

**International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

March 13, 2019
9:00-10:30 CT
International Falls, MN

U.S. Member Participants

COL Calkins (Co-Chair)
Suzanne Hanson
Mike Hirst
Holly House
Shane Bowe
Jim Stark (by phone)
Patty Thielen
Pam Tomevi

U.S. Absentees

Canadian Member Participants

Michael Goffin (Co-Chair)
Karen Cederwall
Greg Chapman
Erika Klyszejko
Lucas King
Mark Lee (by phone)
Trina Rawn
Todd Sellers

Canadian Absentees

International Joint Commission

Wayne Jenkinson
Mark Gabriel

Secretariat

Scott Jutila

Diane de Beaumont (by phone)

Additional Participants

Rebecca Seal-Soileau (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (by phone)
Kelli Saunders (International Watershed Coordinator)

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Review of Meeting Materials

No additions to the agenda were identified and action items were addressed as completed or as ongoing.

ACTION: Scott to circulate outstanding meeting summaries to Board for review/approval.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate updated list of action items.

3. Board Business

Membership:

Decisions related to the appointment of a new U.S. Board public member have been delayed due to lack of quorum at the IJC. The Board and IJC will continue to work together to find U.S. co-chairs for the CAG and the Engagement Committee. It was acknowledged that the approval of the proposed Directive updates, which are also delayed due to the lack of quorum, will allow a broader selection pool for the CAG co-chair role.

Update on Annual Board Report:

The drafting of the annual Board report is making good progress, however there is still outstanding input from the WLC, the AEHC and the IAG. While the IJC's spring semi-annual meetings are canceled, the Board is still required to submit its final report preferably by the end of April 2019.

ACTION: The WLC, AEHC and IAG to submit input to the Secretariat by end of March 2019.

Update on preparations for August 2019 Basin meetings

The Board confirmed agreement to hold its 2019 August basin meetings during the week of August 12-16 in Baudette, MN. It was noted that a public meeting in Kenora focused on providing an update on agency science activities might be affected by the federal election period in Canada.

ACTION: Secretariat to draft meeting schedule and Board meeting agenda for discussion at the Board's June meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat to reserve meeting venue(s), and provide accommodation and travel options for discussion at the Board's June meeting.

4. Update on Adaptive Management Initiative

Erika Klyszejko summarized the draft *Directive to the Adaptive Management Committee*, and noted that the Committee will design a work plan, using the IJC Climate Change Guidance Framework, to assist the Board in determining if there are opportunities to improve the management of levels and flows based on an improved understanding of the system and future conditions. The work plan will include an outreach and engagement strategy indicating how the Committee will be engaging stakeholders in conducting their work and identify activities for such. The work plan including the outreach and engagement strategy will be provided to the Watershed Board for input. It was also noted that water quality will be considered in the adaptive management approach as the Objectives and Alerts Project progresses.

5. Update on Objectives and Alerts Initiative

Kelli Saunders reminded members that the project started in November 2018 and will end in November 2019. The first deliverable, which consists in the delivery of the draft report, was completed in January. Expert and public workshops were conducted in March. The principle investigator will be contacting agencies for more information. Public sessions will be scheduled for July. The next deliverable, which consists in reporting back on March workshops, is due by end of April.

It was noted that there's a need to clear out confusion on "who's doing what" in the basin – governments vs IJC vs IMA. The IJC's Objectives and Alerts project is very different than the TMDL's initiative, ECCC's science plan and IMA responsibilities.

ACTION: AEHC to draft triangle chart that clearly describes initiatives and roles.

6. Water Levels Committee Update

COL. Sam Calkins informed members that the WLC held a pre-spring meeting with stakeholders to provide an update on water levels and information on what the WLC is doing in light of the current “flood season”. The COL reminded all that the new rule curves took effect on August 1st. The wetter than average fall, frozen ground, two-foot high ice cover and the recent snow fall have exacerbated the risk of flooding which is currently considered high. Companies were directed to apply the high-risk flood curve as of April 1st. The WLC is consulting U.S. and Canadian forecasting agencies to keep abreast of weather events. The WLC informed members that it received a request from Manitoba to hold back water to allow for repairs to a dam down the Winnipeg River. The request was discussed with the IJC and it was pointed out that dam operators weren’t concerned about the proposed repairs.

ACTION: WLC to respond to Manitoba request.

7. Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee Update

The Committee continues working on the Board’s annual aquatic ecosystem health report, which will be a scaled down version that will focus on three locations and key parameters. The report is expected to be completed this spring. Mike Hirst indicated that and IWI is in the works and will be circulated to the Board as soon as available. Todd added that the restructured IMA has established a short list of priorities, which focus on a few key projects. IWI proposals may be submitted for Board consideration for this spring funding deadline in support of key projects.

ACTION: AEHC to complete the annual Board Aquatic Ecosystem Health Report by the end of spring 2019.

8. Engagement Committee Update

The Canadian EC Co-Chair wasn’t present to give an update. An EC member mentioned that the updating of the Board microsite is progressing and that the EC is working with the IJC through some issues.

ACTION: Secretariat to take website training as soon as possible.

9. Roundtable

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Update

The Canadian CAG Co-Chair wasn’t present to give an update. It was mentioned that CAG member Diane Schwartz-Williams chaired the March CAG meeting, and that the CAG input to the Board annual report was submitted as requested.

Industry Advisory Group (IAG) Update

Greg Chapman provided a quick update on the IAG’s March meeting, which was attended by H2O Power Company amongst others. It was noted that IAG members are interested in hearing about activities/key projects from the various sectors at the table. There is interest in organizing an update on agriculture at the August meeting.

ACTION: Greg Chapman to look into possible agriculture presentation for August meeting.

International Joint Commission (IJC) Update

IJC staff provided an update on the status of commissioner appointments. It was noted that the Board's annual report is expected by the end of April despite the canceling of the spring semi-annual meetings. Nick Heisler informed members that he will be retiring in June 2019.

International Watershed Coordination

Not discussed.

10. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Actions items were reviewed and the meeting was adjourned.

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