

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 6, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chairperson G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director A. Dinwoodie	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director E. Sims	O.S.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	M. Watts	Westbank First Nation
	W Ringdal	Township of Spallumcheen

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
	B. Gagnon	Administrator

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 4th, 1997 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Ray Filipiak, Dr. Jeff Curtis, Dr. Dan Durall - Okanagan University College
FRBC Endowment of a Chair in Watershed Management

Mr. Filipiak, the Director for Research Services and Technology Transfer, outlined the terms of a \$3 million FRBC endowment of a Chair in Watershed Management. It is proposed that this amount will fund two junior positions at the University College, and the task now is to raise funds for infrastructure to support these positions. OUC is looking for contributions from local government, and business as well as from senior government.

Dr. Curtis outlined the importance of watershed management to the Okanagan region and Dr. Durall explained the proposed curriculum, and research and extension programs.

The group wishes to submit the Phase II proposal by the end of February, and indications of support must be in place at that time.

Director Hobson asked how many of the eight Phase II proposals would receive funding.

Mr. Filipiak said that funding had been set aside for all eight.

Director Hobson wondered about the authority for the Water Board to participate in this type

of project.

The Administrator suggested that a review to clarify the mandate of the Water Board was something he was considering proposing to the Board. This would not likely be done in time to meet the need of the OUC proposal.

Director McGrath asked what would be provided to local government if money was committed.

Dr. Curtis replied that expertise in the area of watershed management would be the long term result of this program, with the two staff undertaking research projects in the Valley.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie questioned the extension of this knowledge to the general public in order to affect habits and perceptions.

Dr. Durall commented that a full one-third of the program would be in extension programs but that these would not involve the public as a whole.

There was discussion about the amount of funding required, the timing of contributions, and the usefulness of a multi year commitment.

It was suggested that the request be for \$100,000 and that funding would need to be in place by August. A multi year contribution would still be useful although there might be some loss of opportunity in obtaining matching funds from the Federal Government beyond the first year.

The Chairman thanked the OUC delegation for their presentation.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

EWM in Twin Lakes

Mr. Armour reported that on Wednesday, November 26th, he investigated a report of nuisance aquatic weed growth received a resident at Twin Lakes..

Twin Lakes is a resort /residential area east of Penticton on Highway 3 comprised of two lakes, a golf course, some seasonal (summer) cabins, and full time houses. There is one lake on private land (Horn Lake), Twin Lakes, and an adjacent water reservoir for agricultural irrigation.

The lake is small, about 1.5 kilometers long and 0.5 kilometers wide. It forms two basins which can both be accessed by road. Depth is up to 50+ metres with a silty bottom over sand substrate. The lakes has been drawn down by pump since summer. The south basin of the lake has a gravel boat launch and the lake is posted for electric motors only. Residents do not favour operation of any sort of powered mechanical device in the lake which precludes most of the usual weed control methods.

Mr. Armour advised that plants found in two locations around the perimeter of the lake were Eurasian watermilfoil.. The extent of the weed beds was not determined but plant samples were brought back to confirm with MOE. He added that the lake has no outlet so no downstream body of water is at risk.

Alternate Director Sims reported that the lake water management is directed by an improvement district which is responsible for maintaining water quality. There is currently some

disagreement over the costs of pumping water out of the lake to protect a sewage collection system at the north end of the lake.

Director Novakowski wondered about the responsibility for control of nuisance plant growth in the lake.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board respond to the resident inquiry with a letter to the improvement district confirming the nature of the plant as Eurasian watermilfoil."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Sims opposed.

Recommendation for Equipment Disposal

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the 1945 Army Duck (DUKW) is surplus to the aquatic weed program needs. The DUKW or landing craft is an amphibious, six wheel drive vehicle. It was owned and operated by a contractor who performed weed removal for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in 1989 and 1990. The equipment was purchased in 1992, by the OBWB and used by our operators for the next three seasons. Original purchase price was \$30,000. The craft had been fitted with a new Cummins diesel engine and an operators cab. Otherwise, it was as original.

