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**INTERNATIONAL RAINY LAKE BOARD OF CONTROL (IRLBC)**  
**INTERNATIONAL RAINY RIVER WATER POLLUTION BOARD (IRRWPB)**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2006**

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter (July – September) of 2006.

***Basin Conditions and Regulation***

Water levels, inflows and outflows for Namakan and Rainy lakes are shown on the attached graphs. Inflow to both lakes was below normal and continued to decline through the quarter. On Namakan Lake, outflows were gradually reduced as the inflows and lake levels declined and the lake level remained within the IJC rule curve band. Namakan ended the quarter right at its lower rule curve. On Rainy Lake, outflows were set to the IJC minimum in mid-July where they remained for the rest of the quarter. Rainy Lake levels fell below the IJC lower rule on August 29 and by the end of September had declined to 18 cm (7 in) below the lower rule curve and only 3 cm (1 in) above the IJC drought line.

***Annual Public Meeting***

The Boards held their fifth annual joint public meeting on the evening of August 23 at La Place Rendez-Vous Hotel in Fort Frances. The meeting provided an opportunity for both Boards to update the public on recent Board activities and for members of the public to query the Boards on various issues. Topics of discussion included lake management through the dry summer of 2006, proposed hydraulic modeling of the Rainy River, assessment of the 2000 IJC rule curves, water quality sampling programs and project coordination with First Nations.

***Board Meeting and Tour Summary***

The Boards held several meetings in Fort Frances, Ontario on August 22-24 to discuss issues of interest across the basin. These meetings were attended by IJC Commissioners Allen Olson (United States) and Jack Blaney (Canada) as well as an IJC staff member from each country.

On August 22, a presentation was made to the Boards by Vincent Tidwell of Sandia National Laboratories. He described Sandia's capabilities with interactive, user-friendly interfaces in water resource modeling.

On August 23, the Boards met with staff of a number of agencies concerned with natural resources in the basin. Agencies represented were the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Rainy River First Nations (RRFN), Koochiching County (MN), Lake of the Woods County (MN) and Voyageurs National Park (VNP). The VNP attendees were accompanied by Ernie Quintana, the US National Park Service's Midwest Regional Director, and Thomas Lillie, Chair of the US Senate Subcommittee on National Parks.

At this meeting, Larry Kallemeyn of the USGS and Linda Wall of the OMNR, co-chairs of the resource agencies' Rule Curve Monitoring Committee, highlighted their concerns about funding to continue Rainy and Namakan monitoring and about the lack of Rainy River monitoring. The lack of any socio-economic study for the future assessment of the rule curves was also noted. The Boards agreed to work with the Committee on these concerns and to advise the IJC. Other issues discussed included hydropower peaking, Rainy River and tributary sediment loading, Rainy River cross-section surveys and the Pine Island and Minntac mines discharge permits.

Also on August 23, the Boards held a separate meeting with Abibiti-Consolidated and Boise Cascade, the companies who own the Namakan and Rainy Lake dams. Company representatives provided a review of operations at the dams over the past year. The Companies and the Boards also engaged in a dialogue over hydropower peaking, especially as it relates to the spring fish spawn. The Boards and the Companies agreed to set up an informal committee to review peaking operations during the spring spawn. (Hydropower peaking on the Rainy River has been discussed in recent issues of the Boards' newsletters.)

On August 24, Jeff Udd, an engineer with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, updated the Board on the discharge permitting process for a proposed peat harvesting in the Pine Island Bog in Koochiching County, MN and for a tailings discharge proposal for a U.S. Steel (Minntac) facility near Mountain Iron, MN. Later in the day, several Board members toured the proposed Pine Island site.

In addition to the August meetings, the Boards held three joint conference calls during the quarter. Topics discussed included preparations for the August meetings in Fort Frances, hydropower peaking, possible study funding by the IJC under their watersheds initiative, the Pine Island and Minntac permit applications, rule curve monitoring, water level conditions and preparations for a Boards appearance before the IJC at their semi-annual meeting in Ottawa in October.

