

International Joint Commission's Health Professionals Task Force 2006
WorkPlan including Collaborative Work under the 2005-2007 Great Lakes
Water Quality Agreement Priorities

1. Review of the GLWQA; Advice on Agreement Review

The HPTF participated on the ad hoc Health Advisory Group with members from the SAB, IAQAB, WQB and CGLRM. The HAG membership developed general and specific comments with respect to the characterization of human health in the existing Agreement and identified needs to enhance human health considerations in any future revision of the Agreement.

Lead Members: Drs. Orris and Gibson

Completed: February 14, 2006

2. Urbanization: Will address significant air and water quality issues related to urbanization in the Great Lakes Basin

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Will review and advise on transboundary urbanization issues (e.g. heat islands, urban infections, etc.) and their implications on public health.
- b. Will review impacts of urbanization and the advise on activities that promote "smartgrowth" related to sprawl (i.e. both urban and rural) and public health and;
- c. Members to participate and present at proposed Binational Urbanization Symposium in September 2006.
- d. Review and update report on Public Health and Urban Sprawl in Ontario in the context of transboundary public health issues.

Lead Members: Drs. Campbell, Lopez and Sanborn

3. Annex 2: RAPs and LaMPs: Will conduct activities designed to the profile of RAPs and LaMPs in the Great Lakes basin.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Participate in Annex 2 workgroup activities with interest in the development of quantitative, measurable delisting targets for the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs); and related monitoring and evaluation protocols and guidelines.
- b. Will review the draft ATSDR report on selected AOC's in the US and provide guidance to the Commission on the public policy implications in anticipation of its upcoming joint ATSDR/IJC release of the report.

Lead Members: Drs. Dellinger and Peter Orris

Resources Required: members will participate in conference calls with collaborating Great Lakes Boards as required.

- 4. Health Effects/New Chemical Issues:** will continue ongoing efforts to track developments in regard to new chemicals and human health effects.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Member(s) will participate/present at conference in Wisconsin, August 2006;
- b. Liaison with SAB's Workgroup on Ecosystem Health (WGEH) to further develop workplan on this priority;
- c. Review of the SAB's Workgroup on Ecosystem Health March 2004 contracted report on new chemical issues and their impacts on the GL basin ecosystem in light of public health implications (e.g. health effects/groundwater contamination); and
- d. Produce a white paper with the goal of prioritizing public health implications for new chemicals of concern in the basin.

Lead Members: Drs. Dellinger (U.S. SAB liaison), Gibson (Cdn. SAB liaison), and Brodtkin

Resources Required: \$2,000.00 estimated for travel costs for members to attend conference and participate other meetings. Conference calls with collaborating Great Lakes Boards as required.

- 5. Mercury Modeling:** will continue efforts to develop a multi-compartment (air, water, sediment, biota) model capturing mercury distribution and fate from source emission to presence in humans.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Participate in all aspects of the priority with emphasis on assisting with the "transfer of Contaminants to Humans" model.
- b. Attend proposed experts meeting Fall 2006.

Lead Members: Drs. Dellinger, Orris, and Gibson

Resources Required: \$2,000 estimated for travel cost for members to attend experts meeting in the Fall of 2006 and participate in other meetings. Conference calls with collaborating Great Lakes Boards as required.

- 6. Pathogens:** will more fully consider a potential environmental pathogens strategy for the Great Lakes basin.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Participate in all aspects of the priority with emphasis on antibiotic resistant pathogens.
- b. Attend proposed meeting October 11-13 (Beaches conference)

Lead Members: Drs. Gibson, Sanborn and Levallois

Resources Required: \$3,000 estimated for travel cost for members to attend expert meeting and participate in other meetings. Conference calls with collaborating Great Lakes Boards as required.

7. **Groundwater:** will assess the state of groundwater in the Great Lakes basin 20 years after Annex 16 was added to the Agreement.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Participate in all aspects of the priority with emphasis on public health and protections of groundwater source protection.
- b. Attend proposed meeting June 13, 14 Syracuse, N.Y.

Lead Members: Drs. Sanborn and Levallois

Resources Required: \$2,000 estimated for travel cost for members to attend expert meeting and participate in other meetings. Conference calls with collaborating Great Lakes Boards as required.

Other Work under the Mandate

8. **HPTF Newsletter - 'Health Effects Review'** provides a means by which the Commission can stay apprised of current and emerging research in the area of human health and environmental contaminants, and also the implications of that research for health professionals. In addition, the newsletter provides the IJC with a valuable public information tool in its increased focus on health effects of transboundary pollutants.

Proposed Role for HPTF:

- a. Continue producing and broadening the distribution of the quarterly newsletter recognizing that topics chosen be relevant to the Commission's on-going work (ie. transboundary environmental health issues) the mandate of the HPTF.
- b. Two members will lead each review topic.
- c. Review previous newsletter to assess which topics requiring updating.
- d. Topics proposed and lead members: Microbes and Pathogens in groundwater (Sanborn, Levallois); Chemicals in groundwater (Levallois, Gibson); Health Implications of Traffic (Direct/Indirect – 2 papers); Linking our resource use with toxic chemicals in fish.
- e. Members reaffirmed their commitment to expand distribution of the newsletter by encouraging health organizations to re-distribution newsletters to their membership and re-publication in health professional journals.

Lead Members: All members, Secretary

9. **HPTF Home Page on IJC website:** will be updated to allow for better navigation and searching of the HPTF home page from the Commission's Home Page with better linkages to '*whats news*' and '*publications*' from the Commission's website. The following key areas are to be updated:

- a. members contact information including their E-mail addresses;
- b. Mandate to the HPTF (October 2005) from Commission;
- c. Health Effects Newsletter; with links to other resources of interest by topic presented;
- d. links to other organizations relevant to HPTF and Commission interest in environment health issues;
- e. HPTF work plan (excluding resource and lead information) and activities; and
- f. Minutes of HPTF meetings posted to IJC website in a timely manner.

Lead Members: All members, Secretary