The Field Supervisor noted that the DUKW has not been used in the past three years. The machine is no longer used as part of OBWB weed control in the Okanagan. It lacks maneuverability and does not function well in the 1 to 1.5 metre depth of water. It was originally hoped that it would replace the Bombardier muskeg skidder which is currently used to treat shallow areas but does not float. Problems in obtaining parts also contribute to the lack of usefulness.

Mr. Armour recommended that the equipment be sold through local advertisement. He added that there has been interest in the DUKW including one unsolicited offer to purchase. Proceeds from any sale would revert to the equipment reserve.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board accept the recommendation to dispose of the 1945 DUKW and place the proceeds of the sale into the equipment reserve."

CARRIED.

Aquatic Weed Control Budget Status

The Field Supervisor reported on the status of the 1997-98 budget after completion of three quarters of the fiscal year. He advised that \$244,411 had been spent from a total of \$300,100 budgeted. This left \$55,688 for the months of January, February and March. In addition, the Regional District of North Okanagan reduction in their administration charge had made a further \$13,000 available, Mr. Armour stated that this should be sufficient to cover operational costs to the year end providing no extra work was undertaken.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie asked for some history of the Provincial involvement in aquatic weed control funding and for review of the approaches made to the Ministry of Environment to lobby for the funding.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Proposed Schedule of Meetings for 1998

A schedule of proposed meeting dates for 1998 was circulated. The Board agreed to meet as outlined with the exception of the August meeting which posed a conflict for some directors and was eliminated.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. J. O'Riordan - Milfoil Control Program Funding

A letter was received from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment referring to issues discussed at a meeting at the UBCM convention.

Dr. O'Riordan notified the Board that the Province would not implement either a boat gas tax or a trailer license surcharge to fund their share of the aquatic weed control program in 1998. He also stated that the amount which would be available through the regular Ministry budget was not known at this time.

Chairman Kiss asked how the GVRD gasoline tax for funding of rapid transit was implemented.

The Administrator advised that authorization from the Province would have had to have been given.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie asked when the Province provided notification about the budget allocation. He suggested that encouraging longer range financial planning to render the process more business-like might be prudent.

Director Hobson noted that the weed control funding forms a small part of the problem of transfer payments to local government. He added that the purpose of the five year agreement was to have some degree of funding certainty but this has never been lived up to by the Province.

Alternate Director Sims asked about the viability of a boat fuel tax in the Okanagan.

Mr. Armour responded that there might not be sufficient on lake fuel sales to support the Okanagan program but he could not say with any certainty without actual sales figures. Alternate Director Sims expressed concern that any added tax might drive small operators out of business if people chose to use alternate sources of fuel.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Boating Regulations for Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes

A letter was received asking the Okanagan Basin Water Board to apply for shoreline speed restrictions for the perimeter of Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes.

Mr. Armour reviewed the status of the application made for Okanagan, Wood and Kalamalka

Lakes and noted that at a previous meeting it had been suggested that the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen should perhaps make the application for speed restrictions on lakes in their area.

Director Hobson observed that since the application was straight forward it would not be onerous for the Water Board to submit it.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Alternate Director Sims:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board apply for shoreline speed restrictions around the perimeter of Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes as requested by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen."

CARRIED.

Okanagan University College - FRBC Endowment

The correspondence pertaining to the FRBC Endowment had been dealt with by the delegation from Okanagan University College.

Municipality of Spallumcheen - Deep Creek Flooding and Drainage

The Township of Spallumcheen asked that the Water Board consider funding for drainage improvements on Deep Creek to prevent flooding of surrounding lands and contamination of Okanagan Lake.

Mr. Will Ringdal presented information on behalf of Spallumcheen. He noted the contribution from Spallumcheen to the Water Board toward the Sewage Facilities Fund over the past twenty years and added that no money had ever been received back by the Township. He stated that this issue compared with the purpose of the Sewage Fund in protecting Okanagan Lake water quality.

The Chairman questioned the nature and cost of improvements needed to address the situation.

Mr. Ringdal promised to provide a refined proposal.

Director Hobson asked who had installed the culvert which seems to be a main cause of the flooding problem, and when this was done.

Mr. Ringdal replied that it was done by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, probably thirty years ago. The culvert seems to be the impediment to flows at high water times, and causes the back up which floods adjacent lands.

