

MEETING SUMMARY

International Rainy - Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
 April 6, 2017
 Teleconference
 13:00 – 15:00 CT

ATTENDANCE	
PARTICIPANTS	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Colonel Calkins (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jim Stark	U.S. Geological Survey
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Shane Bowe	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
Holly House	Local U.S. Member
Michael Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Gail Faveri	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Nick Heisler	Canadian Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Canadian Section
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Daniel Rokitnicki-Wojcik (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Andrew Liddiard	Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat
ABSENTEES	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Mark Lee	Manitoba Sustainable Development
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Nolan Baratono	Local U.S. Member
Matthew Gouin	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
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat
OTHER	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

The Canadian Board co-chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members. It was announced that local Canadian member, Dennis Brown had tendered his resignation effective March 31, 2017. The Board recognized Dennis' leadership, in his role as IAG co-chair and providing a perspective from the Atikokan area.

Action: Secretariat to draft a letter of thanks to Dennis.

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

No additions to the agenda were identified and action items were addressed as completed or as ongoing. No changes to the previous meeting summaries were identified.

The Watershed Board approved the January 10th meeting summary.

Action: Secretariat to have the approved summary posted to the Board's webpage.

3. March Meeting and Science Forum Debrief

The Board held an in-person meeting and also a joint meeting with its CAG and IAG during the week of the March International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum (Forum). The focus on these meetings was to discuss and provide feedback on the Binational Approach documents; and provide an update to and receive input from the Board's advisory groups on issues of importance in the basin.

The Forum was yet again a success in large part due to the organization of several Board members in their personal capacities, especially the AEHC Canadian co-chair. The event was well attended and very positive feedback received from participants on the level of science presented.

The Board also discussed the contents of the Board's draft letter to the IJC regarding views on the Binational Approach at length. Several suggestions were made to strengthen the letter.

Action: Secretariat to revise draft letter as soon as possible and distribute to Board.

4. Committee Updates

Water Levels Committee

Water levels on Rainy and Namakan Lakes were within the rule curve bands and were where they should be for early April. Levels downstream of the International Dam were slightly higher than normal, due to contributions from tributaries that were already in freshet. Flooding risk was identified as being moderate and future risk will be dependent on the amount of rainfall in May and June which was not known.

The Committee has begun to look at the possibility of partnering with a First Nations to develop an IWI project related to water level regulation and how it has affected medicinal

plants. The idea received support from the Board and the committee will look to develop a proposal for a fall submission.

Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee

The AEHC provided an update on progress on the AEH report currently in development. Requests for information from relevant agencies were sent out and responses have been received from most. The focus on the request was on reports and summaries on data collected in 2015 yet the majority of the responses included raw data. Given the information received, the report will focus on the priority of nutrients in the boundary waters with a narrative on activities elsewhere in the basin. The report will include representative samples from these data and MOECC and MPCA staff have volunteered to assist with this. The Committee will provide the Commission with its progress on the report during the spring appearance.

With respect to IWI proposals, at this time, the Committee will not be pursuing a project jointly with the HPAB on developing a vulnerability assessment of Border Waters to the transport of petroleum products and other chemicals. With respect to development of a proposal to study the effects of water levels on phosphorus and sediment loading to the Lake of the Woods, talks are ongoing with ECCC scientists to determine whether there are synergies with work planned under the Binational Approach.

Engagement Committee

The EC undertook some public engagement during the Forum (e.g. standard presentation and liaising with partners) and supported the development of the Board update at opening of event. The Committee continues to look for opportunities to connect with stakeholders and the public. Current activities and opportunities include:

- Developing a story map of completed IWI projects
- Preparing to present at the Grand Council Treaty #3 Spring Assembly in mid-March. The committee is looking for a Board member who could participate on the Board's behalf
- Presenting to local participants of OMNRF's youth ranger program to provide information and broaden their experience in learning about the IJC and boundary waters
- Developing media releases as needed
- Ongoing web page development
- Building Métis contacts

Of note was that the development of the Board membership page has been identified as a best practice by the IJC for other boards. With respect to IWI proposals, the committee continues to develop a proposal for the Project Wet work and this project will be identified in the Board's work plan.

5. Annual Report

Secretaries provided an update on the status of the Board's Annual Report. The final draft of the report required some updates and completion of the Board's work plan. The draft will be circulated within the following week of the meeting for final review.

Action: Secretaries to complete the final draft of Annual Report and work plan and circulate as soon as possible for the Board's final review.

6. Spring-Semi Annual Meetings

Appearance Presentation

Secretaries provided an update on the development of the board's presentation for the upcoming Board appearance at the IJC's Spring Semi-Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. in early May. Secretaries will be contacting committee co-chairs for input on presentation content.

Action: Secretaries to prepare presentation and solicit input from committees.

Board Summary Bullets for Infographics

Secretaries have just received the request for bullets summarizing Board activities from the IJC. Bullets are intended to be used for social media and infographics for distribution during the semi-annual meetings.

Action: Secretaries to draft bullets and receive input from committee co-chairs by April 20th.

IWI Workshop

Secretaries reminded the Board of the IWI workshop being held during the semi-annual meeting. The focus of the workshop will be on the Commission's Climate Change Guidance Framework. Members were reminded to RSVP if they plan to attend the workshop and that each board has been asked to respond to a pre-workshop survey to assist workshop organizers.

Action: Secretaries to circulate pre-workshop survey and compile responses by April 14th.

7. Roundtable

Transboundary Environmental Emergency Coordination, Planning and Response Review

Board Canadian Secretary provided an update on the status of the review. Requests for information were sent out late winter and a number of responses have been received. Assessment of the responses and associated materials is ongoing. Following up with those agencies that have yet to respond will likely be required. An update on the review was also provided to the CAG during their meeting on March 7th. The current target for completion was identified as summer 2017.

Status of IWI Proposals for Spring Submission

The status of IWI proposals were addressed during committee updates and there will be no proposals brought forward for the spring deadline.

August Basin Meetings

Board secretaries provided information on a change to the Board's original target date for the summer basin meetings. Due to a conflict with the August civic holiday in Canada, the Board will now be targeting the week of **August 14th** for the meetings. The Engagement Committee proposed that the meeting be held in Tower, MN to showcase the work that local stakeholders and tribal community have undertaken with respect to aquatic invasive species. No objections to holding the meetings in this location were made.

Wheeler's Point Gauge

IJC advisors had requested clarity on specifics of the Board's letter to the IJC regarding support for Wheeler's Point water level gauge. The Board discussed the issue at length and provided further information for the advisors to consider when briefing Commissioners on the issue.

Letter from MPCA Commissioner Linc-Stine

In response to the Board's request for AEH data, the MPCA's response included other information of interest to the Board and to reaffirm the agencies commitment to working in the basin. The letter was circulated with the meeting materials to members for their information.

Lake Association Network Meeting – Summer 2017

The IWC indicated that there is interest in holding another Lake Association Network Meeting to build off the success of the previous meeting held a few years ago. This meeting would be held during the basin week in August.

Process for IAG co-chair appointment

U.S. IAG co-chair reminded the Board that with the resignation of the Canadian IAG co-chair, that filling this position will need to be addressed. There was uncertainty as to how a new co-chair would be selected.

Action: Secretaries to work with IAG U.S. co-chair and IJC advisors to examine the IAG and IRLWWB terms of reference to determine the correct procedure to appoint a new co-chair.

8. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Action items were reviewed by the Secretariat and the meeting was adjourned by the Canadian co- chair at approximately 15:00 CT.