



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD JULY 6, 2010, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT NORTH OKANAGAN,  
9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, COLDSTREAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Stu Wells	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 James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Bill Schwartz	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Ted van der Gulik	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Steve Bryson	Okanagan Nation Alliance (Osoyoos Indian Band)

**REGRETS**

Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director George Saddleman	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator
Amanda Cadorette	WaterWise Outreach Assistant

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 1, 2010 be approved as amended."*

**CARRIED**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 1, 2010 at Regional District Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 1, 2010 at Regional District Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton be adopted as presented.”***

**CARRIED**

**5. DELEGATIONS**

**5.1 Ted van der Gulik, Senior Engineer, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands: Okanagan Irrigation Management (OKIM) Tool Presentation**

Mr. van der Gulik has worked extensively on Okanagan water projects, especially the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project; he is also the Vice-chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. Mr. van der Gulik was also a participant on a water policy tour to Australia with Dr. Warwick Sears in May 2010. In Australia, individual irrigators have the ability to accurately track their water use and use it to manage their irrigation practices. A similar tool has been developed for use in BC by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and other partners, and currently is being trialed by irrigators in the Okanagan. The tool is named the Okanagan Irrigation Management Tool.

Mr. van der Gulik informed the board that this tool uses the irrigator's own water meter information to compare theoretical water demand generated by models with actual water use. Mr. van der Gulik described the components that went into creating the Water Demand Model, that can determine theoretical water usage for a particular crop on a particular type of soil, using a particular irrigation system, in the Okanagan Valley. The model is sophisticated so that a single piece of property can be separated and analyzed according to these factors (crop, soil, irrigation type), as it is common for properties to have a variety of crops or irrigation systems, which affect the water demand for that parcel. For individual irrigators, theoretical water use can be calculated based on all of these factors and includes climate data. To use the tool, the irrigator logs on to the website where the model has run to show how much water should have been used for their property over the time period in question and the water meter data showing actual use. The irrigator can then make adjustments to their water use based on the information presented; some crops might have been over irrigated based on the comparison, some might have been under irrigated. To maximize efficiency, crop production and farmer success, this comparison and the resulting irrigation adjustments are valuable.

The water utilities currently using OKIM include Greater Vernon Water, Glenmore Ellison Improvement District and the District of Summerland. Black Mountain Irrigation District has expressed interest in adopting the tool. Mr. van der Gulik informed the board that additional information can be incorporated into the tool, such as year to year comparisons and information about total water allocation for each irrigator, who can monitor overall usage throughout the irrigation season.

Director James asked if crop changes can be incorporated into the model, for example if a property owner wishes to switch from apples to wine grapes; Mr. van der Gulik's response was that these changes can be input into the model at any time. The farmer would report the changes to the water utility and the utility will re-GPS the data.

Director Wells asked if an individual farmer had additional equipment, such as a soil moisture meter, could it be included into the model. Mr. van der Gulik responded that currently the model is not set up to include information such as soil moisture or able to handle individual types of data gathered by the farmer, but that the model could be tailored for that information in the future. He also added that soil moisture is an accurate way of measuring water demand, much better than climate alone.

**6. STAFF REPORTS****6.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that Environment Canada has provided the OBWB with another grant opportunity from their Strategic Integration Division; they would like to see OBWB use this funding to enhance current water projects and science initiatives, such as groundwater protection.

Director Baker noted that the information from Environment Canada indicated the grant should be directed toward Habitat Protection and was curious to know if this was accurate. Dr. Warwick Sears responded that recent conversations with Environment Canada staff confirm the funding was from that branch of EC, but there is some flexibility in the projects funded.

