

Great Lakes Executive Committee Meeting Summary

June 13, 2022

OPENING REMARKS

Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Co-Chairs, Chris Korleski (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA) and Michael Goffin (Environment and Climate Change Canada, ECCC), welcomed everyone to the two-hour June 2022 GLEC meeting and made note of the Participants Briefing Packet, which included the draft December 2021 GLEC meeting summary for GLEC review, the meeting agenda, a briefing note on GLEC Action Items and the Status of GLWQA Deliverables, and a preliminary draft of the 2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action.

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

Action Item: GLEC members to provide edits/corrections to December 2021 GLEC meeting summary by June 28. [No comments were received; summary is now final.]

2022 GREAT LAKES PUBLIC FORUM / 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLWQA

GLEC Secretariat, Carla Torchia (ECCC) and James Schardt (EPA) discussed updates in planning for the 2022 Great Lakes Public Forum and the 50th anniversary celebrations of the signing of the 1972 Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), the 2022 Progress Report of the Parties, and the 2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action. The 2022 Great Lakes Public Forum is to take place in September 27-29 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Action Item: GLEC Secretariat to send Great Lakes Public Forum registration information to GLEC distribution lists when available. [Registration information was sent July 12, 2022.]

UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS AND GLWQA DELIVERABLES

Due to the shortened meeting, GLEC Co-Chairs provided updates on the status of prior GLEC Action Items and the development of Annex deliverables. An update was provided on the Progress Report of the Parties and the State of the Great Lakes Report. The GLEC Co-Chairs also shared their interest in enhancing multi-lake discussions under the Lakewide Management Annex. The GLEC Co-Chairs discussed and confirmed that two domestic strategies will be used to guide actions on PFAS in the Great Lakes: the US Strategic Roadmap for PFAS and Canada's Great Lakes Strategy for PFAS. The Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annex Co-Leads are currently reviewing the nominations for PAHs and sulfates and are screening the revised radionuclide nomination. The Nutrients Annex Co-Leads have advised the GLEC Co-Chairs that additional modeling and research should be conducted before considering phosphorus load reduction targets again for the eastern basin of Lake Erie. The Lake Ontario Objectives and Targets Task Team and the Nutrients Annex Subcommittee do not recommend a revision of the Lake Ontario interim phosphorus concentration objective or phosphorus loading target at this time; the GLEC Co-Chairs have requested a GLEC briefing on this work as part of the December 2022 GLEC meeting. The Groundwater Annex plans to have a draft version of the 2022 Groundwater Science Update report for GLEC review this summer.

DRAFT 2023-2025 BINATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR SCIENCE AND ACTION

GLEC Secretariat, Carla Torchia (ECCC) and James Schardt (EPA) discussed the preliminary suggestions for the draft 2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action, as well as next steps. The draft Priorities will be presented to the public at the Great Lakes Public Forum for input. As per the GLWQA, the Priorities are finalized within six months after the Forum.

Action Item: GLEC members to provide comments on the preliminary draft Binational Priorities for Science and Action as soon as possible but no later than July 12, 2022.

NEWS AND COMMENTS FROM GLEC MEMBERS

Joy Mulinex (Ohio Lake Erie Commission) provided an update on progress being made under Ohio's H2Ohio Initiative.

Tiffani Kavalec (Ohio EPA) gave an update on the development of a TMDL for the Maumee River.

Jon Altenberg (Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative) thanked Matt Doss for his contributions to the Cities Initiative and announced that Travis Wheeler will be assuming the role of U.S. Policy Director. He provided an update on the Cities Initiative's work, including its recently completed strategic plan, the report from its Mayors Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience, and upcoming annual conference on the blue economy.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Sisson (International Joint Commission, IJC) provided the following updates from the IJC:

- The IJC has begun planning public engagement activities to collect input on the Progress Report of the Parties and has approved outline for the 2023 Triennial Assessment of Progress Report on Great Lakes Water Quality.
- The IJC expects to advance and further develop the binational science strategy through broad-based engagement of the binational Great Lakes community in the coming months.
- The IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board will meet with nuclear agency representatives to discuss possible follow up actions to the report which identified potential opportunities to reduce threats to the Great Lakes environment associated with decommissioning nuclear power facilities.
- The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee (GLAM Committee) has concluded Phase 1 of the Expedited Review of Plan 2014 which focused on providing additional information to help inform the critical decisions made by the IJC's International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board to best manage Lake Ontario outflows under extreme conditions. Phase 2 of the Expedited Review will look at how Plan 2014 addresses extreme high and low water levels and explore possible adjustments to the regulation plan. Currently underway, Phase 2 is tentatively scheduled to conclude in late 2024.

Via the meeting Chat function, Erika Jensen (Great Lakes Commission, GLC) provided the following updates:

- The GLC appreciated the continued discussion around opportunities to advance work through Annex 2 and address multidisciplinary issues within each Lakes, as well as share information/lessons learned across the Lakes.
- The GLC met for its semi-annual meeting in Green Bay, Wisconsin on June 7-9. The GLC approved an Action Plan for a Resilient Great Lakes Basin, which will be distributed widely later this summer. The GLC's Resiliency Committee will develop a plan for implementation.
- The GLC also passed resolutions supporting USGS science programs and short-sea shipping. These resolutions are available at <https://www.glc.org/work/advocacy/resolutions/>.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

Michael Murray, on behalf of the Toxics-Free Great Lakes Binational Network, noted that a revised nomination for radionuclides was submitted last month.

John Jackson (Toxics Free Great Lakes Binational Network) introduced the new group, Great Lakes Ecoregion Network.

MEETING WRAP UP AND ACTION ITEMS

GLEC Co-Chairs wrapped up the meeting and a summary of action items were provided by the GLEC Secretariat:

1. GLEC members to provide edits/corrections to December GLEC meeting summary by June 28.
2. GLEC Secretariat to send Great Lakes Public Forum registration information to the GLEC when available.
3. GLEC members to provide comments on the preliminary draft Binational Priorities for Science and Action as soon as possible but no later than July 12, 2022.
4. GLEC members to provide feedback on proposed dates for the next GLEC meeting (December 6-8; fallback, December 13-15).

APPENDIX A

GLEC MEETING PARTICIPANTS JUNE 13, 2022

1. Jon Altenberg, Great Lakes Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative
2. Kiran Anwar, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
3. Kelly Applegate, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
4. Hannah Arbuckle, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
5. Dave Arquette, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force
6. Antonette Arvai, International Joint Commission
7. Kendra A Axness, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8. Sean Backus, Environment and Climate Change Canada
9. Richard Balla, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
10. Kirk Beckmann, U.S. Coast Guard
11. Simon Belisle
12. Ryan Bowie
13. Peter Brandt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
14. Tanya R Brothen, U.S. Department of State
15. Timothy Bruno, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
16. David Burden, International Joint Commission
17. Mark Burrows, International Joint Commission
18. Shampa Chakraborty
19. Stacey Cherwaty, Environment and Climate Change Canada
20. Danielle Chesky
21. Matthew Child, International Joint Commission
22. Gavin C Christie, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
23. Steve Clement, Environment and Climate Change Canada
24. James Clift, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
25. Véronique D'Amours-Gauthier
26. Jen Day, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
27. Fe de Leon
28. Jenessa Doherty
29. Paul Drca
30. Oliver Dumville
31. Isabel Dunn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

32. Alan Ellsworth
33. Susan Evans
34. Elizabeth Everhardus
35. Melissa Fabian Mendoza
36. Emily Finnell, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
37. Natalija Vojno
38. Bonnie Fox
39. Abraham Francis
40. Steve Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
41. Lynn Garrity, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
42. Michael Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada
43. Victoria Graves
44. Laura Gynane
45. Katie Hager
46. Dale Hardy
47. Kristina Heinemann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
48. Elizabeth Hinchey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
49. Richard Hobrla, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
50. Jon E Hortness. U.S. Geological Survey
51. Liana Hryniewicz
52. Susan Humphrey, Environment and Climate Change Canada
53. John Jackson, Toxics-Free Great Lakes Binational Network
54. Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission
55. Carolyn Junemann, U.S. Department of Transportation
56. Jennifer Kanine
57. Shaffina Kassam, Environment and Climate Change Canada
58. Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
59. Sarah Kielek-Caster
60. Carol Kim, Environment and Climate Change Canada
61. Rupert Kindersley
62. Roger Knight, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
63. Christopher Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
64. Joe Krieger
65. Robert Krska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
66. Ashij Kumar, Environment and Climate Change Canada
67. Alesia Kurlek, Environment and Climate Change Canada
68. Pamela Lamba
69. Bob Lambe, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
70. Michelle Langan
71. Irving Leblanc
72. Deborah Lee, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
73. James J Lehnen, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
74. Caryn MacLoughlin
75. Angela Majic
76. Ling Mark
77. John Marsden
78. Catherine Masson
79. Greg Mayne, Environment and Climate Change Canada

80. Spencer McCormack, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
81. Jim McKane
82. Jennifer McKay, Environment and Climate Change Canada
83. Caroline Moellering, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
84. Joy Mulinex, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
85. Phillippe Murphy-Rheaume
86. Michael Murray, Toxics-Free Great Lakes Binational Network
87. Sonny Myers, 1854 Treaty Authority
88. Todd Nettesheim, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
89. Tammy Newcomb, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
90. Carolyn O'Neill
91. Matt Otto, U.S. Department of Agriculture
92. Scott Parker, Parks Canada
93. Carl Platz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
94. Brianne Pozzobon
95. Nicole A Rommel
96. Krystal-Anne Roussel
97. James Schardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
98. Shannon Seko,
99. Victor Serveiss, International Joint Commission
100. Robert Sisson, International Joint Commission
101. Edwin (Ted) Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
102. Nancy Stadler-Salt, Environment and Climate Change Canada
103. Chloe Stuart
104. David Sweetnam
105. Nabila Taha
106. Elizabeth Tanzi
107. Lorne Thomas, U.S. Coast Guard
108. Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada
109. Marc Tuchman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
110. Jen Vanator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
111. Jennifer Vincent, Environment and Climate Change Canada
112. Allison Voglesong Zejnati, International Joint Commission
113. Lizhu Wang, International Joint Commission
114. Mike Weimer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
115. April White
116. Rod Whitlow
117. John Wilson
118. Aaron Woldt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
119. Michelle Woodhouse
120. Santina Wortman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
121. Rachel Wyatt
122. Ram Yerubandi, Environment and Climate Change Canada
123. Don Zelazny, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation