



**IJC Science Advisory Board – Science Priority Committee
Thirty Eighth Meeting
Videoconference Meeting Summary**

September 27, 2021 - 1:30-3:00pm

U.S. Members	Canadian Members	Commission Staff
Carol Miller	Gail Krantzberg (Co-Chair)	Matthew Child (Secretary)
Lucinda Johnson	Karen Kidd	Victor Serveiss
Mike Murray	Jerome Marty	Rob Phillips
Mic Isham	Mike McKay	Li Wang
	Maggie Xenopoulos	Mark Burrows
	John Livernois	Raj Bejankiwar
		Rajendra Poudel
		Allison Voglesong Zejnati
		David Burden

Regrets: Drew Gronewold, Joe DePinto, Mike Slimak, Nandita Basu, Karen Kidd

Guest: Jen Vanator

1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The U.S. Co-Chair welcomed members to the videoconference. The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Ongoing Project Updates

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

The project Work Group contributed to the selection of five case study topics as follows:

1. Nutrients Other than Phosphorus
2. New Fish Pathogens
3. PFAS/PFOA Impacts
4. Changes in Agricultural Range
5. Changing Competition for Groundwater with Ecological Impacts

A draft report has been prepared for Case Study #1 and it will be reviewed and discussed by the Work Group on October 1.

Nutrients Synthesis (Mike Murray & John Livernois)

A draft contractor report has been prepared, which incorporates earlier input provided by Work Group members. The report will be reviewed as part of a virtual workshop planned for October 28+29, 2021.

Great Lakes Science Plan (Gail Krantzberg)

A draft science plan has been prepared based on input received during two virtual workshops that were held in April, one on a disciplinary basis and one on a lake-by-lake basis. The draft report will be the focus of a third workshop planned for later this fall which will include an operational focus and be attended by primarily agency research program managers. The board project is tracking the USGS' Science Plan report which was recently submitted to U.S. Congress. The board report should be completed by late 2021/early 2022 and it will be important to ensure the report gets advanced and disseminated widely and effectively.

In the discussion that followed it was noted that the current U.S. Congressional infrastructure bills include significant funds for Great Lakes remediation and management and associated science investments, and therefore time is of the essence to advance the Science Plan request. It was also noted that the RCC has several members on the project work group; their participation has been helpful in bringing the Parties' perspective and they may be able to advocate for the plan once it is transmitted to governments.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Mic Isham & Jerome Marty)

Since the last SPC meeting an all-Indigenous contractor team has been selected and is being led by the Firelight Group with participation of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. A project kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 5, and the literature review and case study analysis is expected to be completed by January 2022. Listening Sessions will begin in early 2022. Additional Work Group participation from SPC is welcomed.

Action: Lucinda Johnson volunteered to join the TEK Work Group.

At this point in the meeting Dr. Rajendra Poudel was introduced to the board. Dr. Poudel recently joined IJC staff as an Economist, and will be available to support board projects moving forward.

3. Future Work Plans

Winter Science (Maggie Xenopoulos)

The draft Work Plan circulated with the meeting agenda was reviewed. The Work Plan includes a focus on incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, which was noted as a common theme across several ongoing or planned board projects. Some minor adjustments to the project timeline will be made to align the work with the typical work plan cycle. A Winter Science session abstract has been submitted to the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting planned for May, 2022.

Valuation of Ecosystem Services (Phase 1) (John Livernois)

The draft Work Plan circulated with the meeting agenda was reviewed. The project will assess the benefits of ecosystem services through a two-phase approach; the initial phase of this project is a scoping exercise to determine the specifics of a detailed analysis of non-market valuation of ecosystem services that could be completed as part of stage two of the project.

In the discussion that followed the advantages and disadvantages of ‘economic valuation’ versus ‘valuation’ in the project title were raised. The importance of bringing Indigenous perspectives to the Phase 1 work was emphasized. It was noted that the University of Minnesota is currently studying the non-market valuation of forest ecosystem services and a manuscript is currently in preparation.

4. Strategic Positioning

SAB Co-Chair calls with Lead Commissioners

The Science Advisory Board Co-Chairs recently initiated informational calls with SAB Lead Commissioners Béland and Sisson. The first call was held on September 22, 2021 and it included a productive and informative discussion of ongoing and planned Board projects and their potential to inform subsequent TAP reports. Roughly quarterly calls are planned moving forward.

It was noted that in addition to the Board sharing information with Lead Commissioners through these calls, eventually we can expect to get ideas and insights on issues the Commission views as important.

Triennial Assessment of Progress

The meeting agenda attachment that included a request from the TAP Work Group Co-Chairs for TAP topics was reviewed. Potential topics include ongoing and planned board projects, as well as topics from the ‘long list’ developed for TAP 2020. In addition, it was suggested that a future TAP could examine the issue of large-scale binational data harmonization to promote a culture of data gathering and curation that is useful at the scale of the Great Lakes basin.

In the discussion that followed several points were raised:

- The topics that rose to the top for the TAP 2020 report – nutrients and climate change – are still highly relevant.
- Identifying topics for future TAP reports should consider that it takes two years or more to complete projects that could provide source material for a TAP report. Therefore, the 2023 TAP report topics may need to be limited to work that is already underway.
- The SPC can also provide input on issues that we are not actively studying through ongoing projects.
- Several themes are woven through many of our ongoing projects – for example climate and Indigenous Knowledge – and those could be considered as candidates for TAP.
- In addition to the topics the SPC considers, thought should also be given to how analyses get structured to include themes related to data/data sharing, participation and governance, etc.

There was general agreement that a follow-up ‘electronic poll’ should be sent to SPC members to solicit their input on TAP topics that could be considered for future TAP reports.

Action: SPC members will be polled on their suggestions for future TAP report topics.

5. Upcoming Meetings & Other Business

There was general agreement that the planned October 15th Science Advisory Board meeting should include a discussion of potential joint topics, including but not limited to the Winter Science work plan.

There was general agreement that the October 21st Semi-Annual Meeting Appearance should include a discussion of draft work plans, and a preliminary discussion of potential TAP topics. Draft PowerPoint slides will be circulated to members prior to the Appearance.

In response to a question about the Agreement's 50th Anniversary in 2022, it was clarified by staff that it is the Commission's view that the governments should lead the anniversary celebrations, with support from the Commission.

Due to time constraints the agenda attachment describing the recently approved IJC Climate Resiliency Strategy work plan was not discussed. The work plan includes opportunities for IJC advisory board members to participate in interviews and project workshop(s); more information can be provided by the Secretary, and SPC members are asked to self-identify if they interested in participating.

Action: SPC members who would like to participate in the IJC Climate Resiliency Strategy work plan interviews or workshop(s) are asked to contact matthew.child@ijc.org

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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