
Information and Indicators Strategy Team
Meeting Agenda – October, 6-7, 2005
Great Lakes Regional Collaboration
Rochester, New York

The GLRC meeting agenda provides three opportunities for Strategy Teams to meet:

- I. 9:00 am EST - 11:30 am EST on Thursday, October 6
- II. 3:00 pm EST - 5:30 pm EST on Thursday, October 6
- III. 8:30 am EST - 10:00 am EST on Friday, October 7

Phone lines will be made available for I&I Strategy Team members to call in during all three of these meeting periods. The dial-in information is below. The system has a limit of connecting 30 lines at once.

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The agenda items for the three sessions above are as follows. If some topics are covered quickly, the team may move ahead of the schedule below.

I. Overview of Comments, Areas of Potential Change and Near-Term Actions

Oct. 6, 9-11:30 am

The Co-chairs will report out in plenary after lunch regarding the public comments received, areas of likely change to the I&I report and likely near-term actions that the I&I team will recommend. While the co-chairs submitted a memo to the Executive Committee on these topics on September 30th, discussion among the group is needed to reach consensus and add detail to the themes from that memo (attached here). Specific topics of discussion will be:

Comments and areas of potential change:

1. Roles of new and existing institutions
2. Educational programs
3. Data/information management and delivery
4. Research funding, coordination and prioritization
5. Approach to indicators
6. Public and community involvement
7. Integrate recommendations and needs of other strategy teams
8. Clarify communications workgroup role
9. Other comments received
10. Additional suggestions from the Strategy Team

Near-term actions:

1. Establish Great Lakes Information Coordination Council (GLICC)

2. Establish Research Office, scale up Great Lakes research funding
3. Increase funding to implement subset of priority SOLEC indicators
4. Implement IOOS/IEOS short-term observing system improvements across the Great Lakes. Enhance existing monitoring programs including community-based support
5. Convene Information Management Working Group with grant making authority with federal agency oversight for integrated regional IT infrastructure.
6. Establish Communications Working Group
7. Additional suggestions from the Strategy Team

II. Detailed Review of Comments / Changes to I&I Chapter

Oct. 6, 3-5:30 pm

Public comments received have been divided into 88 comments in 18 categories. These will be reviewed by the group, with a focus on what changes, if any, should be made to the chapter in response to each.

- Open water / near shore observation needs (23-25)
- Other information types (non-“observed”) (71, 53-55, 59)
- Indicator needs differ for each lake (72)
- “Sound science” (42)
- Inclusion of chemical research and technology (22)
- Milestones for adopting data protocols and monitoring conference (86)
- Quicker progress on priority indicators (35, 80, 82)
- Indicators approach (31-35)
- Research to “achieve management goals and expectations” (73)
- Academic and localized research (12-14)
- Clarify communications workgroup role (66, 74 and 87)
- General revisions to emphasize science-based decision making (40, 41), “problem-solving” (5), binationalism (62), “synergistic interactions” (57), community/local/NGO involvement (47-52), graphics and maps (53), data withholding (30), timing regarding other strategy teams (65)
- Specific issue comments – address in appendix – flow regimes (57), wetlands classification (58), global warming (60), biodiversity (61), toxic pollutants recommendations (69,75)
- Education (43-46)
- Additional items raised by the Strategy Team

III. Near-Term Actions

Oct. 7, 8:30-10:00 am

The team is required to identify critical actions that should be undertaken immediately following the release of the GLRC report over a 1-2 year timeframe. These are the initial steps that need to be taken to begin progress on the overall plan. Building on the discussion from Thursday morning, the group will discuss in detail the needed near-term I&I actions. These near-term actions will require careful attention to the letter from the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation.