



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP
COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 13, 2008 AT QUAIL'S GATE ESTATE
WINERY, WESTBANK, 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	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
Bryn White	SOSCP
Dr. Denise Neilsen	Agriculture Canada
Doug Geller	BC Ground Water Association
Drew Kaiser	CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
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
Kendall Woo	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Dan Millar	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
Rob Smailes	Regional District of North Okanagan
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
Monique Stone	Admin. & Communication, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kellie Bunting	Insight Environmental Solutions Ltd.
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News
Lorraine Bennest	District of Summerland
Clint Alexander	ESSA Technologies
Jay Khene	N. Central Washington Resource Cons. & Dev.
John Slater	Okanagan Basin Water Board

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

2. **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

All members and guest introduced themselves.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Addition of item 9.3 Reservoir Lease Lots

Moved by Jillian Tamblyn

Seconded by Ken Cunningham

“That the agenda for the March 14, 2008 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held February 14, 2008 at the EECO Center, Kelowna, BC

Moved by Ted van der Gulik

Seconded by Mike Adams

“That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of February 14, 2008 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

5. **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Dr. Sears informed the council on the status of the small grants program. The applications have all been reviewed and it is expected that successful applicants will be notified in April.

She also reported that she and Mr. Jatel were invited to attend the Conservative Caucus meeting in North Vancouver February 21 to present on the Okanagan Basin Water Board. They provided a presentation on important water issues in the Okanagan. We specifically requested for the Okanagan to become part of Canada’s National Water Strategy. The presentation was well received. BC MPS in attendance were very supportive and indicated that they want to be part of the long term solution. We spoke of specific projects including on-going support for the Water Supply and Demand Study. Minister Day voiced strong support for water management support for the semi-arid Okanagan and recommended that the

OBWB staff submit a briefing note outlining projects that are important for water management and sustainability in the Okanagan. A briefing note recommending strategic water initiatives has been developed and submitted to Okanagan MPs.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 **Jay Khene – North Central Washington Resource Conservation & Development – facilitating and building linkages and support services.**

Mr. Khene, Coordinator for the North Central Washington-Resource Conservation & Development (NCW-RC&D), explained to the council that he would like to identify opportunities to collaborate between our respective organizations. An exciting opportunity has been identified whereby NCW_RC&D and the OBWB may want to explore the joint apply application for a NASA project involving advanced computing and terrestrial mapping – that may entail Advanced Streamflow Forecasting. NASA has a mandate to use their tools and technology for a variety of terrestrial applications and there is an opportunity for the OBWB to collaborate with NCW-RC&D on an application for research funding.

NASA researchers have a research mandate to apply developed technology on applied “earth bound” projects. One example of project development is the utilization of modeling tools to forecast daily streamflows that consider the uncertainty in future meteorological conditions, to utilize current and evolving real-time and spatial data products, climate change and the need for both short and seasonal forecasts with regard to flooding, hydropower, agriculture and resource management.

6.2 **Clint Alexander – Climate Change Modeling in the Okanagan Basin**

Mr. Alexander gave a presentation on the implications of climate change on the Okanagan Basin water supply. The modeling software presented was developed by Dr. Kim Hyatt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Dr. Stacy Langsdale and Margot Stockwell. Using computer modeling supports better water management for a variety of (and sometimes competing) interests. One focal question addressed by the model was, what is the impact of 2050s water supply and demand on threatened Okanagan River sockeye? The supply and demand equation used:

$$Q_{w,t} = \{Q_{w,t} + G_{t} + RF_{t} + P_{t} + Tr_{t}\} - \{D_{t} + E_{t}\}$$

The Okanagan is speeding towards a tipping point. We can seriously prepare now or react in panic later (but by then the problem will be intractable). The actions needed will not be “popular”; bold leadership and more awareness are required. Recommendations include: implement

more potent regulations including surface and groundwater license restrictions, enforceable demand management regulations on all new and existing water extraction activities and actively plan for water license buy-backs. Be more creative: evaluate role of water banks, water markets, etc.

The OBWB continues to develop best practices and the current research underway to improve the Okanagan water budget will be very useful in developing better models and management tools to support a sustainable Okanagan water supply.

The meeting broke for a coffee break at 2:55pm and reconvened at 3:15

7. ACTION ITEMS – PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 Groundwater Policy Recommendations

Mr. Jatel reported that the Okanagan Basin Water Board approved recommendation #3 regarding groundwater policies that states:

Whereas a thorough understanding of groundwater systems is necessary for sound water management planning; and

Whereas our knowledge of groundwater systems in the Okanagan Basin is limited because groundwater use is not licensed; and

Whereas lack of groundwater use licensing allows the unregulated capture of licensed surface water, which negates the “first in time first in right” doctrine as outlined in the B.C. Water Act; and

Whereas, except for large projects (>75 L/sec), no environmental assessment of proposed groundwater withdrawals is required in B.C., meaning that most groundwater development projects proceed without any consideration of their implications for instream flow needs, ecological values or surface water licences.

BIRT the OBWB encourages the B.C. government to license groundwater withdrawals, starting with a pilot licensing program within the Okanagan Basin.

BIRT the OBWB enters into discussions with the B.C. government to determine the scope and contents of the pilot licensing program within the Okanagan, and the most appropriate implementation and funding mechanisms for the program.

It is further recommended by the OWSC that the OBWB direct its staff to prepare a letter (to be signed by the OBWB Chair not later than

March 15, 2008) to the Minister responsible for the Water Act (the Minister of Environment), to convey these motions and to request discussions on the scope, contents, and implementation and funding mechanisms for the pilot licensing program.

8. WORKING GROUPS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy - Update

Mr. Jatel reported that modules 1, 2, 3 have been submitted to the editorial committee and module 4 is expected to be complete very soon. Module 5 will be completed by April and we are planning to have them available to this council for review at the May meeting.

9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Endocrine Disruptor Project UBC Okanagan/Interior Health

Mr. Jatel reported that the Okanagan Basin Water Board approved a \$30,000 contribution to the Endocrine Disruptor study. Additionally, Interior Health Authority has contributed \$4,000. This is the first tier of phase one of the research project. It is expected that the results will be announced at the October CWRA conference.

9.2 Groundwater Policy and Action Plan

9.2.1 Proposal for Developing a Regional Okanagan Borehole Database

This item was deferred to the next meeting April 10, 2008.

9.3 Reservoir Lakes Lease Lots

Mr. Jatel requested input from the council on how we should move forward if the sale of the lease lots occurs.

It was felt by council members that we should stay committed to our position of opposition.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council is April 10, 2008 at the EECO Centre, Kelowna, BC

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gord Shandler

Seconded by Grant Maddock

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be adjourned at 5:15pm”.

CARRIED