

Great Lakes Executive Committee Meeting Summary

June 13-14, 2023

DAY ONE

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 participants to the first day of the June 2023 GLEC meeting in Chicago, USA. Michael Goffin informed GLEC that it was his last day as the Canadian GLEC Co-Chair and welcomed Véronique Hiriart-Baer (ECCC) to the role.

Under Business Items, the Co-Chairs discussed the draft December 2022 GLEC Meeting Summary, reviewed the December 2022 GLEC Meeting Action Items, and approved the day's agenda.

A list of meeting attendees is found in Appendix A.

Action Items:

- GLEC Membership to provide edits/corrections to the December 2022 GLEC meeting summary by July 28, 2023. [No comments were received; summary is now final and can be found at binational.net.]

THREE-YEAR MANAGEMENT CYCLE OF THE 2012 GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

GLEC Secretariat, James Schardt (EPA) and Carla Torchia (ECCC), gave an overview of the three-year management cycle of the 2012 United States – Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (“the Agreement”). The year 2023 marks the beginning of another three-year management cycle under the Agreement. The International Joint Commission (IJC) is expected to release their Triennial Assessment of Progress report in the fall of this year, which will trigger the consideration of the scope of a review of the operations and effectiveness of the Agreement.

EFFORTS, ACTIONS, AND FUTURE WORK UNDER THE ANNEXES OF THE AGREEMENT

Annex Co-Leads explained how they will be implementing their 2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action (BPSAs) with the Annex Subcommittees and provided information on opportunities for GLEC agencies to be involved. An opportunity for GLEC review and discussion of synergies, partnerships, and participation followed.

Areas of Concern Annex Co-Leads Andrea Schaller (EPA) and Kate Taillon (ECCC) spoke to the implementation of binational priorities including: conducting sediment sampling activities necessary for the implementation of sediment remediation projects; conducting monitoring activities to confirm that Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) delisting criteria have been met in Areas of Concern (AOCs); implementing remedial actions to remove BUIs; and completing delisting processes at select AOCs.

Lakewide Management Annex Co-Leads Chris Korleski (EPA) and Sean Backus (ECCC) discussed the status of the establishment of Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI) Priorities, implementation of actions identified in existing Lakewide Management and Action Plans (LAMPs), and

efforts to publish updated LAMPs. The Co-Leads also sought input from the GLEC on how they might rethink current Lakewide Management deliverables to better engage the public in LAMP activities.

Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annex Co-Leads Ted Smith (EPA) and Steve Clement (ECCC) spoke to the implementation of binational priorities including: conducting monitoring and surveillance to track trends of Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) and other priority chemicals in the Great Lakes; coordinating activities to address information gaps and needs for existing CMCs; implementing strategies to reduce CMCs in the Great Lakes; and developing and raising awareness about fish consumption advisories. The Co-Leads also gave an update on the criteria-based screening of the CMC nomination for PAHs, sulphates, lead, and radionuclides.

Nutrients Annex Co-Leads Santina Wortman (EPA) and Steve Clement (ECCC) provided an update on the status of efforts to improve the understanding of factors affecting nuisance and harmful algae growth in the Great Lakes. The Co-Leads also spoke to the implementation of binational priorities specific to Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, including those surrounding phosphorous loads, harmful algal blooms, and nearshore algae issues.

Discharges from Vessels Annex Co-Leads Kirk Beckmann (U.S. Coast Guard) and Brianne Pozzobon (Transport Canada) spoke to the implementation of binational priorities including: increasing compatibility and environmental protection in ballast water requirements; reviewing and sharing best practices for the management of vessel biofouling and enforcement of wastewater discharge regimes; and conducting coordinated ballast water and biofouling research. The Co-Leads also highlighted initiatives in the U.S. and Canada that support the commitments under this Annex.

Aquatic Invasives Species Annex Co-Leads Aaron Woldt (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS) and Hilary Oakman (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) provided an update on the implementation of binational priorities including: developing early detection, control, and eradication technologies and methods for AIS; preventing introductions of new invasive species, including invasive carp; conducting response actions to prevent the establishment of high-risk species; implementing control projects for already established invasive species; and identifying gaps in current AIS policies and regulations and reduce the risk of pathways into and within the Great Lakes basin.

