

Summary Minutes
Great Lakes Advisory Board Meeting

GLAB Members: See Roster – Attachment A

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 21, 2013, 1:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (CDT)
Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (CDT)

Location: Lake Michigan Room
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Attendees:

- David Ullrich (GLAB Chair), Executive Director – Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Patty Birkholz (GLAB Vice Chair), Founder – Great Lakes Legislative Caucus
- J. David Allan (pending member), Professor – University of Michigan
- Kathryn Buckner, President – Council of Great Lakes Industries
- Naomi Davis, President – Blacks in Green
- Molly Flanagan, Program Officer – The Joyce Foundation
- Steve Galarnreau, Day 2 only, Director – Office of the Great Lakes, Wisconsin DNR
- Roger Germann, Executive Vice President – John G. Shedd Aquarium
- Bill Hafs, Director of Environmental Programs – Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Jennifer Hill, Field Manager – National Wildlife Fed. & Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition
- Michael Isham, Tribal Councilman – Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government and Chair, GLIFWC
- Simone Lightfoot, Day 1 only, Manager of Conservation & Sustainability – NAACP Detroit Branch
- Joy Mulinex (phone), Director – Public Policy and Great Lakes Land Conservancy Coalition – Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- Jim Ridgway, Vice President – Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.
- Joan Rose (pending member), Professor – Michigan State University
- Richard Stewart, (phone), Co-Director – Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute
- Matt Thompson, Environmental Resources Coordinator – Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Jim Wagner, (phone), City Administrator – Trenton, Mich.

Others Present:

Rita Cestarc, Designated Federal Officer (USEPA)
Cameron Davis (USEPA)
Susan Hedman (USEPA)
Paul Horvatin (USEPA)
Norm Grannemann (USGS)
Jennifer Day (NOAA)
Jan Miller (USACE)
Members of the public

Meeting Materials: All meeting materials are available at www.glab.us.

DAY ONE – May 21, 2013

Convene Meeting

The public meeting was announced in the Federal Register¹Ms. Rita Cestarc, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. (CDT) on May 21, 2013. She stated that the purpose of the GLAB, per its charter, is to provide advice on Great Lakes restoration and protection, with its more immediate goal to provide advice on six charge questions² which will be used in planning the next Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan (GRLI Action Plan), and that this meeting is held according to Federal Advisory Committee act (FACA). She stated that summary minutes of the meeting would be prepared and available within 45 days at www.glri.us.

Introductions of Members and Review of Agenda

Mr. David Ullrich and Ms. Patty Birkholz, Chair and Vice Chair of the GLAB, respectively, welcomed GLAB members and reviewed the meeting agenda.³

Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Cameron Davis welcomed the board and thanked everyone for participating. He explained that, in his role as senior advisor to the EPA Administrator, he provides counsel to the Administrator, who serves as Chair of the 11-department federal Interagency Task Force (IATF) on the Great Lake Restoration Initiative. He also is the Administrator's liaison to Capitol Hill, making sure people in Congress are aware of the work being done on the Great Lakes. He explained that the advice provided by the GLAB will go directly to the Administrator in that capacity and as chair of the IATF.

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Susan Hedman thanked the board for their service. She said as the Region 5 Administrator she is the Great Lakes National Program (GLNPO) Program Manager and chairs the Regional Working Group, which does the planning and budgeting for the GLRI. She said the board will help define priorities and that advice from the board will be very useful. She looks forward to hearing the board's input.

Overview and Discussion of GLRI (background and clarifications)

Mr. Davis noted that the Great Lakes Commission, and two board members, Bill Hafs and Steve Galameau, had provided written comments which are to be entered into the record and are posted at www.glri.us.

Brief History: In the early 2000s the states, federal agencies, and many other organizations were working to bring the Great Lakes back to health. A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) Report said that an overarching strategy was needed to ensure coordination of these programs. The states began urging a coordinated approach to Great Lakes rehabilitation through the development of their "priorities." In 2004, President Bush signed an Executive Order creating the Great Lakes IATF to coordinate efforts among 16 agencies and 11 US departments. In 2009, President Obama proposed funding in his Fiscal Year 2010 budget for the establishment of a "Great Lakes Restoration Initiative" (GLRI) covering FY10-14. In 2012, EPA proposed the establishment of the GLAB to help advise on future GLRI directions. In March 2013, the White House announced its commitment to another GLRI action plan covering FY15-19.

