



Summary

Attendees:

Members: Rebecca Rooney, Eric Boisvert, Jason Borwick, Debbie Lee, Mike Fienen, Val Klump, Jenny Winter, Mark Rowe, Ram Yerubandi, Carl Platz

Staff: Jo Werba, Lyne Sabourin, Rachel Wyatt, Matthew Child, Allison Voglesong Zejnati, Anna Boegehold, Sommer Abdel-Fattah, John Wilson

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Last Meetings Summaries, and Acceptance of Agenda

- The Canadian Co-chair welcomed all members and staff. New IJC-GLRO contract scientists Anna Boegehold and Sommer Abdel-Fattah were introduced to members and welcomed.
- The October RCC Meeting Summary was acknowledged.
- The October SAB Meeting Summary was acknowledged.
- The draft agenda was accepted with no changes.

2. Triennial Assessment of Progress (TAP) Report Update

- Members were provided with an update on recent activities related to the development of the IJC's TAP report.
- This included a meeting of the TAP work group with the lead Commissioners during which proposed focus themes and next steps were discussed.
- The TAP work group will be discussing the proposed focus themes with Commissioners during their rescheduled Semi-Annual Meeting Appearance on December 11th. It is hoped that Commissioner approval will follow shortly after and staff will begin the writing process.
- Members were also informed that the IJC is still waiting for the release of the Progress Report of the Parties and the State of the Great Lakes reports which are anticipated to be made public early in 2026. Once the reports are released the IJC's public engagement events will begin. In preparation for the release, a TAP Report engagement platform has been launched online. A photo showcase announcement and other information should also be coming out soon.

3. Ongoing Projects Updates

- Brief updates were provided to members on the following ongoing projects and activities:
 - Great Lakes Early Warning System – Pilot
 - Great Lakes Science Plan
 - Great Lakes Participatory Science
 - CSMI/GLASS

4. New Projects Updates

- Staff provided a brief overview of the next steps in the work planning process. The initial plan was to have the boards discuss potential projects with Commissioners during the October Semi-Annual meetings. With the adjusted schedule due to the shutdown, the boards will now present and discuss potential projects with Commissioners during the re-scheduled appearances on December 11th. If Commissioners are supportive of a

particular project, the boards will be asked to finalize the proposed work plans by some time in January for submission to Commissioners in February.

- Updates on proposed new projects were provided for the following:
 - Great Lakes Science Plan – Engagement
 - An updated draft of the work plan was provided to members as part of the meeting package. The work plan has basically two parts, one which is focused on marketing and the other on engagement with government representatives. It is hoped that a single contractor can be found to address both.
 - Members discussed the work plan as well as recent developments related to a proposed bill related to invasive mussels that could have tie-ins to the next steps for the project.
 - Hazard-driven Migration
 - The previous Statement of Work was revised based on member input during the last meeting and submitted to the US section to start the contracting process.
 - Science for Climate and Water Solutions – Wetlands as Nature based Solutions
 - The work group is currently working to finalize the work plan. The intent is to develop modular objectives to try and package the work and different components efficiently to take advantage of funding if/when it becomes available.
 - It was suggested that that the work group review the IJC’s Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study report which included work on wetlands that may be relevant to the new project.

5. Preparation for Commissioner Appearances

- The RCC is scheduled to appear before Commissioners virtually on December 11th at 9:30 am. A draft presentation for the appearance was included in the meeting package.
- Members reviewed and discussed the draft presentation.
 - *Action Item:* Staff to reach out to identified members to update various slides in the presentation. Once the presentation is updated and finalized, staff will forward it to members for final review.

6. Other Topics

- **GLRO Communications Update**
 - GLRO communications staff provided an update on recent activities including follow-up from the October meeting and the development of a communications planning tool/menu for new projects which will be provided early in the new year. Members were also informed that they are continuing to receive interest and media inquiries regarding the recently completed Winter Science and Microplastics projects.
- **Next Meeting**
 - The next meeting of the RCC will be held virtually in February. A poll will be sent to members to determine a date and time.
 - *Action Item:* Staff to work with the Co-chairs to determine a suitable timeframe for a meeting in February and send a poll to members.
- **Next In-person Meeting**
 - The next in-person meeting will be held in Washington, DC in conjunction with the IJC’s Spring Semi-Annual Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for April 20- 24. Additional details and information will be provided to members as it becomes available.

7. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm