

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON April 04, 2006  
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, BC,  
AT 10:00 A.M.

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### PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Pat Cochrane	City of Vernon
Director Bill Firman	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Toby Pike	Water Supply Association
<del>Fabian Alexis</del>	<del>Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)</del>

### STAFF:

Greg Armour	Program Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Mike Stamhuis	Regional District North Okanagan
Deb Taylor	Recording Secretary

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

### 2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board welcomed new members Tom Siddon, Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and Toby Pike representing the Water Supply Association. Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Nation Alliance had also been appointed to the Board however was not available to attend the meeting.

### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Cochrane  
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 07, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as circulated."*

**CARRIED.**

### 4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

That Item 5.8 being the Revised Version of Projects from the Stewardship Council be added to the

Agenda.

That Item 5.9 being the Drinking Water Protection Act Leadership Council be added to the Agenda.

That Item 5.10 being Comment on Stewardship Council be added to the Agenda.

Director Perrie entered the meeting at 10:15.

## **5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Okanagan Stewardship Council from March 23, 2006**

The Board reviewed and discussed the minutes of the March 23, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Stewardship Council.

Mr. Armour reported that the recommendations made by the Okanagan Basin Water Board regarding having a Chair and Vice Chair, voting alternates, public meetings, and an eighteen month term for the Chair were adopted by the Council

At the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Tom Siddon was elected as Chair and Ted van der Gulik was elected as Vice Chair of the Council.

Director Bennest entered the meeting at 10:17.

Mr. Stamhuis stated that the 'complete' Council minutes should be forwarded to the Board. Action items would be separate from those minutes. The Board agreed that WSC minutes would not need to be adopted for recommendations to be dealt with.

The Board agreed that Ted van der Gulik would act as Alternate Director to Tom Siddon on the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mr. Armour noted that WSC meetings would be preceded by a half hour presentation from Council members on topics where they had expertise.

### **5.2 Policies and Tactical Projects from Water Stewardship Council**

Director Siddon gave an overview of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council March 23, 2006 discussions and brainstorming session regarding potential policies and tactical projects.

There was a discussion about long term versus short term goals.

Director Hobson said that there was a difference between developing a water budget and doing a supply and demand study.

Mr. Pike agreed that we cannot take a short term view. He felt that the financial participation of the Water Board in the Supply and Demand study entered into an area that was clearly a provincial responsibility. He said that the goal should be to manage the available resource to its best use and that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has a tremendous potential to deal with inequities and be highly creative in finding ways to reduce water use.

Director Bennest said that we need to know what constitutes a water shortage. Mistakes and oversights have led to problems in water short areas like Summerland.

Mr. Siddon commented that we cannot increase water usage until we exceed the total water available.

Mr. Pike noted that it is difficult to determine exactly how much water is used compared to water licensed. There is no licensing of groundwater use and we continue to mine aquifers.

He also commented that suppliers report to the Ministry of Finance rather than the Ministry of Environment.

Director Novakowski asked how accurate knowledge is of baseline supply and demand.

Director Pike advised that the Ministry of Environment had conducted a study of water demand and supply in the 1970's and at that time hydrologists estimated the watershed to have a dependable supply. Their final recommendation was that studies would be completed every 5 – 7 years. However, sufficient funding was not available for continued studies.

Discussion regarding the use of ground water.

Director Hobson stated that increased reliance on groundwater by purveyors lessened the ability to deal with drought. The mission of water purveyors is to meet demand but good planning to make best use of water is up to local government.

Director Bennest said that our lack of knowledge of groundwater is leading to a variety of unknowns for the future supplies and quality. We need to worry about drought years and not average years when the supply is adequate.

Mr. Armour stated that the recharge area in many cases was unknown and that it would be difficult to remediate an aquifer.

Mr. Stamhuis added that the Stewardship Council would have to deal with what is going to happen, what needs to be done, and ways to cope.

Director Reid said that he hoped coordination of existing research and information would be part of the task.

**Moved by** Director Novakowski

**Seconded by** Director Perrie

***"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on March 23, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Woodhaven Boardroom be received for information."***

***CARRIED.***

### **5.3 Appointments to Stewardship Council – Revised List**

**Moved by** Director Bennest

**Seconded by** Director Hobson

***"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Denise Neilsen as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by Agriculture Canada."***

**CARRIED.**

#### **5.4 Hiring of Water Management Coordinator – Interviews of Four Leading Candidates**

One of the applicants is unable to attend interviews scheduled for April 06, 2006. The interview committee would discuss rescheduling the interview.

#### **5.5 Changes to Supplementary Letters Patent – Information to be presented at meeting.**

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had not received a response from Ministry of Community Services regarding the amendment of Supplementary Letters Patent therefore the three new directors would be attending this meeting as observers.

#### **5.6 Appointment of Dr. Peter Dill to Water Stewardship Council Replacing Mr. Bob Whitehead.**

**Moved by** Director Hobson

**Seconded by** Director Reid

*"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the removal of Bob Whitehead designated by the Kelowna Water Task Force from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and endorses Peter Dill as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by the Friends of Mission Creek."*

**CARRIED.**

#### **5.7 Information from Delaware River Basin Water Resources Plan**

The Board received and discussed information from Delaware River Basin Water Resources Plan which included Guiding Principles. Mr. Armour noted that the website was useful and self-explanatory.

#### **5.8 Revised Version of Projects from the Stewardship Council**

Discussed in Item 5.2.

#### **5.9 Leadership Council**

Mr. Pike informed the Board that there is a Water Act leadership Council formed under the Drinking Water Protection Act. It is composed of eight Health representatives and representation from the Province. The goal is to promote uniform application of the policies of the Act. Without guidance the Drinking Water Officers are unable to be consistent. He said that this may be a good group to approach and noted that there is provision for formation of an advisory commission.

#### **5.10 Comment on Stewardship Council**

Discussed in Item 5.3.

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **6.1 Mr. Glen Brown, Ministry of Community Services – Clarification of One Hectare Policy for Infrastructure Grants**

The Board received information forwarded by Glen Brown, Acting Director of Engineering Division, Ministry of Community Services on the policy regarding lots less than 1.0 ha serviced by a holding tank. Mr. Armour had contacted the Ministry of Community Services and was advised that the policy was still in place and grants for infrastructure may be affected by the creation of lots less than 1.0 ha not serviced by a community sewer system.

**Moved by** Director Reid

**Seconded by** Director Hobson

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board amend its Sewage Grant Policy to read “That the Okanagan Basin Water Board not participate in funding of sewage infrastructure in communities that create development, as of January 1, 2000, on lots of less than 1.0 hectare not serviced by a community sewage treatment system.”***

**CARRIED.**

Director Cochrane exited the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

#### **7. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Community sewer requirement dealt with under 6.1.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 02, 2006 at 10:00 to be held at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Director Perrie

***“There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.”***

**CARRIED.**

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**CHAIR**

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**Program Manager**