

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 14 AT UBC-OKANAGAN IN KELOWNA, BC.

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon, Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College
Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko, Director, Water Supply Association
~~Dr. Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association~~
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment~~
~~Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance~~
Dr. Denise Neilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture Canada
~~Doug Geller, BC Ground Water Association~~
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
~~Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute~~
Gord Shandler, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council
Jillian Tamblyn, Environmental Coordinator, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Ken Arcuri, Planning Services, Regional District of Central Okanagan
Ken Cunningham, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment
~~Lee Hesketh, BC Cattlemen's Association~~
~~Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society~~
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, Interior Health Authority
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City of Kelowna Water Conservation Program

Gevan Mattu, Manager, Water Management and Indicators Section, Environment Canada
attending for Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada

Dr. Peter Dill, Director, Friends of Mission Creek
Rick McKelvey, Member at Large
~~Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District of North Okanagan~~
Stu Wells, Community Futures
~~Tricia Brett, Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee~~

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director, OBWB
Greg Armour, Program Manager, OBWB
Genevieve Doyle, Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen, Administration & Communications, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Toby Pike, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Lorraine Bennest, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Judie Steeves, Kelowna Capital News
Carolyn Stewart, City of Penticton
Don Degen, City of Kelowna
Pat Hickerson, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Renee Clark, Greater Vernon Services
Joanne deVries, Fresh Outlook Foundation
Kevin Dickenson, Integrated Land Management Bureau
Caryn Stroh, Integrated Land Management Bureau
Tami Kendall, Integrated Land Management Bureau

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 11:15am.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by: Bernie Bauer

Seconded by: Gord Shandler

"That the agenda for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of June 14, 2007 at UBC-Okanagan be approved as circulated"

CARRIED

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

" That the retirement of Greg Armour be introduced as item 5.0, and that a report on the effluent monitoring project be introduced as Item 6.2 "

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held May 10, 2007 at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Summerland BC (attached)

Moved by: Drew Kaiser

Seconded by: Stu Wells

"That the minutes for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of May 10, 2007 at PARC Summerland Research station be approved as circulated"

CARRIED

5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.0 Greg Armour's retirement
Effective August 31st, 2007. Mr. Greg Armour is retiring. Mr. Armour expressed his sincere gratitude to all Water Stewardship Council member for their consistent participation, and for representing the interests of this council to their respective organizations and the outside world.

5.1 Stewardship Council Membership renewals reminder

Dr. Sears stressed the importance of participation for all Council members, and commended Stu Wells, Hans Buchler and Gord Shandler for their exemplary attendance records. The Meeting schedule will be revised next year, possibly reducing the number of meetings to 8 (eight). The Council will take a summer recess in July and August 2007.

Chair Siddon encouraged Council members to review their current level of participation and to forward suggestions for improvements or changes to the Council to Dr. Sears. Chair Siddon asked Council members to consider whether the Council should act as a reactive month-to-month pressure group, or as an active group that brings forward ideas to government for long-range planning.

5.2 Presentations and Discussion on Coordinated Water Conservation

5.2.1 Doug Bennett, Conservation Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Doug Bennett, Conservation Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority presented a Powerpoint presentation and participated via conference call from his office in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- [Doug Bennett - Presentation Notes](#)
- [Doug Bennett - PowerPoint Presentation](#)

LUNCH

The meeting adjourned for lunch from 12:30pm to 1:15pm.

5.2.2 Panel Presentation: *Coordinated Water Conservation in the Okanagan.*

5.2.2.1 Don Degen, Water and Drainage Manager, Kelowna

Don Degen delivered a presentation on the City of Kelowna water utility's sustainability and conservation efforts. Kelowna is an irrigation oasis, and residents have a love affair with turf grass. The Utility mostly serves residential customers, and during peak demand periods (June through September), **domestic irrigation** is the primary demand.

Increasing block rate structure is used, and the Utility is exploring how behaviours change relative to the pricing of water. A reduction of 20% has been achieved since 1998, and the **goal is a further 15% reduction by 2012.**

The Kelowna Joint Water Committee meets twice a month. All 5 managers get together to discuss conservation, among other topics. A **joint marketing effort** with shared advertising, radio spots, media attention within the municipality of Kelowna. **Water metering** has been used effectively as a tool, especially in southeast Kelowna with SEKID.