Director Hobson questioned the authority of the Board to get into flood control measures. He noted other areas in the Okanagan Valley which would also benefit from flood control funding and added that these could certainly not be accommodated under funding for sewage treatment.

Director Novakowski informed the Board that the Province had been successfully lobbied to provide financial assistance for drainage in the Glenrosa area of Central Okanagan.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Alternate Director Dinwoodie:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the council of the Township of Spallumcheen in lobbying the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to address the drainage problems along Deep Creek by increasing the capacity of their drainage culvert."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

District of Peachland - Notice of Borrowing for Peachland Sewer Project.

Notification was received from the District of Peachland that \$4 million would be borrowed in 1998 for sewer construction. This would likely qualify for OBWB assistance.

Regional District of North Okanagan - Bluejay Subdivision Sewer Project

The Administrator informed the Board that sewerage of the Bluejay subdivision near Vernon would be taking place and information on the project and a request for sewage facilities assistance funding would be forthcoming.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

OUC Endowment Presentation -

The presentation from OUC regarding the Chair in watershed management was discussed.

Director Hobson noted that the program likely fulfilled part of the mandate of the Water Board as envisioned at the time of the Okanagan Basin Study. He added that on this basis he supported the program in principle, but felt that the financial participation would have to be reviewed by the regional districts.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie agreed that the proposal needed regional district review since they would ultimately be looked to commit any funding.

Director McGrath commented that he is opposed to local government being approached to provide funds to what has been a senior government area.

Director Novakowski remarked that there appeared to be some potential for local benefit from the program, and that in the end the same taxpayers would be required to provide funding.

The Chairman added that there is a need to follow up the work done twenty-five years ago with the Okanagan Basin Study.

Director Hobson advised that the City of Kelowna is currently very involved in a watershed management program, in efforts to preserve the quality of their water supplies without relying on extremely expensive end of pipe treatment solutions.

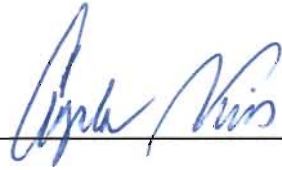
Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Alternate Director Dinwoodie:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support in principle, the program to establish a chair in watershed management at Okanagan University College and refer the information package and request for funding to the regional districts for review."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 3RD, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hitchen	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	R. Mayer	O.S.R.D.
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<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD FOR 1998:

Regional District of North Okanagan

- Director Gyula Kiss
- Director Wayne McGrath
- Director Ron Hitchen
- Alternate Directors Klaus Tribes, Gerry Oglow, Ed Columbus

Regional District of Central Okanagan

- Director Robert Hobson
- Director Len Novakowski
- Director Bob McCoubrey
- Alternate Directors Aaron Dinwoodie, Colin Day, Andre Blanleil

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

- Director William Ross
- Director John Slater
- Director Vince Fourt
- Alternate Directors Gordon Hahn, Ed Sims, Ron Perrie

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

The Field Supervisor called the meeting to order and asked for nominations for the Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 1998.

Director Hobson nominated Director Kiss for the position. This was seconded by Director Hitchen.

There were no other nominations and Director Kiss was declared elected Chair for 1998.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Kiss called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 1998.

Director Novakowski nominated Director Hobson (seconded by Director Ross) for the position and there being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Director Hobson Vice-Chair for 1998.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director McCoubrey:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 6th, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Roger Mayer - Chair, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen -
Water Quality Issues

Mr. Mayer outlined a number of water quality concerns and the need to address many of them uniformly across the entire basin watershed. He referred to the Master Liquid Waste Plan and the recommendations which were shelved with no planned strategy to address problems which still exist. He stressed the need to make use of the Water Board which was established to deal with water management issues throughout the basin.

Director Hobson expressed his support of the direction taken by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. He agreed that the non point source nutrient loading issue needs to be addressed as the next major threat to water quality. He wondered if the Water Board would look at other types of capital projects aside from liquid waste treatment. Director Hobson asked Mr. Mayer to elaborate on what strategies were missing in the Master Liquid Waste Plan.