Action Items:

- GLEC Membership to provide input on Lakewide Management deliverables to better engage the public in LAMP activities. Annex 2 will provide an update at the December 2023 GLEC meeting.

MEETING WRAP UP

After closing remarks from the GLEC Co-Chairs, the first day of the meeting concluded with many partners recognizing Michael Goffin for his decades of public service and leadership in the Great Lakes.

DAY TWO

OPENING REMARKS

Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC) Co-Chairs, Véronique Hiriart-Baer (ECCC) and Chris Korleski (EPA), welcomed participants to the second day of the June 2023 GLEC meeting in Chicago, USA.

EFFORTS, ACTIONS, AND FUTURE WORK UNDER THE ANNEXES OF THE AGREEMENT

Habitat and Species Annex Co-Leads Lori Nordstrom (USFWS) and Sean Backus (ECCC) highlighted domestic efforts to assess coastal environments, including the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (U.S.), the Canadian Baseline Coastal Habitat Survey, and the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Framework. The Co-Leads also spoke to priority actions to protect and restore the resilience of native species and their habitats and the need for collaboration and engagement with Stakeholders and Rights Holders in this work.

Groundwater Annex Co-Leads Howard Reeves (U.S. Geological Survey) and Jim Roy (ECCC) gave an update on the status of the Groundwater Science Report and the implementation of the binational priority to conduct research to identify and understand point and non-point sources of pollution that impact the Great Lakes due to transport via groundwater. The Co-Leads also highlighted work under the Annex to coordinate the sharing of information on this research across the parties and to the public.

Climate Change Impacts Annex Co-Leads Jennifer Day (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and Shaffina Kassam (ECCC) provided an update on deliverables and opportunities for GLEC member involvement in the implementation of binational priorities including: enhancing LAMPs by including the most recent assessment of climate change for the lake; fostering and enhancing knowledge exchange and discussions on Great Lakes climate projections, modeling, and downscaling approaches; and producing and sharing climate information of relevance to the Agreement with the Great Lakes community.

Science Annex Co-Leads Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy (EPA) and Ram Yerubandi (ECCC) spoke to the activities of the Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative and the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Task Teams. Matt Pawlowski (EPA), U.S. Co-Chair of the Ecosystem Indicators and Reporting Task Team, highlighted the State of the Great Lakes (SOGL) 2022 report and microsite. Matt also gave an overview of the timeline for the SOGL 2025 reporting cycle and proposed sub-indicator improvements. An opportunity for GLEC feedback followed.

Action Items:

- Annex Subcommittees to continue work on deliverables noted in the [2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action](#).
- GLEC Membership is invited to assign their agency staff, as desired, to participate in Annex Subcommittees by contacting Annex Co-Leads.

NEWS AND COMMENTS FROM GLEC MEMBERS

Rick Balla (EPA, Region 2) provided an update on recent progress toward the removal of Beneficial Use Impairments at the Rochester Embayment and Buffalo River Areas of Concern (AOCs) and reported that

the sediment management action list for the Niagara River AOC is anticipated to be finalized by this time next year.

Carl Platz (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) highlighted the Corps' involvement in several initiatives, including the goal to delist all but three AOCs by 2030, an upcoming study on PFAS partitioning in the aquatic environment, the ongoing invasive carp work at Brandon Road and in Lake Erie, and the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study.

Chuck Traxler (USFWS) informed the GLEC that Charlie Wooley, former lead for Great Lakes work at USFWS, retired at the end of last year. The agency is still in the process of finding a replacement but will continue to actively participate in GLEC activities.

Deborah Lee (NOAA) highlighted upcoming research to improve forecasting of Great Lakes water levels, real time mapping of floods, and development of a regional climate model for the Great Lakes as part of the nationwide NOAA Climate, Ecosystems, and Fisheries Initiative.

Chloe Stuart (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks) gave an update on Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy and the recent release of the second progress report under the Strategy.

