

## MEETING SUMMARY

Joint Meeting of the International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board and its  
Community Advisory Group and Industry Advisory Group  
March 7, 2017  
Rainy River Community College, International Falls, MN  
15:30 – 16:30 CT

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	
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
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Colonel Calkins (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nolan Baratonio	Local U.S. Member
Matthew Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Shane Bowe	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
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
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Pat Carey	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
<b>INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION</b>	
Commissioner Rich Moy	U.S. Section
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
Paul Allen	Canadian Section
<b>BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT</b>	
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
<b>OTHER</b>	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator
Janette Marsh	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Advisory Groups</b>	
Teika Newton	Community Advisory Group
John Carlson	Community Advisory Group
Jim Yount	Community Advisory Group
Stephen Blair	Community Advisory Group
Diane Schwartz-Williams	Community Advisory Group
Jerry Caple	Community Advisory Group
Tom Mosindy	Community Advisory Group
Darrell Martindale	Industry Advisory Group
Ron Brodigan	Industry Advisory Group
Mike Hansen	Industry Advisory Group
Jason Lindquist	Industry Advisory Group
Kim Jo Bliss	Industry Advisory Group

## 1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

The Canadian Board co-chair called the meeting to order and welcomed Board members, Advisory Group members, Commissioner Moy and guests. Meeting participants provided brief introductions.

## 2. IRLWWB Update

Advisory group members were provided with a brief update of the Board's activities which included:

- Engagement with government officials and review of documents regarding the ongoing Binational Approach
- Water level committee activities regarding monitoring conditions as the freshet approaches and working with dam operators to enhance communication of management decisions and actions
- Aquatic ecosystem health committee activities pertaining to the IJC's water quality objectives review, AEH reporting and the boundary waters emergency planning, preparedness and response review
- Engagement committee activities regarding website improvements, media releases, engagement opportunities and IWI proposal development on support water education in the basin

## 3. Roundtable/Discussion

### CAG Update and Perspectives

The CAG has met on numerous occasions since the previous joint meeting in August 2016. Meetings involve discussion and presentations on issues of importance to advisory group members. Topics, issues and comments presented by the CAG for discussion during the roundtable were:

- Appreciation by the CAG for acting on their concerns by undergoing a review of emergencies response and planning
- Ongoing concern over the management and development of unorganized areas in Ontario. There is currently little oversight and CAG members have seen changes in land use occurring that could lead to impacts to the boundary waters
- Concern with the Binational Approach specifically:
  - not losing the other components of the Water Quality Plan of Study. Do groups have to wait until current funding is completed in 2020 before addressing the other components?
  - the geographic scope of proposed activities
  - stronger public engagement to ensure local buy in for the approach
  - inclusion of a broader range of stakeholders
- Status of the cumulative effects letter to governments. There was a suggestion to look at the Joint Oil Sand Monitoring program as a case study on what worked and didn't work from a cumulative effects monitoring perspective.

**Action:** IJC to follow up with governments on the status of the cumulative effects of mining letter at the upcoming spring semi-annual meetings.

### IAG Update and Perspectives

IAG U.S. co-chair provided an update of the IAG's activities. The group has met on a number of occasions since last summer and meetings have allowed members to provide industry perspectives on water issues in the basin. Of note was the common view that industries are proud of what they accomplish in their communities and for the environment and that they do a good job. The group is thinking of a good way to showcase this and get this information across to a larger audience. Ideas suggested were to use the Board's webpage to communicate good news where possible. Also noted was the fact that economic arguments for the significance of the region will become more important over time to assist with water management issues.

## **6. Review Action Items and Adjournment**

Action items were reviewed by the Secretariat. The meeting was adjourned by the Canadian co- chair at approximately 16:30 CT.