Mr. Mayer commented that additional financial options needed to be explored in detail.

Director Slater advised that perhaps the south Okanagan is more dependent on the water quality endeavours of the north.

Director Ross noted that a summary of the Liquid Waste Plan is needed with an update on what is needed and the associated costs. He asked if information could be prepared for the next meeting.

Director Slater reiterated that there is a need for a coordinated liquid waste plan in the valley in order to continue to be effective in stopping nutrient pollution of the lakes.

Director Fourt provided information on the problems encountered in sewerage rural areas surrounding Osoyoos Lake, with the need to obtain substantial initial cash in an area of limited tax base. He circulated a proposal for a means of financing water and sewer projects, (attached) by forming a public company which would supply financing at reasonable rates.

Director Novakowski commented on a similar funding problem in upgrading parcels serviced by on-site systems in Westbank. He noted that the initial cost of provision of sewers is prohibitive and there needs to be a pool of cash which could be accessed to help with these early costs.

Director McCoubrey informed the Board that Lake Country was assessing a community wide parcel tax to make up the shortfall in funding created by the lack of provincial assistance in constructing their sewer system. This would be in addition to the amount charged to each parcel connecting to the system.

Director Hobson summarized the problems he saw, including sewerage of 'old' areas, DCCs and interest costs, the absence of provincial grants for treatment plants and collectors, non point source nutrient problems, and the expansion of land base for effluent irrigation. He noted that we need to look at our needs in these areas and discuss mechanisms to meet them in the future. He added that perhaps we should talk to the Ministry of Environment and ask for their expertise in solving these mutual problems.

Director Fourt wondered how much money would be required per parcel in the Okanagan Basin to meet the shortfall created by the absence of government grants.

Director Slater stated that any funding strategy required that the province either pay grants or give up the means to raise the money to local government.

Director Fourt suggested that we ask permission of the regional districts to hire expertise to advise us in these areas.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That a special meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be convened on Friday, April 3rd to conduct a day long session to review the history of the Board, its accomplishments, update the Master Liquid Waste Plan, and discuss options for future actions. Invitations would be issued to the three regional district administrators, representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Municipal Affairs, as well as UBCM"

CARRIED.

Director Hobson suggested, and the Board agreed to ask former Administrator Peter Mackiewicz to facilitate the meeting.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control Program Status

The Field Supervisor reported on the status of the 1997-98 program. The fiscal year for the aquatic weed program ends March 31st. We are in the middle of our scheduled derooting season which commenced in November and runs to late May or early June.

Currently the following equipment is in operation:

- Rototiller #1 - Osoyoos Lake - Started operation Feb. 9
- Rototiller #2 - Kalamalka Lake (Part of Wood Lake completed)

- MRV Okanagan - Kelowna (Okanagan Landing/Vernon completed)

The majority of weed control work takes place between February and June. Derooting at this time offers control of weedbeds over the summer and reduced conflicts with tourists, beach, and lake use.

To the start of February, \$266,063 has been spent out of \$300,100 available for operating funds. The deficiency in funding for 1997-98 (the Province's \$116,000 shortfall) has resulted in operation of three machines rather than four in the final quarter of the fiscal year. Sites which are not treated, (either skipped or allocated less hours than usual) will be left until next season.

Director Slater asked for some background on how the Province was lobbied for funding.

The Chairman reported on the meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment at which numerous representatives of the Water Board, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Kootenay Boundary Regional District, and Cultus Lake Park Board attended. He added that previous attempt to meet with the Minister had not met with success but that CSRD had been given an opportunity to meet with Minister MacGregor in Kamloops on March 13, and with the permission of the Board he would also attend.

Director Ross asked what amount of funding was needed to maintain an adequate level of weed control.

Mr. Armour advised that the current (reduced) level had produced a number of complaints about weed growth in sites which had been acceptably controlled in the past. His own observation was that a number of areas had received less than sufficient machine hours over the past year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Water Quality and Quantity Committee Report

The Board received a report from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen on water management issues. It was noted that this was the subject of Mr. Mayer's presentation.