Current Action Plan: The current action plan for Fiscal Years 2010 to 2014 has five focus areas:

1. Habitat restoration,
2. Nearshore health, with an emphasis on reducing nutrients such as phosphorous,
3. Invasive species,
4. Toxics prevention and control, especially in Areas of Concern (AOCs),
5. Ensuring accountability and tracking progress.

The plan has 28 Measures of Progress (MOPs) to hold us accountable, and we are meeting or exceeding 18 of them.

Next Action Plan: Now we want to step back, reassess and recalibrate where we are going for the next action plan. Two things we have heard already about the planning process:

1. We want stakeholders to take ownership of the action plan, and
2. The process for developing the next action plan should not be long and drawn-out

As a result, the federal agencies will use the current action plan as the basis for developing the next action plan rather than start from scratch. He also relayed that the federal agencies know they will want to update the current action plan in several ways: (1) ensuring all commitments under the 2012 US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) are supported; (2) revising or updating MOPs; and (3) ensuring the next action plan takes into account the Adaptive Science-Based Framework.

Mr. Davis then outlined the process for creating the next action plan for FY15-19. The GLAB will provide advice to the IATF that will inform how resources may be allocated. In addition, the federal agencies will be hosting public meetings in Buffalo, NY (May 28), Milwaukee, WI (May 30), and Cleveland, OH (June 5). The IATF will host two webinars: Thursday, May 23 (afternoon) and June 3 (5-7 pm CDT). There will also be a GLAB discussion on June 12, 2013 via conference call. Details for all these meetings are available at www.glab.us under "Public Engagement."

At some point between the fall and the release of the President's FY15 budget in February we want to publish a draft action plan on which the public can comment.

We have developed six charge questions (see Attachment B) which will be used in all the meetings. Neither the GLAB nor the public are limited in providing recommendations on these questions. They represent, however, topics with which the federal agencies have struggled with in the past, and on which we want you to provide feedback.

Charge Question #1: Climate Change. The current action plan doesn't acknowledge climate change. There are several directions this could take. On one extreme, the next action plan could become a climate action plan and not focus on anything else. Or, on the other extreme, we could stick with what we have and not acknowledge climate change. Or, somewhere in the middle, we can acknowledge climate change and directly articulate how work under the focus areas help make the Great Lakes more resilient in the face of climate change.

Charge Question #2: Should we keep the three priorities within the five focus areas? They are: (1) Preventing the establishment of invasive species, particularly Asian carp; (2) expediting AOC cleanups,

and (3) reducing nutrients in three priority watersheds (Maumee River/Western Lake Erie Basin; Saginaw River/Bay Watershed; Lower Fox River/Green Bay Watershed).

Charge Question #3: How can the agencies better prioritize the selection of projects outside of AOCs?

Charge Question #4: Should GLRI invest only in projects that leverage non-GLRI money? Should we only do larger, landscape scale projects (e.g., \$3-10 million)?

Charge Question #5: Should the GLRI track jobs created? Should GLRI promote environmental justice and support disadvantaged communities?

Charge Question #6: Scientific indicators from International Joint Commission (IJC) or other official processes. How should the next action plan factor in these indicators?

Mr. Davis pointed out that the agencies continue to hear that they should invest in bigger projects. On the one hand, this may mean more impactful work. On the other hand, it may mean that smaller groups are shut out from competing for GLRI funds.

A board member asked if the GLAB will be deciding where funds will be used. Mr. Davis responded by saying that the information and suggestions provided by the GLAB will be used to inform federal agencies' decisions, but the GLAB itself won't make funding decisions. Mr. Davis also stated that EPA cannot unilaterally make changes.

A board member asked if advice provided by the GLAB will be used for current GLRI, or only for the next five years. Mr. Davis responded that they will be more influential to help set direction for the FY15-19 action plan, though the GLAB may comment on whatever it deems appropriate. We have heard from the public that it generally does not want to change the current action plan in mid-stream, nor do the agencies plan to change MOPs under the current action plan because it will make measuring progress much more difficult.

A board member wanted to confirm that there will be ample time for the public to comment after the draft GLAB recommendations are released. Mr. Davis responded that the public and GLAB will have a chance to comment on a draft action plan. The purpose of the GLAB's deliberations and public forums are to get early input to inform the development of that draft.

Public Comment

Mr. Ullrich opened the floor for public comment.

International Joint Commissioner (IJC) Commissioner Dereth Glance stated that the GLWQA was updated in 2012. IJC has been charged to have a Science Advisory Board (SAB), and a Great Lakes Water Quality Board. It's an opportunity for them to rethink things. They will be asking for public feedback shortly. Please provide any and all feedback. They also moved to triennial session and just published the 16th biennial report using data from 1987 to 2010, to assess the chemical, biological and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. Some things are getting better, some staying the same, and some getting worse. This was an assessment of progress that paid a lot of attention on water levels. Commissioner Glance passed around a sheet showing lake levels as of the previous week. IJC recently gave advice to US and Canada about Upper Great Lakes water levels. They really think that the adaptive

management approach is important. There were a series of webinars that took place and one of the key ideas in the adaptive management is to conduct pilot projects in areas where things are changing rapidly.

Lin Kaatz Chary, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Green Chemistry Network, said that she respects what's being done with GLRI. Dr. Kaatz Chary said that she'd like to have more emphasis placed on prevention and elimination. The new GLRI action plan needs to put money in trying to find sources of pollution. In the current action plan, the allocation for delisting AOCs was 12 times the amount of the money set aside for toxics. Eliminating sources is the route to preventing all of the problems that are on the table today. Provide dedicated funding to green chemistry. Priority should be given to projects that wouldn't be addressed without GLRI funding. Funding shouldn't be provided solely to those who can leverage additional funds. Her written comments are posted at www.glri.us.⁴

Joel Brammeier, President and CEO for the Alliance for the Great Lakes, thanked US EPA for convening this group. He provided suggestions for how GLAB conducts work. He encouraged the GLAB to find ways to insert into processes and not add overhead. He stressed the importance of unity and speaking with consensus and to craft messages which are hard hitting. Accounting for progress under GLRI and other programs needs to be a priority, urging the agencies to engage in a "circle of virtue," that is, documenting baseline conditions, conducting restoration, then monitoring to ensure restoration achieved the desired results. He encouraged the members of the GLAB to be predictive in their approach – this is a great opportunity to look at the field, what could undermine efforts, what could be changed to avoid those impacts.

Discussion of Charge Question #1

Members generally agreed that the new Action Plan should acknowledge climate change, and that it is not a stand-alone area, but should be integrated into broader restoration efforts. Members stated that the extent to which climate change may compromise the effectiveness of proposed restoration projects should be considered. Several members suggested giving bonus points for projects that incorporate climate resiliency and another stated that it should be a criterion.

One member stated that the revised action plan should recognize the scientific uncertainty in climate change.

One member noted that for tribes and subsistence anglers, climate change is a significant issue. Climate change may be affecting subsistence fishing and decreases in walleye populations.

A board member stated that GLAB shouldn't focus on climate change mitigation because this needs to be addressed at a larger scale than the Great Lakes basin. Another member stated that unless we address the source of the problem, restoration projects will not endure.

Members noted that an adaptation strategy could be used to reduce vulnerability to potential climate change impacts.

Mr. Davis stated that the agencies have been working for a year to put together a science-based adaptation framework that articulates the science underpinning the GLRI and describes how we use science to drive decision-making. It will be used in drafting the next action plan. A draft is being posted today, and the comment deadline is July 12, the same deadline for comments on how the action plan should be revised.

Chair Ullrich summarized Charge Question #1 by saying that we have consensus. Climate change must be acknowledged, but this will not be a climate change action plan. Projects must consider how their likelihood of success will be greater if they consider climate change.

Discussion of Charge Question #2

A) Areas of Concern

Members generally agreed that addressing Areas of Concern are an important part of the next action plan.

A member asked whether sediment remediation projects in AOCs must ensure that sources of contamination are eliminated to be eligible for funding. Mr. Davis responded that to use GLRI funding, specifically under the Great Lakes Legacy Act, projects need to demonstrate that the AOC won't be recontaminated.

Jan Miller said that those AOCs that are closest to the finish line have been considered in GLRI. We have pretty much finished management actions on all of the tier one AOCs. Work is starting on the tier two projects. We don't expect to have the same level of success in year five as you did year one because the projects get harder to work on as you go. A member agreed and stated that GLAB needs to finish the management actions in those nearly-complete AOCs. Using limited resources for a project that may never be completed may not be good use of the money.

Vice Chair Birkholz stated that there are several AOCs in Michigan that are near completion and you can now see hope in those communities. People are investing in those areas again.

A member stated that with AOCs, the focus should be on remediation that results in the biggest ecosystem benefit.

A board member asked if AOC prioritization was science-based. Jan Miller answered stating that it's common sense, fish advisories, degraded habitat, etc. Mr. Davis clarified further by stating that listing was driven by the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) under the GLWQA. AOCs are the places that often have the most disadvantaged communities around the Great Lakes.