**6.1.1 Draft Water Supply and Demand Project Phase 3 Core Team**

The new Team Structure to oversee the completion of Phase 3 of the Water Supply and Demand Project was approved by the Working Group on June 4, 2010 and Dr. Warwick Sears provided it to the board for their adoption.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board issue invitation letters to the proposed participants of the new Phase 3 Core Team and their respective agencies to continue to contribute to the project on an in-kind basis.”***

**CARRIED**

**6.1.2 Topsoil Primer – Law & Policy Primer and Technical Primer**

Staff proposed that the Board consider applying for a grant to revise and expand two topsoil bylaw ‘primers’ written by the Green Infrastructure Partnership, a committee of the BC Water and Waste Association. Having adequate topsoil promotes water efficiency by retaining more moisture resulting in less water applied to the ground and vegetation. Topsoil also reduces stormwater runoff. Mr. van der Gulik felt that both of these guides could benefit from a re-write to make the text appear more ‘user friendly’.

Director Findlater asked how these guides fit within the various soil removal bylaws being created by communities. Mr. van der Gulik said that while topsoil requirements are different than soil removal bylaws, there are likely places within those bylaws to incorporate the topsoil requirements a community wishes to enact. Director Findlater then suggested that a component of the proposed re-write would be to identify those options for communities.

Director Fairbairn asked if partners to provide matching funds have been identified. Dr. Warwick Sears indicated that a number of partners, including members of the Green Infrastructure Partnership are likely to provide matching funds or in-kind support for this project.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board applies for an infrastructure planning grant from the Ministry of Community Development to develop a topsoil bylaws guide for water conservation and quality improvement in the Okanagan”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated May 25, 2010, be received.***

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the June Stewardship Council meeting, noting that the Council heard a presentation on Okanagan Lake Limnology and recent work conducted for the City of Kelowna on the Okanagan Lake Limnology Model by Hay and Co. Consultants.

Mr. Jatel also updated the board on the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) with the information that prototypes of the interactive web tool have been developed; reviews of the prototype are being conducted by Okanagan water purveyors, Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Environment.

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council member agencies are represented in 18 month terms as approved by the OBWB; September 2010 is the renewal date for another 18 month term, until March 31, 2012. Mr. Jatel presented a list of the recommended member agencies for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and noted that there have been a couple of minor changes, such as including Chamber of Commerce representation from around the valley in some way, and that the Kelowna Fish and Game Club also be recognized as another community stewardship member. Mr. Jatel explained that there is not a regional Chamber of Commerce and perhaps the best style of representation would be to have someone from each of the three major municipalities in the Okanagan (Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton) rotate attendance in addition to distributing OBWB and OWSC material to these Chamber of Commerce's and their membership.

Director Clark asked about potential inclusion of the Ministry of Forests and Range to the OWSC. Mr. Jatel responded that the agency isn't specifically a member of the Water Stewardship Council, but that it can be looked into.

Director Findlater asked if there were any agencies that were not renewing membership at this time and Mr. Jatel replied that the Urban Development Institute and Community Futures both appeared to be no longer participating as members.

Some discussion of the attendance to the Water Stewardship Council meetings took place. As the members of the OWSC are volunteers, there is a need to be flexible with attendance as not every member is able to attend all meetings. Typically the meeting attendance balances out over the course of an 18 month term.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel, dated June 28, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 6.3 Office and Grants Administrator Report

### 6.3.1 Milfoil Program Updates

Ms. Dunbar provided a report on work that will be ongoing throughout July and August 2010 to help enhance the tracking and reporting for the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program. This work will involve using handheld GPS units to map the areas the OBWB currently controls, any underwater hazards that need to be avoided (such as water intakes, utility infrastructure and sewer outfalls) and determine relative effort of control in each area.

Director Findlater asked if there were additional expenses to this project with the RDCO GIS staff and Dr. Warwick Sears explained that our current contract with the Information Services staff at RDCO will cover this project.

***“THAT the Office and Grants Administrator Report from Ms. Tesche, dated June 28, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 6.4 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Cadorette provided an update on the Okanagan WaterWise program. The WaterWise staff team has met with a number of staff from smaller municipalities in the Okanagan to ask for input to the WaterWise Outreach Strategy and Action Plan and discuss ways to partner.

The water bottle display banners are moving throughout the communities of the Okanagan, spending at least a couple of days in various municipal offices, community centers and other public places.

