

GLWQA Review/ Next Steps for the GLBTS

GLBTS IWG - February 16, 2006

Purpose of Afternoon Discussion

- Revisit Outcomes of December Discussions, in the context of GLWQA review
- Solicit General thoughts on Current GLWQA against GLBTS Futures discussion
- Discuss Follow through to May

Outcomes of December Discussion

- Support for All Four Pathways
- Missing Pieces
- Suggestions

Four Pathways

- Finishing the job on the current Level 1s (in particular state and NGO support).
- Designing a framework for emerging chemicals (in particular state and NGO support).
- Coordinating monitoring programs through a Great Lakes Forum.
- Increasing international/global outreach (widespread support across members).

Issues, Concerns, and Disagreements

- Lacking specific goals with milestones or other measures of progress as well as process.
- Lacking plan or process for reaching closure and preventing “chasing the last molecule”.
- Lacking implementation details (e.g., who does what and when; how to coordinate monitoring or fill data gaps).
- Lacking Basin specificity/relevance.

Issues, Concerns, and Disagreements

- Concern with broadening the GLBTS and losing focus.
- Need to maintain success that has been achieved through existing monitoring programs and in reducing the Level 1s.
- Lacking involvement of LaMPs, municipalities, States/Province, Tribes/First Nations.

Suggestions

- Avoid use of the “precautionary principle”.
- Continue to focus on Virtual Elimination (VE) and consider defining VE.
- Allow for ability to reach closure when a substance has been VE'd by common agreement.
- Set specific reduction goals with milestones or other measures of progress.
- Utilize existing international structures within the federal governments.
- Promote cross-learning with other watershed jurisdictions facing similar issues.

Suggestions (Cont)

- Twin with other issues (e.g., greenhouse gases, energy).
- Encourage regular participation by States/Province, Tribes, and First Nations.
- Make participation more efficient with alternative means of participating (e.g., videoconference, state-based meeting locations).
- Use sound science as a background—continue to promote monitoring programs.

Suggestions (Cont)

- Provide opportunities for monitoring programs to collaborate.
- Identify and quantify the health benefits of reductions (e.g., the impact on fish levels).
- Consider the contribution of contaminated sediments to remaining releases of Level 1s.
- Look at groups or classes of emerging substances.

Discussion Questions

- Building on the information shared today, what are your views regarding the attributes and future focus of the GLBTS, in light of the ongoing purpose of the GLWQA and its review?

Discussion Questions

- Who should participate in the GLWQA Review of Toxics/Chemical Pollutants?

Discussion Questions

- What is your response to the idea of using the next Integration Workgroup Meeting in Toronto to host a GLWQA review session?