



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN,  
101 MARTIN ST., PENTICTON, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Vice-Chair 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
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

**REGRETS**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director George Saddleman	Okanagan Nation Alliance

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator
Melissa Tesche	Interim Office and Grants Administrator

**GUESTS**

Professor Louise Nelson	UBC-Okanagan
John Janmaat	UBC-Okanagan
Adrienne Skinner	UBC-Okanagan

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 7, 2010 be approved."*

**CARRIED**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 6, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

*"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 6, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be adopted as presented."*

**CARRIED**

## 5. **DELEGATIONS**

### 5.1 Prof. Louise Nelson, UBC-Okanagan: B.C. Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources

Prof. Nelson addressed the board and reported on the outcome of recent meetings with the three Okanagan regional districts, regarding a proposed BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability at UBC-O.

All three regional districts voted unanimously in favour of the chair and supporting it with a \$500,000 contribution over five years, noted Prof. Nelson. Approval of the contribution by the OBWB Board of Directors would make the Water Board the lead organization.

Work to bring a Water Resources Chair to UBC-O began a few years ago, she added, saying that after the initial thorough search and interview process, no candidates were appointed, so the position was re-advertised. An international search was conducted and UBC-O professor John Janmaat was chosen. While the nomination still needs to be approved by the province, Dr. Janmaat's expertise in economics, and his involvement in the OBWB's Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and with scientists at the university, will serve this position well, added Prof. Nelson.

The OBWB, she continued, will have significant input into the research conducted. A committee will be created to direct the chair and will include representation from the three Okanagan regional districts.

Dr. Janmaat also addressed directors, adding he has studied water and environmental issues in the valley and worked with OBWB staff in the past, and is looking forward to this continuing.

Dr. Warwick Sears added that the staff recommendation was initially for \$250,000 in funding. However, after Regional District of Central Okanagan directors asked for and reviewed a breakdown of what the funding would look like over three or five years, they determined that \$500,000 would be reasonable. As a result, the recommendation to RDOS and RDNO ended up being for \$500,000.

Mr. Jatel added that an advisory committee would be created and include a senior member of the UBC-O team, an OBWB staff member, and a representative of the BC Real Estate Foundation (which is providing \$250,000 in funding). There would also be input from directors representing the three regional districts, perhaps OBWB directors, to ensure their voices are also heard. The committee would meet annually with the Water Resource Chair, who would report on activities and receive feedback. There may be more meetings at the beginning as the work begins, he said.

In response to Dir. Fairbairn and a question about the program's sustainability, Mr. Jatel said it's expected the province will contribute \$1.25 million, the Real Estate Foundation has provided funding and then other fundraising will also occur. Some of the funds at the beginning will support the chair's salary, but these monies are part of an endowment so they are there in perpetuity, he explained.

Dir. Bauer made special note that it was the BC Water Supply Association that provided the initial \$1,000 towards the Water Resource Chair.

Mr. Jatel added that UBC-O will be submitting its application to the province's Leading Edge

Endowment Fund (LEEF) in the next month and hopes to be able to announce the Water

Resources Chair in the new year.

Dr. Warwick Sears said that the committee may want the chair to look at a number of issues, but members will have to rank them and decide what is the priority for research.

In response to questions, Ms. Adrienne Skinner, from UBC-O's Development Office, noted that funds from the Water Board will allow the university to leverage for more funding and that they can apply for funds not available to the OBWB. This will be one of six sustainable chairs in the province, she added. As the single largest contributor, the university will consider a special acknowledgment for the OBWB, for example, allowing the OBWB name to be added to the chair's title, she concluded.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve \$500,000 in funding over five years towards a BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Management at UBC-O."***

**CARRIED**

Directors Bauer and Pike abstain.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

### **6.1 Executive Director Report**

#### **6.1.1 Sewage Facilities Grants information package**

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that she and Ms. Dunbar have been updating the guidelines for the Sewage Facilities Grants Program.

Staff turnover at local government offices has made it difficult for new employees to understand the requirements of the grant program. As such, a new guidebook is being developed and will be distributed to grant recipients. The new guide will also help the OBWB manage the program's cash flow better.

Dir. Baumbrough suggested some clarification was needed in the Terms of Reference for the grant regarding point source pollution. Dr. Warwick Sears agreed.

Dir. Findlater noted that biosolid plants are becoming more common and asked if they are eligible for a grant. Dr. Warwick Sears responded that the program is currently for sewer collection systems and treatment plants, but that the board could review this. However, there could be an issue around fairness for communities that have completed projects, like a biosolids plant, and not been eligible for funding, she cautioned.

Fairbairn: Is it the will of the board to review the program – is it outdated?

In response to Dir. Findlater and a question about the ability to review the program, Dr. Warwick Sears noted that reviewing programs is a good idea, but recommended waiting until a financial review of the program is completed. The review will look at how projects are expected to fall off over the next 20 years.

***"THAT the report on the Sewage Facilities Grants program, dated Aug. 30, 2010, be received."***

**CARRIED**

### 6.1.2 Water Resources Chair memo to RDNO

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the issue was addressed following the UBC-O delegation earlier in the meeting.

### 6.1.3 Water Supply & Demand scenarios workshop

The summary report of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand study was provided to board directors. The report will also be available on the OBWB website, they were told.

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that

Summary report provided to directors. Will be available through our OBWB website.

Have RAC funding to do future scenarios. Sent out proposed scenarios for a meeting next week for Phase 3.

Clark: will this be distributed to local governments? Anna: We will send CDs out and publicize the website and how to access the information.

We'll be announcing this at the AGM – info available on the website. Anna: should we sent to CAOs and ask who would receive? Findlater: yes.

### **CORI: WHO CONTACTS CAO'S AND SENDS OUT TO VARIOUS LOCAL GOV'TS??**

Fairbairn:

Findlater: wouldn't want to see this get shelved so promoting it would be great – maybe 15 minutes at various council meetings to talk about highlights. Anna: have spoken to communities since launch in March, but with various scenarios can look at. Want communication with municipalities but want it to be new information. Hopefully we'll have strong representation from local governments at the AGM.

Anna: In Phase 3 Will have one management committee and less funding, will use the information to help develop practical, applicable plans, e.g. drought management plans, etc.

Pike: We are hoping that workshop attendees will discuss what they want out of this study – can the model answer the questions we have and are facing with management

Kiss: will models answer questions around population size...

Pike: water allocation branches of the province will have to look at this – issue of water rights on band land; water licence allocation is not up to us; but also the scenario of long-term drought and how to address will be important

Bauer: what do we do with this – we sponsored it and now passing onto to local governments and water managers, but I think it's also important to think about where we want to go with this – OWSC will be. Fairbairn:

Warwick Sears: this week sending out an RFP to do a technical study to support a valley-wide drought management plan, develop Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – will use the data from the study. Making the data much more accessible to communities. We are trying as a communication hub to make sure the info is available.

Kiss: re water pricing, it's different community to community. 40 cents a cubic metre to \$1.10 depending on season, and then flat fees so unfair to low users and negative impact on high users and paying less than low users; think new university chair should look at this. User pay system

Clark: first thing – we need to look at the report. On XI, ...communication with stakeholders will be important, and making sure that it gets out into the communities.

Dir. Graeme James entered the room at 11:20 a.m.

11:21 a.m. Kiss exited the room

Findlater and James

THAT The board look at the document and come back with input on the

Baker: Any chance some of this could be used to disseminate to schools.

**WAS KISS IN ROOM FOR THE VOTE???** Yes -

Anna: As staff – Cori leading it – producing WaterWise website good way to get out info, but also SOKS has developed Waterscape poster and maybe through a grant could have additional material developed – Okanagan Science Centre.

Spoke at the Similkameen – society and noted the salmon festival.

Bernie Bauer: Similkameen wants to develop an OBWB-type organization. Does letters patent allow us to invite Similkameen and even the Shuswap?

