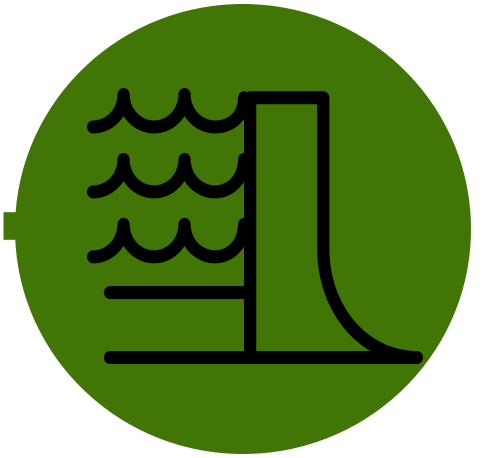


# Key Roles and Responsibilities

## Management of Water Levels in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed

### Water Regulation and Control



**Dam Operators:** The day-to-day operations of the dams at International Falls-Fort Frances and Kettle Falls are directed by the owners: [H2O Power](#) (Canada) and [Boise Paper](#) (U.S.). Operators maintain water levels in the lakes within specific ranges, as defined by the IJC.



**International Joint Commission (IJC):** Independent, objective and binational body established by Canada and the U.S. The 1938 [Rainy Lake Convention](#) gave the IJC responsibilities to the control of water levels under emergency conditions. Since 1949, the IJC employed rule curves to regulate water levels, updating them to reflect current science and stakeholder benefits. The rule curves were last [updated](#) in 2018, following the release of the [Rainy and Namakan-Lakes Rule Curve review report of 2017](#).



**Lake of the Woods Control Board (LWCB):** Manages levels of the Lake of the Woods, between lower and upper elevations set by the Canada-U.S. [1925 Lake of the Woods Convention and Protocol](#). Staff engineers with the LWCB are also members of the Water Levels Committee of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board.



**International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB):** Formed by the IJC to assist with binational coordination of watershed management, its members include federal, provincial, state, municipal and Indigenous representatives. Its activities are supported by an [Industry Advisory Group](#), a [Community Advisory Group](#), and [four committees](#), including:



**International Lake of the Woods Control Board (ILWCB):** Approves the actions of the Lake of the Woods Control Board when the level of Lake of the Woods falls below or rises above prescribed extremes.



[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District](#) and [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#) officials serve as co-chairs of the IRLWWB, its WLC, and the ILWCB.

**Water Levels Committee (WLC):** monitors hydrologic conditions and may provide dam operators with directions for the operation of their discharge facilities to ensure that the rule curves are followed. The WLC regularly hosts public engagement activities to help share information on basin conditions and seasonal forecasts, and solicit public input prior to making rule curve decisions.

**Adaptive Management Committee:** established in 2020 to monitor whether the latest rule curves perform as expected.



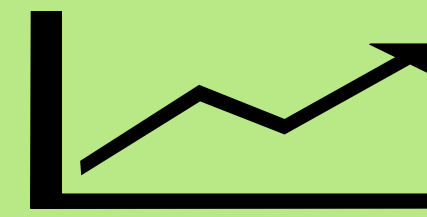
The Lake of the Woods, which straddles Minnesota, Manitoba and Ontario. Credit: J. Stephen Conn



# Key Roles and Responsibilities

## Management of Water Levels in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed

### Data Collection and Forecasting



### Decision-making

The Boards make decisions based on all available facts and the latest forecasts, and in direct communication with government agencies and other knowledge holders. Decisions are informed by, among other sources:

- Regular public engagement activities, including pre-spring webinars
- Meteorological forecasts produced by the:
  - [Meteorological Service of Canada](#)
  - [U.S. National Weather Service](#)
  - [Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry](#)
- Hydrological measurements taken by the [Water Survey of Canada](#) and the [U.S. Geological Survey](#)
- Snow surveys produced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District

### Latest flood forecasts and guidance

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, [Flood Forecasting and Warning Program](#)
- U.S. National Weather Service [Rainy River Basin](#)

### Other sources of information on water levels

- ILWCB [updates on water level decisions and data](#) for the Rainy and Namakan lakes.
- Lake of the Woods Control Board:
  - [Basin Data page](#): latest information on water level and flow conditions in the basin.
  - Level forecasts for Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul and the Winnipeg River in Ontario are issued Thursdays on its [Notice Board](#).
- Hydrometric data for the Canadian portion: [Water Survey of Canada](#)
- U.S. Geological Survey National Water Dashboard: [real-time streamflow](#) information for the U.S. portion.
- U.S. National Weather Service: [water level information and forecasts](#) for the United States portion
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [monthly hydrologic conditions reports](#) and [water level information](#) for its sub-basins.