

**International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) Meeting**  
**October 17, 2014**  
**Summary of Discussion**

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	
Colonel Koprowski (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Lee Grim	Local U.S. Member
Jim Stark	U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Mike Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment Canada
Kiley Hanson	Local Canadian Member
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Gail Faveri	Environment Canada
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
<b>ABSENTEES</b>	
Jenny Moorman	Local U.S. Member
Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Al Pemberton	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
Chief Earl Klyne	Seine River First Nation
Dennis Brown	Local Canadian Member
Mark Lee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
<b>INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION</b>	
Mark Colosimo	U.S. Section
Joe Babb	U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
<b>BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT</b>	
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Environment Canada
Diane de Beaumont (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment Canada

**1. Welcome and Introductions (Board U.S. Co-Chair)**

Attendance was recorded.

**2. Status Update on the Mining Letter (Board Canadian Co-Chair)**

Members discussed the content of a draft letter from the IRLWWB to the IJC Commissioners on environmental assessment processes for mining activities on both sides of the border which recommends the Commissioners request of Governments an explanation of how binational coordination of cumulative effects and transboundary effects will be accomplished for mining activities in the Lake of the Woods basin. IRLWWB members agreed with the proposed recommendation in the letter. A correction is required to the Water Quality Plan of Study project number mentioned in the letter.

**ACTION/DECISION:** 1. Secretariat to revise the Water Quality Plan of Study project number to 24; obtain Co-Chairs signature; and, send to IJC Secretaries with a copy to Board IJC Liaisons in advance of the October 2014 IJC Semi-Annual Meeting.

**3. Status update on the Assessment of Flood Management and Recommendations initiative – plan and timeline (Canadian Engineering Advisor)**

The proposed outline of a report on the 2014 high water levels in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin was discussed. The importance of including as much information as possible in the report was stressed (e.g. information on damages, Lake of the Woods, Rainy River, etc.); ultimately, the final content of the report will be decided by the IRLWWB. It is the understanding of the Water Levels Committee members and IRLWWB engineering advisors that the report on the 2014 high water levels would be modeled after previous high water levels reports.

**ACTION/DECISION:** 1. The IRLWWB Canadian Engineering Advisor will lead the development of the draft report on the 2014 high water levels in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods basin with the assistance of the Water Levels Committee and other IRLWWB members; the report will follow the same outline as with the 2001 and 2002 reports on high water levels in the Rainy-Namakan basin; the draft report is due for IRLWWB review by the end of December 2014. 2. IRLWWB to recommend the IJC conduct a public comment period on this report.

**4. Status update on the draft letter to agencies regarding up-to-date water quality monitoring data (Trina Rawn)**

The proposed content for the letter to agencies regarding up-to-date water quality monitoring data was discussed. It was explained that the aim of the letter is to formalize a process to obtain water quality information that the IRLWWB can use to report on annually to the IJC. It was suggested that the letter be more specific in the type of information requested. A suggestion was made to remove the mention of "as you may be aware of". It was noted that an update on this letter will be provided to the Commissioners during the upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting.

**ACTION/DECISION:** 1. Trina Rawn to finalize the letter as per comments and forward to IRLWWB Co-Chairs (along with a distribution list) by October 31, 2014.

**5. Status update on the Indigenous Engagement Plan (Gail Faveri)**

IRLWWB members provided feedback on the approaches in the proposed engagement plan. It was pointed out that the plan should: 1. be specific about the short, medium and long term commitments in the plan; 2. reference an earlier decision of the IRLWWB to reach out to all indigenous communities in the basin (a long term commitment); 3. include an introduction on the history of this initiative; and, 4. clarify approaches regarding meetings (e.g., extending invitation to indigenous elders at CAG meetings, and IRLWWB members attending indigenous meetings to outline role of IRLWWB). There was general agreement over the need for presentations with consistent messaging for use by IRLWWB members when invited to attend meetings in the basin. The IJC's input on the messaging will be required.

**ACTION/DECISION:** 1. Gail Faveri to revise the engagement plan as per comments, and submit back to the IRLWWB for review/approval by the IRLWWB's next meeting (January 21, 2015).

**6. Board feedback on proposed IWI proposal on water levels/gauging on Lake of the Woods (Mike Hirst)**

The objectives of the proposed IWI project were summarized. It was pointed out that this project is meant to address water quality issues related to erosion on Lake of the Woods. The Lake of the Woods Control Board supports this proposed project and encouraged its development. A few adjustments were suggested: 1. the project start date needs to be current; and 2. the statement regarding the 1925 convention needs to be softened.

***ACTION/DECISION: 1. Mike Hirst to revise proposal based on the comments of the IRLWWB and the Lake of the Woods Control Board and re-submit to the IRLWWB by its next meeting (January 21, 2015).***

**7. Preparation for Board Appearance (Board Canadian Co-Chair)**

Additions and revisions to the draft presentation were discussed: 1. slides on the 2014 flood, mining activities, water quality monitoring data and watershed engagement to be updated as per today's discussion; 2. Revise membership slide to reflect update membership (the IJC was asked to copy the ILRWWB Co-Chairs on letters of appointment and to look into the status of the appointment letter for Jim Stark). It was suggested that the presentation include questions at the end on the points requiring Commissioners' feedback.

***ACTION/DECISION: 1. Secretariat to update the presentation as per today's discussion and forward to the IRLWWB prior to its upcoming appearance before the Commission.***

**8. Approval of Proposed Board Meeting Schedule – Oct 2014 to Oct 2015 (Board U.S. Co-Chair)**

The proposed meeting schedule was approved as is. It was confirmed that the spring 2015 IJC Semi-Annual Meeting will take place on April 13-17. The IJC was asked to provide advance hotel information for the spring 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting as well as information on the new IRLWWB member for future IRLWWB communications (meeting invitations included).

**9. Roundtable (Board Canadian Co-Chair)**

The following miscellaneous comments were made:

- At an August 2014 public meeting in Warroad, a basin resident raised a concern related to the 1925 water levels established for Lake of the Woods which the resident deemed inappropriate and advocated for the review of the treaty water levels. It was agreed that this concern should be raised at the IRLWWB's upcoming appearance before the Commission.
- Wayne Jenkinson recently joined the Canadian Section/IJC.
- Matt Gouin, a native of International Falls and resident of Rainy Lake will be replacing Lee Grim on the ILRWWB.
- The next meeting of the Community Advisory Group is scheduled for November 20, 2014, 10:00-12:00 CDT.
- The IRLWWB was informed that the Industry Advisory Group and Community Advisory Group co-chairs will develop a combined press release regarding to the January 21, 2015 IRLWWB meeting.

**10. Review of new action items and adjournment (Board U.S. Co-Chair)**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 CDT.