

# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Watersheds Initiative

## International Joint Commission

Summary of the October 2023 Workshop

Ottawa, Ontario





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## Context

The International Watersheds Initiative (IWI) emerged 25 years ago in 1998. Its goal is to assist the International Joint Commission's (IJC) to prevent and/or resolve transboundary water issues along the US-Canada border, and is grounded in the belief that local communities, given appropriate assistance, are best placed to solve watershed-scale problems. The IWI provides a holistic approach to water management that enables IJC Boards to gain a better scientific understanding of problems. Boards are then able to communicate findings to relevant binational resource managers and communities to support collaborative actions to address watershed mandates. As part of the 25th anniversary of the IWI, the IJC held two IWI workshops in 2023 to receive input and advice from Board members on what is working, what could be improved, and priorities for the next five years.

In April 2023, nearly 50 people, representing past and present IJC Commissioners, IJC staff, IJC Board members and staff from the Canadian and United States governments, came together in Washington, D.C. to reflect on the past, present, and future of the IWI. The intent of the April workshop was to reflect on the origins, accomplishments, and lessons learned over the past 25 years of the IWI, and to initiate a process to hear from Board members and partners to identify the most significant needs, opportunities, and challenges facing the IWI over the next 3-5 years. The summary of the April workshop can be found [here](#).

Through a series of small group and plenary discussions, five themes emerged during the April workshop. These ideas are not presented in any order of priority; they are listed by number for ease of reference:

1. Adapt climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds.
2. Support meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples in watershed efforts.
3. Explore the merits of recognizing and supporting well-established transboundary watershed initiatives along the international border that operate outside IJC but employ IWI principles and practices.
4. Develop and/or refine a multi-objective communications plan.
5. Enhance the capacity of IWI and international watershed and control Boards.

To complement the April 2023 workshop and related report, and to further recognize the 25th anniversary of IWI, the IJC produced the International Watersheds Initiative: 25th Anniversary Showcase Report (available [here](#)). This report provides a succinct history of the IWI, reviews the basic concepts of



Figure 1: IJC Advisor Adam Greeley gives presentation on IWI's 25th Anniversary to workshop participants.



the watershed approach, highlights successes during the first 25 years, identifies transboundary challenges, and examines the IWI's capacity moving forward.

## The Workshop

Based on the outcomes of the April 2023 workshop, fifty-one people gathered in Ottawa (and virtually) on October 19, 2023, to continue the conversation and to begin developing specific action items to address three of the five themes that emerged during the April workshop (see Appendix A for a List of Participants and Appendix B for the Workshop Agenda).

The three topics addressed during the October workshop were as follows:

1. Adapt climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds.
2. Support meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples in watershed efforts.
3. Enhance the capacity of IWI and international watershed and control Boards.

The other two issues identified in the April 2023 workshop are being addressed by IWI staff and others within the IJC through other venues.

Prior to the workshop, the facilitation team (including senior IWI staff and the facilitator) asked participants to identify which one of the topics they would like to focus on. The facilitation team then created six small groups, two for each of the three topics. A small group also convened virtually and largely addressed the issue of climate change. Each small group was guided by a worksheet (see Appendices C, D, and E).

The participants, in their breakout groups, engaged in robust conversations for the better part of two hours (including a working lunch), and then shared the results of their dialogue and deliberation with all of the other participants in plenary. The facilitation team has synthesized the results of each topic and have taken some liberties to organize, clarify, and amplify the suggested action items that emerged during the workshop.



Figure 2: Commissioner Henry Lickers providing opening remarks for the October 2023 IWI workshop



## Suggestion Actions Items on Climate Change

One of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *adapt climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds*.

In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

1. Use this as an opportunity to demonstrate how to integrate western science and Indigenous knowledge in watersheds with our shared boundary
2. Consider the option of creating some type of climate change consultant team to support this type of effort. For example, the consulting group in the St. Croix River watershed
3. Encourage international watershed boards to establish some type of climate change committee and to integrate resilience strategies into work plans.
4. Provide international watershed boards a template or guidance document to support the process of adapting climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds.

The participants that addressed this topic at the October workshop offered the following suggested action items. Please note that these suggested action items are not necessarily presented in any order of priority and are numbered for ease of reference. For each suggested action item, participants were asked to identify who is responsible for implementing the action item, and over what period of time.

