



Summary

Attendees:

Members: Rebecca Rooney, Chris Winslow, Eric Boisvert, Carl Platz, Debbie Lee, Mike Fienen, Jennifer Winter, Mark Rowe, Sergio Paulo, Ram Yerubandi, Lynn Bouvier, Val Klump

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

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Last Meeting Summary, and Acceptance of Agenda

- The Co-chairs welcomed all members and staff.
- The December RCC meeting summary was acknowledged.
- The draft agenda was accepted with a couple of minor changes in order due to a member having to leave early and The *Draft Science Plan – Engagement Work Plan* and *Science Plan Update* items were moved up to accommodate their request.

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.
- Members were informed that the Parties had released their [2025 Progress Report of the Parties](#) (PRoP) and [State of the Great Lakes 2025 Report](#) (SOGL). They were also reminded that the Great Lakes Public Forum will be held on February 4-5 and will include an IJC Listening Session on the PRoP.
- With the release of the Parties' reports, the IJC will now start its campaign to gather input from the Public on their perspectives on Great Lakes water quality as required under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This will include a new online platform available at GLperspectives.ijc.org that offers options to submit written, audio or video comments, as well as the listening session at the Forum and a series of virtual public meetings. It is expected that the campaign will be announced the day following the meeting and members were asked to share the information with their networks when it becomes available.
- Staff also held an in-person meeting in Windsor to plan out the next steps in terms of writing and completing a draft of the report. Members may be contacted by staff to provide their expertise and input on various sections of the report as they are developed or completed. Once a draft report is completed it will be sent to members for input and review.

3. 2026/27 Work Planning

- Staff provided a brief overview and update of recent work planning discussions and activities. Members were reminded that the boards were asked to finalize work plans for proposed new projects by late February. Once all new project work plans have been completed and submitted, staff will work to complete cost estimates that will be included with the work plans when they are submitted to Commissioners for their

consideration in March. This timeline was confirmed by Commissioners during their most recent executive meeting.

- Commissioners also discussed their interest in holding a strategic work planning session with the GLRO boards. It was decided that this session would likely be held in the April-June timeframe with its primary purpose being to identify a small number of Great Lakes priority themes that would guide the work of the boards over the next few years. Additional details will be shared with the boards as they become available.
- A list of potential new projects for all of the GLRO boards was provided to members as part of the meeting package. Members discussed the list and updates were provided for two of the following SAB projects that are being led jointly by the RCC and SPC:
 - Science for Climate and Water Solutions: A Watershed Approach to Wetland Restoration in the Great Lakes Basin
 - Great Lakes Science Plan – Engagement Plan
 - *Action Item:* Member to submit any comments, including suggestions on potential work group members, on the draft work plans discussed during the meeting to staff by Friday, February 6th
- The De-Icing and Salination in the Great Lakes project currently being proposed by the SPC was also discussed and there was general agreement that while a RCC member is a part of the work group, it would continue to be a SPC-only project and not a joint SAB project.

4. Ongoing Project Updates

- Brief updates were provided to members on the following ongoing projects and activities:
 - Great Lakes Science Plan
 - CSMI/GLASS
 - Participatory Science
 - Great Lakes Early Warning System – Pilot
 - Hazard-Driven Migration
- During the updates, members were advised that draft reports for the *Science Plan* and *Participatory Science* projects were close to completion and that they would be shared with members for review and input once they are available.

5. Other Topics

- **GLRO Communications Update**
 - Communications staff provided an update on recent activities including following up from the October meeting and will be providing an updated communications planning tool soon.
- **Next Meeting**
 - The next meeting of the RCC will be held in-person in Washington, DC in conjunction with the IJC's Spring Semi-Annual Meeting which is scheduled for April 20-24. Members were asked to block April 22nd and 23rd off in their calendars as those will likely be the dates of the SAB meetings and Commissioner Appearances.
 - Additional details and information will be provided to members as they become available.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm