

GREAT LAKES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

December 6, 2016 Teleconference

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Co-Chairs, Michael Goffin and Cameron Davis, opened the meeting with welcome remarks and noted that, given the comprehensive updates and Annex discussions that took place during the October 2016 Great Lakes Public Forum, this GLEC meeting would focus on a handful of priority issues.

It was conveyed that the draft June 2016 GLEC Meeting Summary was circulated electronically and that GLEC members should provide any proposed revisions to the GLEC Secretariat by December 16. [All the Action Items from the June 2016 GLEC meeting were completed as of December 6, 2016.]

A list of meeting attendees can be found in Appendix A.

OCTOBER 2016 GREAT LAKES PUBLIC FORUM

The GLEC Secretariat, Carla Torchia (Environment and Climate Change Canada) highlighted the successful implementation of the Great Lakes Public Forum, held from October 4 to 6, 2016 in Toronto. The Forum involved the participation of over 700 participants. Feedback was overwhelming positive. This success was in part due to support from Forum partners and participants, including many GLEC members who participated in the event. Ideas captured during the facilitated sessions on the third day of the Forum, *Celebrating the Great Lakes*, will be made publicly available on www.greatnessglp.com to allow for discussions on ideas and actions to continue. Carla also highlighted some of the feedback received from participants that will help with planning efforts for the next Great Lakes Public Forum scheduled for 2019.

Commissioner Gordon Walker (International Joint Commission) provided the Commission's perspectives of the Forum. He congratulated Canada and the United States, as the Parties to the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), on the success of the Forum. Commissioner Walker commented that an earlier release of the Progress Report of the Parties, along with more broadly advertising and distributing the Report, could be desirable; and, while the live broadcast and streaming was a good way to extend the reach of the Forum and involve the public, engaging the public could be enhanced for future Forums. He also provided updates on the Commission's plans to engage the public in discussions on the Parties' Progress Report of the Parties.

DEVELOPMENT OF LAKE ERIE DOMESTIC ACTION PLANS AND PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION TARGETS FOR THE EASTERN BASIN OF LAKE ERIE

Nutrient Annex Co-Leads, Tinka Hyde (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and Susan Humphrey (Environment and Climate Change Canada), provided a Nutrients Annex update, focusing on the development of Domestic Action Plans to achieve binational phosphorus reduction targets established for Lake Erie. In the U.S., each State is developing a separate plan for their jurisdiction, with a common outline and common elements among them. A U.S. federal "umbrella" plan will be developed with the

States to tie the individual jurisdictions' plans together. In Canada, there will be one Canada-Ontario Domestic Action Plan delivered in partnership by 5 lead agencies (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry). Engagement towards the development of these Domestic Action Plans has begun in Canada and will continue in 2017; and the U.S. will begin engaging stakeholders in January 2017. Annex Co-Leads also described options being discussed to set phosphorus targets for the eastern basin of Lake Erie which include: delaying target setting until science is sufficient; and pursuing a policy based target while research continues.

BRIEF UPDATE ON STATE OF THE LAKES HIGHLIGHT REPORT

Nancy Stadler-Salt (Environment and Climate Change Canada) identified that the 2016 State of the Great Lakes Highlights Report was currently being drafted using the information presented at Great Lakes Public Forum as a starting point. The completed draft report will be circulated to authors for technical review and confirmation of key messages in mid-December 2016 to mid-January 2017. In addition to the development of the Highlights Report, sub-indicator reports are being finalized, which will be compiled into the State of the Great Lakes Technical Report. It is anticipated that the Highlights Report will be completed and released by March 31, 2017 and the Technical Report completed by March 31, 2017.

BRIEF UPDATE ON THE LAKE HURON LAKEWIDE ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (LAMP)

John Marsden (Environment and Climate Change Canada) conveyed that a public notice on the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) announced the development of the Lake Huron LAMP on April 21, 2016 and the public were invited to submit comments on environmental conditions, issues or concerns (no comments were received). John also identified that the Lake Huron Partnership is actively developing the Lake Huron LAMP and work to date includes a synthesis of available science, a report on condition of the Lake, and identification of regional threats. The Lake Huron LAMP is well advanced in linking the GLWQA's General Objectives with current environmental issues, existing and complimentary initiatives/programs, and selecting a draft list of management actions. A draft Lake Huron LAMP will be reviewed by the Lake Huron Partnership Management Committee in December in advance of French translation, posting on Binational.net, and release for public review and input in late December 2016 or January 2017.

BRIEF UPDATE ON CHEMICALS OF MUTUAL CONCERN (CMC) BINATIONAL STRATEGIES AND SECOND ROUND OF CMC ASSESSMENT

John Marsden (Environment and Climate Change Canada) identified that two draft strategies, one for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and one for hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), are under review and will be shared in the coming weeks with the CMC Annex Subcommittee and Extended Subcommittee. Stakeholder input and public review of these drafts are planned for Winter 2017 and strategies for the remaining CMCs will follow in 2017.

John also provided an update on the second round of CMC assessments, including the review of two external nominations received regarding radionuclides and sulfates. In the New Year, all the

nominations received, including nominations from the Parties, will be discussed and candidate CMCs for the second set will be identified in Winter 2017.

2017-2019 PRIORITIES FOR SCIENCE AND ACTION

The GLEC Secretariat, Tinka Hyde (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), discussed the finalization of the 2017-19 Binational Priorities for Science and Action. Comments received on the draft Priorities during the public comment period have been considered and where needed, revisions to the Priorities were made. In a few cases, adopting a recommendation was not possible due to existing agency programs and procedures. During the GLEC meeting, there was substantial discussion and support to include a priority to guide the work related to Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) being undertaken through the Science Annex. The GLEC Co-Chairs agreed to consider how to best incorporate a TEK-related priority.

NEWS AND COMMENTS PROVIDED FROM GLEC MEMBERS

- Carolyn O’Neill, on behalf of Robert Fleming (Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change), provided an update on Ontario’s work under the Great Lakes Protection Act towards 40% phosphorus reduction targets; and two formal meetings and one informal meeting held to date of the Great Lakes Guardians’ Council, which is co-chaired by the Minister of Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee. Carolyn also highlighted Ontario’s announcement, on October 17, 2016, of a proposed moratorium on the issuance of new or increasing permits to take groundwater for water bottling, which is anticipated to be in effect before the end of 2016 until January 1, 2019. During this time, the Ministry intends to examine water pricing and other tools that could be used to further protect water, undertake research to advance scientific knowledge of groundwater, and review existing rules for managing water takings in Ontario.
- Andrew McAllister (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) highlighted the Commission’s public hearing in November on Cameco Corporation’s application for a 10-year renewal of its Nuclear Fuel Facility Operating Licence for the Port Hope Uranium Conversion Facility, located in Port Hope, Ontario (the webcast of the hearing is available on the Commission’s website until early January 2017). Andrew also noted that the Commission will be holding two public hearings via live webcast in April 2017 to consider two applications from Ontario Power Generation for the renewal of its Waste Facility Operating Licence for the Pickering Waste Management Facility and its Western Waste Management Facility. He also conveyed that Ontario Power Generation is on-track to submit the requested information to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- Javier Laureano (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) provided an update from Region 2 highlighting that management actions were completed at the Rochester Embayment Area of Concern (AOC) and significant progress is underway with at the Buffalo River AOC with \$20 million in habitat restoration projects that will restore nearly four miles of shoreline. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is advancing restoration in the Niagara River AOC as well with \$10 million being set aside for restoration projects.

- Seth Ausubel (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) noted the decision made by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to reduce the stocking of Chinook salmon into Lake Ontario by 2017. Seth explained that the reduction will help reduce predatory demand on alewife, but there are concerns about lower productivity that can cause strain on the predatory/prey fish populations. The extent of the problem is unclear, so the agencies will continue to move forward to evaluate nutrients in the offshore and nearshore of Lake Ontario. Once the proper data is collected, it is their goal to develop whole lake models that can address nutrient issues throughout the lake.
- John Linc Stine (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) provided an update to the GLEC on the St. Louis River AOC. John conveyed that Minnesota's legislation failed to pass to the matching of GLRI funding at the close of the 2016 legislative session and conveyed its implications on plans to conduct the final 20 actions by 2020 in the AOC that relies on funding from the State and the GLRI. John expressed his optimism that the funding will be appropriated and noted that construction projects will continue to move ahead. Additionally, John provided an update on the maintenance dredging in Duluth and an examination of the dredged material to determine whether it is clean, and safe enough, to be recycled back into the water.
- Jessica Koski (U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs) explained some of the initial work under the Science Annex Subcommittee's Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Task Team. The TEK Task Team was recently reinvigorated with tremendous interest from over 60 people. The Task Team is looking at increasing TEK awareness; examples of TEK; increasing Indigenous participation in the Task Team; and defining a metric of success with respect to increasing the awareness and presence of TEK in GLWQA activities.
- David Ullrich and Nicola Crawhall (Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative) provided updates on several activities including: the involvement and commitment of 7100 cities to greenhouse gas reductions and that the Cities Initiative is seeking 100% commitment from cities; the Cities Initiative challenge of the Waukesha Diversion Approval by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Sustainable Water Resources Council; and updates on the work by States and the Province of Ontario in addressing nutrients entering the lakes (e.g., Michigan's work with the mayor and River Reason Council to engage the agricultural community; Ohio's engagement to accelerate reduction; Ontario's Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to reduce nutrients into Thames River Basin); and funding under Growing Forward 2 to reduce phosphorus loads from farmland (to be announced on December 7, 2016), which will be matched by various groups including the Cities Initiative.
- James Zorn (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) highlighted engagement activities undertaken to anticipate the new U.S. Administration's impact on the existing great programs being undertaken by the Commission. The Commission will take action to ensure work under these existing programs continues including work with the GLWQA.

