

**International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) Teleconference  
January 21, 2014**

**Summary of Discussion**

---

**Canadian Member Participants**

Mike Goffin (Co-Chair)	Environment Canada
Gail Faveri	Environment Canada
Chief Earl Klyne	Seine River First Nation
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Mark Lee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Kiley Hanson	Local Member, Nestor Falls
Dennis Brown	Local Member, Atikokan
Todd Sellers	Local Member, Minaki
Karen Cederwall	Local Member, Kenora

**U.S. Member Participants**

Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Pat Carey (for Suzanne Hanson)	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jeff Stoner	U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Lee Grim	Local Member, Rainy Lake
Charlene Mason	Local Member, Ely
Jenny Moorman	Local Member, Baudette

**U.S. Member Absentees**

Col. Daniel Koprowski (Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Al Pemberton	Local Member, Red Lake

**Invited Participant**

Kelli Saunders	Watershed Coordinator, Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation
----------------	--

**Commission Liaisons**

Jean-François Cantin	Canadian Section
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section

**Secretariat/Engineering Advisors**

Kari Hauck	U.S. Secretary and Engineering Advisor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Matt DeWolfe	Canadian Engineering Advisor, Lake of the Woods Secretariat
Diane de Beaumont	Canadian Secretary, Environment Canada

### **1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)**

Mike Goffin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance was taken. Mike Goffin attended a portion of the meeting and chaired agenda items 1 to 6. Kari Hauck chaired agenda items 7 to 15.

### **2. Status of Action Items (Secretariat)**

Key action items not covered under other agenda topics were discussed. They are: Board Website update, indigenous groups engagement strategy, update of distribution lists for public meeting notification, Rule Curves Studies update and the status of the Wheeler's Point Gauge request. The IJC noted that there was no decision yet regarding the request for IJC support for the Wheeler's Point Gauge. Board members were reminded that new and updated Board documents are posted to the Board Sharepoint site on a regular basis.

Actions/Decisions:

- Secretariat to develop plan for updating the Board Website pages for Board input at its April 2014 meeting.
- The Board agreed to form a sub-committee consisting of Karen Cedarwall, Chief Klyne, Kelli Saunders and Gail Faveri, to develop an indigenous groups engagement strategy for Board input at its April 2014 meeting. The sub-committee was asked to approach Al Pemberton to find out if he would like to participate and address an invitation from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to explain Rainy and Namakan lake regulation with First Nations, Métis and Tribes during the Board's basin meetings in August 2014.
- Secretariat to complete draft updated distribution lists for public meeting notification purposes by end of February 2014.

### **3. Water Quality Plan of Study**

The IJC noted that the Water Quality Plan of Study (WQPOS) co-leads will be appointed by January 24<sup>th</sup>. They are: Mark Brigham (US) and Paul Pilon (CAN). Paul Pilon will be appointed on a casual basis. Should Canadian agencies offer another candidate, Paul Pilon would then take supporting role. The directive for the WQPOS is with the Commissioners for approval. The IJC informed the Board that the directive calls for: a very rough WQPOS straw dog to be circulated to the Commission, Board, IAG and CAG by February 28, 2014; and an expert workshop to be held on March 11, 2014 in conjunction with the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum. The forum will include an update on the WQPOS and the workshop. It was recommended that the organizers of the forum circulate the straw dog to registered forum participants. The IJC is developing communications lines on the WQPOS directive and forum session which will be added to the Board/IJC Website. The IJC noted that it will post the Water Quality Plan of Study on its Website for public review. The Board recognized the need to keep August 2014 meeting plans flexible given that the WQPOS will be a key component of the event. The Board recommended that WQPOS co-leads reach out to Kelli Saunders, the Technical Advisory Committee of the International Multi-Agency Agreement, the State of the Basin Report Update author and Board agencies for input.

Actions/Decisions:

- IJC to be requested to forward information on the March WQPOS expert workshop to Todd Sellers as soon as possible.
- Board members to send suggestions for WQPOS Team members to Jean-François Cantin.

