

Summary for International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board (IRLWWB) August 2023 Public Meetings

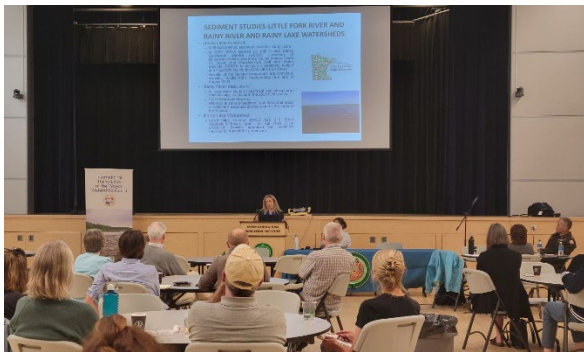
The [International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board](#) (IRLWWB) hosted two public meetings: one in Baudette, MN on August 16, 2023 at the Lake of the Woods County Historical Society Museum and the second in Kenora, ON at the Seven Generations Education Institute on August 17, 2023.

The IRLWWB ensures compliance pursuant to an International Joint Commission's (IJC) [Order](#) to coordinate water level management in the Rainy and Namakan chain of lakes, review and report on water quality and aquatic ecosystem health in the transboundary waters of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods system, and advise the IJC on other matters regarding the management of transboundary waters in the basin.

The IRLWWB organizes at least one public meeting in the basin each year to give the public an opportunity to learn about the work of the IRLWWB, ask questions, and provide input on issues concerning the basin. The public meetings on August 16 and 17 were well attended, with 14 public participants in Baudette and 20 public participants in Kenora.



Both meetings consisted of 1-hour presentations from the IRLWWB Co-chairs, updates from government officials from both sides of the border regarding phosphorus reduction targets for Lake of the Woods, and culminated with 45-minute question and answer periods. Key topics raised during the public meetings included: the historic flooding of 2022 throughout the basin,



expansion of agricultural tile drainage in Rainy River District in the province of Ontario, the threat of Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) an aquatic invasive species, and the ongoing study being conducted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Canada for the potential siting of a 'Deep Geologic Reserve' for nuclear waste just outside of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed boundary in Ignace, ON.

Input received at public meetings provides the IRLWWB with valuable information and helps to inform IRLWWB decisions and recommendations.

The IRLWWB welcomes questions or comments anytime at: rlwwb@ijc.org. More information can be found at: ijc.org/en/rlwwb.

Contacts

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