

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
Industry Advisory Group
Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2013
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Central
Call in: Call in number 1-877-413-4790 Code 3243409#
Facilitator: Mike Hirst
Attending: Mike Hirst, Dennis Brown, Jason Lindquist, Mike Hanson, Frank Ongaro, Joe Henry, Pete Schultz, Steve Piragis, Paul Schurke, Mike Williams, Ron Brodigan, Lindberg Ekola, Brian Ney, Shannon Rawn, Gerry Cariou, Jim Krag, Kim Jo Bliss
Regrets: Allen Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen, Craig Halla, Cyndy Strand, Bud Dickson, Doug McCaig
Guests: Diane deBeaumont, Environment Canada; Jean-Francois Cantin, IJC; Kelli Saunders, International Watershed Coordinator; Lee Grim, IRLWWB

1. **Welcome/Introductions:** The IAG Co-chairs introduced themselves (Mike Hirst and Dennis Brown), followed by the IAG members stating their industry representation and their reasons for serving on this group. Finally the guests introduced themselves and stated their purpose for attending the meeting.
2. **Ground Rules for the meeting:** Mike Hirst explained and briefly reviewed the attachment “IAG Procedures” that was distributed. This is a working document that the group can reference for ground rules for the meetings and how meetings will be conducted.
3. **Review Terms of Reference and other documents:** Jean-Francois Cantin of the International Joint Commission (IJC) reviewed the Terms of Reference for the IAG. He also presented information from a powerpoint presentation that discussed the IJC, International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, and the Industry Advisory Group and how all of these entities function.
4. **Background of the Industry Advisory Group:** Lee Grim gave an update as to the previous IJC Boards in the watershed. A Task Force was formed that received input from locals around the basin to see how to proceed with improving water management. Through the efforts of this Task Force, the new International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board was formed in 2013. Part of the Task Force’s recommendations was to include an Industry Advisory Group to keep the Board informed of industry perspectives in the watershed.
5. **Update on Water Quality Plan of Study:** Kelli Saunders gave an update as to the new Watershed Board’s directives and the status of a plan of study for the entire basin focused on priority issues. The Industry Advisory Group’s input will be sought for this plan.
6. **Meeting Schedule:** Mike Hirst informed the group that the group will typically meet 2-3 times per year with one face to face meeting. **The next scheduled meeting is a face to face meeting in International Falls on March 12th at 9 am to noon at the AmericInn.** More information will be coming in the near future. Additional meetings including teleconference may be held at the request of the Commissioners, the Board or IAG Co-Chairs. Teleconferences may also use WebEx capabilities so members can view presentations on their computers during the call.
7. **Round table of industry perspectives:** Discussion was opened up to hear concerns of the IAG members. The following concerns/questions are summarized below:
 - a. **Water levels for fish spawning on Rainy Lake: concern that the water levels have not been maintained properly.**
 - Jean-Francois Cantin and Lee Grim responded to say that the water level committee is currently reviewing the 2000 rule curve on Rainy Lake and are reviewing studies that are specifically looking at these very issues.

- b. **Question regarding the Water Quality Plan of Study and how the 2 phases of the process will work together.**
- Kelli Saunders responded to say that the first phase of the Plan of Study is to complete an update to the State of the Basin Report. The second phase of the study is to complete a plan of study that outlines the studies that are necessary for the Board to make informed decisions on water quality and quantity issues.
- c. **Question was asked whether the IJC meeting in Ottawa in December is available to view and/or if meeting minutes will be available?**
- Jean-Francois Cantin responded saying that minutes will be available and he will check in to see if one can view a recorded meeting online.
- d. **Comments with regarding water level regulation on Lake of the Woods. Concerns are with: effects on fish spawning, nesting of loons and waterfowl getting flooded, wildrice getting flooded, erosion causing waterways to clog needing dredging, harbors need ample water for boats to navigate safely (Zippel Bay, Bostic Creek, Morris Point Gap).**
- e. **Comments with regard to water quality on Lake of the Woods. Aquatic Invasive Species is a major concern and aricultural runoff from tributaries into the Rainy River. What information has core samples of lake sediments provided?**
- Mike Hirst stated that there are multiple studies on Lake of the Woods that have used paleo-coring. Kelli Saunders stated that abstracts of the research that has been accomplished and presented at the annual Water Quality Forum can be found on the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation's Website: <http://lowwsf.com/> AIS is a very important issue that has been expressed to the IRLWWB across the basin.
- f. **Is there a cheat sheet with a list of acronyms?**
- Mike Hanson stated that the IJC's Task Force's Recommendation Report to the Governments of US and Canada has an extensive list of all of the entities in the basin. It can be found on the IJC website:
 - <http://ijc.org/files/publications/English-V6-Web.pdf>
- g. **Comment from an IAG member excited about this group's ability to be proactive rather than reactive, and how communication from the industry sector can teach, inform and communicate better through the efforts of this group.**
- h. **Provide the Task Force recommendation document or a link to it.**
- <http://ijc.org/files/publications/English-V6-Web.pdf>
8. **Next Meeting Date – March 12, 2014 – 9:00 AM to Noon in International Falls at the AmericInn (more information coming in the near future).**