SAB meeting were discussed; project updates, the WQB recommendation, TAP report, microplastics work plan, and SPC/RCC Appearances preparation will be included.

The draft SPC Appearance slide deck was reviewed. It will be revised and finalized following the April 1 SAB meeting.

The organizers of the Great Lakes Public Forum (tentatively scheduled for September 2022) are seeking suggestions for panelists. Science Priority Committee members are encouraged to self-nominate by contacting the organizers or the SPC Secretary.

6. Other Business & Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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