A board member stated that Great Lakes-related programs need to be smart about how GLRI money works with other programs. Jim Ridgway suggested that the GLAB needs recognize that the GLRI needs to work with Superfund and other programs to help get these AOCs cleaned up. Other members agreed that Great Lakes programs haven't leveraged enough from other programs. One member said that it is important to recognize that not all contaminated sites are eligible for GLRI funds.

A member asked whether the GLRI will invest in AOCs that may never be delisted. Mr. Davis responded that our assumption is that we will do everything possible to delist. There are some very complex AOCs that will take years to rehabilitate. We are not contemplating giving up on any AOC.

Mr. Davis stated that the agencies are currently taking a balanced approach: investing in low-hanging fruit while at the same time investing in AOCs that will take a longer time to clean up. The reason we're asking the question about whether we should continue to balance these investments is not because we think we're taking the wrong approach. We think we're taking the right approach. We are asking the question because we want to test our assumptions with the GLAB that the balanced approach is correct.

Jan Miller stated that it's difficult when states are unable to prioritize AOC projects and that we should consider providing them incentives to make decisions.

A member stated that the GLRI could look at completing one to two management actions a year and that geographic diversity is important.

B) Reducing Nutrients in Priority Watersheds

Bill Hafis stated that the new action plan should discuss ways to increase the participation of key landowners. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offered a program that would provide landowners funding if they followed specific animal waste management standards. Several members mentioned that funding should come with a requirement that certain conservation practices are followed. We can't continue paying for the same conservation processes over and over again. It's not working. There is a dead zone (hypoxia) appearing in Green Bay and that dangling the carrot of money and making them do something in return will work best.

Members stated that we need better monitoring to tell us what works and what doesn't work. Mr. Davis responded by saying that monitoring is happening. There is edge-of-field field monitoring coupled with the use of models to help inform our actions.

USGS's Norm Granneman stated that USGS is monitoring surface and tile runoff.

A board member cautioned that we have to be careful with the number of caveats and limitations we put on the money.

Another board member stated that land owners and farmers should be encouraged to share best practices.

Board members asked if there have been conversations with corporations. Members mentioned that we have talked exclusively about rural and agricultural sources and asked if urban and green infrastructure could be considered. Mr. Davis answered that the agencies have talked with some corporations and that the GLRI has and will continue to support urban green infrastructure projects.

C) Invasive Species

Ms. Birkholz asked members whether GLRI should focus on the bigger picture of invasive species or individual species.

A board member stated that this is an issue where we need a science based framework. It requires a whole-systems approach, how species relate to each other, how they relate to stressors. We need to look at the bigger picture of invasive species, unless a particular species is of major concern.

Another board member agreed stating that GLAB must keep the prevention of invasive species a current priority. There must be a balanced approach, not target a single species because we don't know what else is coming. We need to prevent new ones coming in.

A board member stated that GLAB needs to say things that others may not be willing to say, such as there are a lot of invasive species coming through the St Lawrence Seaway and we aren't adequately dealing with that.

Jennifer Day pointed out that NOAA has an online database called GLANSIS, which provides information to the public about species that present a higher risk of invasion

A member stated that Asian Carp are a big threat and are a legitimate use of GLRI funds, but GLRI funds should not be sole source of Asian Carp prevention. There was general agreement that science needs to drive how we respond to this question.

Norman Granneman responded stating that USGS and other agencies are working on sharing funding, and moving increasingly using agency base budgets to prevent Asian carp.

Mr. Ullrich stated that there is consensus that these three priorities should continue and called for public comment.

One commenter stated that she accepts the comments that have been made with respect to climate change. We can't, however, neglect public health in the discussion. She said that ecosystem health and services are highly tied to human health. She stated that compliance is a very important issue; that if you don't support work that can have high rates of compliance, you will have faulty results.

Day One – General Discussion

A member pointed out that EPA has trust responsibility to tribes. It's important that GLRI money can be used for capacity and getting baseline data as tribes don't have the tax base to pay for baseline monitoring and data collection.

Another board member asked whether the future action plan should consider more support for protection in relation to restoration. Mr. Davis stated that the current action plan defines restoration as including protection. One of the recommendations GLAB can provide is the balance between the two.

A board member asked how much time GLAB is going to spend on measuring things we can track to the tiniest fragment when we can't get rid of the big things that have been here for a long time. He suggested that GLAB write the new action plan that makes long-term monitoring the responsibility of the federal government.

A board member asked whether the GLAB can make recommendations beyond GLRI.

