

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Great Lakes Advisory Board

October 29th, 2020 Virtual Public Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

(Version 1 20 2021)

Respectfully Submitted: Edlynzia Barnes, GLAB Designated Federal Officer

Certified as Accurate: Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells (Co-Chair) and Steve Galarnau (Co-Chair)

Note and Disclaimer: The minutes that follow reflect a summary of remarks and conversation during the meeting. Such ideas, suggestions and deliberations do not necessarily reflect consensus advice from the Board. Formal advice and recommendations may be found in the final advisory reports or letters prepared and transmitted to the agency following the public meetings.

Meeting Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss initial charge questions directed by U.S. EPA to the Great Lakes Advisory Board. ([Charge questions](#)).

Attendees:

For full roster, see Attachment A.

Welcome Remarks from EPA:

Edlynzia Barnes, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) convened the meeting. Welcoming remarks were provided by Kurt Thiede, Region 5 Regional Administrator/Great Lakes National Program Manager and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler by way of a pre-recorded video. This is the first substantive meeting of the GLAB since its re-establishment in December 2018.

Introductory Remarks and Agenda Review:

GLAB Co-Chairs Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells and Steve Galarneau welcomed GLAB members to the meeting and requested that GLAB members provide a brief self-introduction along with a short summary of their professional and/or personal experiences relating to the Great Lakes. The meeting agenda was reviewed, and the Co-Chairs provided instructions to public attendees on how and when to provide public comments during the meeting.

Discussion of Charge Questions:

EPA presented existing background information on Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) programs and activities to address the following charge questions/themes. Following each presentation by U.S. EPA, GLAB members were welcomed to ask questions and request clarification if needed.

Charge questions/themes:

Theme 1 – Seek Advice and Recommendations on Innovative Strategies to Address Legacy Phosphorus

Theme 2 – Seek Advice and Recommendation on Managing Excess Nutrients

Santina Wortman, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, presented background information on nutrient reduction efforts under the GLRI and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The presentation summarized nutrient reduction efforts, identified the

numerous partners and programs that exist to address excess nutrient loads, reported on progress, and addressed the significance of “legacy” sources of nutrients..

Theme 3 – Seek Advice and Recommendation on GLRI Outreach

Chris Korleski, Director of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, presented an overview of current outreach mechanisms that GLRI federal agencies use to communicate progress made under the GLRI and GLWQA. Mr. Korleski highlighted several of the platforms that are currently used such as www.glri.us, www.binational.net, and www.asiancarp.us. Mr. Korleski also pointed GLAB members to existing reports that are available including the annual GLRI Reports to Congress and the triannual GLWQA Progress Reports of the Parties and State of the Great Lakes Reports.

Theme 4 – Seek Advice and Recommendation on Invasive Species

Kevin O’Donnell, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, presented information on existing federal invasive species authorities and programs and key invasive species issues within the Great Lakes region. The federal invasive species programs include the GLRI , Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42), Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA), National Invasive Species Act (NISA), and the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program (GLLCISP).

Theme 5 – Outcome Based Investments in the Great Lakes

Mike Russ, U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, presented an overview of GLRI accomplishments. Mr. Russ reported on the status of select GLRI Action Plan II measures of progress Fiscal Year 2016 through 2019 (preliminary) including beneficial use impairments removed; estimated pounds of phosphorus reduced; and habitat restored, protected or enhanced.

Theme 6 – GLRI’s Role in the Vitality and Reinvestment of Great Lakes Communities

Todd Nettesheim, Deputy Director of the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office, provided an overview of GLRI’s role in the vitality and reinvestment of Great Lakes communities. Mr. Nettesheim briefly identified two reports: *Socioeconomic Impacts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative* and *Great Lakes Revival – How Restoring Waters Leads to Rebirth of Great Lakes Communities* relevant to this charge question. Mr. Nettesheim also presented a brief background on the U.S. EPA Brownfields program and it’s revitalization tools (Brownfield grant opportunities and Brownfield technical assistance), Opportunity Zones that support community revitalization, and the Executive Order on Modernizing America’s Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure (Section 3. Interagency Water Subcabinet).

GLAB Member Discussion:

GLAB Co-Chair Steve Galarneau thanked U.S. EPA for the presentations and turned the conversation over to members of the GLAB. Co-Chair Galarneau discussed a process to address the six charge questions, suggesting to group the six charge questions into three workgroups – a

Nutrients Workgroup (addressing charge questions 1 & 2), a GLRI Workgroup (addressing charge questions 3, 5 & 6), and an Invasive Species Workgroup (addressing charge question 4). Consensus by GLAB members on the organization of the three workgroups was achieved and a proposed timeline to have final recommendations to EPA by November 2021 was discussed.

Public Comments:

Interested members of the public were given three minutes to ask questions or provide comments to the GLAB.

Sandy Bihn's commented on nutrients in Lake Erie. Ms. Bihn's comments are posted under the GLAB [webpage](#).

Emily Sheridan commented on plans to engage more with environmental justice communities.

Laura Rubin expressed support for community engagement and working to incorporate more metrics and outputs around environmental justice issues.

Next Steps and Action Items:

It was requested that GLAB members identify which workgroup(s) they would like to participate in by November 4th, 2020. GLAB Co-Chairs and DFO Lynzi Barnes are to send workgroup assignments to GLAB by November 18th, 2020. DFO Barnes will develop a macro timeline for the GLAB and its work activities for the course of 2020-2021.

Meeting Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned by the DFO.

Attachment A – List of Attendees

GLAB Members:

Dr. Al Steinman

Dr. Brian Miller

Chairman James Williams

Jeff Stollenwerk

John Hull

Kay Nelson

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells

Dr. Larry Antosch

Lisa Frede

Dr. Scudder Mackey

Steve Galarneau (WI DNR)

Sylvia Orduño

Dr. Val Klump

DFO:

Lynzi Barnes

Others:

Allison Voglesong-Zejnati

Amanda Meyer

Carl Platz

Chad Lord

Child, Matthew

Chris Morgan

Christopher Korleski

Danielle Chesky (GAC/AMC)

Danielle Green

David Copplestone (MNR)

David Koltz

Emily Sheridan, (DEC)

Erma (last name unknown)

Hannah Arbuckle

Jen Vanator

Jennifer Day

Jessica L Koski

Jill Reinhart - NRCS, Indianapolis, IN

John Kusnier

Jon E Hortness

Jon Grosshans

Joseph Liebau

Katie Hobgood

Kevin O'Donnell

Kristina Heinemann

Kurt Thiede

Laura Rubin

Lynn Garrity

Alex McLeod (MNRF)

Michael Russ

Michelle Markel

Nathaniel B. (Nat) Morse

Sandy Bihn

Santina Wortman

Sarah Lawhun

Sarah Szabo

Todd Nettesheim

Tom Rayburn

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1 716-832-5384