

Call for public participation at meeting about Lake of the Woods water quality



Wednesday, August 15, 2:00 - 4:30 pm at the Clarion Lakeside Inn, Kenora, ON

Kenora, ON July 27, 2018 – Public meetings will highlight "science to action" and the efforts to protect and restore Lake of the Woods water quality by the:

- International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, of the International Joint Commission
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Environment and Climate Change Canada

The Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation and the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association urge everyone who cares about water quality and the future health of Lake of the Woods to attend this important meeting. Learn about what's being done to address toxic and nuisance algae in Lake of the Woods by Minnesota, Canada and by the International Joint Commission.

Please join us Wednesday August 15, 2:00 - 4:30 pm at the Clarion Lakeside Inn, Kenora Ontario. Your attendance and engagement directly with the government officials and scientists will send a message that Lake of the Woods matters and that you care!

"In 2008, Minnesota declared the U.S. portion of Lake of the Woods polluted for too much phosphorus, a key cause of algae blooms. Minnesota is now poised to take action by setting targets for reducing phosphorus and developing watershed restoration plans", commented Todd Sellers, Executive Director of the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation. He continued, "Environment and Climate Change Canada has its phosphorus and algae science well underway as well. The meetings August 15th in Kenora are a tremendous opportunity – a one stop shop – for all of us to get a complete picture of what's being done to protect and restore Lake of the Woods and its watershed in the United States, Canada, and internationally."

Hardy Bock, President of the Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association, joins the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation in encouraging all who love Lake of the Woods to attend these important meetings on August 15th., "The opportunity to speak to those who are conducting the research and playing a lead role in the long-term health of Lake of the Woods – and to ask them direct questions - is one we do not take lightly." Continuing, he commented, "We are reaching out with our sister organization, Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, and asking our members and supporters to be visible in their concern for the future of Lake of the Woods by coming out on Wednesday."

At 2 pm, the IJC watershed board will hold its annual public meeting to provide an update and answer questions about its activities during the past year and upcoming projects related to water quality and aquatic ecosystem health in the Rainy-Lake of the Woods watershed.

Immediately following the IJC watershed board meeting, science and management staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will speak with the public about Minnesota's Watershed Protection and Restoration work and its phosphorus study and plan to set targets for cutting phosphorus entering Lake of the Woods.

Environment and Climate Change Canada will also provide an update on its phosphorus and algae studies underway on Lake of the Woods and possible next steps towards developing Canadian phosphorus targets.

Send a message to our governments by attending, that Lake of the Woods matters and that you care!

For more information contact:

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