Regional District of North Okanagan - OUC Request for Funding

The Regional District of North Okanagan had considered the request from Okanagan University College to provide funding for a Watershed Management Department being proposed under an FRBC endowment. The regional District had decided not to provide any funding.

Director Hobson told the Board that C.O.R.D. had decided to contribute a total of \$50,000. He said that although they were reluctant to get involved in funding post secondary education, the investment in a strategic issue like watershed management offered important returns for the area in research and community involvement. He noted that the largest investment is from FRBC.

Director McCoubrey added that he had initial objections to local financial involvement in education but these had been overcome in talking to the Lake Country water supply manager. He indicated that the one-time investment of funds might pay substantial dividends for years to come.

Director Ross advised that R.D.O.S. had turned down the request.

Mr. J. Rowbotham - Letter and Petition Concerning Osoyoos Lake Weeds

A letter and petition concerning weed growth in Solana Bay of Osoyoos Lake was received.

Mr. Armour reported that the amount of derooting work performed in that area had been cut short last season due to equipment sharing commitments with Cultus Lake. Harvesting had not been effective because of high lake levels in the month of July. As the plants grew and the lake dropped, problems were experienced later in the summer. He noted that a return to regularly scheduled amounts of work should provide a satisfactory control seen in other years and noted in Mr. Rowbotham's letter.

Director Slater asked that Mr. Rowbotham be informed of this information.

Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society - Osoyoos Lake Weeds

The Water Quality Society forwarded information from an Osoyoos resident who reported on weed growth on the south side of Solana Bay.

Mr. Armour reported that some derooting and cutting had been done in the vicinity of the Shady Lagoon Resort but not at the site described. He said he would investigate the area and consult with the resident.

Town of Osoyoos - Milfoil in Solana Bay

Information relating to the problems created by aquatic weed growth in Solana Bay was received from the Town of Osoyoos.

Town of Osoyoos and City of Penticton - Boating Regulations

Mr. Armour related that he had consulted with the Towns of Osoyoos and Oliver, and the City of Penticton prior to submitting an application for shoreline speed restrictions on Osoyoos and Skaha Lakes as requested by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. As Penticton and Osoyoos had expressed no concerns, the applications had been submitted.

Director Hobson mentioned that a UBCM recommendation had been forwarded to the Province to implement these regulations for all BC inland waterways.

Director Slater asked who would post information about proposed regulations at boat accesses.

The Field Supervisor said that OBWB would do this using signs supplied by the Province, assuming the procedure was the same as that followed for Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood Lakes. 3/5/98

Attorney General for BC- Contraventions Act

The Attorney General responded to a letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board urging signing by the Province of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Government. He indicated that the matter was under negotiation, and that he was hopeful that once an agreement was reached, it would result in improved safety on the waters.

Friends of the Research Station Gardens - Grant Application

The Board received information on the xeriscape garden and proposed public information program from the Friends of the Research Station Gardens at Summerland.

Mr. Armour reviewed a past presentation made to the Board by Garden's Manager Brian Stretch and noted that the Board had convened one of its regular meetings at the garden. He commented that the Xeriscape plants being used at the gardens were specifically suited to the Okanagan climate and that part of the proposal would be to ensure that local nurseries have these species available.

Director Hobson wondered if water purveyors had been approached to provide funding as they would benefit from more economical use of water supplies.

Director Ross observed that the Ministry of Environment had a water conservation budget allocation and suggested that the Gardens contact Brian Symonds with MOE in Penticton.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That while the Okanagan Basin Water Board supported the xeriscape education proposal from the Friends of the Summerland Gardens, no funding is available from current budgets to meet the request for a grant."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

City of Kelowna	\$869,229.15
District of Summerland	18,801.47
City of Penticton	195,163.96
Town of Osoyoos	28,452.00
City of Vernon	358,612.00
City of Armstrong	12,192.24
Town of Oliver	59,273.00
District of Coldstream	42,629.76

The Field Supervisor informed the new Board members that these grant payments were all installments on debt of completed projects. Summerland was the only 'new' project. He noted that previous Boards had wished to approve the payment of the installments which usually took place twice annually.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board sewage grant payments be received for information in the future and that only new project applications be considered for approval by the Board."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

MAR.2 1998

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
RE: ALTERNATE METHOD OF FINANCING FOR WATER AND SEWER
PROJECTS IN THE THREE REGIONAL DISTRICTS.

AFTER SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE ABOUT THE USE OF THE PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP METHOD OF FINANCING OF WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS, I FEEL THAT A METHOD WHICH MAY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

THE OBWB SHOULD FORM A PUBLIC COMPANY WITH THE VIEW OF OFFERING COMMON SHARES TO THE PUBLIC. THE SHARES SHOULD PAY A REASONABLE RATE OF INTEREST OR DIVIDENDS, WHICH ARE TAXED AT A LESSER RATE THAN INCOME, IN ORDER THAT THE INVESTOR COULD EARN SAY 8% ON THEIR INVESTMENT. I FEEL THAT OFFERING THIS KIND OF INCOME ON AN INVESTMENT, WHICH IS BASICALLY SECURED BY THE THREE REGIONAL DISTRICTS, WOULD BE A VERY ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT AND SHOULD GENERATE A SUBSTANTIAL POOL OF FUNDS TO BE USED FOR THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE OKANAGAN. I BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE OKANAGAN AS I FEEL THAT THE CONTROL OF THEIR INFRA STRUCTURE WOULD BASICALLY REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE ELECTORATE.

THE COMMUNITIES COULD THEN ACCESS THIS POOL OF FUNDS FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AT SAY A 10% RATE WITH CAPITAL REPAYMENT SIMILAR TO THE PPP PROVIDED BY SAY DCC'S. THE CAPITAL MAY NOT HAVE TO BE REPAYED OVER A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME SUCH AS IS THE CASE WITH THE MFA. I AM AWARE THAT MUNICIPALITIES CAN BORROW FROM THE MFA NOW AT 5%, HOWEVER IF YOU CALCULATE THE TRUE COST OF BORROWING IT WORKS OUT TO CLOSER TO 8% AND THE CAPITAL MUST BE REPAYED IN 20 TO 25 YEARS. WITHOUT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE THE COST TO TAXPAYERS IS UNREASONABLE.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC COMPANY TO PAY THE GUARANTEED INTEREST RATE ON THE COMMON SHARES, A CHARGE TO THE PURVEYORS OF WATER COULD BE LEVIED AT A NOMINAL RATE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE POOL OF CAPITAL IS FULLY INVESTED.

THE COST OF OPERATING A PUBLIC COMPANY OF THIS NATURE SHOULD NOT BE THAT MUCH, AS IT PROBABLY WILL NOT REQUIRE A STAFF INCREASE OF MORE THAN 2 OR 3.

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
ON APRIL 3RD, 1998, AT THE HOTEL ELDORADO, 500 COOK AVENUE, KELOWNA,
BC AT 9:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hitchen	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.
 <u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	 R. Mayer	 O.S.R.D.
	K. Arcuri	C.O.R.D.
	Barry Gagnon	N.O.R.D.
	Wayne d'Easum	C.O.R.D.
	Vanessa Sutton	O.S.R.D.
	Tim Forty	Okanagan Region Ministry of Environment
	Doug Macfarlane	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	Gary Paget	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	 Peter Mackiewich	 Facilitator
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 Greg Armour	 Field Supervisor

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the current role and mandate of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, in view of the needs and problems identified by local government.

- History of the Board and why it was established: The information on the history of the Okanagan Basin Water Board contained in the attached background was reviewed by Mr. Armour.
- Mr. Tim Forty of the MOELP reviewed liquid waste management planning, progress to date, and future alternatives.