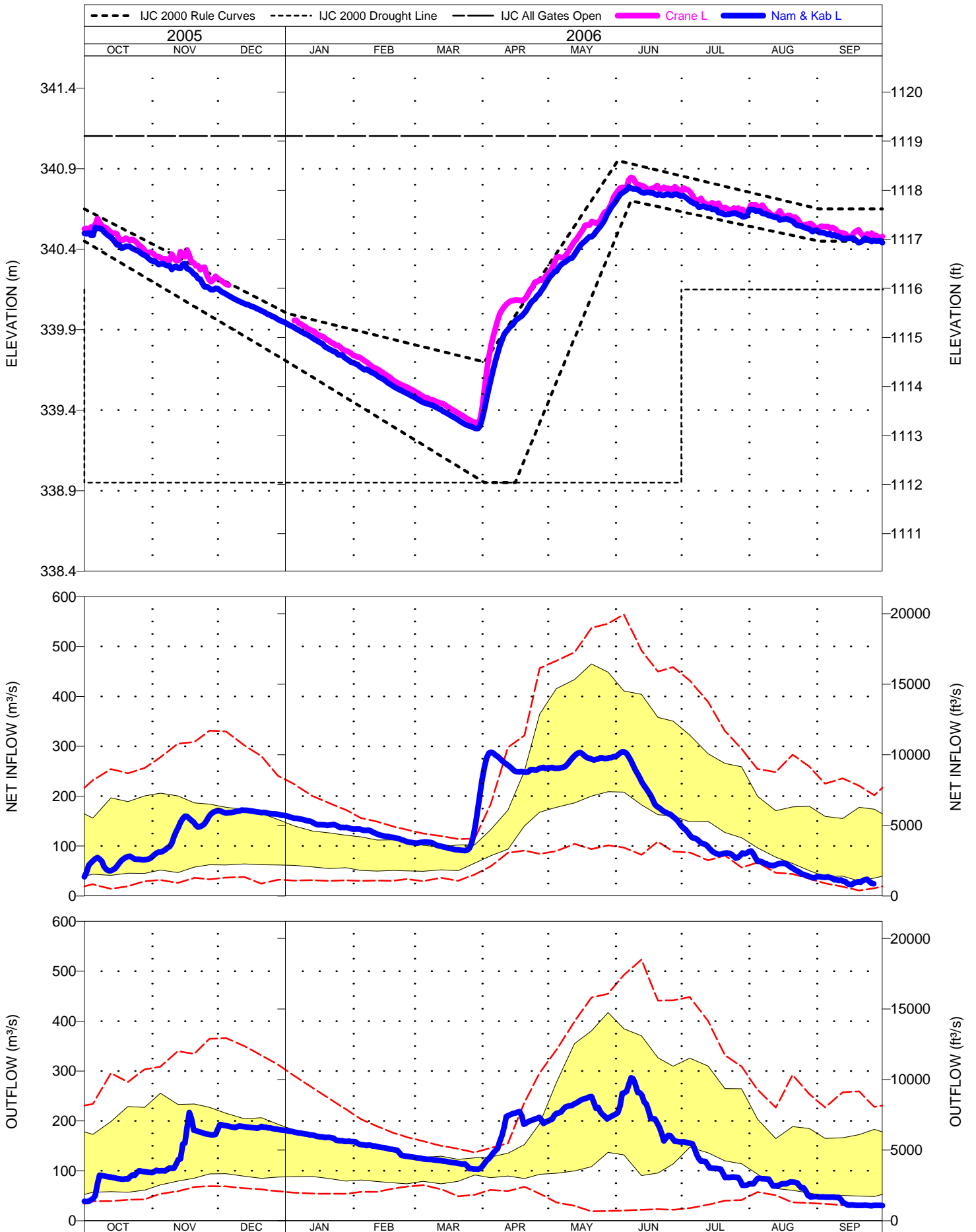
### ***Rainy River Modeling***

In the second Quarter 2006 newsletter, the Boards reported on survey work that had been conducted on the Rainy River in May. During the third quarter, the Boards, and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, working on their behalf, prepared a study proposal for conducting riverbank surveys along the Rainy River to tie into the channel surveys done in May, as well as to develop a computer hydraulic model of the river from International Falls – Fort Frances to Lake of the Woods. The proposal was accepted by the U.S. Section of the IJC for funding during fiscal year 2006-2007 under the IJC's Watersheds Initiative.

*Questions or comments? Contact the Boards' Secretary:*

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# NAMAKAN LAKE



# RAINY LAKE