Mr. Davis responded by saying the GLAB can provide recommendations on non-GLRI subjects; however, the GLAB will have the most influence on the future direction of GLRI. The GLRI is a multi-agency program. It's an "accelerator," intended to supplement, not supplant, agencies' work. GLAB advice will be most useful if it is directed to all IATF agencies, but you are welcome to make agency-specific recommendations.

A board member asked if there are there any reports that discuss what progress under the current action plan, and why. Mr. Davis responded saying that GLRI is required to submit an annual report to Congress and the President. The Reports for FY10 and 11 are online at <http://glri.us/projects/index.html>.

A board member pointed out that the action plan should address the role of science vs. the on the ground projects.

Mr. Davis answered that the main purpose of the GLRI is to invest in work that will have direct ecological benefits. And, we need to understand whether our investments are achieving the results they purport they will achieve. What is the right mix of on-the-ground work, and science such as monitoring and research? This is a key question that the agencies are wrestling with.

A board member stated that the current GLRI does not reach into all communities. The new action plan should to be able to facilitate a deepening and widening reach into more communities.

Another board member agreed stating that he is disappointed in the lack of diversity in Great Lakes groups and gatherings. A board member responded that as far as Great Lakes committees go, the GLAB is a very diverse group.

Mr. Ullrich stated in summary that climate change should be included. The three priorities have been confirmed with slight modifications and enhancements. There was good general discussion overall for Day 1.

Ms. Cestarc adjourned the meeting stating that the group will reconvene the following day.

DAY TWO – May 22, 2013

Ms. Cestarc reconvened the GLAB at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

Remarks from Acting IATF Chair & EPA Administrator

Bob Perciasepe thanked all members for their service and Dave and Patty for heading up the GLAB. He said that the new action plan needs to be focused on results, based on tuning up the current action plan for the next four years. We need GLAB help in deciding where the best place to spend our limited resources will be.

Mr. Ullrich opened the floor for discussion and questions for Mr. Perciasepe.

Mr. Ullrich stated that the GLAB wants to assure everyone that this group is actively engaged. There are academics, NGOs, foundations, Shedd Aquarium, private consulting, and industry. We take this responsibility very seriously. \$300 million for the Great Lakes is a huge investment, much more than ever available before. We had excellent discussions yesterday; we're off to a good start, count on us to provide good advice.

Mr. Perciasepe emphasized that while EPA is the custodian of the funding, the GLRI is a multi-agency project. The GLAB's advice and insights will serve the IATF agencies.

Mr. Ullrich stated that USACE, NOAA, and USGS are represented here as advisors and were actively engaged in discussions yesterday. We have heard many times "but for GLRI we would not have been able to do this," so GLRI is really making a difference. He thanked Mr. Perciasepe.

Discussion of Charge Question #3:

A member expressed concern that while several AOCs drain into Lake St Clair, it is not an AOC so cannot access Legacy Act funds. The member stated that we are ignoring connecting channels.

Mr. Ullrich asked if people comfortable saying the connecting channels are important.

Mr. Davis said that connecting channels are part of Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LAMPs) under the 2012 GLWQA, so they are not ignored.

A board member stated that there many other contaminated sites that are not AOCs. The member stated that perhaps we can influence the Legacy Act program to have funding options for non-AOCs.

Mr. Davis said there is general agreement to address AOCs, and that takes a big investment. He estimated that 1/3 of GLRI funding is allocated to cleanups and added that help in prioritizing where to direct funding for non-AOC work would be useful.

Another board member stated that the LAMPs were vague until the 2012 GLWQA "lit them up" and that we need to add definition to the LAMPs. Another member stated the LAMP process is a good concept, but funding has been reduced and we don't have people on the ground in the states to work on these non-priority projects.

Another member stated that the LAMPs are included in the revised GLWQA. They are charged with setting priorities for projects. We need to give them funding, they will decide the priorities.

Norm Granneman stated that under the GLWQA, LAMPs deal with near shore issues.

Another board member stated that we can't measure how effective projects are because little baseline data exists and suggested that acquiring baseline data should be phase 1 of a project.

A board member stated that for the tribes he represents, a big mining company is running a project – the tribes have no baseline data to see if there is environmental impact from the mining project. The tribes can't fund projects to develop baseline data but need it to evaluate impact of project.

A board member asked how we can prioritize if we don't know if monitoring is being conducted to inform us whether our projects are effective.

Mr. Davis responded that the rigor of monitoring depends on the focus area. For example, there is rigorous pre- and post-project monitoring in AOCs. Monitoring may not be as prevalent in other focus areas, such as nearshore health, but even then, USGS is funding edge-of-field monitoring. We are supporting monitoring in all focus areas.

A board member asked if those results will that help drive how money is spent in the future.

Mr. Davis responded yes. He then went on to state that for EPA projects, monitoring can be built into projects. How much we use GLRI to monitor and assess with the overall goal of action is a critical question. We do not want GLRI to turn into a monitoring and funding program. It is for-on-the-ground action. But we need to know the results of our on-the-ground work. The agencies would like input from the GLAB on where the balance should be struck.

A board member stated that we need to view projects with an environmental justice lens. Disadvantaged communities have less access to resources.

One commenter stated that guidance can be given about how to translocate the approach skills and knowledge, i.e. from one project to another. We can use nested designs, linking in key places. Some projects are site specific, but others may have commonalities (shallowness of the bay, etc.). We need to provide guidance about technology that can be used.

Mr. Ullrich summarized Charge Question #3 by stating that we need to: 1. Get a better sense to date of what is working not working. 2. Determine the right amount of monitoring and assess baseline data. 3. Look to LAMPs for guidance. 4. Ensure human health protection is part of restoration. 5. Make sure that tribes, state, and local government are involved. 6. Address the replicability of projects to spread good ideas. 7. Consider whether each project can demonstrate whether it has made an improvement.

Discussion of Question #4:

Several members stated that while leveraging non-GLRI money is a good idea, we should not require a match. A member stated that we shouldn't jeopardize small-scale projects for large projects.

Another board member stated that there is more ownership of a project with cost-sharing.

Mr. Davis stated that there are several factors involved with the match question: 1. Are we required by law to have a match? The Legacy Act funded projects must have a match of 35 to 50 percent. Section 319 of the Clean Water Act can have match implications. Those are the only match requirement areas in GLRI. 2. The internal EPA RFA is a place where we have encouraged, not required a match. But a match does not make or break the project. It simply tries to encourage a match without discouraging projects that could not happen without GLRI funding. In-kind contributions, not just funding, can be used as a match. 3. Congressional appropriations language encourages the agencies to minimize match requirements.

A board member stated that leveraging non-GLRI funding is good, but we don't want small groups priced out by larger groups which have more money. In-kind contributions are important and need to be included.

A board member stated that if you have two projects which seem equal in scope, if one has a match, it should get the priority. Another board member stated that for some projects a match makes sense: when someone is responsible for a problem, sooner or later they will be on the hook. But many problems are not owned by anyone (e.g., habitat). Many habitat restorations will not happen without GLRI funding. Matching is difficult in these situations.

A board member stated that the planning process and standards keep changing. For example, a watershed plan that took months to get approved was ineligible for funding because by the time it was approved, the plan was out of date. Another member stated that if the rules change, we should grandfather plans that were already written.

A board member stated that it takes a lot of work, time, and dollars to do the planning for large scope projects.

Another board member stated that sometimes the problem is with the transferability of the plan. USACE cannot use plans developed by non-USACE engineers, for example.

Ms. Birkholz stated that the group had to move on from this topic. She asked if there were any comments

Public Comment

Lin Kaatz Chary stated that if you award grants only to applicants who can leverage other funding, you will significantly limit others who can't get external funding and asked what the criteria would be for assessing project impacts and improvements.

Gary Wilson mentioned a site where only part of the sediment had been cleaned up. He asked why not spend the extra money and get the site cleaned up now. Mr. Davis answered that agencies often plan for parts of AOC cleanups because non-federal match can be available for some segments, but not others.

Ms. Birkholz provided a summary of Charge Question #4: Flexibility is important; the group discussed the importance of a match and how much; language is important how it is written; need consistency in planning.

Mr. Davis suggested the GLAB look for win-win alternatives. For example, is there the ability in a big projects to include smaller subcontractors so you have an impactful project on the ground but you are supporting smaller projects that are still important? The agencies welcome input on how we can "support both," not view this as one versus the other.

Discussion of Charge Question #5:

Several members stated that they don't mind if the jobs are tracked but it shouldn't be a criterion. Tribes have very little capacity to create jobs.

A board member stated that this is more monitoring and assessing. It is good if we can show job creation, but it will take time and money to track it.

A member stated that GLAB should turn the question around to what if we don't have clean water for the economy vs. if we do. Another member stated that the GLRI may not be the right thing place for that. It's too vast of an engagement for the GLRI to determine what water quality and ecosystem improvements mean for the economy, but we could find out who is gathering this information.

A board member stated that the question says track jobs and asked whether that means economic impact. Another member stated that, for an economic assessment, some models are better than others and asked what models should be used if we are going to require this. The member also asked how much should be spent on modeling and assessment versus how much on addressing the actual problem.

Steve Galameau said that now that the Sheboygan River has been cleaned up, we should confirm the economic impacts of restoration.

A member asked if we are collecting any information about the number of people whose jobs are supported through GLRI. Mr. Davis responded that he doesn't think EPA requests that information at this time.

Several members expressed concern that requiring jobs data would be overly onerous data collection and that most applicants would have difficulty figuring this out. Mr. Davis answered stating that there is a burden to grantees associated with providing jobs data, which is why this is an important charge question.

A board member stated that GLRI should support environmental justice. Not only the projects themselves, but some level of community interest in a project.

There is a solid block of misunderstanding, organizations come in to do work, but don't take community concerns to heart. We can be a force for transforming that.

Another board member stated that we should always stress both economic and environmental impact.

Members agreed that we needed more discussion about environmental justice and disadvantaged communities.

Public Comment

One commenter stated that one way to look at this is through a public databases; that the GLRI Great Lakes Accountability System (GLAS) database is good, but any way we can strengthen that and make more data available is good. Quality control is important; consider a workshop or training to let people know what we are looking for.

Another commenter stated that she is not in favor of requiring each project to do economic analysis. Also we'd need to look at both current and future benefits. Economic benefits and environmental justice are linked: if you change quality of life at the economic low end, you will impact lives to a greater degree. The community can be improved in many aspects.

Lin Kaatz Chary stated that jobs and environmental justice are not inherent in GLRI itself. Rather we should understand where the greatest changes can be made and where can you get the greatest community involvement. There are long-term investments that cannot be quantified in a few years.

Discussion of Charge Question #6:

Members generally supported using indicators to help measure progress under GLRI.

One member stated that there is a tremendous amount of data to develop and build on indicators. We recognize that a lot of excellent work has been done on indicators. Paul Horvatin has been a leader in this. Can we reduce the number of indicators we look at so we can better communicate with elected officials and the public? We need to find the fewest that tell us the most. There is work being done with IJC, SOLEC, IJC's Water Quality Board, and IJC's Science Advisory Board. Give us an ability to look at the big picture and tell a story. IJC's recent biennial report has done a good job of this. We do need things that count the most.

A board member stated that the IATF is uniquely positioned to talk about having a common currency of indicators by which we will judge our success. We could make a policy recommendation on this.

A board member stated that we must first ask what the questions are that we want to answer with this data. For instance, for AOCs, we had to figure out what we needed to monitor to guide projects. We need to do the same with LAMPs – first figure out the questions we need to answer. Another member agreed and said that indicators need to align with what the project is trying to achieve and that we're measuring progress at various scales – indicators, MOPs, etc.

Public Comment

One commenter stated that she supports indicators. We have some big gaps in current indicators, e.g., E. coli and beach health. Marry these indicators with a diagnostic toolbox. Look at new ways to say who is sick and what are we doing about it. Look at indicators around gaps, especially where the trend is getting worse and we don't know enough to change the trend, look at it new ways.

Another commenter stated that he agreed, especially for local projects you need indicators for what you are trying to achieve. That may not align with whole-lake indicators. Whole-lake indicators may get a bad score for multiple reasons. Indicators should be used to track what you are trying to do in your project, and others used to see whole lake scale.

Lin Kaatz Chary asked about the role of indicators and suggested using data from various sources.

Ms. Birkholz summarized the discussion of charge question #6: We need a common currency; an indicator or metric for one effort may not be the same for other projects; how to do the best with the least investment; use scientific metrics; look at new tools and techniques.

Day 2 – General Public Comment Period

David Rockwell addressed the group. He recommended another subject area be added to focus area 3: beach water safety and economics. His written comments are attached and posted on-line at www.glri.us.⁵

Glenn Odenbrett of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement stated that: 1. Climate change is a topic being incorporated into undergrad classes. 2. There has been a lot of discussion in this meeting regarding monitoring - undergrad students and faculty are already involved in this type of monitoring; they are helping tribal leaders understand the impact of mining; direct GLRI support could increase these activities exponentially; 4 and 5: By explicitly defining it, GLRI could leverage grants on campus work study programs - many go to underserved and disadvantaged students; could create many jobs and be tracked, could and should be paraprofessional jobs, these students will be well positioned to be the next generation of leaders; 6. Undergrad science students and faculty can provide assistance on the ground. GLAB should recommend funding for undergrad students and faculty as a high priority because it serves multiple GLRI purposes. His written comments are attached and posted on-line at www.glri.us.⁶

Chris Litzau, on the phone, is the President of the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps, which serves disadvantaged youth. They have cooperative agreements with the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Transportation to facilitate participation training and jobs. Precedent is already set by the corps network; all that needs to be done is to incorporate it into the GLRI action plan.