Action Item # 1: Consider reframing the objective of this topic based on the need to integrate various models with each other. Participants suggested revising the objective to read “*Encourage IJC to establish a climate change hub to support the climate-related work of IWI Boards, and to encourage Boards to establish a climate change committee and integrate resilience strategies into work plans.*”

Action Item # 2: Develop a broad-based Steering Committee to create a workplan for designing an IWI climate hub, including identifying funding sources. Build on lessons learned from the data harmonization work that has occurred over the past many years.



Figure 3: Facilitator Matt McKinney presenting to workshop participants

Responsibility: IJC staff

Timeline: Immediately

Action Item # 3: Reach out to each Board and request volunteers to participate in the Steering Committee. Note that some boards may have the same participant – i.e., one person representing multiple boards and/or Indigenous communities. Determine if this is the place to involve (and to coordinate) one or more modelers, at least as resource people and experts.

Responsibility: Boards

Timeline: December 2023

Action Item # 4: The Steering Committee should develop an agenda for a two-day workshop, including identifying objectives, expected outcomes, materials needed for the workshop (starting with the *Climate Change Guidance Framework (2017)*), and to otherwise complete whatever work needs to be done prior to the workshop. The initial scope of work for the Steering Committee might include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) Clarify who is doing what along these lines, including public, private, and NGO sectors.
- b) Clarify the initial scope of work for the climate hub.
- c) Develop a *strawman framework* to establish and administer the climate hub, including but not limited to developing protocols related to:
  - 1) Communication
  - 2) Collaboration with Indigenous peoples
  - 3) Engaging stakeholders
  - 4) Public information and education
  - 5) Managing existing data
  - 6) Data sharing agreements
  - 7) Addressing data gaps
  - 8) Addressing the socio-economic aspects of climate change, and
  - 9) Encouraging international watershed boards to establish some type of climate change committee and to integrate resilience strategies into work plans, in part by providing the boards a template or guidance document to support the process of adapting climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds.
  - 10) Provide training on this topic to watershed and control boards, including Indigenous peoples and local champions.
  - 11) Identify constraints to adapting climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds (e.g., address the need for homogenous data across the international



Figure 4: Workshop participants

border; emphasize the importance of clarifying where data is coming from; and so on).

- 12) IWI staff and an outside facilitator should provide backbone support to convene, facilitate, and otherwise support the Steering Committee.

Responsibility: Steering Committee, IWI staff, and facilitator

Timeline: February/March 2024

Action Item # 5: Convene a two-day workshop with representation from as many Boards as possible, along with relevant staff and other experts. Discuss and refine the strawman framework to establish and administer the climate hub.

Responsibility: Steering Committee, IWI staff, and facilitator

Timeline: April 2024

Action Item # 6: Submit budget requests to the two respective federal governments. Clarify how much funding is necessary to implement the proposed scope of work, and how to best support the climate hub.

Responsibility: IJC

Timeline: Align with fiscal years in the United States and Canada

Action Item # 7: In the spirit of using *“this as an opportunity to demonstrate how to integrate western science and Indigenous knowledge,”* which was one of the initial strategies identified in the April 2023 workshop, consider the possibility of providing training to Boards and/or demonstration/pilot projects to learn how to integrate western science and Indigenous knowledge. Realize from the start that Indigenous knowledge often comes in the form of storytelling about particular people, places, and things, in contrast to data presented in tables and other models of learning in the western science paradigm. The Souris Board is apparently experimenting with some different approaches to this challenge

However, this action item is addressed, it is essential to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples from the start to develop a shared sense of purpose and direction.



Figure 5: Breakout groups discussing their topics



## Suggested Action Items on Collaborating with Indigenous Peoples

Another one of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *support meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples in watershed efforts*. In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

1. Identify opportunities to move from simply engaging Indigenous people to shared decision-making and co-management.
2. Explore the possibility of jointly developing a strategy or policy to support meaningful engagement of Indigenous people as part of the permanent structure of the IWI.
3. Provide resources to enhance the capacity of Indigenous people to meaningfully participate.
4. Clarify how IWI Boards are relevant and value-added to Indigenous communities.
5. Provide training, with Indigenous leaders, on how best to mobilize and engage Indigenous individuals, organizations, and communities into watershed efforts.
6. Identify opportunities to braid traditional ecological knowledge with western science.