### **4. IWI Projects**

Four projects were discussed: 1. State of the Basin Report Update; 2. Effect of the Seine River Water Management Regime on Wild Rice Production; 3. Lake of the Woods-Rainy River Watershed Water

Quality Assessment of all Watershed Lakes Ten Acres or Larger using Satellite Imagery; and 4. Seine River Temperature project.

Project number 1 is progressing as planned. An interim report will be submitted to the IJC by the end of January 2014. The final report in draft form will be ready in time for the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum March 12, 2014 session. It will then be reviewed by the IJC. The final report is expected for May 31, 2014. The public-friendly version is expected by end of June 2014.

The IJC informed the Board that their Review Committee rejected the funding request for project number 2. The Review Committee did not see a clear link between the work request and the Board mandate and deemed that the project would need to be conducted on the transboundary portion of the basin and tied to regulation of flows within the IJC jurisdiction to be supportable. The project leads pointed out that the proposal had been revised based on previous guidance from the IJC which required the removal of the link to the Rule Curve and an emphasis on water quality. It was agreed that this unfortunate misunderstanding would need to be addressed as per decision below.

The IJC's Review Committee rejected project number 3. Given the pending water quality plan of study, the committee feels this work is premature. If this work is recommended by the Plan of Study as necessary or important, the request can be resubmitted.

A revised proposal for project number 4 was provided to the Board for review the morning of the teleconference. The Board approved the proposal.

Actions/Decisions:

- Jean-François Cantin to circulate decisions from IJC's Review Committee on project number 2 to Board and to organize call with interested Board members and the IJC to discuss IJC's feedback and determine if the Board should strengthen and re-submit the proposal.
- The Board approved the Seine River Sturgeon IWI project proposal; Gail Faveri to send project proposal to the IJC for IWI funding consideration.

## **5. Board Annual Report**

The Board discussed the draft Table of Contents for the annual report provided before the meeting. Several Board members recommended the addition of sections. The objective is to produce a streamlined report due to heavy workload and limited time available.

Actions/Decisions:

- Secretariat will look at past reports to see if anything is missing and update the proposed table of contents for Board review. The revised table of contents will also include suggested section authors. Board to finalize and approve the annual report by the first week of April 2014.

## **6. Strategy for dealing with basin issues such as proposed mining activities**

The Board noted that it needs to determine what information it should be tracking and how best to obtain that information. This could take the form of requesting information from agencies tracking these activities. It will be important to be specific in our request.

Actions/Decisions:

- The Board agreed to form a sub-group to develop a proposal that will define the Board's role/objective regarding the tracking and reporting of environmental issues affecting boundary waters in the Basin and identify the required information and a process for attaining the objective. The sub-group is asked to consider ways of involving the CAG and IAG in this task/process. Trina Rawn, Pat Carey and Chief Klyne volunteered to head this task, with Trina as the Lead of the sub-group. The sub-group is asked to submit the information that will be incorporated in the Board Spring Annual Report to the Secretariat in a timely manner.

### **7. Rule Curve Evaluation**

A draft Statement of Work was distributed to the Board. It was noted that an expert panel has been engaged to further develop the Statement of Work and that a workshop to further develop the Statement of Work is tentatively scheduled for March 11, 2014, in conjunction with the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum. The final Statement of Work is expected to be submitted to the IJC in April 2014.

Actions/Decisions:

- Kari Hauck to contact Mark Colosimo to obtain information on funding requirements and travel reimbursement for panel members ahead of the February 13, 2014 Rule Curve Evaluation Team meeting.

### **8. Update on Proposed Notification Plan**

An updated list of media was provided to the Board. It was noted that Boise has volunteered to pay for radio ads discussing lake/river conditions.

Actions/Decisions:

- Lee Grim to forward the proposed Water Levels Notifications Plan to Diane de Beaumont who will forward to the Board for comments by the end of January 2014.
- Secretariat to post media list without personal contact information to the SharePoint site.