Bonnie Fox (Conservation Ontario) highlighted the release of the latest set of Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards, which are the culmination of five years of monitoring efforts to assess the state of Ontario's local watersheds.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

Jim McKane (Great Lakes Fishery Commission) spoke to sea lamprey eradication and suppression efforts and the recent setbacks from reduced lamprey control efforts due to COVID-19. Jim also noted the Commission's interest in aquatic habitat and spoke to the continued concern about declining offshore productivity in the Great Lakes and emphasized the importance of balancing nutrient priorities with fisheries production priorities.

Heather Stirratt (International Joint Commission, IJC) provided an update on the IJC's Triennial Assessment of Progress report and noted that they expect to publish the report in late fall. Heather also gave an update on the IJC's *Great Lakes Science Strategy for the Next Decade* and the anticipated release of two reports from the Science Advisory Board related to nutrient management and Lake Erie.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

Dave Ullrich (formerly with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative) emphasized the importance of the voice of local government in the work under the Agreement and in other Great Lakes forums.

MEETING WRAP UP AND SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

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

- GLEC Membership to provide edits/corrections to the December 2022 GLEC meeting summary by July 28, 2023.

- Annex Subcommittees to continue work on deliverables noted in the [2023-2025 Binational Priorities for Science and Action](#).
- GLEC Membership is invited to assign their agency staff, as desired, to participate in Annex Subcommittees by contacting Annex Co-Leads.
- GLEC Membership to provide input on Lakewide Management deliverables to better engage the public in LAMP activities. Annex 2 will provide an update at the December 2023 GLEC meeting.

Next Meeting: December 6-7, 2023, in Toronto, Canada

GLEC Meeting Participants June 13-14, 2023

*denotes virtual attendee

1. *Aaron Woldt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2. *Alesia Kurlek, Environment and Climate Change Canada
3. *Allison Voglesong Zejnati, International Joint Commission
4. *Amy McGovern
5. Amy Pelka, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
6. *Andréa Dube, Freshwater Future Canada
7. Andrea Schaller, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
8. *Andy Metelka
9. *Angela Majic
10. *Anna Bunting, Freshwater Future
11. *Anne Gosselin, Environment and Climate Change Canada
12. *Antonette Arvai, International Joint Commission
13. *Ashij Kumar, Environment and Climate Change Canada
14. *Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario
15. *Brad Hill, Environment and Climate Change Canada
16. Brianne Pozzobon, Transport Canada
17. *Cameron Richardson, Town of Ajax
18. Carl Platz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
19. Carla Torchia, Environment and Climate Change Canada
20. *Carol Kim, Environment and Climate Change Canada
21. *Caroline Moellering, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
22. *Carolyn Junemann, U.S. Maritime Administration
23. *Carolyn O'Neill, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
24. *Caryn MacLoughlin, Métis Nation of Ontario
25. *Catherine Masson
26. Cheryl Thomas, U.S. Department of State
27. *Chloe Stuart, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
28. Chris Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
29. Chuck Traxler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
30. *Cosette Shipman, Georgian Bay Association
31. *Dana Vanderbosch, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
32. *Danielle Chesky, Embassy of Canada
33. *Darlene Dove, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
34. Dave Ullrich
35. *David Sweetnam, Georgian Bay Forever
36. Deborah Lee, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
37. *Derek Ager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
38. Edwin (Ted) Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
39. *Elizabeth Everhardus, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
40. Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

