

**International Rainy Lake of the Woods Watershed Board
Meeting**

Summary of Discussion

August 15, 2018

U.S. Member Participants

COL Calkins (Co-Chair)
Shane Bowe
Charlene Mason
Mike Hirst
Suzanne Hanson
Pam Tomevi
Jim Stark (by phone)

Canadian Member Participants

Michael Goffin (Co-Chair)
Todd Sellers
Trina Rawn
Teika Newton
Greg Chapman
Lucas King
Erika Klyszejko
Karen Cederwall (by phone)

U.S. CAG Member Participants

Gerry Caple

Canadian CAG Member Participant

Diane Schwartz-Williams
Tom Mosindy

Commission

Wayne Jenkinson
Commissioner Rich Moy

Secretariat

Diane de Beaumont
Scott Jutila

1. Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)

The Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Board with members of the Community Advisory Group both in person and on the phone. Board members, CAG members and other participants identified themselves.

2. IRLWWB Highlights (Canadian Board and Water Levels Committee Co-Chairs)

- Recommendation for Phosphorus Load Reduction Targets for Lake of the Woods (Canadian Board Co-Chair)

The Canadian Board Co-Chair mentioned that the Board sent a letter to the International Joint Commission (IJC) in April 2018 recommending that governments establish targets for load reductions in order to meet algae reduction goals. The Co-Chair summarized the contents of the letter, including its three recommendations, and further explained that in a letter to governments dated May 2018, the IJC indicated its support for the Board's recommendations and asked that governments take them into consideration. It was also mentioned that this topic would be addressed by Governments at this afternoon's public meeting.

- **Review of the cumulative effects of mining in the transboundary waters of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed**

The Canadian Board Co-Chair reminded everyone that the Board alerted the International Joint Commission (IJC) to the CAG's concerns regarding the large number of proposals for mining operations within the Lake of the Woods drainage basin and the resulting potential cumulative effects on transboundary waters. He mentioned that, as a result of the concerns, the Board reviewed environmental assessment processes in all jurisdictions around the basin and found that, in 2014, all actors are recognizing through legislation the need to look at cumulative effects and to work cooperatively, but that, in practice, this may not be taking place. The Co-Chair commented that cumulative impacts assessment is still a very challenging process, generally, not just on Lake of the Woods. He further summarized the contents of the Governments letter to the IJC on this topic.

CAG members indicated that Global Affairs Canada's response is unsatisfactory, and that we must continue to raise the concern to the IJC and on to Governments in order to press for cumulative effects study before much further delay. It was also stated that baseline data must be collected now, prior to any further development taking place, and Governments must have a plan that regulates impact assessment outcomes and considers cumulative impacts of proposed projects.

The need to assess the gap in baseline data based on known water quality data was raised. It was also mentioned that if the baseline data gap assessment was tied into Alerts and Objectives project of the Aquatic Ecosystem Health Committee, this would help prioritize hot spot areas of concern, establish parameters that need to be monitored, and identify monitoring locations.

- **Review of Transboundary Coordination of Environmental Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response**

The Canadian Board Co-Chair explained that, in response to concerns raised by the CAG, the Board undertook a review of transboundary coordination of environmental emergency planning, preparedness and response. The Co-Chair outlined the findings and recommendations in the Review and noted that they were forwarded to the International Joint Commission for their consideration in a July 12, 2018 letter.

- **2018 Supplementary Order and Directive on Water Levels**

The Canadian Water Levels Committee Co-Chair summarized the new 2018 Supplementary Directive to the IRLWWB and Supplementary Order for the regulation of boundary water levels which resulted in the implementation of new rule curves as of August 1, 2018. The Co-Chair provided context on how these changes came to be. It was highlighted that the focus is now to operate to the middle of the rule curve, giving companies some flexibility in general day to day operations, with the Water Levels Committee having some control and oversight. The Co-Chair mentioned that the 2018 Supplementary order is subject to review in 15 years, and also provided details on an International Joint Commission-endorsed adaptive management approach for water levels management.

The Canadian Water Levels Committee Co-Chair noted that the Water Levels Committee held a public meeting on August 14th in International Falls where public concerns voiced related to rule curve fluctuation (whether it ever exceeded) and ice data.

3. Roundtable / Discussion (All)

???

4. Review of Action Items and Adjournment (Co-Chairs)

The co-chairs thanked all for their participation, invited everyone to attend the Board public meeting later this afternoon and adjourned the meeting.