### **9. Update on Anticipated Spring Conditions**

Overall the basin is looking lower/normal range. The current snow pack is twice the thickness it was last year, but that is not a good predictor of Spring conditions. The current snow pack is similar to 2011. Spring rainfall is the most important predictor.

### **10. IAG Update**

IAG co-chairs updated the Board on the first meeting of the group which took place on November 26, 2013. The meeting minutes provided to Board members ahead of this meeting were approved. The final version of the minutes will be circulated to the Board. The next IAG meeting will be held March 12, 2014 in conjunction with the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum. IAG members suggested promoting the IAG through press releases. The IAG co-chairs are going to seek a representative from the railroad as there have been a couple of recent derailments in the basin. If the Board is seeking to engage the IAG, the co-chairs will need to know in advance of their meetings. A recommendation was made for the Board to develop a communication plan for engaging the IAG/CAG and sharing information.

Actions/Decisions:

- Kelli Saunders to include information on IAG and CAG in the next Watershed Report Card as a means of spreading the news about the two groups.
- Board members to forward to the IAG and CAG co-chairs suggestions for topics to be covered in the two groups' face-to-face meetings in March 2014.
- IJC to post Board presentation with embedded audio from the Board Appearance on the Board website.
- IJC to confirm if it will be possible for the IAG and CAG can listen in on the IJC Semi-Annual meetings.

### **11. CAG Update**

CAG co-chairs updated the Board on the first meeting of the group which took place on January 17, 2014. The group is planning to meet quarterly. Tentative dates are March 12, 2014 (Watershed Forum), August 2014 (Basin Meetings), and November 2014. Minutes will be available to the Board by mid-February 2014. Susan McLeod (resident in Kenora on Long Bow Lake) was recommended by the CAG co-chairs and approved by the Board as a CAG member with a term extending to August 31, 2015. The CAG co-chairs brought forward a proposal to limit the size of the CAG and clarify the role of the Public Board Members with regard to the CAG. The Board could not reach consensus on their proposal. This item will be discussed in more detail during the Boards' next meeting. Prior to the next meeting, we will seek to have clearer definition of the directive requirements with regard to the CAG and the role of the Board in shaping the CAG. The CAG co-chairs indicated that no other nomination would be recommended until the membership issue is resolved.

Actions/Decisions:

- Diane de Beaumont to prepare the letter and certificate of appointment for Susan McLeod for Board co-chairs signature and then mail to appointee.
- Secretariat/CAG co-chairs to seek clearer definition of the directive requirements with regard to the CAG membership and the role of the Board in shaping the CAG prior to the April 2014 Board meeting.
- Board to discuss the CAG co-chairs' proposal further at the Board's April 2014 meeting.

### **12. International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum**

Information on Forum registration and program was provided to the Board. Public members were asked to hold off registering until the website is setup to handle the discount code.

Actions/Decisions:

- Todd Sellers to send discount code for the forum to Diane de Beaumont who will circulate instructions on how to register to CAG and IAG members.
- Diane de Beaumont to confirm with Todd Sellers about speaker suggestion for forum.

### **13. Spring 2014 Semi-Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.**

The Board asked about the agenda for the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting as the date of the Board Appearance will influence the timing of the Board meeting.

Actions/Decisions:

- Jean-François Cantin to present Board request to appear before the Commission on April 30<sup>th</sup> at IJC's February 10-12 Executive meeting and inform Board of outcome.

#### **14. Roundtable**

The Board agreed to use a standardized time for Board documents and meetings.

Actions/Decisions:

- The Central Time zone will be the standard reporting time zone for board documents and meetings.

#### **15. Review of Action Items and Adjournment**

Given the number of actions and the lack of time, it was agreed that a list of actions would be circulated to the Board the next day.

Actions/Decisions:

- Diane de Beaumont to circulate draft list of actions to Board members for comments on January 22, 2014.