



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

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Doug Dirk	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 Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director George Saddleman	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 7, 2010 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

8.2.1 B.C. Auditor General’s report on groundwater

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 2, 2010 at Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna.

Amendment: A small change to attendance.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 2, 2010 held at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that the Sewage Assistance Grants forensic review is ongoing, aimed at creating reporting systems that will ensure better cash flow management. The response from local governments has been positive, she added.

OBWB staff members were hoping to get a head-start on milfoil rototilling this year. However, this was delayed with the discovery of the endangered Western Ridged Mussel and new Ministry of Environment permit requirements. The permit has now been approved so work has begun. Staff will be meetings with MoE and Department of Fisheries and Oceans in March to get ready for summer harvesting, helping prevent any delays in the work.

Staff are developing maps, documenting where milfoil control work is being conducted, in response to a board request, but it will also help meet MoE requirements, Dr. Warwick Sears noted.

The Memorandum of Understanding on milfoil issues, being developed by stakeholders in Washington and Idaho, is being finalized.

An Osoyoos Lake Water Forum is being planned for October 2011. A number of American studies are being done regarding water issues in the region. It is important they be reviewed by people on both sides of the border since they will help form the basis for any future agreements regarding flow rates to the U.S., added Dr. Warwick Sears. A number of board directors noted the importance of understanding the implications of guaranteed flows across the border and its effects on fish, agriculture, and people in the Okanagan.

Directors suggested having a delegation come and speak at an upcoming board meeting with representation from BC Ministry of Environment's Brian Symonds and Environment Canada's Dan Millar, who both sit on the International Joint Commission's International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control.

The Office of the Auditor General's Scott Vaughan, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, will be speaking next week on his recent audit of the Canadian government's monitoring of this country's fresh water resources. The speech will be webcast from the Munk School on Global Affairs on Dec. 14 at 9:30PST and can be viewed at <http://hosting.epresence.tv/MUNK>.

Following on the OBWB's "From Rain to Resource" workshop in October, Dr. Warwick Sears recommended the small amount of remaining funds be used to produce a rainwater management guide for Okanagan homeowners. A guide has already been produced in California and the Water Board was given permission to use it as a template and localize it. A small number of guides would be printed, but it would be made available by download through the OBWB's public outreach program, Okanagan WaterWise.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adapt the homeowners' "Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!" guide for rainwater management for the Okanagan Basin, using remaining funds from the Rain to Resource conference budget."

CARRIED

The board meeting schedule for 2011 was presented.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2011.”

CARRIED

UBC-O is continuing to lay the foundation for its Chair in Water Resource and Ecosystem Management, including the development of an advisory committee in January. The university hopes to make an announcement during World Water Week in March.

Board directors discussed the possibility of having the February board meeting in West Kelowna since it is set to take place in the Central Okanagan. Dir. Findlater suggested there could be a tour of the new, state-of-the art Westbank Treatment Plant. There was also discussion about holding the meeting at the Okanagan Nation Alliance office.

There was discussion around the OBWB’s application to Agriculture Canada for a \$1.5 million research project. The board had previously approved a \$50,000 commitment (\$18,000 in funds, the remainder as in-kind support). However, Dirs. Pike and James noted that they received calls of concern about the project. Both members added that they didn’t have sufficient information to be able to answer questions.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the application for funding was by invite only. The OBWB was invited to apply and the turnaround was very short. However, she noted, she regretted that the application was not circulated more widely before it was sent. The project is for economic studies intended to benefit the agricultural community, she added, including research into an Agricultural Water Reserve and a water pricing toolkit for water utilities. A special meeting with the agricultural community is set for tomorrow, she added, to answer questions and concerns. A follow-up meeting will be held with the OBWB’s technical advisory group, the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, to gauge interest in proceeding.

After further discussion it was agreed that staff will e-mail out finalized applications to board directors to ensure they have necessary information to respond to individuals when called.

5.1.1 Water Supply & Demand update

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that two teams have been contracted to research additional climate models in Phase 3 of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand study. The data will be available on the OBWB website and a report is being developed for local governments on how to use the material.

“THAT the Executive Director’s report and the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated Nov. 30, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted that the November 2 joint council-board meeting was well-received and feedback suggests it should be done annually. The OWSC has set priorities for the coming year, including looking at groundwater licencing.

The groundwater monitoring project is moving ahead with the committee looking at 15 sensitive aquifers throughout the Okanagan. The first wells to be drilled will be in the South Okanagan over the next few weeks and will continue over the next three years.