Ms. Cadorette also asked Board directors for input on the idea of a time capsule at the Annual General Meeting coming up in September and explained that staff were looking for ideas around items to include, an appropriate site to locate it and how long it should be buried for.

***“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator Report from Ms. Jackson, dated June 29, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 7.1 Database Management Contract

Dr. Warwick Sears spoke to the memo, explaining that the contract is proposed as a direct award. Dr. Warwick Sears explained that Mr. Fretwell has designed or worked closely with most of the very complex databases and models for the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project. It would require a large amount of training and specified knowledge for another contractor to learn; this training could potentially be expensive.

Mr. van der Gulik spoke to previous work that Mr. Fretwell had completed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, stating that he produced an impressive product and quickly understood the requirements of the project. In the current situation, with the complex models of the Water Supply and Demand Project and with the large amount of funds already spent on the project, there is no one else who knows this as well as he does and so to have another contractor handle the project could potentially be a risk.

Director Fairbarin asked if the OBWB had the ability to direct award this type of contract. Dr. Warwick Sears replied that there is some lee way in this regard.

Director Schwartz asked if the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands could provide a letter of recommendation for Mr. Fretwell to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. Mr. van der Gulik responded that a letter would be written as a reference for Mr. Fretwell.

Director Baker felt that bid process for this has the potential to be more problematic than a direct award process, and also thought that the total worth of the contract should be within Director's discretion to direct award.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve a contract with RHF Systems for Okanagan Basin Water Board Information Management, for time and materials up to \$75,000.”***

**CARRIED**

Directors van der Gulik and Pike abstained.

#### 7.2 Sponsorship of “Dirt” Movie Event

The Fresh Outlook Foundation is asking for sponsorship of an outdoor screening of DIRT! The movie, in Kelowna on August 14<sup>th</sup> as part of the Foundation’s goal of having 10,000 people view the movie before October 2010. Dr. Warwick Sears explained that the OBWB could use this event to link topsoil to water conservation, and that it would be an opportunity to use resources from the WaterWise Outreach and Education Program as well.

Director Baker explained that the Fresh Outlook Foundation had already asked a number of local governments directly for sponsorship of this event and had received some funds. If the OBWB were to provide sponsorship, it could be considered as ‘double dipping’.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board not approve the Fresh Outlook Foundation’s request to sponsor a screening of DIRT! The movie.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.3 Draft Letter on Reservoir Lease Lots

Dr. Warwick Sears presented a draft letter written to Minister Pat Bell as requested by Board directors at the June 2010 meeting, asking that the moratorium on the sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs be made permanent.

Director Clark noted that MLA Ben Stewart had not been included on the CC list for the letter; staff noted the omission and assured a copy would be sent to him.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the letter to Minister Pat Bell on the moratorium on the sale of leased reservoir lots as presented.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.4 LEEF Chair Request from UBC-O

Dr. Warwick Sears informed the Board that the Okanagan Basin Water Board was being asked to help provide funding to help support a BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF). The OBWB contribution would help match a \$1,250,000 grant offered by the province and \$250,000 from the Real Estate Foundation of BC. UBC-O must have \$1,000,000 in commitments by September 2010 or the endowment grant will be withdrawn. The university has requested a contribution from OBWB in the range of \$250,000 to \$500,000.

The OBWB budget was analyzed to show that providing \$250,000 would be possible under our governing legislation without a reduction in program budgets.

Director Baker lead the conversation by stating that a LEEF chair can bring additional funding and research to the region. He went on to say that by providing funds the board can have input into the types of research conducted.

Director Schwartz mentioned that funding a university initiative through the OBWB in this

manner means that the public is supporting the institution without making the individual choice to contribute.

Director James mentioned that he likes the idea of supporting research, not faculty or university personnel.

Director Pike noted that the Water Supply Association of BC had also been approached to provide some funding and his understanding is that contribution of funding increases the likelihood of research work specific to the Okanagan; any one agency is not able to influence the direction of research entirely.

Chair Wells wondered about the reaction of the other Regional Districts in the Okanagan.

Director Findlater asked if it would be possible to provide a contribution of \$85,000 a year for three years to reach the \$250,000.