41. *Eric Brown, Great Lakes Commission
42. Erica Yang, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
43. *Erin Williams, National Park Service
44. *Evan Ronan, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
45. *Fatima Abdulrasul, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
46. *Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association
47. *Felicia Minotti, Global Affairs Canada
48. *Greg Mayne, Environment and Climate Change Canada
49. *Gurpreet Mangat, Environment and Climate Change Canada
50. *Harold Peterson, Bureau of Indian Affairs
51. *Heather Stirratt, International Joint Commission
52. *Hilary Oakman, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
53. *Howard Reeves, U.S. Geological Survey
54. Isabel Dunn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
55. *Ivana Pekaric-Falak, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
56. *Jacob Orlandi, Environment and Climate Change Canada
57. *James Lehnen, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
58. James Schardt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
59. Jen Vanator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
60. *Jennifer Boehme, International Joint Commission
61. Jennifer Day, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
62. Jennifer Kanine, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
63. Jennifer Vincent, Environment and Climate Change Canada
64. Jessica Jock, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
65. *Jessica Lienhardt, Consulate General of Canada in Detroit
66. Jim McKane, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
67. *Jim Roy, Environment and Climate Change Canada
68. *Jocelyn Sherwood, Environment and Climate Change Canada
69. John Haugland, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
70. *John Jackson, Great Lakes Ecoregion Network; Toxics Free Great Lakes Binational Network
71. *John Marsden
72. *John Wilson, International Joint Commission
73. Jon Hortness, U.S. Geological Survey
74. Jonathan Arnold, Parks Canada
75. *Joy Mulinex, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
76. *Julia Koh Hatcher Ayyoub, Environment and Climate Change Canada
77. Kate Taillon, Environment and Climate Change Canada
78. Kathey-Lee Galvin, International Joint Commission
79. *Kelly Applegate, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
80. *Kendra Axness, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
81. Kirk Beckmann, U.S. Coast Guard
82. *Kristen Haitaian, Freshwater Future
83. *Kristina Heinemann, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
84. *Laud Matos, Environment and Climate Change Canada

85. *Laura Gynane, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
86. *Leo Luong, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
87. *Lizhu Wang, International Joint Commission
88. *Lora Shrake, Council of the Great Lakes Region
89. Lori Nordstrom, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
90. *Luca Cargnelli, Environment and Climate Change Canada
91. *Lydia Fang, Environment and Climate Change Canada
92. Lynn Bouvier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
93. *Marcus Key, National Park Service
94. *Mark Burrows, International Joint Commission
95. *Mary Bellissimo, Environment and Climate Change Canada
96. Matt Otto, Natural Resources Conservation Service
97. Matt Pawlowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
98. *Matthew Child, International Joint Commission
99. Melanie Foose, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
100. *Melissa Fabian Mendoza, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
101. Michael Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada
102. *Michael Murray, Toxics-Free Great Lakes Binational Network
103. Mike Alexander, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
104. *Mike Weimer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
105. *Naghmeh Sharifi, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
106. *Nancy Stadler-Salt, Environment and Climate Change Canada
107. *Natalia Yarkova, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
108. Nichole Shumard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
109. *Nicole Lobsinger, Environment and Climate Change Canada
110. *Nicole Zacharda, Great Lakes Commission
111. Oliver Dumville, International Joint Commission
112. *Pamela Finlayson, Environment and Climate Change Canada
113. *Pamela Lamba, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
114. *Paul Parete, Environment and Climate Change Canada
115. *Ram Yerubandi, Environment and Climate Change Canada
116. *Rebecca D'Orazio, Invasive Species Centre
117. Richard Balla, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
118. *Richard Kavanagh, Environment and Climate Change Canada
119. *Rob Hyde, Environment and Climate Change Canada
120. *Rod Whitlow, Six Nations
121. *Roger Knight, Great Lakes Fishery Commission
122. *Rupert Kindersley, Georgian Bay Association
123. Ryan Bowie, Chiefs of Ontario
124. Santina Wortman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
125. Sean Backus, Environment and Climate Change Canada
126. *Sergio Paulo, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
127. Shaffina Kassam, Environment and Climate Change Canada
128. *Shampa Chakraborty, Environment and Climate Change Canada

129. *Shannon DesRochers, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
130. Shannon Dougherty, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
131. Sonny Myers, 1854 Treaty Authority
132. Spencer McCormack, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
133. *Stacey Cherwaty, Environment and Climate Change Canada
134. *Stephanie Otto, Environment and Climate Change Canada
135. Steve Clement, Environment and Climate Change Canada
136. Suse LaGory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
137. *Thomas K. O'Donnell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
138. Tiffani Kavalec, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
139. Timothy Bruno, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
140. Todd Nettesheim, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
141. *Tom Crane, Great Lakes Commission
142. Trent Henry, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
143. *Vaigeevan Velmurugan, Environment and Climate Change Canada
144. *Véronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Canada Energy Regulator
145. Véronique Hiriart-Baer, Environment and Climate Change Canada