



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD MARCH 3, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, 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
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
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	<del>Water Supply Association of BC</del>
Director Tim Manuel	<del>Okanagan Nation Alliance</del>

**STAFF:**

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

**OTHERS:**

Alternate Director Keith Fielding	Mayor of Peachland
Alternate Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Brian Given called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Siddon

*"That the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2009 be approved as circulated".*

**CARRIED**

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

No late items.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3, 2009 at the Regional District Of Central Okanagan.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Wells

*“That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated”.*

**CARRIED**

5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No new or unfinished business.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the Board with the draft operational goals and objectives for 2009. She clarified that there would be opportunities to refine these through the year, and that the Board would be holding a strategic planning session in June to discuss broader programmatic goals.

6.1.1 OBWB Goals and Objectives

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baker

*“That the OBWB adopt the Okanagan Basin Water Board Goals and Objectives, March 3, 2009”.*

**CARRIED**

Dr. Warwick Sears updated the Board about the development of a more uniform, province-wide program for water quality advisories. She told the Board that the existing process for water advisories—based primarily on turbidity levels—has previously raised concerns about message fatigue in some service areas and the need for other risk indicators. She asked Alternate Director Hrasko to speak further on the matter.

Alternate Director Hrasko stated that the Water Supply Association of BC and other organizations have been discussing these concerns with Interior Health for 3 years. All five health authorities have gotten together with the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to develop a decision tree and supporting document that establishes a process for issuing turbidity advisories that is consistent across the province. The decision-making tool should be released in time for the spring freshet.

A discussion ensued about the involvement of the OBWB in the water quality advisory issue and on the issue of the requirement for filtration of water supplies. Dr. Warwick Sears said that OBWB involvement in the past has focused on working to help IH develop good policy regarding the process of water quality advisories, and on finding middle ground. The OBWB has been proactive: writing letters, preparing a report, and meeting with Interior Health staff.

Director Findlater suggested that it would be timely to have someone from Interior Health come to a board meeting to discuss changes to the water quality advisory process and expectations regarding filtration of Okanagan water supply.

**Moved by Director Findlater**

**Seconded by Director Baker**

***“That the OBWB invite Dr. Larder and Dr. Hasselback to come to the next OBWB meeting to discuss filtration requirements and the water quality advisory process”.***

**CARRIED**

Dr. Warwick Sears provided a brief update on the Water Supply & Demand project. She told the board about the additional grant of up to \$156,000 received on March 1 from the Canada-BC Water Supply Expansion Program to support the completion of Phase II of the Water Supply & Demand Project. Planning for transition to Phase III is underway and an application to NR Can has been submitted to undertake the bulk of this work.

Dr. Warwick Sears and Mr. Jatel attended the Fraser Basin Conference on February 19, 2009. The day before the conference they met with Environment Canada staff to discuss current and future interest in working in the Okanagan. The Okanagan Basin is considered by Environment Canada to be one of seven highest priority watersheds in Canada. At the conference Dr. Warwick Sears and Mr. Jatel met with MoE staff regarding two key topics: implementation of Living Water Smart and maintenance and expansion of the hydrometric monitoring network.

## 6.2 Water Stewardship Director’s Report and Presentation

### 6.2.1 Sustainable Water Strategy presentation

Mr. Jatel told the board that the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council is formalizing their 2009-10 workplan. The plan identifies the formation of 6 committees to work on the 45 actions identified in the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy. The committees are: source

protection, water supply & drought management, groundwater, water information management, water economics, and communication & outreach. Mr. Jatel also discussed several flagship projects to be completed by the Council, including the Water Supply & Demand project, water conservation professionals program, land use management policy, First Nation capacity building, and developing an Okanagan Water Management Plan.

Director Siddon suggested that the protection of mainstem lakes should be included as a flagship project. Issues such as land use management policy, density, and zoning should all be considered.

6.2.2 Water Stewardship Council minutes from February 12, 2009

Moved by Director Siddon

Seconded by Director Findlater

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

**CARRIED**

6.3 Office and Grants Administrator Report

Moved by Director Siddon

Seconded by Director Findlater

*"That the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants memorandum from Ms. Dunbar dated February 19, 2009 and the Update on Communications memorandum from Ms. Garcia dated February 25, 2009 be received".*

**CARRIED**

6.4 Research and Communications Coordinator Report

Chair Given suggested that the communications strategy be part of the June strategic planning session and that a screening of the video of Headwaters Lake be given at a future OBWB meeting.

**7. DELEGATIONS**

7.1 Jim Mattison, ADM, Water Stewardship Division, BC Ministry of Environment, and Wenda Mason, Project Director for the Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Project

7.1.1 Presentation on Water Supply & Demand Project

Mr. Mattison presented the goals, objectives, and scope of the Water Supply & Demand Project. He discussed the commonalities between the goals and outcomes of the OBWB, the Living Water Smart plan, and the Water Supply & Demand Project: sustainability, adaptability, efficiency, and collaboration. He spoke of the need to proactively plan for drought periods,

and told the board that the current method of allocating water licenses must be reviewed.

Dr. Warwick Sears provided more detail on the Water Supply & Demand Project including the need for the project, an overview of Phase I and II, the status and deliverables of Phase II, and activities for Phase III and beyond. Deliverables for Phase II include communication to stakeholders, more than a dozen technical reports, calibrated and verified models on water hydrology, supply and demand, and three databases. Phase III will include policy development, use and maintenance of databases and models, and updating and improving the Water Supply & Demand data and model.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be April 7, 2009, at the Regional District of North Okanagan

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Director Baumbrough**

***“That there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2009 be adjourned at 2:00pm”.***

**CARRIED**

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