The participants that addressed this topic at the October workshop started by offering several observations that provide an important context for this theme:

- First, the concept and practice of “collaboration” often has a different connotation for government agencies and non-Indigenous stakeholders in contrast to Indigenous Nations. The understanding and practice of collaboration may also vary among Indigenous Nations. While some individuals and groups may focus on the relationship-building value of collaboration (building trust, engaging in an open dialogue, exchanging knowledge and information), others may feel that collaboration is only meaningful when it involves shared decision-making and/or generates measurable outcomes on-the-ground.
- Second, it is important to realize and/or to clarify that collaboration (and/or what some people refer to as “co-management”) may take several forms depending on the level of engagement – e.g., observers (least degree of engagement), advisory groups, and/or board members (highest degree of engagement). The appropriate type of engagement may depend on the capacity of unique Indigenous peoples and governments, the issues being addressed, and the culture of a particular watershed and/or control Board.
- Third, however the concept of collaboration is operationalized in policy or by a particular watershed Board, it should create opportunities for Indigenous peoples to co-develop policy and solutions. In other words, it should move from simply “engaging” Indigenous peoples in collaborative problem-solving and/or “integrating” their knowledge and interests into the



established decision-making systems, to genuinely sharing responsibility for generating and implementing policy and on-the-ground solutions.

- Fourth, it is important to keep in mind that most (if not all) Indigenous communities have limited bandwidth and capacity – meaning, they may not have the time, financial resources, relevant knowledge, and/or staff expertise to participate in watershed and/or control Boards in a way that is meaningful to them.

On a similar but different note, it is also important to be mindful of intra- and inter-Tribal relationships. Who is selected to sit at what table is not an insignificant decision and may have consequences to effective working relationships.

- Fifth and finally, it is important to realize that watersheds are more than just the source of water for Indigenous peoples; they are a homeland and include plants, animals, and the entire ecosystem, including human communities.

In addition to these context setting observations, the participants addressing this topic offered several suggested action items. Please note that these suggested action items are not necessarily presented in any order of priority and are numbered for ease of reference. For each suggested action item, participants were asked to identify who is responsible for implementing the action item, and over what period of time.

**Action Item # 1:** Develop a policy framework/strategy and set of best practices, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, to promote and support meaningful collaboration with Indigenous peoples. Build on the emerging work group within IJC and the idea of a “circle of experts/Indigenous people.”

**Responsibility:** IJC/IWI staff, Boards, Indigenous peoples

**Timeline:** TBD

**Action Item # 2:** Hire and/or dedicate at least one person within IJC and/or IWI to serve as a full-time Indigenous Peoples Liaison. This person or team could help build relationships with Indigenous peoples; support and advise Boards; provide training and education as appropriate; develop and share resources to increase awareness, understanding, and capacity; monitor collaborative efforts with Indigenous peoples and suggest ways to improve policy and practice; etc.

**Responsibility:** IWI staff

**Timeline:** TBD

**Action Item # 3:** Reach-out to Indigenous communities by taking the time to visit the communities and asking leaders and community members how, if at all, they would like to be involved in IWI watershed and/or control boards.



- a) Provide information and education on what Boards do/don't do, and how a local watershed board might address the needs, interests, and priorities of the Indigenous community.
- b) Clarify the interest and capacity of Indigenous peoples to participate in watershed and/or control boards and realize that they may be more likely to participate on specific issues.
- c) Emphasize that Indigenous peoples might participate in any one of a number of ways, such as observers (least degree of engagement) to advisory groups to Board members (highest degree of engagement).
- d) Provide separate notices to Indigenous communities as a parallel effort alongside public information notices. Provide the information to both audiences early and often.
- e) Ask Indigenous leaders and communities what the best way is to communicate with leaders, legal and technical staff, and the community at large. Document who is doing what along these lines across watershed and control Boards – in other words, how do different watershed and control Boards reach-out to Indigenous peoples, communicate with them on a regular basis, and support their engagement.

Responsibility: IWI staff, Boards, independent consultant/facilitator

Timeline: TBD

Action Item # 4: Provide a broad suite of resources to support the participation of Indigenous peoples in IWI watershed and control Boards. For example, provide stipends for travel and related expenses, as well as compensation to cover their time and effort to prepare and participate; clarify their roles and responsibilities; provide orientation materials; and allow Indigenous peoples to share their perspectives and experiences with the entire board as part of orienting other board members to a different way of learning, knowing, problem-solving.

Responsibility: IJC/IWI, Boards

Timeline: TBD

Action Item # 5: Develop resources to raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous communities; facilitate communication and information sharing among Boards and Indigenous peoples; and integrate Indigenous knowledge with western science. Participate in community events, as appropriate, within Indigenous communities to exchange information, build relationships, and explore opportunities to work together. Emphasize that all of these resources and activities should be developed in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Responsibility: IJC/IWI, Boards, Indigenous peoples



Timeline: TBD.

