



## IJC Science Advisory Board Meeting Summary

October 19, 2022 1:00pm-4:00pm

---

<b>U.S. Members</b>	<b>Canadian Members</b>	<b>Commission Staff</b>
Lucinda Johnson (SPC & SAB Co-Chair)	Gavin Christie (RCC & SAB Co- Chair)	Matthew Child (SPC Secretary)
Chris Winslow (RCC Co-Chair)	Gail Krantzberg (SPC Co-Chair)	Li Wang (RCC Secretary)
Mike Murray	Karen Kidd	Heather Stirratt
Mic Isham	Jerome Marty	Mark Burrows
Bob Sterner	Mike McKay	Raj Bejankiwar
Donna Kashian	John Livernois	Rajendra Poudel
Michael Twiss	Rebecca Rooney	Rob Phillips
Debbie Lee	Ram Yerubandi	Victor Serveiss
Sandra Eberts	Jason Borwick	
Dale Hoff	Eric Boisvert	
Val Klump	Sergio Paulo	
Carl Platz		

---

Guest: Jen Vanator

### 1. Welcome and Introductions, and Approval of Draft Agenda

The SAB Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the hybrid meeting, and round table introductions were made.

A special thanks was extended to Gavin Christie, who will be retiring soon. Gavin has been on the Board since 2014. Gavin's deep familiarity with agency science programs, ability to think broadly across disciplines and sectors, and leadership will be missed by all members.

The draft agenda was approved by consensus.

### 2. Great Lakes Decadal Science Strategy

The Strategy reporting was recently approved by the Commission for transmittal to the Parties. A crucial next step is to advance the Strategy by convening a coalition of willing partners to develop a more detailed Science Plan that includes information on science gaps, funding requirements, and associated governance arrangements. It is expected that the IJC will coordinate closely with the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission to advance a collaborative approach.

In the discussion that followed a number of points were raised:

- There are numerous specific opportunities coming up to socialize the Strategy (and need for a more detailed Plan) e.g., Great Lakes Day scheduled for March 9, 2023.
- It is important to distinguish between the request for investments included in the Strategy and ongoing investments in restoration being advanced through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Based on experiences from the Wisconsin Water Collaborative, some key questions we can expect from legislators are ‘what is the ask?’ and ‘what is the mechanism to administer the Plan’?
- The Science Plan will need to align with nascent initiatives like the Canada Water Agency and proposed U.S. Great Lakes Authority.
- Governance approaches should consider what has worked well for similar initiatives.
- The Plan needs to articulate why transformative and additional investments are needed, i.e., why does our existing approach need to be adjusted?
- The proposed Centers of Excellence must consider and align with existing entities, e.g., National Center of Expertise for Oils Spills Research.
- Creative branding of the effort is needed, and a suggested acronym was offered (SEE-FAR: Strategic Enhancement of Efforts for Freshwater Assessment and Research).
- The Science Strategy and (anticipated) Science Plan should be cast as ‘multinational’ to respect the role of Indigenous governments.

There was general agreement that a roll-out plan is needed, and it should include (at a minimum) the elements below; additional investments could be sought from the Commission to advance the roll-out plan:

- Board, staff and Commissioner roles
- Key audiences
- Sequencing of key events and engagement opportunities
- Short fact sheet/leave behind
- List of frequently asked questions

### **3. Ongoing SAB Project Updates**

#### Great Lakes Early Warning System (Phase 2) (Lucinda Johnston & Michael Twiss)

A project workshop was held on September 21+22, 2022 and was attended by ~25 participants. The focus of the workshop was to ‘test’ the draft early warning system framework through three case studies (non-P nutrients, fish pathogens, and PFAS); overall the draft framework held up well. The workshop proceedings will be forwarded to the work group soon. The draft project contractor report is expected in early 2023, and a work group report will be prepared by spring, 2023.

#### Great Lakes Winter Science (Michael Twiss)

A project contractor has been selected and a work group has been formed. The first work group meeting was held recently. Three workshops are planned – the first will address science gaps, the second will address infrastructure and coordination of those assets, and the third will synthesize project findings and develop SMART recommendations.

## Microplastics Monitoring & Risk Assessment (Karen Kidd & Rebecca Rooney)

The project is being advanced with the participation of Chelsea Rochman from the University of Toronto, who has completed a project funded by ECCC that included a literature review and explored the potential of developing a sub-indicator for the State of the Great Lakes reporting. The project includes three objectives, including a science synthesis, monitoring protocol, and risk assessment. A project contractor has been selected and a work group is being formed.

### **4. Triennial Assessment of Progress**

Individual TAP report sections are being developed in late November, 2022 with an initial full draft report expected by ~March, 2023. Since RCC members are primarily agency staff, RCC review could focus on whether the recommendations are realistic, whether there are any mischaracterizations in the report, and whether there is ongoing work that was missed but should be included in the report.

### **5. Future SAB Work Plans**

It was acknowledged that the SPC and RCC have a lot of project work already underway, including several full SAB projects. A key priority for additional Commission investment includes advancing the Great Lakes Science Strategy roll-out.

A potential SAB project could be an update to the Great Lakes Atlas; the original version was developed by ECCC and EPA and is roughly 30 years old. An updated and interactive online Atlas could be an excellent resource to engage the public and serve as a learning tool in educational environments. If an Atlas work plan is pursued, alignment with complementary efforts like Sea Grant's Center for Great Lakes Literacy must be considered.

At least three IAGLR 2023 sessions featuring SAB projects are planned – Great Lakes Science Strategy, Great Lakes Early Warning System (GLEWS), and Microplastics. The GLEWS session will be structured as a horizon-scanning exercise, as recommended in the Phase 1 report. It was suggested that software (e.g., Slido) could be utilized to elicit input during one of the plenary sessions. A media scan of issues in the preceding weeks could be considered for discussion at IAGLR, although it was pointed out that public perceptions are often driven by what is put in front of them.

### **6. Board Appearances**

The Board appearance slide decks were discussed to ensure alignment. Areas of emphasis include efforts to enhance coordination and cross-communication, and approaches to project report roll-out which could be expanded to include a Science Writers Workshop model whereby science writers are convened and provided with messaging they can use.

The RCC in particular continues to be interested in improving the U.S. project contract procurement process.

It was suggested that future SAB meetings could seek briefings on topics that are relevant to the work of the Board.

**7. Other Business & Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.