

**Meeting Record 53rd Meeting of the  
Council of Great Lakes Research Managers**  
**Wednesday April 13th 2011**  
**Wine Room, Embassy Suites Hotel**  
**1250 22nd St. Northwest, Washington D.C**

**U.S MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeffrey M. Reutter (U.S Co-Chair)	Ohio Sea Grant College Program; Ohio State University, Research Center, Columbus, OH
Marie Colton	Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, NOAA, Ann Arbor, MI
Christopher T. De Rosa	Alliance for Public Health and Associates, Inc., Acworth, GA
Val Klump	Great Lakes Water Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI
Norm Granneman (on phone)	USGS, Great Lakes Program, Lansing, MI
Jan Miller (on phone)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes & Ohio River Division Chicago, IL
Paul Horvatin (on phone)	U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, Chicago, IL

**CANADIAN MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Lawrence (Canadian Co-Chair)	Aquatic Ecosystem Management Branch, EC, CCIW Burlington, ON
Harvey Shear	Department of Geography, University of Toronto at Mississauga Mississauga, ON
Larry Moore	Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Walkerton, ON

**Secretary:**

Mark Burrows	International Joint Commission
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**OTHER INVITED ATTENDEES:**

Victor Serveiss	International Joint Commission, Washington, DC
Cindy Warwick	International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON
Saad Jasim	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Antonette Arvai	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Rajesh Bejankiwar	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
John Wilson	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Doug Bondy	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Samantha Dupre	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Megan Herod	International Joint Commission, Windsor, ON
Hans Biberhofer (on phone)	Environment Canada, Burlington, ON
	Binational Sediment Management Research Advisory Sub-Committee Member

**Members of the Health Professionals Task Force:**

Ray Copes (Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Occupational Health Ontario, Toronto, ON
John Dellinger (U.S. Co-Chair)	Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI
Peter Orris	University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
Joel Weiner (HPTF Secretary)	International Joint Commission, Ottawa, ON

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Jeff Reutter):**

Jeffrey M. Reutter welcomed everyone, members introduced themselves and reviewed and approved the Agenda.

**2. Proposed joint Health Professionals Task Force(HPTF) and Council of Great Lakes Research Managers (CGLRM)Meeting (Mark Burrows and All):**

The HPTF's primary focus is on human health issues while the CGLRM tends to focus on ecosystem health issues. It was suggested that the two groups connect and work on issues common to both by arranging a meeting at the end of July (week of 25-29 July 2011). A meeting to discuss planning this meeting was arranged with members of the HPTF for 2pm April 13<sup>th</sup>. Marie Colton works with Sonia Joseph who is attending a One Health workshop at the Shedd aquarium on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will brief the group at the end of July Meeting.(ref: [www.onehealthcommission.org](http://www.onehealthcommission.org))

**3. Membership& participation in IJC collaborative work groups ( Mark Burrows)**

- Tim Fletcher has newly been appointed to the council.
- The IJC has adopted a new policy on conflict of interest; this prompted Jan Ciborowski to resign from the CGLRM. Members will be kept apprised of any new developments with regards to the flexibility of the policy. The written policy is pending so for now it is unknown how flexible the policy will be.

**Action:** Members that are aware of any written policies with mechanisms for dealing with a potential conflict of interest in other groups they may be associated with are asked to send these to Mark Burrows to share with the IJC to expedite the process of developing a written policy.

**4. Integrated Great Lakes Science Vessel Fleet Status Report (Marie Colton)**

Marie Colton presented the group with some background information for a suggested recommendation to the commissioners to provide funding in support of the project to create an integrated fleet status report. Key Points noted were:

- All agencies currently have different strategies and plans for acquiring and maintaining their fleets
- NOAA focuses most attention and planning on building new larger boats so smaller boats such as those used in the Great Lakes are often overlooked in strategic plans
- A meeting earlier this year clearly pointed out the opportunity for USGS, Ontario, USFWS and state agencies to identify the ideal needs for a new small multi-purpose Great Lakes research vessel allowing them to share plans and save money through lessons learned from partner organizations.
- NOAA's Consortium for Ocean leadership is currently undertaking a similar initiative for the ocean areas and is interested in working with the CGLRM on this project
- There has only been one previous study of this kind completed 10 years ago and it was limited to fish research vessels. ([GLFC, Schneider, Peck, 2001](#))
- Research vessels projects could become part of the research inventory.
- Research vessels are important parts of continual monitoring programs along with other tools such as automated platforms and will get more expensive to run if the fleet is not

properly maintained. It is more expensive to manage a fleet of vessels in an ad hoc manner.

