



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON
APRIL 10, 2008 AT THE EECO CENTRE, 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	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
Bryn White	SOSCP
Rob Hawes (alternate)	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 (alternate)	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
Anna Page	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:

James Baker	Mayor, Lake Country
Brian Given	City of Kelowna Councillor
Kellie Bunting	Insight Environmental Solutions Ltd.
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News
Lorraine Bennest	Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board
John Slater	Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Scott Schillereff	EBA Consulting
John Janmaat	Associate Professor, UBC-O

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair van der Gulik called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Vice Chair van der Gulik welcomed members and guests.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Okanagan Reservoir Lots was added as item 6.1

Item 6.1 Okanagan First Nation Governance becomes Item 6.2

Item 6.2 Groundwater Monitoring becomes Item 6.3

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Denise Nielsen

"That the agenda for the April 10, 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 March 13th, 2008 at Quail's Gate Estate Winery

Dr. Bauer pointed out he was incorrectly stated as making a motion to adopt the minutes of March 13, 2008. It should read Ted van der Gulik.

Moved by Gord Shandler

Seconded by Jillian Tamblyn

"That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held March 13, 2008 be adopted as amended".

CARRIED.

5. REPORTS FROM STAFF

1.1. OBWB – Board Report(s)

1.1.1. Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

Ms. Dunbar explained to the council that she presented the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant recommendations to the Okanagan Basin Water Board at the last board meeting April 1, 2008 and they were approved as submitted.

She further explained that there are 27 projects in total. This is an increase over 14 from 2007 due to the additional \$200,000 in funding received for 2008. In the summary provided to Council it describes the approved grants and allocation of funds for each regional district in the Okanagan.

1.1.2. UBC – Okanagan Reservoir Chair

Dr. Sears stated that she submitted a memo to the Okanagan Basin Water Board at the board meeting April 1, 2008. It explains that UBC-O received \$1.25 million in funding for the establishment of a UBC-O Chair in Reservoir Ecosystem Management through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF). To receive these funds, UBC-O must obtain a matching contribution. Dr. Sears explained that one way to accomplish this is to approach local municipalities for resolutions of support and another is that the OBWB work with the Federal Government to obtain funding.

The Council was invited to make suggestions for research questions of high importance to the local community.

Dr. Brian Guy arrived at 1:40pm

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Okanagan Reservoir Lease Lots

Lake Country Mayor James Baker and Kelowna City Councilor Brian Given spoke to the Council to provide an update regarding the sale of the Okanagan reservoir lease lots.

Councilor Given explained that he spoke with Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell about this issue and was told that Minister Bell is prepared to halt the process and speak with the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Okanagan Mayors before moving forward with the sale.

Lee Hesketh arrived at 1:50pm

6.2 Okanagan First Nation Governance

Mr. Jatel explained that an important part of the Okanagan Water Strategy is to recognize and respect Aboriginal water rights. Aboriginal title, Aboriginal rights and treaty rights have been recognized on paper through our Constitution and in legal decisions but the extent of these rights are still being defined. Many activities that are protected as Aboriginal rights are closely tied to water such as fishing, hunting, gathering, and spiritual practices. We all share this valley and the water resources contained within our watershed. The developing Sustainable Water Strategy will highlight that it is in our best interest to support an open dialogue with the Okanagan First Nation as a senior partner and action water management and conservation practices that are of benefit to all concerned.

6.3 Groundwater Proposal – Scott Schillereff, EBA Consulting

Scott Schillereff of EBA Consulting gave the Council a presentation on a regional Okanagan subsurface database. He explained that the original concept came from the Kelowna Joint Water Committee who are interested in knowing the location, nature, and use of wells or boreholes intersecting aquifers in the Okanagan for better understanding and management of groundwater resources.

The proposed concept of is to capture records of all pertinent wells or boreholes in a regional Okanagan subsurface database., tie reporting to the development permit process, use electronic reporting/database entry and possibly link with existing MoE online well database.

Mr. Schillereff explained there are four phases to this project:

Phase 1 – Concept Development and Endorsement (2008) = consult local governments, define database, scope IT process, define ownership, go/no-go milestone

Phase 2 – Database Construction = construct database/GIS, establish web-based systems & processes; database manager and web location in place

Phase 3 – Pilot Test in Central Okanagan = year-long pilot phase in Kelowna area; road test process; explore linkages with other databases; interpretive layers

Phase 4 – Implement in Entire Okanagan = roll-out to northern and southern Okanagan; ROSD coupled with other databases with public access

Moved by Dr. Brian Guy

Seconded by Dr. Bernie Bauer

“That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council supports the concept of the Database Project and directs staff to develop a work plan and opportunities for funding”.

CARRIED

7. WORKING GROUPS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1 Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy Update – Bob Hrasko

Mr. Hrasko told the Council that the Sustainable Water Strategy is progressing very well. May 15, 2008 the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be meeting for a full to receive Council members' input and ideas.

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 **Thursday, May 15th 9:00am – 5:00pm** at the Rotary Centre for the Arts (Kelowna)
Special workshop meeting: Review of draft Okanagan Sustainability Water Strategy

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Lee Hesketh

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of April 10, 2008 be adjourned”.

CARRIED