

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) Teleconference

Date: January 28, 2015
Time: 1:00-3:00 CST (2:00-4:00 EST)
Chairperson: Michael Goffin

Summary of Discussion

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS	
PARTICIPANTS	
Johnathan Bumgarner (for James Stark)	U.S. Geological Survey
Matt Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Dave Wall	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Mike Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment Canada
Dennis Brown	Local Canadian Member
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Gail Faveri	Environment Canada
Kiley Hanson	Local Canadian Member
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
ABSENTEES	
Colonel Koprowski (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Jenny Moorman	Local U.S. Member
James Stark	U.S. Geological Survey
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Chief Earl Klyne	Seine River First Nation
Mark Lee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Al Pemberton	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Environment Canada
Diane de Beaumont (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment Canada
OTHER	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome and Introductions (Michael Goffin)

The Canadian Co-Chair welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Board. Attendance was recorded.

2. Minnesota Nutrient Management Strategy (Dave Wall, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)

Dave Wall summarized the main points of the Minnesota Nutrient Management Strategy and their relevance to the Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Board members to follow up with Dave Wall with any questions or comments.***

3. Assessment of Flood Management Report (Matt DeWolfe)

Matt DeWolfe explained that the draft report was forwarded to the Water Levels Committee and subsequently to IRLWWB members for review. The next steps include finalizing the report based on comments received, obtaining approval from the Water Levels Committee on the final report, and submitting the final report to the IJC with a recommendation for conducting a public comment period. In response to an enquiry regarding the property damage survey, Matt DeWolfe indicated that the report mentions the survey and the production of a separate report with survey results in the near future.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Board members to forward comments on the report to Matt DeWolfe by Wednesday, February 4, 2015.***
- 2. Water Levels Committee to finalize the report and send to the IJC by February 6, 2015.***
- 3. Gail Faveri to provide information on flood survey to Board Secretariat; Secretariat to email Board, CAG and IAG members to request help in summarizing feedback from the online survey for public dissemination.***

4. U.S. Spokesperson (Scott Jutila)

Board members were reminded that the function of U.S. spokesperson needed to be filled following Lee Grim's departure from the Board. Volunteers were asked to come forward.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Matt Gouin volunteered to serve as U.S. spokesperson.***

5. Engagement Plan (Gail Faveri)

Gail Faveri explained that the Engagement Committee revised the plan using the IJC's communications format as a model. The Engagement Committee was asked to determine a lead for each of the 27 activities in the plan and get their support before finalizing the plan. In revising the plan, the Engagement Committee was advised to be mindful of the limited ability of the IRLWWB to implement activities and the fact that individual visits to indigenous communities is a long term endeavour.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Board members to send their comments on the most recent draft engagement plan and proposed headlines to Gail Faveri over the next few weeks.***

- 2. Engagement Committee to continue refining the plan, including headlines, as per today's comments and any forthcoming input from members.*

6. Annual Report 2015 (Michael Goffin)

Board members' comments were solicited on the proposed table of contents and section authors circulated to all prior to this meeting. Members were asked for input on how to proceed with the analysis and formatting of the expected water quality monitoring data from agencies.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Board members agreed with the proposed table of contents.*
- 2. Secretariat to send call out for input to report sections.*
- 3. Secretariat to convene an ad hoc group of members once all water quality data are received to better assess task of reporting on water quality to the IJC. Trina Rawn and Michael Goffin committed to providing assistance with this task.*
- 4. Gail to provide text for all three sections under Water Levels.*
- 5. Timeline for completion of annual report is: 1st draft report by February 27; 2nd draft report by March 20; final approval by April 3; submission to IJC on April 6.*

7. Press Release to Promote CAG and IAG Membership (Mike Hirst)

Mike Hirst indicated that the objective of the press release is to inform basin residents about local involvement on the CAG and IAG. It was mentioned that it is important to point out that these groups are not the only way to provide input to the Board. It was suggested that the press release be made available at future Board-related events in the basin.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Members to send their comments on the draft press release to Mike Hirst.*
- 2. Mike Hirst to correct dot representing Kiley Hanson on the map to point to Nestor Falls.*
- 3. Mike Hirst to continue refining the press release for possible release at the March 2015 International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum.*
- 4. Secretariat to send request to the IJC to post CAG and IAG membership information to the Board website.*

8. IWI Proposals

Lake of the Woods Water Level Management Review (Mike Hirst)

Mike Hirst mentioned that the draft proposal that was circulated prior to this meeting is a work in progress and comments are welcome. No timeline has been set for the submission of this proposal for IWI funding.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Mike Hirst to follow-up with IJC staff to revise/refine proposal.*
- 2. Board members to provide comments to Mike Hirst.*

HPAB Review of human health risks and impacts in the Rainy River and LOW watersheds (Nick Heisler)

