

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 07, 2006 AT THE RAMADA LODGE HOTEL, 2170 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna, BC AT 12:00 NOON.

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of Water Flagship Group, Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Bob Hrasko, Director, Water Supply Association
Valerie Cameron, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment
~~Paul Klueckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada (absent)~~
Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance
~~Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan (absent)~~
~~Marty Willfong, Development Services, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)~~
David Arsenaault, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator, Okanagan-Similkameen
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment (absent)~~
Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan
Dr. Jeff Curtis, UBC Okanagan
Dr. Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, North Okanagan Interior Health
Gord Shandler, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council
~~Dr. Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Ground Water Association (absent)~~
~~Dave Casorso, BC Cattleman's Association (absent)~~
Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute
Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College (replacing Tom Roemer)
~~Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society (absent)~~
Rick McKelvey, Member at Large
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
~~Ken Arcuri, Planning Services, Regional District Central Okanagan (absent)~~
Leah Hartley, Planner, Regional District of Central Okanagan
~~Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City/Kelowna Water Conservation Program (absent)~~
Stu Wells, Community Futures
Dr. Peter Dill, Director, Friends of Mission Creek
~~Dr. Denise Neilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture Canada (absent)~~
Tricia Brett, Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee

STAFF:

Greg Armour, Project Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Water Stewardship Project Director
Debbie Taylor, Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT: Peter Waterman, Councillor of Summerland

Deana Machin, representing the Okanagan Nation Alliance gave a presentation regarding First Nations history, perspectives and fisheries during lunch.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Brian Guy

"That the agenda of the September 07, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No late items were introduced.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Item 5.1 would be amended to read **"Sale of Reservoir Lots Proposed by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands"**.

Item 6.1 motion would be amended to read:

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by Gord Shandler

"That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council adopted on the interim the draft Principles received at the June 22, 2006 meeting."

CARRIED.

Moved by Valerie Cameron

Seconded by David Arsenault

"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on June 22, 2006 at the Gray Monk Winery, Okanagan Centre be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Matters arising from Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting of August 29, 2006

5.1.1 Greater Vernon Water Conservation Committee

Appointment of Tricia Brett to replace Mary Bowcock

Chair Siddon introduced new representative Tricia Brett representing the Greater Vernon Water Conservation Committee. Mary Bowcock had resigned.

5.1.2 Website Funding Approval and Progress

5.1.2.1 The OBWB approved \$16,000 to establish an Okanagan Community of Interest on the waterbucket.ca website

Staff met with representatives of the Waterbucket Website along with the NORD Computer Systems Manager on July 12, 2006. The website would cost \$16,000 covering the initial design, template development and site customization. Environment Canada and NRCan would be contributing an additional \$10,000 to adapt the Okanagan Waterscape poster and integrate it with the website. Mr. Armour confirmed that Waterbucket staff have indicated that there would be no annual administrative fee as this cost would be covered by sponsors of the website.

Website content would be supplied from a variety of sources. There is information on Okanagan water issues that can be relocated from other parts of the Waterbucket website. Individual Water Stewardship members are strongly encouraged to submit reports and news items, which will be edited and posted by OBWB Staff.

5.1.2.2 Ingenius Web Designs of Vernon has been retained to develop a stand-alone OBWB website which will link to the waterbucket.ca site

The stand-alone OBWB website would be distinct from the NORD site. The website would be set up for a cost of \$2500 and be maintained by Staff. Staff is currently developing content for the site.

5.1.3 Proposed Sale of Leased Lots

5.1.3.1 The OWSC letter opposing the sale of reservoir lots was received by the Water Board and will be included as expert support for correspondence

with Minister Bell and copied to all Provincial Ministers

5.1.4 Facilitated Workshop Update

Chair Siddon informed the Water Stewardship Council that recent subcommittee meetings had been productive and that scheduling a facilitated meeting on September 22, 2006 would be unnecessary.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE GROUPS

6.1 Terms of Reference

6.1.1 The OBWB gave conditional approval of the Terms of Reference for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council at its meeting held August 29, 2006, subject to OWSC review

6.1.1.1 Terms of Reference, Community Charter, OBWB Objectives and Purpose

Comments from the Water Stewardship Council included simplifying the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement.

Dr. Sears noted that the Principles would be incorporated into the Terms of Reference pending development of a final draft.

Ms. Hartley exited the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Attention was drawn to the communication protocol in the Terms of Reference, as follows:

- a. the Council would provide recommendations directly to the OBWB;
- b. the Chair or Vice Chair of the Council and Council staff would speak on the Council's behalf;
- c. the OBWB would retain the option to designate another member of the Council to act as spokesperson on a particular issue;
- d. individual Council members would not communicate with the public or media on behalf of the Council, except as stated, above; and

- e. individuals may speak for themselves or their organization on all issues, providing it is clear that they are not speaking for the Council.

Mr. Maddock exited the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Conflict of Interest issues would be subject to regulations of the British Columbia Community Charter.

Dr. Sears requested that Members email any comments to her.

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council broke for recess at 3:05 p.m. and reconvened at 3:22 p.m.

The Council agreed that Item 6.1.3 would be addressed before Item 6.1.2.

6.1.3 Draft Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Work Plan

Dr. Sears gave a report on the Draft Work Plan for October 2006 – 2007. Discussion ensued regarding length and frequency of meetings along with the priority of the potential discussion topics.

She added that though the Council included some of the most active and involved individuals in the Basin, each Member may be unfamiliar with one or more issue areas. By systematically discussing the breadth of Okanagan water issues, the Council would be prepared to produce informed and nuanced technical and policy recommendations for action by the OBWB and community.

Potential priority discussion topics outlined in the report were:

1. Overview of Water Governance
2. First Nations
3. Source Protection
4. Drought Management Planning
5. Water Quality
6. Agricultural Irrigation
7. Water Economics
8. Environment, Fisheries and Wildlife
9. Water and Land Use Planning
10. Water Conservation Program, Education, and Outreach
11. Communication Strategy

The OBWB at their August 29, 2006 meeting approved the Water Stewardship Council spending up to \$10,000 for experts to attend Council meetings and \$15,000 for Consultants to work on a Sustainable Water Strategy.

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Ted van der Gulik

“That Staff have authority to allocate funds not to exceed \$3,000 per event towards Honorariums and Consultants.”

CARRIED.

Valerie Cameron proposed that the Council move forward with the workplan as suggested by staff, and evaluate the program as it went along.

Members of the Council agreed that the topic for the pilot session at the October meeting would be Overview of Water Governance.

Mr. Arsenault exited the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

6.1.2 Sustainable Water Strategy

Bob Hrasko presented the Sustainable Water Strategy subcommittee report.

All Members were invited to volunteer for the various sustainable water strategy subcommittees.

Subcommittees will notify the Council of meetings scheduled in order that Members may attend.

Action Item: Staff to forward list of subcommittees to Council Members.

Valerie Cameron exited the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Discussion ensued regarding frequency and length of meetings. The Council agreed that meeting length would be reviewed by Staff based on the meeting schedule.

Vice Chair van der Gulik noted that funding from the Federal Geo Connections Program could possibly assist the Water Stewardship Council. Representatives of the Program would be in the area next week.

Action Item: Staff to research possible funding from the Federal Geo Connections Program.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Stu Wells

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager