

MEETING SUMMARY

International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
 April 10, 2018
 13:00 – 15:30 CT

Teleconference Chair: COL Calkins

ATTENDANCE

PARTICIPANTS	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Michael Goffin (Board Canadian Co-Chair)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Karen Cederwall	Local Canadian Member
Erika Klyszejko	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Mark Lee	Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Teika Newton	Local Canadian Member
Trina Rawn	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Todd Sellers	Local Canadian Member
Kiley Shebagegit	Local Canadian Member
Colonel Calkins (Board U.S. Co-Chair)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rita Albrecht (for Patty Thielen)	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Shane Bowe (for Al Pemberton)	Red Lake Department of Natural Resources
Matthew Gouin	Local U.S. Member
Suzanne Hanson	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Charlene Mason	Local U.S. Member
Jim Stark	Minnesota State Legislature
Pam Tomevi	Koochiching Soil and Water Conservation
INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION	
Mark Gabriel	U.S. Section
Wayne Jenkinson	Cdn Section
BOARD ENGINEERING ADVISORS/SECRETARIAT	
Matt DeWolfe (Cdn Engineering Advisor)	Lake of the Woods Control Board Secretariat
Scott Jutila (U.S. Engineering Advisor/Secretariat)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Diane de Beaumont (Cdn Secretariat)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
OTHER	
Rebecca Seal-Soileau	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ABSENTEES	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Greg Chapman	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Holly House	Local U.S. Member
Chief Brian Perrault	Grand Council Treaty #3
Mike Hirst	Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District
OTHER	
Kelli Saunders	International Watershed Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions

The Canadian Board co-chair called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

1. Review of Meeting Agenda and Status of Action Items

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

Action: Scott Jutila to draft January 18, 2018 meeting summary by May 1, 2018.

Action: Diane deBeaumont to circulate information on Sylvie St-Jean (new IAG member) to the Board by April 13, 2018.

2. IJC Letter on Rainy and Namakan Rule Curves and Supplementary Order

- **Update on related activities following reception of letter and discuss draft Adaptive Management proposal.**

COL Calkins and Scott Jutila provided an update on the Adaptive Management workshop that took place last Friday. Up to 30 people attended the workshop which was considered a successful starting point. An Adaptive Management proposal was drafted which will be discussed by the working group this week and then circulated to the Board shortly after.

The Board Directive was updated following recommendations from the Water Levels Committee and discussions between the IJC advisors and the Water Levels Committee.

Water Levels Committee Operations Guidelines have been drafted and are being updated based on stakeholders' feedback. They will be circulated to the Board by the August 2018 basin meetings.

Erika Klyszejko indicated that there are two items that require further discussion: the review of data sources and the protocol for notifying interests. The first may be addressed through an IWI project. The second may be addressed through the development of internal guidelines on how to communicate with stakeholders.

Action: Water Levels Committee to circulate the Adaptive Management proposal to the Board by April 20, 2018.

Action: Water Levels Committee to circulate draft operational guidelines to the Board by August 2018 basin meetings.

3. IRLWWB's Aquatic Ecosystem Health Annual Report

- **Discuss the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Annual Report Sub-Committee's proposed approach for future reporting on aquatic ecosystem health.**

Todd Sellers provided background on the recent water quality reporting effort and mentioned that the AEHC is looking at the IWI Objectives and Alerts project to provide guidance for future reports. Until the completion of the project, the report will focus on specifics such as 3 possible sampling locations as opposed to reporting on all sampling locations. With respect to other aquatic ecosystem health issues, the AEHC is proposing to provide an update on indicators of change or anything significant as opposed to

providing a mini state of the lakes report. A report outline and an information request template to agencies are being drafted. The aim is to send the request to agencies by the end of April 2018 and produce an interim report in fall 2018. The draft report outline will be circulated to the Board soon.

Action: Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee to circulate proposed interim Aquatic Ecosystem Health Report outline to Board by May 1, 2018.

- **Discuss path forward regarding the IWI project “Objectives and Alert Levels in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Basin”.**

Todd Sellers provided an update on the overall project. The AEHC, with IJC’s support, is currently looking at revising the timeline and the scope of work, and developing the statement of qualifications needed to identify potential contractors. The aim is to have a contract in place by June 2018.

Action: Board to send information on recommended contractors for the Objectives and Alerts project to the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee by April 30, 2018.

4. Lake of the Woods Phosphorus Load Reduction Target Recommendation

Todd Sellers provided background information on the reason for the letter, and asked Board members if they would consider raising this issue to Commissioners for consideration, with the understanding that Canadian science is still underway and this could be undertaken as an interim measure. The idea is to prompt the IJC to enquire and push on this issue with the Governments.

Suzanne Hanson specified that the TMDL target is 18.4% and not 20%, and requested the letter be revised accordingly. She mentioned that MPCA has been working with Canadian partners and has had many conversations about the TMDL coming out first. She indicated that Canadian partners are considering the situation and have same goal in mind. She would support a letter that outlines the current situation.

