

MEETING SUMMARY

International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
 July 17, 2017
 Teleconference
 13:00 – 14:30 CDT

ATTENDANCE	
PARTICIPANTS	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Colonel Calkins (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nolan Baratono	Local U.S. Member
Jim Stark	U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Shane Bowe	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
Holly House	Local U.S. Member
Michael Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Lucas King	Grand Council Treaty #3
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Teika Newton	Local Canadian Member
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Paul Allen	Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Rebecca Seal-Soileau (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
OTHER	
Felicia Minotti	Global Affairs Canada
Veronique Hiriart-Baer	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ABSENTEES	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Mark Lee	Manitoba Sustainable Development
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Gail Faveri	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Matthew Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section
OTHER	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

The Canadian Board co-chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

2. Review of Meeting Agenda, Status of Action Items and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

No additions to the agenda were identified and action items were addressed as completed or as ongoing. A discussion on how to move forwards on the appointment of a new Canadian co-chair of the IAG was deferred to the August meeting. No changes to the previous meeting summaries were identified.

The Watershed Board approved the two March 7th meeting summaries and the April 6th meeting summary.

Action: Secretariat to have the approved summaries posted to the Board's webpage.

3. Spring Semi-Annual Meeting Debrief

As the Board had not met since the spring semi-annual meeting in early May, Board Co-Chairs debriefed on the Board's appearance before Commissioners. In general the Board provided a good update on its activities and was well represented. Co-Chairs thanked those in attendance and those who participated remotely. The feedback received from Commissioners was positive and the IRLWWB continues to be held in high regard as an effective water quality and water quantity Board.

4. Binational Approach Update

Canadian government representatives provided an update on recent activities under the binational approach for addressing water quality and aquatic ecosystem health of the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. Since March, progress has been made on a number of fronts. A Canadian delegation met with MPCA officials in June to determine how better to cooperate and coordinate their activities regarding Minnesota's TMDL and Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) science on nutrients and algae in the region. The meeting was very positive and the main outcome was agreement between MPCA and ECCC to propose and lead the coordination of a new sub-group of the IMA on nutrients and algae. They also proposed the formation of two other sub-groups on AIS and Contaminants and suggested they be led by other agencies responsible/working on for these issues. This has been proposed with the IMA-WG at its June meeting.

Recognizing the concerns expressed by the Board on the level of public engagement for these activities, MPCA and ECCC intend to jointly hold quarterly public webinars to provide information and update on progress for this initiative. Also mentioned was ECCC's plan to hold a public open house in Kenora on August 14th to improve ECCC's public engagement on its work in the basin. Further details will be shared with the Board when they are available.

ECCC has continued to move forward with its science and monitoring program and held a webinar on July 6th to follow up with the December science planning meeting. Meeting materials will be made available to the Board.

It was discussed that the role of the IJC and IRLWWB in the approach would continue to be on oversight including evaluation and feedback on the scientific activities conducted, soliciting public comment of water quality issues, and providing advice on engagement.

Board members and government representatives discussed this role within the larger context of IJC Board involvement in other initiatives and that this Board is very much involved in the approach and well positioned to contribute positively. Also discussed was a recent letter that the Commission transmitted to governments and that it outlines views and considerations moving forwards.

Action: Secretariat to distribute the July 13th letter from the IJC to Governments to the Board as soon as possible.

For next steps, the governance document circulated in March has been updated and will be distributed to the Board in early August for discussion at the Board's summer meetings.

5. Summer Basin Meetings

Secretaries provided an update on the status of planning the summer meetings. Changes to the schedule were explained and discussed.

The Board was reminded by a local U.S. member that the upcoming basin meetings are being held in the headwaters of the basin and that issues of importance to the local residents are different than to those near the boundary waters. Suggestions on how that Board should structure and plan its public meeting in Tower, MN were provided and that consideration is given to inviting a relevant local agency to speak to their activities.

Action: U.S. secretariat to develop public meeting taking into consideration the suggestions made on suitable format and content.

Several other suggestions were made regarding the Board meetings:

- holding a joint CAG-Board meeting over lunch on the 15th should the advisory group wish to do so
- suggestion that remote participation be included for those unable to attend in person
- revisiting the Plan of Study during the Thursday Board meeting to discuss how to move forward on unfunded items
- revisiting the Binational Approach during the Thursday Board meeting to discuss member views

6. Round Table

No topics identified for discussion

7. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Action items were reviewed by the Board and the meeting was adjourned by the Canadian co- chair at approximately 14:30 CT.