Mr. Jatel distributed information around the federal government’s proposed Bill S-11, known as

the Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, adding concerns have been raised that it doesn't go far enough to address First Nations issues. The board was asked to review the material.

The Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool project is nearly ready to launch. Staff are looking to hold a press event in the new year to show off the prototype. The province is looking at implementing the tool across B.C.

Mr. Jatel provided a presentation on the groundwater monitoring project, noting that the partnership – between OBWB, local government, the province and federal government – is viewed as extremely positive given everyone's fiscal restraints.

The Hydrologic Connectivity Study committee has met with the consulting team. The study will look at how we are connected and who is susceptible, especially under First in Time, First in Right. The Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study will be useful in the work. The project is expected to be completed by April 1.

The Sustainable Water Strategy is being reviewed by the Stewardship Council to determine progress on action items. This is important with next year's review of the Water Management Program.

“THAT the report from Mr. Jatel, dated Nov. 30, 2010, be received.”

5.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson reported that she has been working with a province-wide Drinking Water Week committee, led by the BC Water and Waste Association, preparing a public outreach campaign to take place May 1-7.

Other communication initiatives underway include the launch of the SWURT project and announcement of the start of the 2011 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program.

“From Rain to Resource” materials are now available on the Water Board website at http://www.obwb.ca/rain_to_resource/.

Staff have also been promoting a xeriscape rap video, inspired by a talk Dr. Warwick Sears gave to a class at UBC-O. The video, created by geography student Graham Campbell, has been entered in BC Hydro's Invent the Future contest and is a fantastic communication tool, encouraging young people to think about water use and the practice of xeriscaping. It can be found at www.inventthefuture.ca/songs.php?sort=popular&.

“THAT the report from Ms. Jackson, dated Nov. 30, 2010, be received.”

6. **ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING**

6.1 Matters pertaining to OBWB staffing

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 11:51 a.m.”

CARRIED

(Break for lunch at 12:08 p.m.)

7. **RESUME REGULAR MEETING**

Regular meeting resumed at 12:41 p.m.

8. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1 OBWB provisional budget for 2011-2012 - revised

Dr. Warwick Sears provided the board with a revised budget with a decrease of \$4,200. The entire budget equals a 4.4% increase overall from last year a 0.2 cent increase per \$1,000 assessed value.

There was some discussion around the increase for financial services. Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the cost is based on full-cost recovery and there are a number of projects underway at the moment that require extra financial management. However, she added, new software and organization is expected to bring these costs down for the 2012-13 budget year.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that she will provide the board with a monthly financial report.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the 2011-12 budget as proposed.”
CARRIED

Directors Bauer and Pike abstained.

8.2 Groundwater Monitoring Project

Mr. Jatel requested the board’s approval of an agreement between the OBWB, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Environment for the Groundwater Monitoring Project. The agreement is for three years and requires all three parties to be at the table. There is great interest in the project from local governments in the South, Central and North Okanagan and staff will continue to develop partnerships to drill monitoring wells in each of these regions, he added.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the attached project agreement between the OBWB, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Environment.”

CARRIED

8.2.1 Groundwater audit

Dr. Warwick Sears noted a recent audit conducted by B.C.’s Auditor General on provincial groundwater that indicates that the province needs to improve monitoring of its groundwater resources to ensure its sustainability. The audit is in line with the concerns of the OBWB and with what we are hearing in other parts of B.C.

Mr. Jatel added that the report is timely with the Water Act Modernization. Also, with the work that the Water Board is doing in this area, it is well-positioned to take a leadership role on this issue.

“THAT the B.C. Auditor General’s report be received for information.”
CARRIED

8.3 Meadowlark Festival Sponsorship Request

Dr. Warwick Sears noted there is \$3,000 in the budget for sponsorship of community events and recommended funding for the 2011 Meadowlark Festival.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board sponsor the 2011 Meadowlark Festival at \$1,000.”

CARRIED

Directors Bauer and Pike abstained.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Letter re: Okanagan Lake Collaborative Monitoring Agreement from Vic Jensen, Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Mr. Jatel explained that this Memorandum of Understanding between MoE, the City of Kelowna, District of Summerland and RDCO is for a water quality monitoring program of the Okanagan’s mainstem lakes. The project will include partnering with First Nations and will monitor for various items including endocrine disruptor compounds.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Vic Jensen, Ministry of Environment, regarding an Okanagan Lake Collaborative Monitoring Agreement.”

CARRIED

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Feb. 1, 2010 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 7, 2010 be adjourned at 1:21 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director