

**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL
INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD****NEWSLETTER****1st Quarter 2006**

This newsletter provides a summary of the activities of the International Rainy Lake Board of Control (IRLBC) and the International Rainy River Water Pollution Board (IRRWPB) during the 1st Quarter (January – March) of 2006.

Basin Conditions and Regulation

The water levels of Rainy and Namakan lakes remained within their IJC-defined rule curves throughout the quarter. Water levels, inflows and outflows are shown on the attached graphs.

Namakan Lake started the year with its level at 78% of the rule curve band, its inflow at 80 percentile and its outflow at 70 percentile. Inflow remained near or above 75 percentile until early March, then declined to 65 percentile by March 27 but, with an early snowmelt runoff commencing, was greater than 95 percentile on March 31. Outflow declined slowly over the quarter, starting near 180 m³/s and ending just above 100 m³/s. The lake level declined in a near-linear fashion through most of the quarter, having reached 41% of band by March 27, but was above 50% of band and rising quickly at the end of March in response to the rapidly increasing inflow.

Rainy Lake started the year with its level at 58% of band, its inflow at 70 percentile and its outflow at 80 percentile. Inflow remained near 70 percentile through the third week of February, then starting declining, reaching 50 percentile by March 17 and 35 percentile by March 29, before rebounding strongly to 90 percentile by March 31 due to early snowmelt runoff. Outflow declined slowly over the period, starting near 330 m³/s and ending just under 200 m³/s. The lake level declined in a near-linear fashion, following close to the 50% of band level, through to March 29, after which it started rising quickly in response to the snowmelt runoff and ended March at 69% of band.

Board Meeting Summary

The Boards held three joint conference calls during the quarter, on January 31, March 2 and March 17. In addition, some Board members and staff and one IJC staff member met in International Falls on March 9 while attending the 3rd annual International Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum. Items discussed included basin issues (hydropower peaking, Minntac development, proposed Pine Island Peat Mine, proposed hydropower developments on the Namakan River below Lac la Croix), development of study plans and cost estimates, Board resources (funding and personnel), preparations for Rainy River modeling (collection of river cross-sectional data with funds allocated to the US Army Corps of Engineers by the US Section of the IJC), planning for a spring tour of water treatment facilities, Board reports and newsletters, Board Directives and their future working

relationship, and preparation for meeting with the IJC at its April 2006 semi-annual meeting.

Rainy River Hydropower Peaking

This issue has been reported upon in previous Newsletters. During the quarter, the Boards continued to discuss the issue with IJC staff. Dialogue with the Companies regarding spring spawning period peaking operations did not take place as recommended by the Boards, but considerable effort was expended in preparing a detailed work plan and cost estimates for peaking studies, as requested by IJC staff.

Spring 2006 Report

On March 20, the Boards submitted their spring report to the International Joint Commission. This report is available on the web sites of both boards at www.ijc.org.

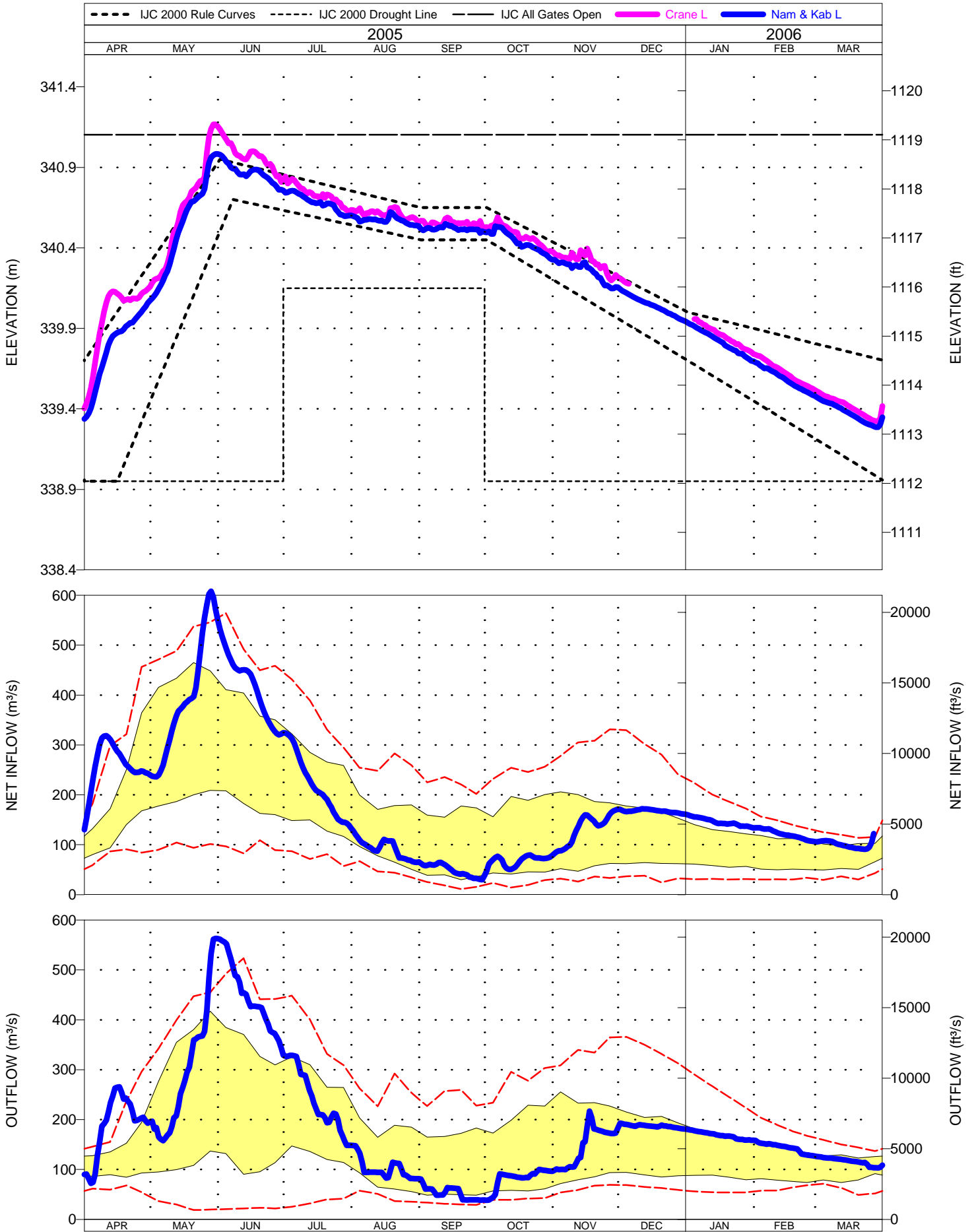
Change in Support Staff

Kari Layman, Secretary to both Boards, accepted an assignment in Washington in early March. Kenton Spading became Acting Secretary for the Boards.

Questions or comments? Contact the Boards' Secretary:

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NAMAKAN LAKE



RAINY LAKE