Nick Heisler explained that the Health Professionals Advisory Board (HPAB) developed a proposal to review human health risks and impacts in the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods watersheds and that this effort follows upon a similar review for this region in 2009 and discussions between HPAB and IRLWWB co-chairs in October 2014, and is intended to complement the scope of the Lake of the Woods Plan of Study proposal. As part of its revisions process, the HPAB is soliciting an endorsement from the

IRLWWB on this proposal, especially regarding the topics and scope of its proposed review. Members provided the following comments: there is concern over the timing of the report – that there isn't enough worthwhile available information right now to produce an update and that it might be best to wait for the studies in the Water Quality Plan of Study to be completed first; clarification is needed on the value of producing this report at this time and how it interacts with the State of the Basin Report Update; should the HPAB decide to go ahead with the proposal, it is suggested that they use the relevant studies in the Plan of Study to enhance the proposal.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Diane de Beaumont and Kelli Saunders to summarize Board discussion and provide comments back to the Health Professional Advisory Board (HPAB).***

An update on current IWI projects was provided by Wayne Jenkinson as follows: 1. A draft report on the Rainy River temperature gauge was received by the IJC during the week of January 26, 2015; 2. The second progress report for the wild rice project was submitted to the IJC.

Regarding the proposed Seine River temperature project, a proposal will be sent to the IRLWWB for endorsement; the Board was reminded that this project will first need to be considered as part of its work plan.

9. Updates:

Water Quality Plan of Study (Nick Heisler)

Nick Heisler informed members that an embargoed copy of the Plan of Study was circulated to the IRLWWB on January 27, 2015, and that the official report would be released to the public on January 29, 2015 and available to the CAG and IAG at that time. He summarized the recommendations to governments in the report and noted that the Plan of Study will be on the agenda at the meeting with governments during the upcoming IJC's Semi-Annual Meeting. He will forward the link to members to the webinar for the January 29 IJC press conference on the Plan of Study.

Mining (Nick Heisler)

Nick Heisler informed members that IJC Secretaries sent a letter to governments on January 22, 2015 seeking clarification on how cumulative effects and transboundary effects are being assessed not only in general but with a particular interest in the Lake of the Woods basin. This topic will be on the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting's agenda.

International Watershed Coordination Program (IWCP) (Kelli Saunders)

Kelli Saunders updated the Board on highlights of the IWCP:

- International Multi-Agency Arrangement Operational Plan now includes the Tiered Monitoring program recommended in the Plan of Study as well as inclusion of Aquatic Invasive Species as an area of focus; general consensus by IMA to broaden the geographic scope of the Operational Plan
- Lake Association Network event (binational) being planned for summer 2015
- Kelli and Mike Hirst facilitated a meeting at a recent AIS summit to convene basin Soil and Water Conservation District and County staff to discuss collaboration on AIS prevention planning
- MOECC's Lake Partner Program and MPCA's Lake and Stream Citizen Monitoring programs are jointly presenting a poster at the forum to show basin-wide monitoring sites and data trends; working together to fill gaps in monitoring by citizens throughout the basin
- Working with Koochiching SWCD to initiate story maps for the basin

- Presentation made about international cooperation ongoing in basin to East Range water quality monitoring group on January 29

10. Roundtable (All)

The following comments were made:

- Todd Sellers - The International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum will take place on March 11-12, 2015 in International Falls, MN. Presentations will start at 10:00 am March 11 with basin updates; the forum includes 16 posters. An update from the Board has tentatively been scheduled on the agenda which will hopefully be provided by one of the Board co-chairs or member.
- Suzanne Hanson - A retirement party for Nolan Baratono will take place on March 10 at The Spot on 53 at 7pm.
- Michael Goffin – The Canadian Co-Chair proposed to have a teleconference one month prior to the Spring 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting and a face-to-face meeting during the Semi-Annual Meeting. A few members had a conflict with the proposed dates for the March teleconference. The need for a face-to-face meeting during the Semi-Annual Meeting was discussed.
- Nick Heisler – The IRLWWB is scheduled to appear before the Commission at the Spring 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 13:15-14:15. A reception will take place on the Tuesday evening.

ACTION/DECISION:

- 1. Secretariat to follow-up with Todd Sellers regarding possible Board update from Board co-chair or member.***
- 2. Kelli Saunders to send invitation to Nolan Baratono's retirement party to Board Secretaries for circulation to Board members.***
- 3. Secretariat to solicit input on the need to have a Board meeting a few weeks before and/or during the Semi-Annual Meeting and send out a doodle poll to members to schedule the meeting(s).***
- 4. Secretariat to let IJC know about any meeting room requirement during the Semi-Annual Meeting as soon as possible.***

11. Review of new action items and adjournment (Michael Goffin)

The Canadian Co-Chair summarized action items stemming from this meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:00 CDT.