

MEETING SUMMARY

International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
 May 12th, 2016 Meeting
 Teleconference
 13:00 – 15:00 CST

ATTENDANCE

PARTICIPANTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Colonel Koprowski (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nolan Baraton	Local U.S. Member
Lori Dowling-Hanson	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Jim Stark	U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Matthew Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Michael Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Gail Faveri	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Mark Lee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Dennis Brown	Local Canadian Member
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section

BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT

Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada

OTHER

Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator
Graeme Swanwick*	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Steve Sibbick*	Amec Foster Wheeler
Jeff Bonnema*	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Sheldon Haw*	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

*in attendance for Steep Rock Mine presentation.

ABSENTEES

BOARD MEMBERS

Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Shawn Mason	Local U.S. Member
Al Pemberton	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member

1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Colonel Koprowski called the meeting to order and took attendance.

2. Review of Meeting Agenda, Status of Action Items and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

No changes to the agenda were identified. Action items were addressed in the same fashion as in previous meetings. Meeting minutes from the March 15th teleconference were approved with changes that were previously provided to the Secretariat by Board members.

In addition to the Board's meeting minutes, the meeting summaries for the Community Advisory Group and the Industry Advisory Group will be posted to the Board's webpage. The Board decided that the meeting summaries of the Aquatic Health Ecosystem Committee and the Engagement Committee will not be posted to the webpage.

Action: Secretariat to see that previous Board meeting minutes are posted to the Board's webpage.

Action: Secretariat to see that previous CAG and IAG meeting minutes are posted to the Board's webpage.

3. Steep Rock Mine Rehabilitation Webinar

Representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) provided a presentation as a webinar to the Board. The presentation outlined potential rehabilitation approaches that Ontario could adopt for the former Steep Rock Mine site, situated north of Atikokan. Due to the design and activities at the mine site, it is expected that the pit lakes that have formed will continue to fill and overflow in approximately 50 years (i.e. 2070). The approaches to rehabilitate the mine range from passive to more intensive management to mitigate the effects of the overflow to surrounding waters. Details of each potential approach are available as part of the ministry's fact sheet that is available at: <http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/final-steep-rock-mine-fact-sheet.pdf> .

Following the presentation, there was a brief discussion where Board members provided feedback and asked questions on aspects of specific approaches. Of note was a question regarding the estimated overflow rate in 2070 and how that would affect or compare to current flows in the Seine River. It was indicated that overflow to the Seine River from the pit lakes is estimated to be only 4% of base flow, and that impacts of contaminants from the mine site downstream on boundary waters is projected to be negligible.

4. Water Levels Committee

The Water Levels Committee provided an update on spring 2016 water levels. Both Namakan and Rainy Lakes are currently in the middle of the Rule Curves. Outflow will be reduce to allow water levels to climb to continue to stay in the middle of the band. The current condition is dry and the long range forecast is for drier than normal conditions.

Matt Gouin has been providing updates on water level on a weekly local radio spot sponsored by Boise Paper.

5. Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee

Committee Update

The Committee provided an update on recent activities which has largely included receiving and reviewing two IWI proposals from the IJC's Health Professionals Advisory Board (HPAB) entitled "Human Health Consequences of Potential Spill Pollution of the Rainy Lake-Lake of the Woods Basin" and "Identification and Human Health Reviews of Potential Mining Contaminants in the Rainy Lake – Lake of the Woods Basin". These proposals were developed by the HPAB with some input from the IRLWWB. Based on a cursory review, the AEHC has indicated that it will complete a full review of the proposals and will consult with the entire Board and its advisory groups to determine whether the scope, costs, and end products would be of interest and is within the mandate of the Board.

The Committee intends to complete a full review of the two HPAB proposals and plans to continue to target a fall submission.

6. Engagement Committee

Committee Update

The Engagement Committee has been focusing on four main areas: media releases, an engagement database, standard presentations and website updates.

The Committee has decided to complete media releases prior to basin week (August 8-12) to announce the tri-committee structure of the Board and new members. The Committee has requested a brief bio and photo from each Board member.

The IJC will be selecting a suitable platform for the database and suggests that it could be initially populated with newspaper and television journalists, First Nations and Tribal contacts, and municipalities. Board members would then be responsible for updating the database as they engage with outside individuals and organizations.

The Committee also intends to complete standard presentations for Board use by basin week and will be looking for the Board's approval by August.

The Committee is also looking for ways to update the Boards website. It has suggested that the map be moved off the front page because it takes time to load. The Committee is also developing responses to a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that will be posted on the website. The Committee is also looking to develop a new member orientation package.

Action: Board members to provide the Gail Faveri with a brief bio and photo.

7. Board 2016/17 Work Plan

The Board discussed whether there were any changes required to the current work plan. None were identified and no concerns or comments have been received from the IJC.

Feedback received from members expressed that the work plan has become quite long and extensive, however it was indicated that these are items that the Board intends to complete and that items may span multiple years.

The Canadian Co-Chair requested a motion to approve the 2016/17 work plan: **motion carried.**

8. August Basin Meetings

Draft Schedule

The International Watershed Coordinator and Secretariat have developed a draft schedule for the August meetings to be held in Kenora from Tuesday August 8 – Friday August 12. Changes to the schedule were suggested including the duration of the CAG/IAG meetings and including Committee meetings prior to the Board meetings. Potential venues for meetings were also discussed and included the Fire Hall boardroom and Ontario Ministry offices for Board meetings and the Clarion Lakeside Inn for the public meeting. There was concern over the availability of hotel rooms during peak summer period.

Action: IWC and Secretariat to update schedule and redistribute to the Board

Action: Secretariat to look into meeting room options

Action: Secretariat to block hotel rooms ASAP

9. CAG / IAG Updates

CAG

The CAG had expressed interest in receiving updates from each of the committees, as well as on the WQ POS and rule curves evaluation. The group received these updates in their last meeting. Looking to the August face-to-face meeting, the group is now working to find presenters on topics of interest including the New Gold Rainy River mine and nutrient movement in aquatic systems.

IAG

The IAG hasn't met since the March meeting in advance of the forum. The group intends to meet prior to the August meetings. Recent activities have included their brief review of the two HPAB proposals to assist the AEHC in receiving an idea of industry views on the topics. The AEHC will look to the IAG to assist with reviewing any subsequent versions of the proposals.

10. Spring Semi-Annual Debrief / WQ POS

The Board co-chairs thanked those who attended the semi-annual meeting and shared that Commissioners are pleased with the work of the Board. On the topic of the WQ POS, the Canadian co-chair indicated that he had participated in government meetings at the end of the semi-annual and that little was said on the topic of the WQ POS other than that governments are discussing the issue.

11. Roundtable

Thanking the Colonel for his tenure as co-chair

As this meeting is likely Col. Koprowski's last meeting as part of the Board, members thanked him for his time and dedication to the Board and also as co-chair of the Water Levels Committee. Members also wished to share that the Colonel's leadership during the flooding of 2014 was a critical asset to the Board. Members also wished him well in his future endeavours.

12. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Actions items were reviewed by the U.S. Co-Chair and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 15:00 CST.