International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
Community Advisory Group

Face-to-Face Meeting
August 10, 2016
10:30-12:30 CDT
Clarion Lakeside Inn, Cascade Room
Kenora, ON

Meeting Notes

ATTENDANCE:
CAG Members – Charlene Mason (U.S. Co-Chair, Facilitator), Kiley Shebagegit (CDN Co-Chair, Recorder), Karen Cedarwall, Teika Newton, Jerry Caple, Wayne Bruce, Tom Mosindy, Paul Anderson (via teleconference), Jim Yount (via teleconference), Susan McLeod, John Carlson
From the IRLWWB – Gail Faveri, Nolan Baratono, Scott Jutila, Mike Hirst, Pam Tomevi
From the IJC – Michael Toope, Wayne Jenkinson, Camille Mageau
Other Guests – Steven Santelli (CNR)
Regrets –Matt Gouin, Dennis Brown, Reid Carron

1) **Welcome/Roll Call** (Charlene, Kiley)
   Charlene welcomed everyone and got the meeting started at 10:40am

2) **Engagement Committee Update** (Gail Faveri)
   The Engagement Committee is hoping to present at the Grand Council Treaty #3 Fall Assembly; the presentation package is complete for anyone to use. In addition, an orientation package has been developed for new members.

   A working committee has been established to make upgrades to the Watershed Board website; new content will also be added and the interactive map will be moved so it will not slow down the access to the home page.

3) **Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee (AEHC) Update** (Nolan Baratono)
   The AEHC has started developing a format for the annual report that they will provide to the Board and will be included with the IRLWWB's annual report to the IJC. They also hope to have a water quality report ready by the end of 2016 with ecosystem health data for 2015.

   The AEHC is looking at what water quality objectives should be apriority for studying ecosystem health. They are also looking at establishing "alert levels" for exceedances of standards for water quality, which will help to create focus for their priorities.

Three International Watershed Initiative projects are currently in progress, several others pending

In response to a question about public alerts for toxic algae, Baratono replied that there was no proper monitoring in place for that, so agencies can only suggest when there may be a problem based on physical presence of bloom. The AEHC and agencies might have to investigate ways to monitor for toxic algae. Would it be possible for citizen monitoring to be incorporated?

4) **Rule Curve Study Team Update** (Pam Tomevi, Scott Jutila)
Jutila provided copy of the Study Board's Preliminary Weight of Evidence Matrix, which was developed by reviewing close to 50 studies that have been done over the past 15 years (listed on the handout). These are studies that inform the Rule Curve Study Team's work in determining how water levels affect both the aquatic ecosystem as well as human activities. The Weight of Evidence Matrix looks at 7 different study subjects and on which body of water studies were undertaken on.

The Study Team has received lots of feedback during consultation meetings in the basin at the end of July; the Study Team will be using that feedback to improve the use of the Weight of Evidence Matrix as well as to inform its future work. One of the findings is that the public seems to understand that the Rule Curves really have no effect on major flood events

A Shared Vision Model has also been developed. It allows for modelling water levels based on Rule Curve variations, precipitation, other social and economic factors.

The Study Team will be investigating an adaptive management approach, as well as standard rule curve approaches in their review. Also, public education of how water moves through the system is very important; fact sheets and a video series are in development to aid with this.

5) **Prep for joint CAG/IAG meeting with IRLWWB** (Charlene)
Updates on the letter regarding cumulative mining impacts and the Water Quality Plan of Study are already on the meeting agenda. In addition a list of previous issues that the CAG has discussed has been compiled.

Other issues:

- Is the IJC or the IRLWWB involved in or at least monitoring the Energy East proceedings?
- What about the development near North Lake on the Canadian side in unorganized territory which seems to have little oversight. The group had some extensive discussion on this issue.

6) **Canadian National (CN) Railroad Presentation** (Steven Santelli, Dangerous Goods Officer)
The Dangerous Goods Team responds when there is a spill. They are also responsible for overseeing regulatory affairs (following US and Canada transport rules of dangerous goods). They are part of TRANSCAER, a group of emergency response personnel and they help train fire departments and first responders in communities in the case of a train spill. There are 12 Dangerous Goods (DG) personnel; 6 in Canada, 6 in US.

A protection model is in place in the event there is a spill event; there are other personnel in place to be eyes and ears in the event one member of the Dangerous Goods Team is not in the area. Dangerous goods contractors are also part of the DG response. These are industry partners (customers/shippers).

CN has an emergency response plan that meets federal regulations (US and CANADA). However, it does not necessarily fall in line with provincial/state or municipal guidelines/regulations. All incidents go through the CN Police Communication Centre, which then notifies the necessary response personnel (internal and external).

CONSIST is the document that serves as the inventory for what products are on each train (that is, what is consists of). Communities can request information on what is going through by train from CANUTECH (Canadian Transport Emergency Centre).

CN has an Environmental team that would be responsible for spill cleanup and mitigation. They also have a plume model that can project where and how fast a cloud will travel.

7) **Wrap up; next meeting & adjournment** (Charlene)
-Doodle poll will be set up to select a date in November for our next teleconference.
Adjournment at 12:30pm.