



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

September 19, 2022 – 1:30-3:00pm Eastern Time

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Lucinda Johnson (Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Mike Murray	Maggie Xenopoulos	Victor Serveiss
Drew Gronewold	John Livernois	Rajendra Poudel
Mic Isham	Karen Kidd	Allison Voglesong Zejnati
Bob Sterner		
Donna Kashian		
Joe DePinto		

Regrets: Nandita Basu, Jerome Marty, Mike McKay

Guest: Jen Vanator

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed members to the videoconference, and round table introductions were completed.

The June 8, 2022 meeting record was briefly reviewed.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Status of Other Board Projects that have SPC Participation

RCC Nutrients Adaptive Management (Mike Murray & John Livernois)

The project is assessing progress towards establishment of an adaptive management framework for Lake Erie. The project contractors sent out an extensive survey which had a reasonable response rate. The survey revealed a number of findings including that the adaptive management framework is understood by a small number of people, lacks regulatory teeth, and there are beneficial management action gaps. It was noted that the project insights largely reflect survey participants' perceptions of progress. Project reporting is scheduled to be completed in 2022. Complementarity of the project with the SPC Nutrients Synthesis project was noted.

RCC Community Science (Mike Murray)

The project goal is to prepare the groundwork and a framework for the development of a user friendly, community science handbook that summarizes best practices and provides a roadmap to develop and deploy a robust and reliable monitoring network. The project was initiated in February 2021, and approximately half of the project tasks have been completed. A virtual workshop is planned for October 27 & 28 and November 1, 2022 and the contractor report is on track to be completed by March, 2023. The RCC may consider a second phase, which would focus on the development of a community science handbook.

WQB Great Lakes Horizons (Gail Krantzberg & Lucinda Johnson)

An update was provided based on a written summary of progress prepared by WQB staff. In July and August, 2022 the contractor team developed draft scenarios and schematics to communicate how key drivers might collectively interact to produce the Great Lakes of the future. Three draft scenarios were described corresponding to substantially positive or improved future conditions, neutral or status quo conditions, and negative or degraded conditions. Work group members recently reviewed the draft scenarios and provided comments, and the contractor team will be revising the draft prior to a second round of review in autumn, 2022.

WQB Manure Management (Mike Murray)

The project will pilot a process to create a framework for Great Lakes manure management to help implement the WQB's 2019 manure management report recommendations. A Collaborative was formed in autumn 2021 and several meetings have been held. Project reporting is expected by early 2023.

HPAB Fish Consumption (Karen Kidd)

Project progress has been affected by the pandemic, but the last several months have been very active. The project is focusing on fish consumption advisories in the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is a partner. A workshop is scheduled for October 24 & 25, 2022 to discuss draft reporting and engage with the Mohawk community. The project is expected to be completed in spring, 2023. In the discussion that followed it was noted that the issue of harmonized fish consumption advisories is a long-standing need and challenge in the Great Lakes basin.

HPAB Microbial Study (staff on behalf of Mike McKay)

The project is assessing approaches to apply molecular and genomics tools to modernize and strategically plan for advancing microbial source water quality assessment in three areas: microbial source tracking; harmful algal blooms; and ecosystem/human health assessment (metagenomics). Separate workshops have been held for each of the three areas, and forth and final synthesis workshop is planned for October 6 & 7, 2022. Project reporting is expected to be completed by December, 2022.

3. Nutrients Synthesis Project

The project is a partnership of SPC and WQB and has assessed federal Domestic Action Plans and their implementation to date, considering recent IJC nutrient-related recommendations, with a primary focus on Lake Erie and secondary focus on Lake Ontario. The project is nearing completion and a draft work group report has been prepared.

The project co-chairs (Mike Murray and John Livernois) provided a PowerPoint presentation that summarized project context and goals, key findings and gaps, and draft recommendations. The draft work group report has been prepared based on the contractor report; additional qualitative work was done by the work group to build on the contractor report. The work group report also includes an assessment of the degree to which previous IJC report recommendations have been addressed by Domestic Actions Plans (DAPs); there is a lot of unevenness with some IJC reports being reflected well and others very little. Some key barriers to the effectiveness of DAPs include a lack of coordinated binational monitoring and data governance, limited understanding of the effectiveness of beneficial management practices (BMPs), and limited on-farm incentives to adopt voluntary BMPs. Draft recommendations for lakes Erie and Ontario were reviewed.

In the discussion that followed it was clarified that the draft report will be shared with SAB for review in mid-October, 2022. There was general agreement that a small number of priority recommendations should be included in the report, and recommendations should include associated timelines.

4. Strategic Positioning

Triennial Assessment of Progress

A key responsibility of IJC is to gather public input on the Progress Report of the Parties, and three listening sessions are planned as part of the September 27-29, 2022 Great Lakes Public Forum. IJC engagements will use a hybrid format and will seek input in response to a series of questions; participants are also free to offer additional remarks on topics or issues of concern to them. A series of virtual lake-by-lake engagements are also planned for November; details are accessible [here](#).

5. IJC Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

The schedule and logistics for the Fall Semi-Annual meeting were reviewed; the SPC and SAB will meet on October 19, 2022 and the SPC Appearance will occur on October 20.

The draft Appearance PowerPoint slides were reviewed; there was general agreement that a single slide should be added for each SPC project.

Action: Secretary to revised Appearance slides and send to members for review.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that there are opportunities to raise the profile of SPC members' many and varied involvements with Commissioners. Examples include oral remarks during the Board Appearance, and staff briefing notes associated with member appointments/re-appointments. It was also acknowledged that there are many examples of synergies between SAB

projects and other organizations' projects, with one recent example being the SAB's Great Lakes Science Strategy and a National Association of Marine Laboratories position paper.

At the request of the U.S. Co-Chair, Bob Sterner provided the following information following the meeting:

The [National Association of Marine Laboratories](#) (NAML) represents 106 marine and Great Lakes laboratories in the U.S. Its mission is to promote excellence in research, education, and public outreach in the marine sciences, including the Great Lakes. In February 2022, NAML adopted a position paper on [The Need for a Strategic and Sustained Federal Investment in Basic Research and Education in Support of the Great Lakes Ecosystem](#). Specifically, the statement recognizes the crucial role of fundamental research as supported by NSF and other federal agencies in the context of large investments in restoration. The IJC's efforts toward completing a decadal science plan are recognized in this statement, as are other programs and initiatives. NAML's statement, backed by this large community of researchers in and out of the Great Lakes basin, points to the widespread recognition of the importance of working together to address the immense challenges that the Great Lakes region faces.

6. Other Business & Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 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*