Michael Goffin indicated that has been no mention of developing targets on the Canadian side. The value of the letter is for the Board to get on record that we think a Canadian target or binational target or both are needed. This is an opportune time for making the recommendation with the coming of the TMDL and the imminent departure of all Commissioners. Michael mentioned that he might not be able to sign the letter given his government role, but felt that there was a lot of merit to bringing this recommendation now. Trina Rawn agreed with Michael’s thoughts.

Discussion followed how to revise the last paragraph of the letter. It was agreed that it would be split in two paragraph, with the first one focusing on the timeliness of the recommendation (given the impending release of the TMDL and upcoming Semi-Annual meetings), and the final paragraph outlining support by all members with the exception of the ones that must abstain due to real or perceived conflict of interest.

Members that indicated support for letter: Teika Newton, Karen Cederwall, Jim Stark, Suzanne Hanson (with revised TMDL target of 18.4%), Shane Bowe, Kiley Shebagegit and Pam Tomevi.

Action: Todd to re-draft phosphorus load reduction target recommendation letter per April 10 Board discussion by April 11, 2018.

Action: Board members who do not support or recuse themselves from the aforementioned recommendation to let Diane deBeaumont know by email by April 11, 2018.

5. Environmental Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response in the Boundary Waters of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Drainage Basin Review

- **Discuss draft report, including proposed findings and recommendations, and determine next steps.**

Michael Goffin provided an overview of the report and summarized findings and recommendations. It was agreed that it needs to be clear whether the Canadian-U.S. contingency plan included a notification procedure. A member commented that the recommendations are very clear and that the communications piece is the key recommendation.

Board agreed to update the Commission on this work in progress at the upcoming Semi-Annual meetings.

Action: Mike Goffin/Diane deBeaumont to look into notification part of the Canada-US Pollution Contingency Plan by June 12, 2018 (next meeting of the Board).

Action: Board to review draft Emergency Preparedness Report and send comments to Diane deBeaumont by May 4, 2018.

6. IJC Semi-Annual Meetings

- **Review schedule and logistics and discuss any final details regarding the IRLWWB appearance presentation and the annual report.**

Members planning to attend the Semi-Annual meetings in person are: Trina Rawn, Todd Sellers, Karen Cederwall, Charlene Mason, Pam Tomevi, Scott Jutila, Rebecca Seal-Soileau and the Board co-chairs.

Members discussed revisions to the Board appearance presentation.

Members agreed that the Board's annual report is looking good but that final input is required.

Action: Secretariat to include update on the draft Emergency Preparedness Report in the Board spring 2018 semi-annual appearance presentation.

Action: Board to send comments on draft Board spring 2018 semi-annual appearance presentation to Secretariat by April 13, 2018.

Action: Secretariat to add following topics to the last slide of the Board spring 2018 semi-annual appearance presentation:

- phosphorus load reduction target recommendation
- draft Emergency Preparedness Report

- letter on binational coordination of cumulative and transboundary effects of mining

Action: Board to send comments on draft Board Fifth Annual Report to Diane deBeaumont by April 11, 2018.

Action: Diane deBeaumont to send Word version of draft Fifth Annual Report to Todd and Charlene immediately after April 10, 2018 meeting.

7. IRLWWB August Basin Meetings

- **Determine date and location of meetings and discuss logistics and next steps.**

Board agreed to hold August Basin meetings in Kenora to keep with alternate Board public meetings schedule and to ensure connection with north watershed community, but to hold rule curves-related public meetings in either International Falls or Fort Frances.

Action: Secretariat to draft August basin meetings schedule for discussion at June 12, 2018 Board meeting.

8. Updates from IRLWWB Committees

- **Water Levels Committee**

COL Calkins summarized water levels status.

- **Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee**

Jim Stark mentioned that American Rivers' 33rd annual report on the country's most endangered rivers, which was recently released, includes the Boundary Waters area/South Kawishiwi River, Minnesota in third position on the list. The Kawishiwi River (North and South) is an important waterway in the Rainy River Headwaters.

Charlene Mason mentioned the MPCA's recent decision to withdraw the Wild Rice rule from the rulemaking process that it has been in for nearly a year.

- **Engagement Committee**

Updates from the Engagement Committee on recent activities include: superintendent reviewing the Project WET manual to ensure it meets education standard; working on providing feedback to IJC on microsite; imminent update to Board on microsite status; and, proposed meeting with Treaty 3 in spring 2018.

9. Round Table

- **CAG and IAG**

Charlene Mason mentioned that the CAG didn't hold their in-person meeting in March due to bad weather. The CAG is planning their next teleconference for late May or early June to prepare for the August basin meetings. She will circulate the Environmental Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response in the Boundary Waters of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Drainage Basin report to the CAG for comment.

- **IJC**

IJC advisors indicated that they are looking forward to seeing members in Washington at the Semi-Annual meetings and to receiving the aforementioned letter and annual report in short order.

- **Other**

Kiley Shebagegit informed members that she will be going on maternity leave in May, and that she will endeavour to attend meetings when possible.

10. Review of Action Items and Adjournment

Action items were reviewed by Board Secretaries and the meeting was adjourned by the U.S. co- chair.