Directors Kiss and Fairbairn said that RDNO would want to have a presentation on this proposal specifically.

Director Schwartz said that he thinks the Regional Boards should hear about this proposal from folks at UBC-O and not just the OBWB and supports the idea of it being taken to each of the Regional Districts.

Director Clark agreed, saying that this proposal is of the nature that it should be presented at each of the three Regional Districts by a UBC-Okanagan representative and the Executive Director of the OBWB.

Alt. Director van der Gulik re-iterated that this proposal has a tight timeline, with a decision needed by September 2010. He felt that the board might have an easier time of receiving a favorable response from the Regional Districts in pursuing the option of providing \$85,000 a year for three years.

Dr. Warwick Sears indicated that she is comfortable with attending a meeting at each of the Regional Districts over the summer (July and August), in conjunction with UBC-O representatives. She will have the same UBC-O folks attend the September OBWB meeting and report on the outcomes from each of the Regional Districts at that time. The Board can then make a final decision just in time for the deadline.

***“THAT the OBWB directs the Executive Director to appear as a delegation to each of the three Regional Districts over the course of July and August 2010 with appropriate representatives from UBC-Okanagan in order to receive support for a \$250,000 OBWB contribution to a UBC-O Innovation Chair in Water Resources.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.5 Groundwater Monitoring Well Project

Mr. Jatel informed the Board that in partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Environment Canada, the OBWB has developed a proposal to establish 5 monitoring wells a year over three years to address the need of groundwater monitoring in 15 sensitive aquifers. A package has been developed so that information can be provided to local governments, whose jurisdictions incorporate one or more of these 15 sensitive aquifers. A letter has also been developed to determine if Okanagan local governments are interested in participating. There will be a cost to participate – each local

government will need to contribute approximately \$6,500. Through previously identified OBWB funds and additional sources from senior governments on this project, the \$6,500 contribution will leverage almost \$30,000 in well establishment and monitoring. Dr. Warwick Sears added that the sensitive areas identified for monitoring don't currently have a well or any way to monitor groundwater quality. Mr. Jatel also said that the 5 monitoring wells to be established this year have not been chosen, it depends on which local governments show interest and are able to provide the \$6,500 contribution.

Director Schwartz asked if the Twin Lakes area was on the list of priority aquifers to be monitored. Mr. Jatel responded that this area indeed was on the list and has two aquifers of concern, so it would need two monitoring wells established. Director Schwartz showed enthusiasm for the project adding that this area was a part of the Electoral Area he represents; he indicated that he would look into finding the matching funding.

Director Findlater said that he was pleased to see the District of West Kelowna identified as a local government that would be included in this program as there are two aquifers of concern in the District – both Crystal Mountain and the Upper Glenrosa areas are having water supply challenges.

***“THAT the OBWB send letters to local governments that have one or more of the 15 identified sensitive aquifers in their jurisdiction, inviting them to participate in the Groundwater Monitoring Well Project.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.6 Adoption of Audited Financial Statements

Dr. Warwick Sears brought the 2009-2010 audited financial statements forward for board adoption, noting that they would be forwarded to the three Regional Districts and included in the Annual Report.

There was some discussion of approval of OBWB budgets each year by the Regional Boards, and Dr. Warwick Sears informed the board that the three CAO's from each would be meeting with her in mid-July to further those discussions.

Director Pike asked if the OBWB had reserves for replacement of capital assets. Dr. Warwick Sears replied that in the past, the OBWB has maintained an equipment reserve fund, which currently holds approximately \$250,000 for replacement or upgrade of milfoil equipment..

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopts the 2009-2010 audited financial statements as presented.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Ian MacLeod, Ecosystem Coordination Office, Environment Canada, notice of funding for \$40,000 to enhance current water projects and science initiatives in the Okanagan

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the correspondence from Ian MacLeod, Environment Canada, regarding funding for Okanagan water projects.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 9. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on September 7, 2010, at the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen.



10. ADJOURNMENT

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 6, 2010 be adjourned at 1:47 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director