



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD  
FEBRUARY 3, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN 1450 KLO  
ROAD, KELOWNA, BC**

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**PRESENT:**

Chair Brian Given	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
<del>Director Gordon Clark</del>	<del>Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen</del>
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Gyula Kiss	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
<del>Director Tim Manuel</del>	<del>Okanagan Nation Alliance</del>
Alternate Director Ted van der Gulik	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**STAFF:**

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator, OBWB
Kellie Garcia	Research and Communications Coordinator, OBWB

**OTHERS:**

Keith Lewis	Okanagan Indian Band
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Dr. Warwick Sears, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

**2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE OBWB**

**Regional District of North Okanagan**

Director Rick Fairbairn  
Director Buffy Baumbrough  
Director Gyula Kiss  
Alternates – Doug Dirk, Mary-Jo O’Keefe, Mike Gavinchuk

**Regional District of Central Okanagan**

Director Doug Findlater  
Director Brian Given  
Director James Baker

Alternates – Kelly Hayes, Jim Edgson, Keith Fielding

**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen**

Director Stu Wells

Director Michael Brydon

Director Gordon Clark

Alternates – Dan Ashton, Bill Schwarz, Mark Pendergraft

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

3.1 Elections are by nomination and acclimation or anonymous ballot

Director Baker nominated Director Given for Chair, seconded by Director Pike.

Director Siddon nominated Director Wells for Chair, seconded by Director Brydon.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Chair were closed.

An anonymous ballot was held.

Director Given was declared Chair.

**Moved by Director Kiss**

**Seconded by Director Siddon**

***“That the ballots of the election of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be destroyed.”***

**CARRIED**

Director Siddon nominated Director Wells for Vice Chair, seconded by Director Baker.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Vice Chair were closed.

There being no other nominations, Director Wells was declared Vice Chair by acclimation.

Dr. Warwick Sears turned the meeting over to Chair Given.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

National Water Supply Expansion Program Funding Agreement Resolution of Support added as Item 9.1.1

**Moved by Director Fairbairn**

**Seconded by Director Baumbrough**

***“That the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3, 2009 be approved as amended”.***

**CARRIED**

5. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

National Water Supply Expansion Program Funding Agreement Resolution of Support - Item 9.1.1

6. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

6.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 4, 2008 at the Regional District Of Central Okanagan

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

*"That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated".*

**CARRIED**

7. **DELEGATIONS**

No Delegations

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

8.1 Executive Director Reports and Presentation

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an overview of the form and function of the OBWB and the three main programs conducted by the OBWB: the sewerage grant program, the watermilfoil program, and the water management program. She told the board about the benefits of sharing resources between the three regional districts.

8.1.1 OBWB Strategic Vision, Structure and Function

Dr. Warwick Sears told the board that the Strategic Vision was developed in 2007, but is reflective of the original letters patent. A strategic planning session will be held with this board in June 2009.

Dr. Warwick Sears presented Goals and Objectives to guide the work of the OBWB in 2009. As directors learn more about the projects and programs of the OBWB they can delve further into the goals and objectives and make changes if deemed necessary.

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the 2009 budget to the board. The budget was approved and adopted by the board in November 2008.

8.1.2 Executive Director's Report

Dr. Warwick Sears provided a staffing and accommodations update to the board. OBWB staff are now located at the Regional District Central Okanagan offices on KLO Road in Kelowna, and discussed staff turn-over and changes in responsibility.

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an update on the Eurasian watermilfoil program. Rototilling operations are underway along Vernon and Kelowna shorelines. Lake ice, snow, and frozen hydraulics have delayed rototilling operations on Osoyoos Lake; this work will be completed

later in the season. OBWB staff, at the request of the Ministry of Environment, is preparing a Eurasian watermilfoil management plan detailing operations and providing rationale for different practices.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the board that the Master Wastewater Management Plan is being finalized by the consultants. The plan will outline the current status of sewerage facilities in the Basin and is intended to give the OBWB a perspective on the future of the sewerage grant program.

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the Water Supply & Demand project. The project is on schedule and is due for completion in December 2009. A more in-depth presentation on the project will be provided at the March 3 board meeting. The project has recently received notice of a successful grant award from Agriculture Canada of \$140,000, with potentially more to come.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Fairbairn**

***“That the Executive Director’s Report memorandum from Dr. Warwick Sears dated January 28, 2009 be received”.***

**CARRIED**

## 8.2 Water Stewardship Director’s Report and Presentation

Mr. Jatel provided the directors with an overview of the form and function of the Water Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Water Strategy.

The directors watched the “One Watershed – One Water” video, which was prepared for the One Watershed - One Water conference held in October 2008 to provide an overview of Okanagan water management issues.

### 8.2.1 Water Stewardship Director’s Report

Mr. Jatel provided a memorandum updating the directors on Water Stewardship Council membership renewal and Council projects that are active and under development. Active projects include the Sustainable Water Strategy implementation, Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit, the endocrine disrupter research project, planning for World Water Day, and action on the reservoir lease lots issue. Projects under development include streamline water use reporting, regional water conservation strategy, groundwater management pilot, basin-wide drought planning, and First Nations capacity building.

A discussion ensued about the form and function of the OBWB and the Water Stewardship Council, including level of authority, issues the OBWB may want to deal with, the significant resource the Council provides the Board, funding of the Council, membership of the Council, and other groups the OBWB may want to partner with.

