

## CURVE

► continued from A1

inflows to Namakan Reservoir, Rainy Lake and their tributaries as the spring melt got underway.

“In March, we directed the companies that control the dams (at Rainy Lake and Namakan Reservoir) to target the bottom 0.5 percent of the rule curve,” he said. “In other words, what we tried to do was leave some room in the system to account for the big snow pack and late thaw. The hope was to avoid flooding.”

A rule curve is another term for the regulated lake level range as defined by the International Joint Commission. It was changed in 2000 and is up for review next year.

Inflows to these lakes and their tributaries were slightly below normal for the start of April, but rose quickly as the snow pack began to melt. In response, outflows from the dams at Namakan Reservoir and Rainy Lake were adjusted with the goal of maintaining the lake levels within the range of the respective rule curves.

But then, it began to rain. And rain. And rain.

Koprowski said officials kept a close eye on the rainfall and looked to the forecast on both sides of the border to see what May and June’s precipitation would be like. Surprisingly, he said, meteorologists predicted the month of June to be “drier than normal.”

“June is normally the wettest month of the year,” he said. “But the normal is that 2-4 inches. What we saw this June, in some places, as much as a foot or more of rain.”

As the rain kept coming, all dam gates were open by June 6.

“The important part about the all-gates-open line is once all the gates are open, we lose our ability to adjust,” the colonel said. “That’s it. We don’t have (control) anymore. We were all gates open June 6 and the rain was just beginning.”

### Similar curves

As the flooding situ-



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

**More than 50 people attended a public meeting Tuesday held by the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board at Rainy River Community College.**

ation worsened, board members received a lot of feedback that the rule curve in place in 1970 shouldn’t have been changed in 2000, Koprowski said.

“We’ve heard if we had the 1970 rule curve in effect, this wouldn’t have happened,” he said of the flood. “But that might not be the case.”

In the 14 years since the new rule curve took effect, seven of the top 20 wettest events, since officials began keeping track, took place. In contrast, the 1970 rule curve coincided with four of those events over a 29-year period.

“If you compare the two rule curves on both Rainy and Namakan lakes, they’re very close together,” Koprowski said. “There is little difference how one rule curve would have performed over another in this particular event.”

In addition, he said a rule curve is only a tool used to attempt to regulate water. While officials try to keep the water level in the middle of the curve, there are times they need to deviate from that, Koprowski said.

“If there’s extremely high water, we target the bottom end of the rule curve,” he said. “On March 7, we directed the companies that operate the dams to target the bottom of the rule curve.”

### Not satisfied

Still, a few audience members were not satisfied with the information.

Allen Klemetsen said

he has lived on the Littlefork River for 57 years. Since 2000, when the new rule curve took effect, he has had water in his backyard every year after the ice goes out.

“Well this year, you guys put it in my house,” he said of the 9 inches of water that invaded his residence in June. “I hope you guys are all happy.”

Others agreed with Klemetsen and asked board members what can be done to prevent flooding events like this in the future.

Paul Stegmeir, who has sat on several water level committees, said there are a lot of problems with the system, but in the end, there might not be a simple solution.

“The good Lord decides when it’s gonna rain,” he said. “The natural system cannot handle every situation. Let’s not make one person’s solution another person’s problem.”

Phil Hart, owner of Pine Tree Cove Resort in Kabetogama, saw his share of flooding this year. The dock harbor at his resort, which he has owned for 27 years, was almost completely destroyed and water crept in toward cabins he owns. But for Hart, the 1970 rule curve brought low waters that can be just as bad for business.

“A few years before the new (2000) curve, we were high and dry,” he said. “Our docks were 7 or 8 feet out of the water. My question is, if Kabetogama is happy with their rule

curve, is it possible when you adjust rule curves you can adjust Rainy without adjusting Kabetogama or do they have to change in sequence?”

Koprowski said the review will be comprehensive and that option, among many, will be considered.

Randy Pozniak, of the Border Lakes Association, said the group he represents would like to see adjustments made to the curve, especially in emergency situations.

“You showed the curves were virtually the same,” he said. “However, the 1970 curve compared to the 2000 curve for Kabetogama and Namakan has a significant difference. What was the top of the 1970 curve is now the bottom of the 2000 curve.”

Agreeing with Hart, Pozniak urged Koprowski and other board members to consider adjustments to the Rainy Lake curve and leave others alone.

But one Rainy Lake resident said after this year, he’s ready to see the high water passed to “somebody else.”

“We had our year, let’s have somebody else have it now,” he said.

A woman from Kabetogama responded there were sandbagging efforts going on south of International Falls.

“We lost docks and businesses were under,” she said of the high water. “When you look at what the modules show and what’s going on, there’s more to this than just emotional involvement. We have to look at what the science is telling us, too...We’re all in this together.”

Koprowski stressed in this particular event, the rule curves would have performed just about identically and the tool cannot be relied on to solve every situation.

“Mother Nature’s ability to produce water will always overwhelm our ability to regulate,” he said. “We’ve been asked if this will happen again and unfortunately, probably, yes, as long as it keeps raining. So be prepared and plan ahead.”

didate, he’s a family guy and a rock-solid conservative,” Stone said. “I would be just tickled if he were the governor, I’m comfortable that he can govern well.”

Other state-wide primary races Minnesotans weighed in on included Secretary of State, State Auditor, and Attorney General.

On Tuesday, the State Canvassing Board will meet to canvass the votes for candidates for the election, at which point official results will be confirmed.

## Independent School District #361

Koochiching County

International Falls, MN

**Mission Statement:** *To prepare all learners for a changing world by developing their potential within a climate of mutual respect and trust.*

### AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Monday, August 18, 2014 • Falls High School Cafeteria

#### PRELIMINARIES:

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.**

#### 2.0 ROLL CALL

Gordon Dault \_\_\_\_\_ Willi Kostiuk \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Grover \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Hebner \_\_\_\_\_ Darrell Wagner \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Holden \_\_\_\_\_ Dena Wenberg \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**4.0 PREVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** moved \_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_ carried/failed

#### 5.0 OPEN FORUM

5.1 Public Open Forum

5.1.1 Ralph Ruelle – High School Bowling

**6.0** Approve the minutes from the regular meeting of July 21, 2014.

moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ carried/failed

**7.0** Approve the bills due and payable amounting to \$538,649.57.

moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ carried/failed

**OLD BUSINESS: none**

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**8.0 Program Consent:** moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ to approve items  
8.1-8.2 carried/failed

8.1 Accept donations in the amount of \$3,271.20

7/21/14 Schwan's Cares; 6th Grade Trip Fund \$136.20

7/23/14 In Honor of Helen Smerika from the Birthday Club; Project Read \$80.00

7/28/14 Cedulle's Photography; ISD # 361 School Calendar \$250.00

7/29/14 Stewart's Super One; ISD # 361 School Calendar \$500.00

7/31/14 TruStar Federal Credit Union; ISD #361 School Calendar \$250.00

8/5/14 Memorial Donations to Wallace Haglund Scholarship Fund \$1825.00

8/12/14 Cine, Inc.; ISD # 361 School Calendar \$250.00

TOTAL \$3271.20

8.2 Approve a Purchase of Service Agreement with Range Mental Health Center.

**9.0 Personnel Consent:** moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ to approve items  
12.1 – 12.9.7 carried/failed

9.1 Approve the hire of Teresa Stone as Assistant Girls' Swim Coach for the for the 2014-15 season and in accord with Schedule "C" of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.

9.2 Acknowledge Jerrod Kostiuk as a volunteer football coach for the 2014 season.

9.3 Accept the letter of resignation of Angela Schwartz at Community Enrichment Coordinator effective August 15, 2014.

9.4 Approve a leave of absence request from Tracy Duhant, paraprofessional, for the 2014-15 school year and in accord with Article 9, Section 3 of the Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 4798.

9.5 Approve the hire of Laurie Jo Villwock as a 1.0 FTE media generalist for the 2014-15 school year and in accord with the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.

9.6 Approve the hire of Jenny Vohler as the Community Education Enrichment Coordinator effective August 12, 2014 and in accord with Policy 426 At Will.

9.7 Approve the hire of Ardele Henriksen as the Assessment Coordinator for the 2014-15 school year with approximately 280 hours and in accord with Schedule "D" hourly pay rate of the Master Agreement between ISD 361 and Local 331.

**10.0 POLICY CONSENT AGENDA:** moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ to approve policy consent agenda items as presented.

10.1 Approve Falls Elementary Student Handbook

10.2 Approve Falls High School Handbook

#### 11.0 Other New Business:

11.1 Adopt the Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election.  
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Call Vote:

11.2 Adopt the Notice of Special Election relating to a ballot question for a seven member board. Moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ Roll Call Vote:

#### REPORTS AND INFORMATION:

##### 12.0 Administrative Reports:

12.1 Kevin Grover, Superintendent

12.1.1 PBIS ticket rewards

12.1.2 Office tour

##### 13.0 Committee Reports:

**CLOSED SESSION:** Enter into a closed session to discuss Local 510 negotiations.  
Moved \_\_\_\_\_ second \_\_\_\_\_ to enter into a closed session at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. carried/failed

**REOPEN AND ADJOURNMENT:** Reopen the meeting and adjourn the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Second \_\_\_\_\_ carried/failed

## PRIMARY

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Koochiching County DFL chair Joe Boyle said the strong support for Dayton and Franken was a reflection of the electorate’s approval of their performance.

“Democrats and people who are concerned about other people are very excited about their performance, and that’s reflected in the primary results,” Boyle said. “Whether you’re a democrat or a concerned independent,

they really have done outstanding jobs.”

Facing off against Franken in the November election will be Republican Mike McFadden, who took home 71.73 percent of the vote in the Republican primary for the governor’s race.

Representing the Independence Party in the U.S. Senator’s race will be Steve Carlson, who beat out four other candidates and took 33.91 percent of the vote in the Independence primary.

In the November governor and Lt. governor’s

race, DFL candidates Mark Dayton and Tina Smith will face off against Republicans Jeff Johnson and Bill Kuisle, who won the Republican primary over four other candidates.

Koochiching County GOP chair Terry Stone said it’s hard to predict Johnson’s chances against Dayton, as it’s always tough to defeat an incumbent. However, Stone said Johnson is a great candidate, and he’d be happy to see him as governor.

“Johnson is a great can-

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