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

- Tim Eder (Great Lakes Commission) provided several updates and comments, including: the Commission's release of its 2015 Great Lakes Water Use report on December 8, 2016 in conjunction

with meeting of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council); optimism for continued Great Lakes funding from U.S. Government and the imminent passing of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act in Congress this week (*passed on Dec. 10, 2016; Bill included a five year renewal of GLRI at \$300M annually*); progress being made related to ballast water and various reports available (e.g., Status of Rules, Regulations and Policies; Analysis of different certifications and testing etc.); and a market-based phosphorus-trading project being explored to see whether it can be replicated elsewhere in the Great Lakes basin.

- Bob Lambe (Great Lakes Fishery Commission) highlighted an *Aquatic Habitat Connectivity* initiative being co-led between the Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to examine enhancing fish passage and ecosystem connectivity balanced against preventing population increases of invasive species, as well as meeting economic and social objectives (this initiative is linked with the work of the Aquatic Invasive Species Annex, the Habitat and Species Annex and others). Bob also provided some information regarding the Commission-led *Selective Fish Passage* initiative which focuses on developing and evaluating the effectiveness of technologies to allow the passage of desirable fish around river barriers while blocking harmful species. He also conveyed his appreciation for the consideration of fisheries objectives in the work being done to address the excessive nutrient issue in the lakes.
- Lana Pollack (International Joint Commission) provided updates on several Commission activities, including: a Science Advisory Board study examining differing forms of nutrients entering the western basin of Lake Erie and management actions for these forms; policy recommendations from a November Commission report regarding flame retardants or Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) in the Great Lakes; ideas for further refining the Parties indicators, which will be documented in the Commission's triennial *Assessment of Progress Report (TAP)*; and work to incorporate public input through electronic means into the draft TAP, which will subsequently be posted in January 2017. Lana also conveyed that this may be the last GLEC meeting for the Commissioner due to U.S. Administration changes.

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY OBSERVERS

- Lyman Welch (Alliance for the Great Lakes) conveyed his appreciation for the Nutrients Annex update during the GLEC meeting and that this issue was of key interest to the Alliance. Lyman also conveyed that the Alliance for the Great Lakes submitted recommendations to be considered in the development of the Phosphorus Domestic Action Plans and will continue to stay engaged at every stage of the development of the Plans. He also conveyed the urgency for the development of phosphorus reduction targets for the eastern basin of Lake Erie and that policy-based targets be adopted in the absence of having a complete picture of the science to support these targets; and as the science improves, refine the policy-based targets through an adaptive management approach.
- Dale Phenicie (Council of Great Lakes Industries) asked for any significant changes in personnel managing the work under the GLWQA to be made known. [In response, it was suggested that the GLEC Secretariat and www.binational.net be the key point of contact for any information related to processes under the GLWQA.]

ACTION ITEMS

- Meeting participants who did not register for the December 2016 GLEC teleconference were asked to send the GLEC Secretariat their registration, following the call, in order to develop a complete list of meeting participants.
- GLEC members to provide any proposed revisions for the June 2016 GLEC draft Meeting Summary to the GLEC Secretariat by December 16, 2016.
- GLEC members to inform the GLEC Secretariat by December 20, 2016 if there are any known conflicts with the proposed dates (May 31st and June 1st) of the next 2017 GLEC meeting in Chicago.
- GLEC Co-Chairs to finalize the 2017-19 Binational Priorities for Science and Action including the potential addition of a priority related to Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

May 31st and June 1st, 2017 were proposed as dates for the next GLEC meeting to be held in Chicago. GLEC members were asked to inform the GLEC Secretariat if there were any conflicts with these dates by December 20, 2016. [New dates of June 26-27, 2017 were subsequently proposed due to conflicts.]