Clark: east-west culture is different and it is equal to the collection of views here. There is a group in the Similkameen that wants to go it alone and wants to even break from RDOS and so has local societies, but also... how do we get people to buy in? Similkameen has different issues – Intl Joint Commission, think we should try to encourage RDOS Similkameen members to buy in to OBWB... could be hard to develop another – would cost more, and we

Baker to Findlater: Similkameen waters meet Okanagan at Fort Okanagan and all main tributaries (connect). Was supposed to join us but Keremeos said not interested.

Anna: With Similkameen, hard to make interdependence argument. Administrative efficiency yes – they have a smaller tax base; trying to have them access grants would be difficult. Don't think impossible but there are challenges. I was encouraging them to hire a staff person who could benefit with involvement in the OWSC and in staying connected to OBWB,... If you want me to encourage Similkameen involvement on board?

They are interested in a water board. Want me to write a pros and cons list to present to board – looking at challenges and benefits. Bauer: agree this would be good. This may not be easy to

Clark Baker 2nded

That staff prepare a pros and cons list and bring it to the board.  
CARRIED

#### 6.1.4 Salmon Feast & Celebration poster

***“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated Aug. 30, 2010, be received.***

**CARRIED NOT DONE**

#### 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on upcoming OWSC meeting – guest speaker will be talking on weather and climate forecasting and how impacts water management.

We will be reviewing Sustainable Water Strategy and look at how to meet the various recommendations. This will allow us an opportunity to see what partners are doing – how SWS has influenced work in the valley, and prioritize work.

SWURT phase 1 finished – assessed what tool would look like. Met with water utility managers and then two with senior government staff who will be using and managing this data. Tool built in July and draft version ready in October and ready to go in December.

Water Pricing Survey being conducted and hope to have some preliminary data – 14 of 22 interviews done as of last Friday – ready by AGM. Will look at who is charging what. You would think Kelowna with largest utility would have smallest rates

Kiss: if charging less then people will use more. If we want people to use less (6-8 cu metres a month indoors on aver.) then rate should be higher. We need to have a discussion around what the value of water is.

Fairbairn: Kiss you should talk with Nelson and Urban Systems who is working on this.

Mr. Jatel: survey being conducted in the Okanagan will determine rates utilities are charging customers and will be part one of a two-part study. Second part will look at some of these questions – there are two costs – cost of infrastructure and value of water. We will have to determine what our role it. Local governments create policy and make sure that they are charging a rate to keep up with infrastructure demands. We will be able to share water pricing info to allow local governments to know what is happening, but important to recognize that local governments determine rates.

Findlater: our plant meets IHA requirements but very expensive and then there are other utilities in our district that don't necessarily meet the other plant's standards.

Pike: price is based on infrastructure costs, utilities face challenge – those who adopt user pay want a dry summer because they rely on that use to raise their funds, but have to have ... Role of Water Board is to look at the dynamics and how create equity.

Pike: Only so much in the public purse so do we relax health standards – won't happen.

Jatel: on drought signage... out of a request from RDNO, looking at developing a sign standard

consistent in the valley. MoE Celine Davis, staff from River Forecast Centre, and others, have great support for this. Committee thought Ministry of Forests signage is on the right path.

Province has determined drought levels from normal to loss of supply. Local communities have stages that include a conservation (tool) – e.g. in Stage 3 now pool filling/turf watering – so how do we communicate drought and what are the consequences depending on where you are in the valley.

Need flexibility to allow different parts of valley to customize own situation.

Pike: challenge will be to develop something that is workable for everyone – e.g. Kelowna has five utilities and threat to source and impact on clients is quite different

Kiss: we're holding meetings in north on drought measures and how affects business community

Nelson: 2.4 Rain to Resource workshop Oct. 28 to 29, encourage board to participate. Staff can look at tools available and will also provide info on policy making.

We've been invited to apply for funding from innovation in agriculture production and water management would apply. Staff is looking at this and how we might be able to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

Nelson: often require board's approval of an application so asking for this ahead of time. Water pricing study expansion might be looked at.

Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> – u/K

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board supports and authorizes a staff funding application to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Innovative Approaches Program.”***

**CARRIED**

Dir. Bauer abstained. (??)

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel, dated Aug. 30, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED **NOT DONE****

**12:10 p.m. Break for lunch**

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### 6.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson reported on Okanagan WaterWise activities in the summer...  
And where going now.

Annual General Meeting on Friday. Expecting about 80 people – important communication and reach out.

Melissa – development of annual report – dry Okanagan, combating myth of abundance. Looked at partnerships and results of the various programs. 62 RSVPs so hopefully 80 plus people.

Baker Findlater  
That the annual report be received.  
CARRIED

Corinne spoke on media coverage this summer... in response to Fairbairn

Question about Organic Okanagan Festival -

First, second not noted/requested...

*“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator Report from Ms. Jackson, dated Aug. 30, 2010, be received.”*

CARRIED

## 7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 7.1 Milfoil Program Update

Ms. Tesche reported on the milfoil program this summer. Early spring, run off ... number of calls about milfoil growth from residents. We did a media release and brought in Bill Caswell who works in Christina Lake to address the problem. When tried to harvest – hard when highly developed areas. Stu helped us find a couple of sites to drop off weeds. Then how do you truck it away so – initially going to landfill so talked with organic farmers about quality of material for composting and affect on organic –title.

Looking at tracking the work through GIS so we know where and when work done.

At end of August had interesting situation in Vaseaux Lake, flood hazard technicians trying to release water – asked us to harvest milfoil because causing sandbeds. To get permit to harvest there – got one as a fee for service operation – pulling out today.

Ms. Dunbar said they have seen some increase in flow from harvesting channel and looking to confirm this. They haven't dredged sand out because being careful with fish flow – narrow window of opportunity.

First: —; Baumbrough second  
THAT the report be accepted.  
CARRIED

### 7.2 Milfoil Program Succession Plan

Dr. Warwick Sears delivered her reported on milfoil program succession plan. One of our operators 69 in spring, another 55 in a month, and one more 50 but has another business – have personal things that could pull them away. So how do we train for a three-person operation? We have vacation time built up. We have a potential trainee who worked for us in the summer who has suggested he is interested in working for the OBWB eventually – currently working in Christina Lake.

Suggested that we bring him on and train him for six months, enough to keep him busy with mapping and other work.

Baker: could we share the employee with someone – full-time at our municipal office and milfoil when you need him. Warwick Sears – possible, but preference would be to have someone focused on milfoil rototilling in winter, can keep going as seasonal/summer employee at Christina Lake. Six months Nov to May here – in second year eligible for benefits. Want to keep ... if we get one guy really well-trained don't think we will lose all three but then can hire another one who's greener. This seems the easiest administratively.

Fairbairn: How are we covered for liability when need to avoid intakes etc. Warwick Sears: Have liability insurance for damage to individual property. Have a budget to repair intakes, for example. With GIS mapping we'll have better idea of obstacles out there.

James: Is it possible to have an employee come on to relieve some of the holiday banked time? Warwick Sears: think so – we normally have a relief person come on for a few months and vacation time doesn't need to be taken all at the same time.

Findlater: we have funds if have to pay out vacation time? Warwick Sears – yes. Findlater: and we don't need any more money in budget because of money made with MoE contract. Warwick Sears: yes.

Warwick Sears to Bauer: we can work with the employees

Bauer: Need to advertise? Warwick Sears: Not a contractor so don't think we need to advertise. We had an employee who had the part time position until he passed away from cancer last year and then Monique did it for awhile.

Findlater, Clark seconded

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board train a new milfoil employee to allow a smooth succession for anticipated staff retirements, by increasing the length of the seasonal employee contract to six-and-a-half months per year.”***

**CARRIED**

Dir. Bauer and Pike abstained

## 8. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Oct. 5, 2010, at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

Warwick Sears regarding Ms. Dunbar last

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Bauer

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 7, 2010 be adjourned at 1:13 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director