**Moved by Director Wells**

**Seconded by Director Pike**

***“That the Water Stewardship Director’s Report memorandum from Mr. Jatel dated January 28, 2009 be received”.***

**CARRIED**

Moved by Director Wells

Seconded by Director Kiss

*“That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council membership be pursued as listed in the Water Stewardship Director’s Report memorandum dated January 28, 2009”.*

**CARRIED**

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Baker

*“That an Okanagan mainstem lake source water protection strategy should be a top priority of the OBWB”.*

**CARRIED**

8.2.2 One Watershed-One Water Conference Letter to Premier

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

*“That the OBWB, as a co-chair of the One Watershed - One Water conference, send a letter to Premier Gordon Campbell to report on the outcomes of the conference”.*

**CARRIED**

8.2.3 Minutes from Water Stewardship Council meeting, January 15, 2009

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Wells

*“That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of January 15, 2009 be received”.*

**CARRIED**

8.3 Office and Grants Administrator Report and Presentation

Ms. Dunbar provided an update on the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement program. The deadline for 2009 applications is February 13 and grants will be awarded on April 7. Applications are reviewed by OBWB staff and recommendations are made to the board. The board makes the final decision on grant recipients.

Director Siddon asked Ms. Dunbar what percentage of projects involves First Nations groups and what is being done to encourage First Nations’ applications?

Ms. Dunbar replied that 15-25% of projects have First Nations involvement, but that First Nations groups cannot be an applicant to the program because they do not contribute to the tax base. First Nations are encouraged to be project partners.

Director Siddon stated that the OBWB needs to work harder to involve local First Nations groups.

Mr. Jatel stated that OBWB staff is exploring a First Nations capacity building initiative.

Chair Given asked if local bands have ever been asked to contribute to the grant program so they can receive funds.

Dr. Warwick Sears stated that the local bands have not been asked, but that it could be done. The Westbank First Nation contributes to the sewerage grants program.

Director Baker stated that it would mean a change in the letters patent of the OBWB.

#### 8.3.1 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program

**Moved by Director Kiss**

**Seconded by Director Baker**

***“That the memorandum from Ms. Dunbar regarding the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants program dated January 26, 2009 be received”.***

**CARRIED**

#### 8.4 Research and Communications Coordinator Report

##### 8.4.1 OBWB Communications Update

Ms. Garcia provided an update on the current communications tools used by the OBWB and an overview of the Communications Plan being developed for the OBWB. Ms. Garcia also informed the board about recent or upcoming presentations.

Director Fairbairn stated that communication with Regional Board is very important. The OBWB must keep the momentum going with this.

Director Pike stated his strong support for the monthly Board Report.

Director Siddon requested a generic presentation be developed and given to board members and Water Stewardship Council members for their use. Director Siddon stressed the importance of communication with youth.

**Moved by Director Wells**

**Seconded by Director Pike**

***“That the Communications Update memorandum from Ms. Garcia dated January 27, 2009 be received”.***

**CARRIED**

### 9. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 9.1 Gas Tax Funding Agreement Resolution of Support

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Baumbrough**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board enter into a funding agreement with the UBCM Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services for \$55,000 to support the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit.”***

**CARRIED**

9.1.1 National Water Supply Expansion Program Agreement Resolution of Support

Moved by Director Findlater

Seconded by Director Baker

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board hereby be authorized to enter into the Contribution Agreement with her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, for the National Water Supply Expansion Program; that Dr. Warwick Sears is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Articles of Agreement necessary to give effect to the same on behalf of the Organization, and to affix their Corporate Seal thereto”.***

**CARRIED**

9.2 Letters to SILGA on Proposed Sale of Reservoir Lots

9.2.1 OBWB letter to SILGA

OBWB staff has prepared a letter to Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) requesting a resolution calling for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to institute a permanent moratorium on the sale of leased lots on Okanagan drinking water reservoirs.

9.2.2 Local Government template letter to SILGA

OBWB staff has prepared a template letter for local governments to send to SILGA requesting a resolution calling for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to institute a permanent moratorium on the sale of leased lots on Okanagan drinking water reservoirs.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Kiss

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to SILGA requesting a resolution calling for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to institute a permanent moratorium on the sale of leased lots on Okanagan drinking water reservoirs, and furthermore that the OBWB provide local governments with a template letter to SILGA with the same request, and that the OBWB send a letter and information package to the new Minister of Agriculture and Lands.”***

**CARRIED**

9.3 BC Trails Strategy Comments

Dr. Warwick Sears explained to the board that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts (MOTCA) has recently released a “Draft Trails Strategy” for BC. Water managers were not consulted during strategy development and the strategy does contain references to potential impacts of trail construction and use on drinking water sources.

Interior Health has requested that the board send a letter to MOTCA that requests a strategy for protection of drinking water sources be prominently included in the overall BC Trails Strategy.

9.3.1 Comments from IH and water suppliers

Dr. Warwick Sears told the board that Interior Health, the Water Supply Association of BC, and the Lakeview Irrigation District have all submitted comments to MOTCA on the draft BC Trails Strategy. These comments were provided to the board.

9.3.2 OBWB letter to MOTCA

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baker

*"That the OBWB send a letter to MOTCA requesting that a strategy for protection of drinking water sources be prominently included in the overall BC Trails Strategy, and further that a letter be sent to Interior Health commending them for their action on this issue".*

**CARRIED**

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

10.1 Stan Hagen letter regarding sale of reservoir lots

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Kiss

*"That the letter from Minister Stan Hagan dated November 21, 2008, responding to the letter sent to him by the OBWB on October 1, 2008, be received".*

**CARRIED**

11. **NEXT MEETING**

11.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be March 3, 2009, at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

*"That there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 be adjourned at 2:02pm".*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
<b>Chair</b>		<b>Executive Director</b>