

# ***Okanagan Water Stewardship Council***

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2007 AT THE EECO CENTRE IN KELOWNA, BC.**

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### **PRESENT:**

Chair Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
<del>Dr. Allison MacMillan</del>	<del>Okanagan College</del>
Dr. Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
<del>Bryn White</del>	<del>SOSCP</del>
Dr. Denise Neilsen	Agriculture Canada
<del>Doug Geller</del>	<del>BC Ground Water Association</del>
<del>Drew Kaiser</del>	<del>CORD Environmental Advisory Committee</del>
Gord Shandler	BC Fruit Growers Association
Grant Maddock	Urban Development Institute
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Hillary Hettinga	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Howie Wright,	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional Dist of Okanagan Similkameen
Ken Cunningham	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship
<del>Kendall Woo</del>	<del>Environment Canada – Pacific &amp; Yukon Region</del>
Dan Miller	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Kerry Rouck	Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen's Association
Lorne Davies	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Mike Adams	Interior Health Authority
Dr. Peter Dill	Friends of Mission Creek
<del>Rob Smailes</del>	<del>Regional District of North Okanagan</del>
Tricia Brett	Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee
Stu Wells	Community Futures

### **STAFF:**

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB
Monique Stone	Admin. & Communication, OBWB

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Toby Pike	Water Supply Association
Kellie Bunting	Technical Writer on contract, OBWB
John Wagner	UBC-O Asst Professor, Cultural Anthropology
Rob Hawes	SOSCP
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:05pm

**2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Chair Siddon introduced all members and guests.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Bernie Bauer

**Seconded by** Bob Hrasko

- Introduction of item 8.2.3 request from Ted van der Gulik for additional funding for expansion of Agricultural Water Demand Model
- Introduction of item 9.1.1 regarding Water Stewardship Council meeting dates

***"That the agenda of the December 13th, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended".***

***CARRIED.***

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by** Denise Neilson

**Seconded by** Stu Wells

- Mr. Bauer noted that Item 5, Reports from Staff, the word colleges in the last sentence should be replaced with "post-secondary institutions".
- Dr. Guy noted that there is an error in Item 4, Adoption of Minutes, he is not the Chair of the CWRA Conference Planning Committee. He is the Co-Chair of the Finance Committee.

***"That the minutes of the November 8th, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended".***

***CARRIED.***

**5. OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD - REPORTS FROM STAFF**

**5.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BOARD REPORT**

Dr. Sears explained to the council members and guests that the most significant item the Board is discussing currently is regional governance. Water is a key issue in this decision along with air quality and transportation and we will be strongly affected by it in regards to how water issues are managed. She encouraged everyone to become informed of it and she will continue to tell the council when meetings regarding it occur. She further explained that she is currently preparing a report for the Regional Governance Committee which will emphasize the importance of maintaining a technical advisory council.

Dr. Dill inquired whether the OBWB had a representative on the committee.

Dr. Sears replied that there are five board members from the OBWB on the committee. She further explained that the committee structure has a representative from a larger

municipality, a small municipality, a rural area director from each regional district and representatives from Kelowna, Penticton and Vernon. (twelve member committee). Committee members have been chosen specifically due to their experience with valley wide governance.

### **5.1.1 Water Conservation and Quality Initiative Grant Program**

Ms. Dunbar reported to the council that she provided a nine page memo to the Board regarding a summary of the grant program and she will make it available to the council members as well. She explained that she is now accepting applications for 2008 and that included in the application is a guide to assist in the application process.

Ms. Dunbar continued to say that she expects to have an increase in applications and although she has received one application to date, the majority will come very soon in the New Year. She further stated that the total number of grant recipients for 2007 is seventeen and thirteen for 2006. Many of the projects for 2007 are in the final stages of completion and will carry into the next fiscal year.

### **5.2 Greater Vernon Chamber – Water Conservation Policy**

Mr. Jatel reported that he and Dr. Sears had the opportunity to speak at the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce this month regarding water conservation. He explained that we are seeing the business community take a leadership role in water conservation. Members of the Vernon business community are supporting and participating in water wise landscaping as innovative leaders in the Okanagan Valley.

### **5.3 Water Conservation Professional Workshop**

Mr. Jatel reported that the Water Conservation Professional Workshop organized by OBWB staff was a success. The workshop was developed in conjunction with the Sustainable Cities Conference hosted by the Fresh Outlook Foundation. Thirty-two people participated. The workshop's morning key note speaker was Mr. Doug Bennett from the Nevada Water Authority who related water conservation efforts and successes in Nevada. During the strategic afternoon session, Okanagan water conservation professionals had the opportunity to share stories, exchange ideas about programs and identify common areas of interest to further collaborate and discuss. The two objectives that were met at the workshop included: increasing communications between Okanagan water conservation professionals; and identifying interest to have the OBWB provide additional meeting opportunities bringing Okanagan water professionals together. The afternoon session was facilitated by Joanne de Vries who will be preparing a full report incorporating the input from participants and the afternoon strategic session and should be completed later this week. There was strong support to have the OBWB provide for further meeting opportunities (possibly 2 per year).

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

### **6.1 Organizational Behavior – Okanagan Water Management**

Dr. John Wagner, Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology  
Community, Culture and Global Studies, UBC – Okanagan

The Okanagan Valley has undergone significant changes in water management over the past century. The predominantly rural and agricultural nature of regional "frontier" growth and development strongly influenced the early years of water resource

management, and may hold a key to current and future water management practices and considerations.

Dr. Wagner's insights, informed by ongoing research of the historical Okanagan farming community and agricultural focused water purveyor culture, provides a meaningful and important perspective on water management in a unique semi-arid valley that is rapidly growing with a predominantly aging and urban population with significant and continuing land price increases. Dr. Wagner's research, focused on the microcosm of Penticton, Naramata and Summerland, provides for insight into how we may manage today's and future water resources by learning from historical and cultural events that shaped, and continue to shape, water management in the Okanagan including: First Nation legal rights to water, foreign land ownership at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, post-world war land sales, the independent, frontier nature of Okanagan farming culture, local geography, land prices and the development of local water purveyors throughout the Okanagan.

**The meeting broke for a coffee break at 3:20pm and resumed at 3:30pm**

## **7. WORKING GROUPS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### **7.1 Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy**

#### **7.1.1 Water Quantity**

#### **7.1.2 Drought Management**

Stewardship Council members, staff and guests had an opportunity to explore and provide input on the identified chapter topics.

## **8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Discussion of Notes from Previous Meeting**

#### **8.1.1 Endocrine Disruptor Project – UBC Okanagan/Interior Health**

Mr. Jatel met with Dr. Curtis. A graduate student is anticipated to be hired for a summer sampling session. Preliminary results may be presented at the 2008 CWRA/OBWB workshop in October, 2008.

#### **8.1.2 Groundwater Policy Recommendations to OBWB –Update**

Mr. Jatel reported that the Groundwater Policy recommendations were well received by the Okanagan Basin Water Board at the last meeting December 4, 2007. The first two recommendations (Harmonization of Regional District and municipal groundwater bylaws and Increasing our Knowledge of Okanagan Groundwater to sustain our Water Resource) were approved. The Board requested that staff develop a toolkit that contains model bylaws and that a work plan is developed to implement mapping, systematic tracking and development of a water data base repository. The third policy recommendation, Integrated Water Management--Support for Provincial Groundwater Legislation, was referred back to staff to flesh out how this could be implemented. The referenced pilot program in the Provincial groundwater legislation policy

garnered support, additional information on what such a pilot would look like was requested prior to the policy be put to question at the Board.

## **8.2 NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.2.1 World Water Week: March 25 – 27 – Dr. John Wagner, UBC-O**

Mr. Jatel informed the council members and staff that Wynona LaDuke will be a key note speaker at the World Water Week workshops. She is a great speaker and very active in environmental issues. The OBWB has been asked to work with UBC-O in organizing events during World Water Week. Among other activities, a panel of experts will discuss water issues on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Kelowna (location to be determined).

### **8.2.2 Riparian Enforcement – Okanagan Lake**

Mr. Siddon explained that in 2006 we had a briefing on legal tools in provincial legislation concerning water management. Included in this is riparian legislation which encourages regional governments to adopt.

He further explained that he witnessed a developer drive fill material to a building site on crown land extremely close to the water's edge. When he called local government to report this he was told they no ability to enforce the bylaws. The reason for this is that the developer did not apply for a permit.

Mr. Siddon told the council that there are various developments occurring along the lakeshores and under the new provincial policies no applications are being opposed. An objection can be filed without any response. If we do nothing we will lose our riparian lands.

Mr. Siddon suggested that the council have a session on riparian issues in the New Year and have officials attend our meeting to explain what course of action they are going to take towards enforcement.

Dr. Dill explained that there is so much development on the lakes and we need to change the attitudes of the province and the general population in regards to these issues.

Dr. Siddon stated that enforcement is a key science. Management plans are not going to work without enforcement and it is just not present.

### **8.2.3 Funding for Expansion of Agricultural Water Demand Model**

Dr. Sears explained that she invited Mr. van der Gulik to bring this issue to the council's attention for the Board's approval. It is a project that coincides with the Water Supply and Demand Study. She and Mr. van der Gulik are specifically looking for direction from the Water Stewardship Council to approach the Board for additional funding.

Mr. van der Gulik explained he is requesting the additional funding to hire a student to improve the database of the Agricultural Water Demand Model.

**Moved by** Grant Maddock

**Seconded by** Bob Hrasko

***"That the Water Stewardship Council approve funding to hire a GIS co-op student to work for four months to expand the platform for the agricultural water demand model to include outdoor water demand in non-agricultural areas".***

**CARRIED.**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

**9.1 Thursday, January 10, 2008 (Eeco Centre, Kelowna, BC)**

**9.1.1 Water Stewardship Council Meeting Dates**

Mr. Jatel asked the council if there is a preference for the time and dates of our monthly council meetings as there have been requests to start earlier and change the location to suit members living in the south end of the Valley. One suggestion is that we keep this location but begin at 10:00am and end at 3:00pm.

Mr. Siddon replied that it is more convenient to begin at 12:30pm as it only takes up part of a day and doesn't consume the whole day.

Dr. Sears explained that at one point we had the meetings begin at 10:00am and the attendance was not good.

that The Water Stewardship Council agreed by consensus that the Council meetings will kept at the same time, 12:30pm to 5:00pm, and meetings may be scheduled in other locations in the Okanagan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Howie Wright                      **Seconded by** Kerry Rouck

***"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50pm".***

**CARRIED.**

**Certified Correct:**

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**Chair**

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**Program Manager**