- [Don Degen - PowerPoint Presentation](#)

5.2.2.2 Carolyn Stewart, Water Conservation Program Coordinator, Penticton

Carolyn Stewart, Water Conservation Coordinator for the City of Penticton, spoke to the Council about conservation efforts in Penticton. Penticton residents have been **metered for decades**, rates are increasing at base rate and the volume rate is going up 22%. The City wishes to **increase the value of water** in Penticton, and ensure everyone understands that **conservation doesn't mean going without, it means to use water wisely.**

- [Carolyn Stewart – Presentation Notes](#)

5.2.2.3 Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist, Greater Vernon Services

Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist for Greater Vernon Services explained that her role is three-fold: Water quality, source protection and coordinator for water stewardship committee.

Amalgamation of three utilities in Vernon happened under Greater Vernon Water Utility, and this brought licensing under one roof under the Regional District.

Education is delivered through the GVS Water Stewardship Committee, a volunteer group with individuals from the community. The Committee discusses how to educate the public, and presents strategies for conservation. Pamphlets, school programs, a water balance model, conservation tips for indoor/outdoor use and watering restrictions are employed.

- [Renee Clark – Presentation Notes](#)

5.2.3 Panel Discussion – *Coordinated Water Conservation in the Okanagan*

Don Degen stated that there is an appetite for a common approach up and down the valley, and that this Council should develop a Charter for each community to endorse. Renee Clark pointed out that successful conservation leads to a drop in revenue for utilities. Although Penticton's low-flow toilet program has been successful, Carolyn Stewart said that the rebate program is excessively labour-intensive and more than 25% of applications to the program are incomplete. Ken Cunningham pointed out that better coordination throughout the valley requires identification of any barriers to a common approach. Drew Kaiser identified outdoor irrigation use as the most consumptive use of water, adding that topsoil conservation is also of great importance, especially for hillside development. Toby Pike outlined the need for robust supply information prior to forming a baseline for conservation efforts. Dr. Peter Dill reminded the Council that successful water conservation should not serve simply to enable further development.

- [Panel Discussion Notes](#)

5.3 Presentation and Discussion on Reservoir Lease Lots: Kevin Dickenson and Caryn Stroh, ILMB

Kevin Dickenson, Caryn Stroh and Tami Kendall from the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) made a presentation to the Council on the Okanagan Reservoir Lakes project (ORL).

Mr. Dickenson explained that the ILMB is considering the sale of reservoir lease lots, or the renewal of 15-year leases, because the leaseholders have asked for the same consideration as other leaseholders in the province i.e. to be given an opportunity to purchase their leases. The designation of a Land Act Reserve is the only instrument that will prevent "Crown Land Alienation" under the Land Act.

The ILMB has engaged the services of Summit Environmental to assess the lots' septic disposal capacity and to provide recommendations around implementable and enforceable mechanisms to address potential environmental impact from the occupancy of the lots. There are currently 143 lease lots on 16 reservoir lakes.

When asked how the terms of the leases are enforced, Mr. Dickenson explained that the ILMB responds on a complaint-only basis, with one officer designated to monitor lessees' contract compliance.

- [ILMB PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Moved by: Bernie Bauer

Seconded by: Gord Shandler

"That the OWSC send a memo to the OBWB, recommending the creation of Land Act Reserves on Okanagan Reservoir Lakes with no exceptions to existing leases, and that the OBWB reaffirm its previous position on the non-sale of reservoir lots".

CARRIED

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will draft a memo to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The OBWB's official letter will also be forwarded to all MLAs, MPs and local governments of the Okanagan Basin.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF and/or COMMITTEE GROUPS

6.1 Matters arising from June 5, 2007 OBWB Meeting

Dr. Sears provided a summary of the June 5th Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting.

6.2 Report on endocrine disruptor sub-committee

Sub-committee Chair Mike Adams reported that a recent teleconference of sub-committee members was successful and highlighted the opportunity for collaborative potential. Concerns were expressed that the term "endocrine disruptor" may be misleading or worrisome to the public, and that the term "trace contaminant" may be preferable. Funding from the Okanagan Basin Water Board may be sought to leverage funding from other agencies. A strategic sampling study is being considered, and the sub-committee will determine what sampling studies have been conducted to date.

6.3 Hydrometric Monitoring – Future of Water Quantity in the Basin Workshop at invitation of Fern Schultz – June 28.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Water Stewardship Council, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board have been invited to attend a workshop on the – Future of Water Quantity in the Basin on June 28, 2007. Chair Siddon will attend, and Drew Kaiser will replace Vice-Chair Ted van der Gulik at the workshop.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

8. NEXT MEETING

8.2 July and August: Summer recess for Water Stewardship Council.

8.3 September 13th: Groundwater was a suggested topic.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Gord Shandler

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Executive Director