

## **IJC Announces Public Advisory Group Membership For Rainy-Namakan Rule Curves Study**

(February 16, 2016) The International Joint Commission (IJC) is pleased to announce the membership of the Rainy-Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Review Public Advisory Group (RCPAG).

The role of the RCPAG is to provide public input into the rule curves study and to distribute information about the study to their communities. The RCPAG will also review and comment on study board reports and advise the study board on the responsiveness of the study process to public concerns.

The International Rainy and Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board will make scientifically-supported recommendations to the IJC for modifying or retaining the 2000 Rainy and Namakan Lakes rule curves after reviewing the wide range of hydrologic, hydraulic, cultural and environmental factors.

The 28 member advisory group has representation from both Canada and the United States, on Rainy River, Rainy Lake and the Namakan chain of lakes. Members come from lake property associations, hydro power, recreational guides, house boat rental companies, First Nations and tribes, local government, recreational boaters and environmental and conservation organizations.

Fort Frances Ontario resident and Canadian Co-Chair Jeff Wiume noted: *"I look forward to working with the Study Board and the membership of the Rule Curve Public Advisory Group (RCPAG) as we participate in the 2000 Rule Curve Review. I think the members of the RCPAG will take full advantage of the opportunity to participate and share views with the Study Board. Meaningful public participation is a key component to the rule curve review"*

US Co-Chair from Kabetogama, MN Tim Snyder stated: *"As we move forward with the review of the 2000 Rule Curve, I consider it an honor and privilege to serve as co-chair for the Rule Curve Public Advisory Group (RCPAG). Our membership looks forward to working with the Study Board and are committed to giving our due diligence in this matter. The commitment to transparent public dialogue is crucial in reviewing the rule curve and its future."*

Canadian IJC Commissioner Richard Morgan noted that, *"Public participation in the Study is a priority for the Commission, and we thank RCPAG members and co-chairs for volunteering for this important civic duty."*

US Commissioner Rich Moy said that, *"The IJC is pleased to have a diverse group of local citizens who will not hesitate to contribute the range of views, even competing views that are essential to getting the most thorough review possible."*

The RCPAG recently had an organizational call and will be holding their first in-person meeting in conjunction with the 2016 International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Forum, March 9-10 in International Falls, MN. The evening prior to the Forum, on Tuesday March 8, 2016, there will be a public meeting jointly hosted by the Water Levels Committee of the Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board [link] to present the spring water levels management plan, and the Rainy – Namakan Lakes Rule Curves Study Board to provide an update on their work. The meeting will take place in the Theatre of the Rainy River Community College from 6:30-8:00 pm.

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