

MEETING SUMMARY

International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
 September 26, 2017
 Teleconference
 13:00 – 14:00 CT

ATTENDANCE	
PARTICIPANTS	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Michael Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Elaine Page (for Mark Lee)	Manitoba Sustainable Development
Lucas King (for Chief Brian Perrault)	Grand Council Treaty #3
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Teika Newton	Local Canadian Member
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 (for Al Pemberton)	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
OTHER	
Rebecca Seal-Soileau	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ABSENTEES	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Colonel Calkins (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Holly House	Local U.S. Member
Matthew Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Gail Faveri	Environment and Climate Change Canada
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
OTHER	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

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

1. 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. No changes to the previous meeting summaries were identified.

The Watershed Board conditionally approved the August basin meetings summary with changes provided by members.

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

2. Proposal on Moving Forwards on the Board's Prime Directive

AEHC co-chairs provided an update on their progress to develop a proposal for the Board to refocus its efforts on the review and recommendation of revised water quality and aquatic ecosystem health objectives and alert levels for the boundary waters and those waters with the potential to affect the boundary waters.

A preliminary draft has been developed and will be reviewed by IJC staff to determine whether the scope is realistic and other pertinent details. The intent of this work is to prepare an IWI proposal to assist with developing the approach. The proposal will be prepared for submission this fall.

It was also discussed that the approach will also likely improve the Board's capacity to deliver on its work in other related issues such as water quality and aquatic ecosystem health reporting.

The Board should expect a proposal for their review and approval prior to the fall IWI submission deadline.

3. Aquatic Ecosystem Health Reporting

AEHC co-chairs provided an update on the status of the committee's AEH report. The report is very near completion with a small number of comments from committee members left to address. A sample report was distributed to the Board for discussion prior to the meeting and the Board agreed on a path forwards to approve the report by October 19th for submission to the IJC for the fall semi-annual meeting. Members thanked AEHC co-chairs for the tremendous amount of effort they devoted to this project.

Action: AEHC to complete and distribute the report for Board review by October 2nd.

Action: Board to review and approve report by October 10th.

Action: Secretaries to submit approved report to the IJC by October 19th.

4. Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

The Board's upcoming Fall Semi-Annual appearance before Commissioners has been scheduled for the afternoon of October 25th. In preparation, members discussed tentative in-person and remote attendance, the status of the Board's appearance presentation and the completion of summary bullets on the Board's activities.

Based on responses from members, excellent representation is expected in October. A draft of the Board's presentation is in development and will be distributed to committee co-chairs immediately for their input.

Action: Secretaries to determine the details for using the videoconferencing option for the Board's appearance.

Action: U.S. Co-Secretary to distribute drafted appearance presentation by September 28th to Board committee co-chairs.

Action: Board committee co-chairs to provide input on the Board's appearance presentation by October 17th.

Action: Canadian Co-Secretary to draft and distribute summary bullets on Board activities for use by IJC.

5. Board Business

Board Work Plan

Updates to the Board's work plan were due the previous week and that this information is needed so that it can be submitted to the Commission for comment. The Board was reminded that any new IWI proposals need to be identified on the work plan to be considered by the review committee.

Action: Committees to provide updates to the Board's work plan as soon as possible.

6. Round Table

IAG Canadian Co-Chair Appointment Update

Greg Chapman has agreed to become the new IAG Canadian Co-Chair. The Board congratulated Greg and thanked him for volunteering to do so.

Boise Paper Acid Spill

The Board's MPCA member has contacted MPCA's enforcement division for information into this incident. The investigation is ongoing and information will be shared with the Board as it becomes available.

The Board also learned that Boise's permit states that they must contact the state duty officer in the event of a spill and there is no requirement for cross-border communication.

IWI project Updates

- ProjectWET
 - revisions to be addressed and proposal resubmitted for the fall deadline
- Impacts of Water Level Regulation on Wild Rice
 - the water levels committee is in preliminary stages of developing a proposal to study the impacts of water levels regulation of wild rice stands of the Mitaanjigamiing First Nation (on Rainy Lake near Fort Frances)
 - they will be targeting a spring 2018 submission
- Prime Directive proposal
 - as discussed earlier in the meeting, a proposal is currently being developed and will be submitted for the fall deadline
 - the Board will be required to review the proposal in October
- Water Resources Data Tool
 - the engagement committee is considering the development of a proposal stemming from the work presented by Ivana Vouk at the NRC at the August Resource Agencies Meeting on a platform to visualize and manipulate water resource information
 - this data platform could be incorporated into the Board's website once it has been updated to a new system
- IWI project story board
 - the engagement committee had originally considered developing a proposal for the development of an online story board to showcase IWI projects completed in the basin
 - this project is likely to be added to the duties of a student to be hired by the IJC in Ottawa and not require IWI funding

Other Topics of Interest

- Speaking engagement
 - The Governor of Minnesota has identified a target of improving water quality by 25% in the state by 2025 and is holding 10 town hall meetings across the state to provide the public with opportunities to speak to this target. The U.S. Co-chair of the CAG and the Engagement Committee was an invited speaker at one of the town hall meetings and presented about the work of the IJC and Watershed Board.

- Changes to Canadian Secretariat of the Board
 - Canadian Co-Secretary will be transitioning to a new role in ECCC and a replacement will be announced in the near future
 - With this transition, ECCC will review the resources being allocated to the board against its formal agreement with the Commission

It was announced that the call would be the AEHC U.S. co-chair's final meeting. Members expressed a great deal of appreciation for the significant time and effort that this member has dedicated to the Board and his work over many years as a local member, co-chair of the AEHC and member of the WLC. The Board wished the departing member well and expressed sincere gratitude for their service.

7. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Action items were reviewed by Board Secretaries and the meeting was adjourned by the Canadian co- chair at approximately 14:00 CT.