

**Date 9 March 2012**



## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council**

**Fr: R. McMillan, Council**

**Re: LOW Water Quality Forum Resolution Request**

### **Recommendation:**

**That** the City of Kenora hereby supports the recommendations for binational management of the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River watershed contained in the IJC's Report to the Governments of the United States and Canada on Bi-National Water Management of the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River Watershed; and

**That** the City of Kenora hereby requests the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to act to adopt and implement the recommendations of the IJC for bi-national management; and further

**That** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Greg Rickford, MP, First Nations Communities within the Lake of the Woods Watershed and Municipalities within the Lake of the Woods Watershed that are impacted by this request, as well as the LOW Water Sustainability Foundation.

### **Background:**

The LOW water sustainability Foundation is writing to request that the City of Kenora continue to indicate its support for the initiative to bring in the International Joint Commission (IJC) to provide bi-national, watershed based coordination for Lake of the Woods water quality. In particular, the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation is asking that further to its Resolution of April, 24, 2006, the City of Kenora pass a further resolution and transmit it to the Governments of Ontario and Canada re-affirming City support.

This initiative is at a critical juncture. On January 27, the IJC submitted its report to Canada and the United States with recommendations for bi-national management of the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River Watershed. At the end of April, the IJC will be meeting with the Governments of Canada and the United States to seek a response and

direction from the Governments to implement the recommendations in its report. Without instruction from the Governments, the IJC cannot implement its recommendations for our lake.

Although optimistic for a positive response from Canada and the United States, IJC Co-Chair Lana Pollack noted in her address at the Lake of the Woods Water Quality Forum on March 7, that there is a risk that the report and its recommendations could languish "on a shelf" in Ottawa and Washington, if the Governments do not hear from communities and local and provincial governments that the recommendations are supported and that we expect the Governments to act on them.

Support and efforts of the City of Kenora has been essential to moving this initiative this far. A final push is needed and the assistance of the City of Kenora is requested to complete this initiative.

The background material circulated to Council may be referenced should further detail be required.

**Budget:**

There is no impact on the budget.

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

As per the parties noted in the resolution