Action Item # 6: Provide training, with Indigenous leaders, on how best to mobilize and engage Indigenous individuals, organizations, and communities into watershed efforts. Use existing training programs and/or resources, if appropriate. Send delegations from interested watershed and control Boards to training sessions, and/or bring experts to interested watersheds for larger community discussions. Realize that the best training is often homegrown, with the support and input from individuals or groups that have significant experience. Existing resources may include the Collaboration with Native Nations and Tribal Consultation (National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution); Cultural Resources and Environmental Training (US Army Corp of Engineers). In addition, it may be valuable to work with a facilitation team -- that includes one or more Indigenous members and has experience in binational watersheds -- to design and deliver tailored workshops for individual watershed Boards.

Responsibility: TBD

Timeline: TBD

Action Item # 7: Identify opportunities (pilot projects) to braid traditional ecological knowledge with western science (e.g., on flooding issues, which impact streamflow, fisheries, burial sites, and so on.). Realize that a lot of traditional ecological knowledge is passed along via oral traditions within Indigenous communities, and that such knowledge is often considered sacred.

Responsibility: IWI, Boards, Indigenous peoples

Timeline: TBD

## Suggested Action Items on Enhancing IWI Boards

Another one of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *enhance the capacity of IWI and international watershed boards*.

In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

1. Address ongoing needs and opportunities related to financial capacity, human capacity (leadership, Board members, and staff), and knowledge capacity.
2. Continue to provide funding to support Board members as well as the IWI in general. Explore opportunities to leverage funding from other IJC sources, government agencies, and philanthropy.



3. Ensure that IWI is ready to move when a local champion emerges and is ready to build a “coalition for change” in a transboundary watershed. Be mindful of the capacity and bandwidth of individuals participating on international watershed Boards, and develop strategies to avoid burnout (e.g., create awards recognizing people’s contributions, support mini-sabbaticals to allow Board members to renew and recharge, and so on).
4. Take advantage of diverse sources of knowledge, but don’t assume that more and better data will necessarily lead to more robust participation and collaborative problem-solving. Strike a balance between investing in data, engagement, and collaborative action, while maintaining an expectation of ongoing learning and adaptive management.

The participants that addressed this topic at the October workshop offered the following suggested action items. Please note that these suggested action items are not necessarily presented in any order of priority and are numbered for ease of reference. For each suggested action item, participants were asked to identify who is responsible for implementing the action item, and over what period of time.

**Action Item # 1:** Enhance outreach and engagement by targeting different audiences and using appropriate messaging and media.

- a) Enhance public consultation. Start by completing an audit of existing public consultation efforts across all watershed and control Boards. Identify what works and what doesn’t. Address this topic at a focused workshop at one of the biannual IWI meetings to exchange information, learn from each other, and develop new approaches to public consultation.
- b) Engage youth/emerging leaders through one or more targeted programs:
  - 1) Engage undergraduate and graduate school students through internships, scholarships, and cooperative programs to work on issues relevant to particular watershed and control Boards, including field work, research, etc.
  - 2) Appoint emerging leaders to watershed and control Boards as part of a leadership development program (develop a simple framework for the leadership program that includes learning objectives, skills development, and expectations); and
  - 3) Explore the idea of something like a “conservation corps” to mobilize and engage students in research, on-the-ground projects, and activities relevant to particular watershed and/or control boards
- c) Enhance the engagement of Indigenous peoples. See suggested action items in the previous section of this workshop summary.

**Responsibility:** TBD

**Timeline:** TBD

**Action Item # 2:** Enhance knowledge sharing through one or more strategies, including but not limited to:

- a) Provide dedicated space during the semi-annual IWI meetings for Board members to get together and exchange information on topics of mutual interest. Consider experimenting with collaborative tools such as *Open Space Meetings* where participants offer topics and others participate according to interest. This method provides structure for giving people opportunity and responsibility to create valuable conversations and products.
- b) Connect with Indigenous peoples and other local people to share knowledge of land and water (see suggested action items in the earlier section of this workshop summary). For examples on how to do this, see the *Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum* and *State of Basin Report*, and *Osoyoos Lakes Water Science Forum*.
- c) Provide a “circuit rider” with specialized knowledge on particular topics (e.g., climate change). The idea is that this person or team would be available to interested watershed and control Boards to facilitate knowledge sharing on particular topics. Keep in mind that many experts will want to demonstrate their knowledge of a particular subject rather than facilitate a Board and/or community discussion and then supplement the watershed’s knowledge with ideas, information, and examples from other places. Might consider having a professional facilitator work alongside the circuit rider to avoid that scenario.

