

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB)
Industry Advisory Group (IAG)
Summary of Meeting
March 9, 2016

The Industry Advisory Group (IAG) met at Rainy River Community College and via conference call and webex for its regular meeting on March 9, 2016 from 10:00-12:00 AM Central Standard Time.

Present:

From the IAG: Dennis Brown (co-chair), Mike Hirst (co-chair), Pete Shultz, Ron Brodigan, Mike Hanson, Craig Halla, Joe Henry,

From the International Joint Commission (IJC): Mark Gabriel: IJC Staff

Guest: Gail Faveri: IRLWWB's Engagement Committee, Lori Dowling Hanson: IRLWWB Member, Jesse Anderson: MPCA Staff

Regrets: Frank Ongaro, Jason Lindquist, Steve Piragis, Paul Schurke, Mike Williams, Allen Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen, Lindberg Ekola, Brian Ney, Bud Dickson, Gerry Cariou, Shannon Rawn and Kim Jo Bliss

1. Welcome and Introduction:

Mike Hirst welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded rollcall.

2. IRLWWB's Engagement Committee: Gail Faveri gave a presentation IRLWWB's Engagement Committee. She discussed the purpose and scope of the committee including the committee's activities and updates on International Watershed Initiative Projects. She also requested members of the IAG to join the Engagement Committee.

3. IRLWWB's Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee: Mike Hirst gave an update on the newly formed Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee of the IRLWWB. The committee was formed to address the aquatic ecosystem health directives of the IJC to the International Rainy – Lake of the Woods Watershed Board.

4. Lake of the Woods TMDL Update: Jesse Anderson gave an update on the Lake of the Woods TMDL. He discussed the project as it addresses the nutrient levels in Lake of the Woods. Although it is a State of Minnesota project the models developed account for all Canadian inputs to the lake as well. Many studies to support this project have been started and completed already. The basic TMDL process includes the assessment of the waters, listing the waters that don't meet the standards, identifying the sources and reductions needed and implementing restoration activities, and finally evaluating the water quality afterwards.

5. Upcoming meetings: Mike Hirst discussed the upcoming meetings:

- a. The International Rainy – Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum on March 9th and 10th.
- b. The next IAG meeting will be at the August Meeting in Kenora.

6. Roundtable Discussion:

a. Mining was discussed:

- i. Specifically a South American Company that is planning a mine south of Ely
- ii. Twin Metals projects were discussed
- iii. Governor Dayton's recent statements on mining and the Star Tribune article on 3/8/2016
- iv. Lori Dowling Hanson from the DNR also provided information and updates regarding mining projects.

b. Forestry Issues:

- i. Craig Halla discussed land swaps for forestry industry to reduce tax burden of forest companies. Two projects moving forward are Reedy Flats Boat Landing and a 58 acre island on the Rainy River where the Molpus is partnering with the DNR and Local Governments transfer ownership of land for public benefit.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am