December 6, 2016 GLEC MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Canadian Participants

1. Sharon Bailey, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
2. Matthew Child, International Joint Commission
3. Tracey Cooke, Invasive Species Centre
4. Danielle Chesky, Embassy of Canada
5. Gavin Christie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
6. Nicola Crawhall, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
7. Ellen Dailey, SOS Great Lakes
8. Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association
9. Colleen Duke, Consulate General of Canada in Chicago, Global Affairs Canada
10. Bob Duncanson, Georgian Bay Association
11. Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario
12. Sandra George, Environment and Climate Change Canada
13. Raj Gill, Canadian Freshwater Alliance
14. Michael Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada
15. Nancy Goucher, Freshwater Future
16. Iris Griffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada
17. Susan Humphrey, Environment and Climate Change Canada
18. Courtney Jackson, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
19. John Jackson, Great Lakes Binational Citizen Activist
20. Sharilyn Johnston, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
21. Pamela Joesse, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
22. Ash Kumar, Environment and Climate Change Canada
23. Robin Lessard, Parks Canada
24. Camille Mageau, International Joint Commission
25. John Marsden, Environment and Climate Change Canada
26. Catherine Masson, Consultant
27. Andrew McAllister, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
28. George McCaw, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
29. Scott McKay, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
30. Tricia Mitchell, Environment and Climate Change Canada
31. Felicia Minotti, Global Affairs Canada
32. Mohammad Murtaza, Public Services and Procurement Canada
33. David Nanang, Natural Resources Canada
34. Carolyn O'Neill, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
35. Jonathan Pritchard, Environment and Climate Change Canada
36. Sonya Read, Infrastructure Canada
37. Christine Rogers, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
38. Dawn Sucee, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
39. David Sweetnam, Georgian Bay Forever
40. Kate Taillon, Environment and Climate Change Canada

41. Jill Taylor, SOS Great Lakes
42. Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada
43. Jason Travers, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
44. Ashley Wallis, Environmental Defence
45. Chris Wiley, Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security ON Region
46. Ram Yerubandi, Environment and Climate Change Canada

U.S. Participants

47. Jackie Adams, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
48. Jon Allan, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
49. Edward Ambrogio, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 3)
50. Seth Ausubel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
51. Edlynzia Barnes, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
52. Simon Belisle, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
53. Tim Bruno, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
54. Kathryn Buckner, Council of Great Lakes Industries
55. Carol Comer, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
56. Cam Davis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
57. Jennifer Day, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
58. Dave Dempsey, International Joint Commission
59. Tim Eder, Great Lakes Commission
60. Tony Friona, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
61. Marc Gaden, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
62. Stephen Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
63. Norman Grannemann, United States Geological Survey (Retired)
64. Margaret Guerriero, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
65. Jeff Gratz, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
66. Gail Hesse, National Wildlife Federation
67. Rick Hobrla, Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
68. Michael Hoff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
69. Tinka Hyde, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
70. Tyler Kaspar, 1854 Treaty Authority
71. Roger Knight, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
72. Jessica Koski, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs
73. Bob Krska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
74. Bob Lambe, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
75. Javier Laureano, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
76. Deborah Lee, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
77. Ann McCammon Soltist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Services
78. Richard Moy, International Joint Commission
79. Michael Murray, National Wildlife Federation
80. Meredith Muth, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
81. Jessica Raspitha, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
82. Todd Nettesheim, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
83. Victoria Pebbles, Great Lakes Commission
84. Dale Phenicie, Council of Great Lakes Industries

85. Carl Platz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
86. Lana Pollack, International Joint Commission
87. Lissa Radke, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
88. James Schardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
89. Victor Serveiss, International Joint Commission
90. Rachel So, U.S. Department of State
91. Melissa Soline, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiatives – Program Manager
92. John Linc Stine, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
93. Lorne Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard
94. Dave Ullrich, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
95. Jennifer Vanator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Services
96. Mike Weimer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
97. Lyman Welch, Alliance for the Great Lakes
98. Charley Wooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
99. Donald Zelazny, New York Department of Environmental Conservation
100. James Zorn, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

Other participants may have been on the phone but not identified.