**Responsibility:** TBD

**Timeline:** TBD

**Action Item # 3:** Enhance information management through one or more strategies:

- a) Clarify and communicate, in a timely and transparent way, how IWI funding is managed within the boards. Explain the return on investments to all Board members and the broader community as appropriate.
- b) Clarify and communicate, in a timely and transparent way, the purpose and scope of various scientific and technical studies and progress reports. Explain the findings and implications to all Board members and the broader community as appropriate.



Figure 6: Breakout groups discussing their topics



- c) Realizing that a lot of Board projects and studies are focused on securing baseline information and filling gaps, develop a protocol or framework that creates some margin, opportunity, and/or capacity for Boards to address other timely issues.
- a) Develop an open-source data repository, which could/should be managed by one of the government agencies.

Responsibility: TBD

Timeline: TBD

Action Item # 4: Develop and implement (or at least experiment with) strategies to recruit and retain Board members. Realize that enthusiasm tends to be high at the start and to fade over time.

Responsibility: TBD

Timeline: TBD

Action # 5: Facilitate transitions and continuity among board members by providing or enhancing orientation among new Board members.

Responsibility: TBD

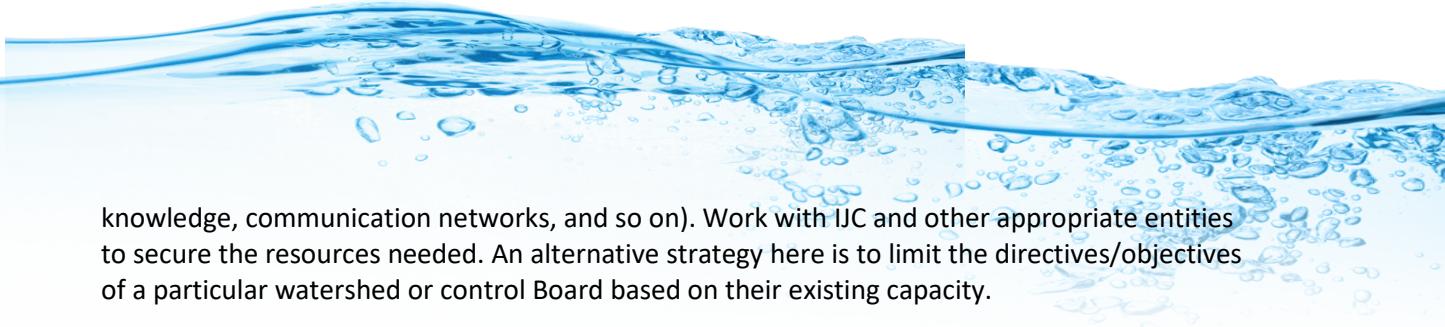
Timeline: TBD

Action Item # 6: Address the capacity of Boards through a variety of strategies:

- a) Facilitate a conversation among Boards and IWI/IJC about the process of developing work plans (including board structure and composition) and the need to maintain a dynamic balance between bottom-up aspirations and resources provided from the top-down. In other words, a bottom-up approach where a local Board aspires to achieve more than the resources provided from the top-down is not likely to be constructive. In the same way, allowing IJC/IWI to set the objectives and agenda for local Boards from the top down is not likely to facilitate the ownership at the local level to accomplish the desired work.

In the final analysis, the process of setting agenda and providing capacity needs to be a joint process that is inclusive, transparent, and intentional. IJC/IWI should hold Boards accountable to the primary mission of IJC (i.e., to prevent and/or resolve transboundary disputes") while local Boards should figure out the best way to achieve shared interests within the broad mandate or directive.

- b) Ask Boards to develop works plans that identify their objectives, activities, and any gaps in capacity to achieve the desired outcomes (e.g., human resources, financial resources,



knowledge, communication networks, and so on). Work with IJC and other appropriate entities to secure the resources needed. An alternative strategy here is to limit the directives/objectives of a particular watershed or control Board based on their existing capacity.

- c) Explore the possibility of dedicating more IJC/IWI staff support to particular watershed and control Boards.

Responsibility: Boards and IWI

Timeline: Align with the established practice and timing of developing work plans.

