

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB)
Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
Summary of Meeting
August 11, 2015

The Industry Advisory Group (IAG) met face to face for its regular fall meeting on August 11th, 2015 from 9:30-11:00 AM Central Time.

Present:

From the IAG: Dennis Brown(co-chair), Mike Hirst (co-chair), Ron Brodigan, Jason Lindquist and Perry Eide (present at the CAG meeting and Joint IAG CAG meeting)

From the International Joint Commission (IJC): Richard Moy: IJC Commissioner

Guest: Ryan Maki: Voyageurs National Park, Kelli Saunders: International Watershed Coordinator

Regrets: Mike Hanson, Frank Ongaro, Joe Henry, Pete Shultz, Steve Piragis, Paul Schurke, Mike Williams, Allen Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen, Craig Halla, Lindberg Ekola, Brian Ney, Shannon Rawn, Cindy Strand, Bud Dickson, Gerry Cariou, Doug McCaig and Kim Jo Bliss

1. Welcome and Introduction:

Dennis Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded introductions.

2. Review 3/25/2015 meeting notes: Notes were reviewed with no additional comments.

3. Update on Rule Curve Studies that will be utilized in the Rule Curve Evaluation Process: Ryan Maki presented information on lake levels effects research and monitoring carried out by resources agencies in the basin and on the 22 studies undertaken for the 2000 Rule Curve Plan of Study. Once these studies are completed they will be utilized by the Rule Curve Evaluation Committee to evaluate the 2000 rule curves. These studies compared the various ecosystem health and other parameters to evaluate the overall condition of the system under the 2000 rule curves in comparison with conditions under the 1970 rule curves. Many of the studies have shown improvement to various parameters including: habitat, spawning, biological communities, socio-economic and more. However, not all indicators will respond similarly to the different rule curve or hydrologic scenarios. Final reports of IJC-funded projects from the 2000 Rule Curve Plan of Study are available on the Board website.

4. International Watershed Coordinator Program: Kelli Saunders gave an update of her role as the International Watershed Coordinator.

5. Update on the Water Quality Plan of Study (WQPOS): Currently the Governments of US and Canada have the request and recommendation of the IJC to fund all 32 studies. At this time there has not been any decision from either the US or Canada.

6. Rail Safety: The IAG discussed the recent accidents in Ericsburg and Barwick. It was suggested to have a presentation in the future by CN staff or emergency managers to discuss inform the IAG what happens when there is a spill.

7. Round Table Comments: The IAG Co-Chairs discussed the attendance at the IAG meetings. It was stated that the timing of the August Meetings are poor for many members. More efforts will be made again this year to be able to provide webex technologies to conference call meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.