Day Two – General Discussion

A board member reiterated that environmental justice needs more time for GLAB discussion.

Mr. Ullrich stated that this topic will be put at the top of the agenda for the June 12 conference call. He will be unavailable, but Vice Chair Birkholz will chair the conference call.

A board member asked if the GLAB should consolidate its recommendations into an advisory report or letter.

Mr. Davis answered yes, FACA committees generally do this. Mr Davis stated that the GLAB should consolidate its advice into an advisory report or advisory letter.

Mr. Ullrich stated that GLAB should take what we discussed today plus what we discuss June 12 and put it into a useable form so we have a narrative, something helpful for reviewers.

Mr. Davis stated that EPA would like input from the GLAB to inform the draft action plan. The draft should be released between this fall and the time of the President's FY15 budget. The release date of a final action plan is still being worked out, but it would be after the release of the President's FY15 budget.

Mr. Ullrich addressed next steps: If GLAB wants to provide advice in a document for influencing the next action plan, we have a lot of consensus with some fine tuning needed (not long tomes, a bit more than one page but not lengthy document).

Ms. Cestarc stated that, for each charge questions, a writing team should be formed to develop a draft response. The DFO and the Chair would compile the responses into a draft cohesive letter of advice. The GLAB would then reconvene for review of the draft advisory letter sometime in July 2013. Based on these discussions, a revised draft advisory letter would be prepared for consensus review. After consensus, the Chair and Vice Chair will submit the letter of advice from the GLAB to the EPA Administrator. The GLAB may form sub-committees and working groups to make follow-up more efficient.

Mr. Davis stated that there are larger questions that have come up: (1) how to balance funding for science with action; (2) sustainability of projects in the face of climate change. These are examples of "mega questions" that are not charge questions, but that cut across virtually all of them.

Writing Teams

Charge Question 1: Jennifer Hill (lead), Roger Germann, Naomi Davis, Joy Mulinex

Charge Question 2: Jim Ridgway (lead), Molly Flanagan, Bill Hafs, Steve Galarneau, Matt Thompson, Joan Rose

Charge Question 3: Steve Galarneau (lead), David Allan, Joy Mulinex

Charge Question 4: Kathryn Buckner (lead), Roger Germann, Jennifer Hill

Charge Question 5: jobs and economy – Kathryn Buckner (lead), Roger Germann, Naomi Davis, Jim Wagner; environmental justice – Molly Flanagan (lead), Matt Thompson

Charge Question 6: Dave Ullrich (lead), Kathryn Buckner, Joan Rose

Ms. Cestarc will contact Michael Isham, Simone Lightfoot and Richard Stewart to see where they want to be involved. Requests she be cc'd on all communications among writing teams.

Mr. Davis stated that there will be a check-in with the IATF in August.

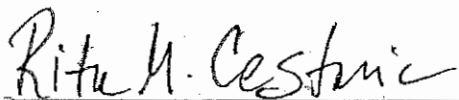
Mr. Ullrich stated that he wants a document by early to mid-August with one to two pages for each charge question.

Mr. Ullrich suggested having 2 face-to-face meetings per year, plus additional conference calls. He understands that it's sometimes hard to do by phone, but travel and money are issues; that the GLAB will need more face-to-face time early in the process, less later on. He will set up a doodle poll for a face-to-face meeting in July.

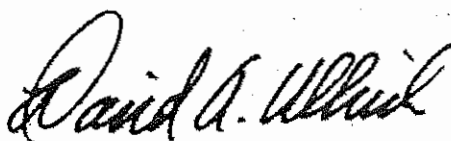
Mr. Ullrich stated that this is an excellent group. We have an opportunity to provide excellent advice.

The Designated Federal Officer adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. (CDT).

Certified as Accurate:



Ms. Rita Cestarić
GLAB DFO



Mr. David Ullrich
Chair

Materials Cited

The following materials are available on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative web site, www.glri.us, at the public engagement web page.

¹ Federal Register Notice Announcing the Meeting (78 FR 26636 – 26637)

² Charge Questions for the GLAB

³ Meeting Agenda

⁴ Public Comment from Dr. Lin Kaatz Chary

⁵ Public Comment from Mr. David Rockwell

⁶ Public Comment from Mr. Glenn Odenbrett, National Center for Science and Civic Engagement