Action Item # 7: Establish mechanism or framework to integrate water quantity, water quality, and aquatic ecosystem health.

Responsibility: Boards and IWI

Timeline: TBD

## Conclusions and Next Steps

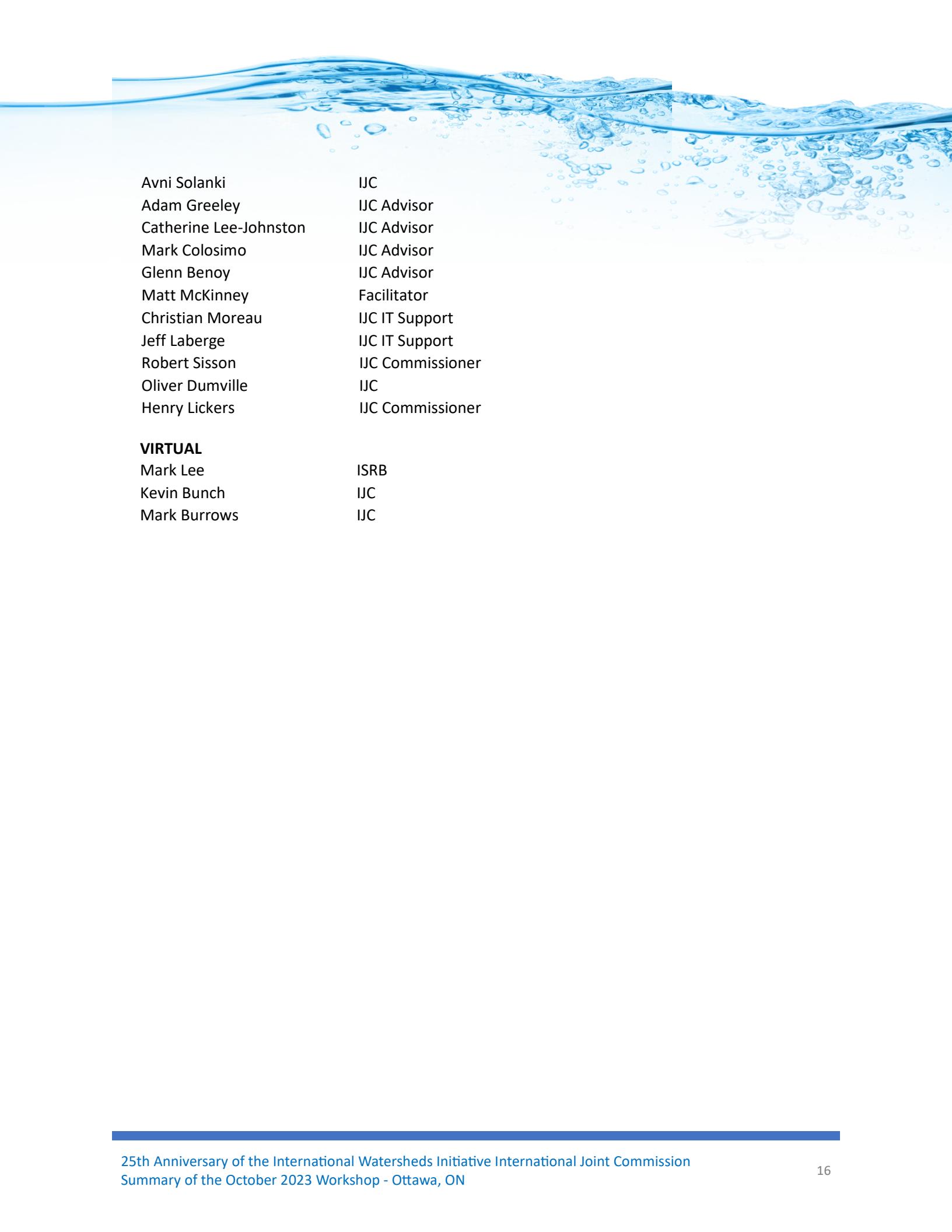
Once the IWI staff and facilitator have completed a draft of this workshop summary, it will be shared with the participants for review and comment. The feedback from participants will then be incorporated into a final workshop summary or report.

The suggested action items and other information generated through this process will then be used to (1) revise and update the IWI five-year plan, and as part of the strategic assessment for 2020 to 2025; and (2) prepare the 6<sup>th</sup> report to government in 2025.



## Appendix A: List of Participants

Name	Organization Acronym
<b>IN-PERSON</b>	
Dave Hutchinson	ECCC, IOLBC
Sonja Michelsen	USACE
Karen Cedarwall	IRLWWB
Jo Werba	IJC
Matthew Child	IJC
Tom Edge	HPAB
Teika Newton	IRLWWB, IJC
Sue Lowry	SMM Study Board
Bruce Davison	ECCC, ISRB, SMMSB
Sarah Lobrichon	IJC
Michael Laitta	IJC
Tia Dumoulin	IJC
Todd Sellers	IRLWWB
Theresa Haugen	IRRWB, IRLWWB
Joan Frain	ILOSLB
Wendy Leger	ECCC, GLAM
Paul Allen	IJC
Erika Klyszejko	IJC
Matt Myers	IRLWWB
Sandra Svoboda	IJC
Lyne Sabourin	IJC
Martin Suchy	ECCC, IOLBC, IKLBC, ICRBC
Frank Seglenieks	ECCC
Nicole O'Brien	ECCC
Evan Friesenhan	ECCC
Lynn Greer	USACE
Bryce Carmichael	USACE
John Kilpatrick	USGS
Brian Loving	USGS
Rachel Wyatt	IJC
Chrissy Chiasson	IJC
Celine Desjardins	IJC
Rob Caldwell	IJC Advisor
Alexandra Farrell	IJC
David Fay	IJC
Jennifer Brebner	IJC
Athena Goodale	IJC



Avni Solanki	IJC
Adam Greeley	IJC Advisor
Catherine Lee-Johnston	IJC Advisor
Mark Colosimo	IJC Advisor
Glenn Benoy	IJC Advisor
Matt McKinney	Facilitator
Christian Moreau	IJC IT Support
Jeff Laberge	IJC IT Support
Robert Sisson	IJC Commissioner
Oliver Dumville	IJC
Henry Lickers	IJC Commissioner

**VIRTUAL**

Mark Lee	ISRB
Kevin Bunch	IJC
Mark Burrows	IJC



## Appendix B: Workshop Agenda

### October 2023 IWI Workshop Agenda –

#### The International Watersheds Initiative – 25 years and beyond

**Date:** Thursday October 19, 2023

**Time:** 11:00am-2:45pm (eastern)

**TEAMS link:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Location:**

The Sheraton Ottawa Hotel

150 Albert Street

Ottawa, ON K1P 5G2

Penthouse A/B,

**Theme:** The October 2023 IWI Workshop in Ottawa will focus on discussing and identifying specific board priorities and needs, opportunities, and mechanisms around these four themes, so they can be built upon in the coming years through the IWI.

**Objectives:**

1. To narrow down further details and board views on future initiatives for the IWI program
2. To enable information sharing between boards

**Facilitator:** Matt McKinney

Time	Topic	Lead
11:00- 11:05	Welcome and Introductions from IJC Commissioners	Commissioners



11:05- 11:15	Brief recap of the April 2023 IWI Workshop, and goals and objectives for the October 2023 IWI workshop	IWI Coordinators Glenn Benoy and Mark Colosimo	
11:15- 11:30	Instructions for Breakout Groups	Workshop Facilitator Matt McKinney	
Breakout Group Discussions / Working Lunch			
11:30- 13:00	Adapting Climate Tools to Local Watersheds	Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science/Supporting Meaningful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples	Enhancing Capacity of the IWI and International Watershed Boards
Report-Outs from Breakout Groups and Discussions			
13:00- 14:30	Adapting Climate Tools to Local Watersheds		15-minute report-out; 15-minute discussion
	Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science/Supporting Meaningful Collaboration with Indigenous Peoples		15-minute report-out; 15-minute discussion
	Enhancing Capacity of the IWI and International Watershed Boards		15-minute report-out; 15-minute discussion
14:30- 14:40	Closing comments; next steps	IWI Coordinators Glenn Benoy and Mark Colosimo	



## Appendix C: Worksheet on Climate Change

One of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *adapt climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds*. In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

1. Use this as an opportunity to demonstrate how to integrate western science and Indigenous knowledge.
2. Consider the option of creating some type of climate change consultant team to support this type of effort (see, for example, the consulting group in the St. Croix watershed).
3. Encourage international watershed boards to establish some type of climate change committee and to integrate resilience strategies into work plans.
4. Provide international watershed boards a template or guidance document to support the process of adapting climate change models and scenarios to local watersheds.

### Instructions for Small Group Discussion

1. Each small group will be facilitated by an IWI staff member. Start by briefly introducing yourself – name, affiliation, and experience with this topic.
2. Briefly discuss and refine the stated objective – *in italics above*.
3. Develop options/action items to achieve the objective. Start with the four strategies presented above, unpack and more fully develop them, and then brainstorm other tasks, activities, or methods to achieve the objective.
4. Clarify who is responsible for implementing which strategies -- IWI staff, watershed boards, control boards, boards in collaboration with IJC staff, or other. Feel free to develop a table to illustrate this information.
5. Are there boards or transboundary regions where this topic is particularly important? Is there a need across the transboundary?
6. Clarify (as best you can) the priority for implementing each action item by developing a preliminary timeline ... in other words, which actions should be implemented when? Is there a logical sequence to implementation?
7. Select one or two people to provide a short report on your findings to the full group.



## Appendix D: Worksheet on Collaborating with Indigenous Peoples

One of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *support meaningful Collaboration with Indigenous peoples in watershed efforts*. In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

7. Identify opportunities to move from simply engaging Indigenous people to shared decision-making and co-management.
8. Explore the possibility of jointly developing a strategy or policy to support meaningful engagement of Indigenous people as part of the permanent structure of the IWI.
9. Provide resources to enhance the capacity of Indigenous people to meaningfully participate.
10. Clarify how IWI boards are relevant and value-added to Indigenous communities.
11. Provide training, with Indigenous leaders, on how best to mobilize and engage Indigenous individuals, organizations, and communities into watershed efforts.
12. Identify opportunities to braid traditional ecological knowledge with western science.

### Instructions for Small Group Discussion

1. Each small group will be facilitated by an IWI staff member. Start by briefly introducing yourself – name, affiliation, and experience with this topic.
2. Briefly discuss and refine the stated objective – *in italics above*.
3. Develop options/action items to achieve the objective. Start with the six strategies presented above, unpack and more fully develop them, and then brainstorm other tasks, activities, or methods to achieve the objective.
4. Clarify who is responsible for implementing which strategies -- IWI staff, watershed boards, control boards, boards in collaboration with IJC staff, or other. Feel free to develop a table to illustrate this information.
5. Are there boards or transboundary regions where this topic is particularly important? Is there a need across the transboundary?
6. Clarify (as best you can) the priority for implementing each action item by developing a preliminary timeline ... in other words, which actions should be implemented when? Is there a logical sequence to implementation?
7. Select one or two people to provide a short report on your findings to the full group.



## Appendix E: Worksheet on Enhancing IWI Boards

One of the most significant needs, challenges, and opportunities identified during the April 2023 IWI workshop was to *enhance the capacity of IWI and international watershed boards*. In addition to this over-arching objective, several initial strategies were identified (please note that these strategies are numbered for ease of reference and do not suggest any order of priority).

7. Address ongoing needs and opportunities related to financial capacity, human capacity (leadership, board members, and staff), and knowledge capacity.
8. Continue to provide funding to support board members as well as the IWI in general. Explore opportunities to leverage funding from other IJC sources, government agencies, and philanthropy.
9. Ensure that IWI is ready to move when a local champion emerges and is ready to build a “coalition for change” in a transboundary watershed. Be mindful of the capacity and bandwidth of individuals participating on international watershed boards, and develop strategies to avoid burnout (e.g., create awards recognizing people’s contributions, support mini-sabbaticals to allow board members to renew and recharge, and so on).
10. Take advantage of diverse sources of knowledge, but don’t assume that more and better data will necessarily lead to more robust participation and collaborative problem-solving. Strike a balance between investing in data, engagement, and collaborative action, while maintaining an expectation of ongoing learning and adaptive management.

### Instructions for Small Group Discussion

1. Each small group will be facilitated by an IWI staff member. Start by briefly introducing yourself – name, affiliation, and experience with this topic.
2. Briefly discuss and refine the stated objective – *in italics above*.
3. Develop options/action items to achieve the objective. Start with the six strategies presented above, unpack and more fully develop them, and then brainstorm other tasks, activities, or methods to achieve the objective.
4. Clarify who is responsible for implementing which strategies -- IWI staff, watershed boards, control boards, boards in collaboration with IJC staff, or other. Feel free to develop a table to illustrate this information.
5. Are there boards or transboundary regions where this topic is particularly important? Is there a need across the transboundary?
6. Clarify (as best you can) the priority for implementing each action item by developing a preliminary timeline ... in other words, which actions should be implemented when? Is there a logical sequence to implementation?



7. Select one or two people to provide a short report on your findings to the full group.