- Some elements that might be considered essential to GL ships include: incorporating space for education and outreach and media, designing emergency response capabilities and having boats that are multi-functional

**Action Item:** Marie Colton will present a proposal to commissioners April 14<sup>th</sup> to request funding for the 2011 – 2013 priority cycle to move ahead with this initiative.

**5. Binational Sediment Management Research Advisory Sub-Committee  
(Jan Miller; Hans Biberhofer (EC) via teleconference)**

Jan Miller provided an update to the council regarding past activities of the IJC related to Great Lakes dredging. Mark Burrows made some investigative calls to determine the state of dredging activities in U.S and Canada at present. Key points are as follows:

- Annex 7 requirements to evaluate the effects of navigational dredging on water quality have been fulfilled. The Water Quality Board's Sediment Priority Action Committee (SEDPAC) addressed the problem between 1995 and 2000, and much of the advice was transmitted to the governments in the IJC's Tenth and Eleventh Biennial Reports.
- There are still issues with the U.S federal government's role in navigational dredging as more economical dredging methods are sought. Managers need to look at the science to compare capping with clean up technologies but are increasingly compelled to consider capping to lower costs. There are also issues with responsibilities for monitoring of completed cleanup projects and integrating sediment clean up with restoration projects.
- The Canadian federal government's recent divestment of all harbours and dredging responsibilities to local ports and harbours complicates binational cooperation. Funding for sediment dredging and cleanup varies depending on the purpose of the port (recreational vs commercial).

**Recommendations:**

- i. Connect Canadian ports directly with U.S Great Lakes Dredging Team research to share information.
- ii. Assess what has been done over the past 10-15 years in full scale Great Lakes sediment clean up operations, what technology and methodologies work and what are the new issues with respect to sediment clean up.

**Motion:** The motion made by Jan Miller & seconded by Harvey Shear to recommend reinstating SEDPAC as a subcommittee of the Water Quality Board. That the "SEDPAC 2" would make recommendations to the WQB after performing an evaluation of lessons learned over the past 10 years from cleanup efforts in support of efforts to delist AOCs. Since this relates to water quality, beneficial use impairment, human health as well as research this committee could be a joint effort between the CGLRM and the water quality board. The CGLRM should take a lead role on pursuing this initiative until the WQB is organized and ready to consider and act on the CGLRM's recommendations.

**Action Item:** Mark Burrows and John Wilson will inform the WQB of the CGLRM recommendation.

**6. Update on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) (Paul Horvatin)**

Paul Horvatin provided a brief update on the GLRI. Approximately 475 million has been spent last year through either grants or direct actions. Great Lakes Accountability System (GLAS) is being developed to track all expenditures of funds from EPA or other federal agencies for their quarterly reports. The current report is drafted. Some oversubscription happened and some projects will get transferred to the following year. For 2011 fiscal year approximately \$300 million is designated as of now but this may change depending on the final budget determination.

**7. Council recommendations for reporting to the IJC about the potential effects of offshore wind energy development prioritized research needs and near term actions to mitigate potentially harmful effects.**

Background presented by Jeff Reuter and Mark Burrows. CGLRM sent a letter to the commissioners on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 and their charge in response was to develop a report on the potential effects of offshore winds energy on the Great Lakes with recommendations on actions that may be taken to avoid or mitigate negative environmental impacts. The CGLRM co-chairs will discuss a recommended approach with the commissioners on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Wind collaborative is working on a similar report that is planned to be completed within the next 3 months. The outline of this report was presented to the group and it was noted that the GLWC report touches on many of the issues of interest to the CGLRM such as adaptive management.

Two possible pathways of collaboration were suggested:

1. The wind collaborative continues to write the report and CGLRM reviews and makes recommendations at the end of the report.
2. CGLRM could be a contributing partner, adjust the report outline, drafts and produce a joint IJC-GLWC collaborative report.

Concerns were raised that the wind collaborative may have an agenda to promote development and may not use entirely peer reviewed scientifically credible sources. Concerns were also raised about the thoroughness of a report completed in such a short time-frame and whether this would provide the council with sufficient time for significant input into a joint report.

It was suggested that the best alternative is a three step plan

1. CGLRM members will make suggestions to the wind collaborative on how to improve the proposed report outline
2. Once a first draft is completed the CGLRM will review and comment on it.
3. In the end the CGLRM will write a report commenting on the final product and making recommendations to the commissioners about how best to proceed with research priorities. ( this step may or may not include subjecting the wind collaborative report to an external peer review)

More reports such as this one will be published as wind energy development grows and it may be useful for the CGLRM to consider at a later date what their role will be in reviewing and commenting on such reports to the commissioners.

**Motion:** Motion made by Val Klump seconded by Larry Moore to proceed with the 3 part process outlined above.

**Action:** Mark Burrows will send outline to all members for review and comment. Members will send their comments to the group as a whole and Mark will incorporate all comments into one document to be approved in the next conference call.

Mark Burrows and Jeff Reutter will contact Victoria Pebbles from the wind collaborative to inform them of the council's decision pending approval by the commissioners on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**8. CSMI Update (John Lawrence)**

The status of the 5 year rotational cycle is :

Year 1- Lake Ontario wrapping up work of previous cycle and is in synthesis and planning

Year2- Lake Huron, currently consolidating priorities from planning meeting

Year 3- Intensive Field year for Lake Superior is well underway

Year 4 –Lake Michigan, last year's initiatives not finished finishing up this year and meeting with Lake Ontario group to see lessons learned

Year 5- Lake Erie synthesis work underway, the work done last year will be finalized later this year

The CSMI program was asked to include connecting channels in the rotation and is currently including the St. Lawrence and Niagara Rivers with Lake Ontario.

**9. Discussion of Council Presentation on April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Points to discuss:

- Quickly mention the Great Lakes Research Inventory
- Proposal for the Great Lakes Science Vessel Fleet Status Report
- Approval for the council's Plan of Action regarding collaboration with the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative
- Discussion of research projects from Val Klump , John Lawrence and Jeff Reutter
- Brief mention of councils plans to looking into emerging activities of concern such as fracking.
- Ask if there are other issues the commissioners would like to be briefed on.

**10. The impact of “fracking” for gas and oil in the Great Lakes (Chris DeRosa)**

Chris DeRosa suggested that the CGLRM work to make recommendations to the commissioners about the issue of fracking. Specifically this could address issues such as the lack of current resources for monitoring and the development of new techniques such as using isotopic markers to track contamination, the current regulatory oversight and the need for stricter reporting requirements for disposed materials from fracking.

**Motion:** Jeff Reuter and John Lawrence moved to form a new subcommittee with the purpose of discussing the fracking issue and informing the CGLRM about information needs and research recommendations that the Council might in turn bring forward to the Commission. Chris DeRosa volunteered to chair this committee. Other who members volunteered to be part of the committee include: Norm Grannemann and Vic Serveiss

**Action:** Sub-committee members will meet in the near future to discuss this issue.

## **11. Joint meeting with HPTF (2PM)**

It was noted that the One Health meeting in the Chicago Shedd Aquarium on May 20<sup>th</sup> will provide a platform for a good discussion about mutual interests of the CGLRM and HPTF including topics such as agricultural inputs of nutrients, antibiotics and resulting algal blooms.

The concern was raised that there is a gap in funding of topics that cross over the ecosystem and human health boundaries because proposed ecology projects that are related to health are often not granted funding because they are considered out of the scope of grant organization(s). Likewise, health projects that are linked to environmental science are not funded because they are linked to environmental science and go beyond the scope of the grant organization(s). This is a good justification for collaboration between HPTF and CGLRM.

Potential topics to discuss include: Transmissions of pathogens back and forth from humans and animals, agro-chemicals, CECS, antibiotics.

### **Action Items:**

- Val Klump and John Dellinger will lead a planning committee for a joint HPTF –CGLRM task force meeting in July, committee includes: John Lawrence, Jeff Reutter, Val Klump, John Dellinger, Ray Copes, Marie Colton, Larry Moore, Norm Grannemann.
- The HPTF was asked to look at the GLRI projects from a health professionals view to make comments at the July meeting.
- In the future both groups will make an effort to hold a joint meeting any time they are both at the same conference/event.

## **12. Motion to Adjoin: Meeting Adjourned**