

SUMMARY OF THE 2017 IRLWWB AUGUST BASIN MEETINGS



Early morning on Lake Vermillion, MN

The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) held its annual summer basin meetings in Tower, Minnesota on Lake Vermillion the week of August 14th 2017. Our annual summer meetings are an opportunity for us to meet with the public to hear their concerns regarding issues of local importance and for us to provide an update on our activities. We were delighted to host U.S. Commissioner Rich Moy who participated in our meetings and provided a great perspective on water issues from the IJC. We also met with local resource agencies, provided an opportunity for our community advisory group to meet and spent time as a Board to advance our work on transboundary water management in the basin.



Lake Vermillion is one of Minnesota's 10 largest lakes and is a popular angling destination. It also serves as an entry point to the renowned Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Our meetings in 2017 were very productive and represented the first time we have held our meetings in this portion of the basin. We heard concerns regarding the potential impacts of mining on water resources in the area and there was interest in the work and activities that the Board is currently undertaking.



U.S. Co-chair Colonel Samuel Calkins moderating a discussion on local water management issues with local participants during the Board's public meeting held in Tower.

We also met with a diverse group of resource management agencies to hear about the good work they do including watershed management planning for indigenous lands in northwestern Ontario, Minnesota's fisheries activities in the eastern portion of the boundary waters, local aquatic invasive species prevention programs, a new tool for visualizing water resource data, a significant mining rehabilitation program underway in Ontario and an overview of Minnesota's watershed approach to protecting and restoring water resources in the Rainy basin.



Meeting with resource management agencies on August 16, 2017.

We continue to monitor transboundary water issues concerning the quantity (levels and flows) and quality (including ecosystem health) of waters in the basin. The meetings held in Tower provided important context to the issues of importance to those who reside in the headwaters of the basin. We look forward to our next meetings in the basin in the summer of 2018. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Information on our responsibilities, membership and activities as well as ways to contact us can be found on our webpage at http://ijc.org/en/_RLWWB.