There was agreement that valley wide coordination of some water management issues was needed:

- 1) Standardization of a variety of rules and procedures across the valley including:
 - development cost charges - so that cost to development are the same from one jurisdiction to another and costs reflect the true amount required to provide infrastructure.
 - monitoring standards for on-site sewage treatment systems

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- Standards for financing of infrastructure - the sources of local funding for projects should be equitable from one area to another so that taxpayers are treated equally.
 - The establishment of 'seed' funding to allow the sewerage of established areas currently on septic tanks.
 - Public Education - in the form of an annual state of the environment report outlining such issues as water quantity reserves, water quality concerns, goals and targets for the immediate future, and accomplishments during the past year.
 - Water conservation initiatives - to ensure that common goals are followed across the valley.
- 2) Logical identification of valley wide issues - there is a perceived role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in suggesting issues which may benefit from valley wide coordination.
- 3) Crown land for effluent irrigation projects - the Okanagan Basin Water Board could lobby for the provision of crown land required for effluent irrigation projects at no charge in the absence of regular Provincial Government assistance.
- 4) Liquid waste plans - the Okanagan Basin Water Board could consider funding of LMP updates since there is currently limited senior government money available.
- 5) Water quality information on the main lakes - The reduction in funding of monitoring programs through the Ministry of Environment was a cause of concern. Current base information on the status of the lakes is needed to establish the effectiveness of what we are doing and to observe longer term trends in water quality. There might be a role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in conjunction with MOE and perhaps Okanagan University College in ensuring that adequate monitoring is kept up.

It was noted that issues would have to be dealt with in the 1999 requisition to the regional districts since 1998 funding is committed.

The Municipal Affairs representatives commented on the value of approaching senior government on a valley wide coordinated basis. A stronger case could be made for the limited funding available and the Ministry could see where the projects fit into an overall plan.

ADJOURNMENT: The special Board meeting ended at 3:00 pm.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 5TH, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	E. V. Jensen	Ministry of Environment
	Dr. J. E. Bryan	Ministry of Environment

<u>STAFF:</u>	B. Gagnon	Administrator
	G. Armour	Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 3rd, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That notes of a special informational meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 3rd, 1998 be received ."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. E. V. Jensen and Dr. J.E. Bryan, BC Ministry of Environment - Stream Stewardship and Water Quality Monitoring

Vic Jensen outlined the importance of water to the Okanagan and commented on the changing demographics with many residents new to the valley and not knowledgeable about the water resource and their impact on it. He noted that professed concern for the environment is not always matched by actions.

Mr. Jensen noted that the mandate of the Ministry of Environment in lake sampling is to monitor the effects of permitted discharges. This is done at deep water sampling sites. He added that

there is a role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in promoting hands on stewardship through provision of tools and training for the public to take on monitoring.

Director Ross asked if cutbacks in Ministry funding had affected the monitoring capability of the Ministry.

Mr. Jensen replied that the basic monitoring resources were focused on the deep lake sites and this would continue at the same level as normal.

Dr. Bryan commented that there was a cutback in the capability to do stream monitoring as his operations budget was only 5% (\$5000) of what it was four years ago.

Director Hobson noted the importance of stream stewardship and informed the Board that two permanent positions as watershed coordinators had been established at the City of Kelowna. He remarked that the lack of provincial resources had forced local government to respond but in this case, a clear role would have to be established for the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mr. Armour noted that the Ministry staff had conducted an instructional seminar for the public on sampling equipment and techniques a couple of years previous.

Director Ross agreed that we need one aspect of stream stewardship as a focus, and that this undertaking would require a knowledgeable person.

Mr. Jensen advised that there is value in promoting the idea of stewardship in general and seeing where the interest of the public lies.

Director Novakowski observed that the makeup of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is well suited in terms of valley wide representation, to water quality monitoring, and suggested this should be considered as a function.

Director Fourt described his experience with the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society and noted the difficulty in sustaining interest in such a group.

Director McCoubrey stated that the Board would not have funding allocated in the current fiscal year to begin a new project. This would have to be requisitioned next year. He suggested that we should bring together representatives of all stewardship groups active in the valley to get an idea of the support needed. He also advised that Okanagan University College appears receptive to partnering in undertaking water quality monitoring, either through the Deep River Science Academy or the Freshwater Science Institute.

Director Hobson added that on third of the time of the two new chairs of Watershed Management at OUC was proposed to be devoted to extension to the public.

Dr. Bryan suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board might consider sponsoring a workshop for all stewardship groups.

The Chairman commented that environmental initiatives were apparently not a priority for the Province as fees collected were not returned to local initiatives. He said that the lakes represent far more than just tourist dollars to the Okanagan,

Director Ross indicated that the water suppliers might be a source of money and support for stream stewardship initiatives and suggested that the Ministry make a presentation to the

Water Supply Association of BC.

Director Hobson asked specifically what needed to be done that the Ministry currently does not do? Both water suppliers and the Ministry sample lakes and streams.

Mr. Jensen replied that the key zone which lacks stewardship is in the urban areas, where streams, bays, and shorelines need attention.

The Chairman suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board invite active stewardship groups in each region to a regular meeting in their specific area to see what the interest is.

The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a one meeting workshop for all groups versus the individual area approach.

Director Ross said that the Board should pass on the content of the Ministry presentation to the Regional Districts and our intention to look at what we can do in next years budget. Perhaps the regional districts might have funding available this year.

Director McCoubrey noted that an initial brainstorming is needed to identify what water stewardship initiatives would be undertaken. The regional districts could then be asked regarding funding of a specific initiative.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director McCoubrey:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board ask the Ministry of Environment to formulate a specific request for the Board to undertake an aspect of stream stewardship. This request would then be referred to the Regional Boards"

DEFEATED.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board support the principle of stream stewardship and have staff bring together volunteer groups to identify options for proceeding. Groups would be invited to attend either individual meetings in their respective area, or a single workshop meeting depending on information as to cost etc."

CARRIED.

The Board agreed to issue a press release indicating its interest in promoting and coordinating stream stewardship and to approach Alliance Professional Services regarding this initiative as they had recently published a newspaper concerning water quality.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control Program Budget for 1998-99

The Field Supervisor presented the budget for aquatic weed control for fiscal year 1998-99 (attached) which incorporated the \$86,000 received from the Ministry of Environment.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board working budget for 1998-99 Aquatic Weed Control, presented by the Field Supervisor be received."

CARRIED.

Program Costs for 1997-98

Mr. Armour reviewed the expenditures for the 1997-98 aquatic weed control program. He informed the Board that actual operation expenses for 1997-98 were \$317,595 which compared to \$392,200 in 1996-97, and \$379,258 in 1995-96. Harvesting, derooting, and special projects costs were slightly above budgeted figures, while administration was below.

The statement of expenditures is attached.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the statement of 1997-98 expenditures for aquatic weed control be received."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

District of Lake Country - Application for Sewage Assistance Grant

The Board received a letter from the District of Lake Country outlining the costs of, and a description of works to be put in place in phase 1 of its liquid waste treatment plan.

Mr. Armour pointed out that the Okanagan Basin Water Board share of this project had been budgeted for in the requisition for sewage assistance funds for 1998-99.

BC Parks - Application for Boating Speed Restriction

The Board was notified that the application to BC Parks for boating shoreline speed restrictions on Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes had been returned. The Rafting and Boating Regulations Officer had indicated the application should be made by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, rather than the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Ross asked about the status of the application made for Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood Lakes, and about enforcement of the regulations by RCMP.

Mr. Armour replied that the application for the north end of the valley from the Okanagan Basin Water Board was accepted and the proposed regulations posted last summer for comment. BC Parks would forward this to Coast Guard. With respect to policing, most regions with similar regulations found that the peer pressure and education provided by the restrictions were most effective.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the information from BC Parks concerning shoreline speed restrictions on Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes be forwarded to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen."

CARRIED.

Lower Nipit Improvement District - Request for Weed Control

The Lower Nipit Improvement District asked the Okanagan Basin Water Board for assistance in dealing with Eurasian watermilfoil found in Twin Lakes.

Mr. Armour reported that there were not enough resources to allow any sort of treatment of this lake without reducing our work in the main valley lakes. In addition, the mechanical methods used by the Okanagan Basin Water Board did not seem to find favour with Twin Lakes residents who prohibit any sort of powered vessel operation on that lake.

The Board agreed to advise the Lower Nipit Improvement District of this situation.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - OUC Request for Funding for Watershed Management Department

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen notified the Board that it had resolved not to support the request from OUC for funding for the proposed Watershed Management Chair.

Kelowna Water Ski Club - Duck Lake Milfoil Control

The Kelowna Water Ski Club asked the Okanagan Basin Water Board to schedule aquatic weed harvesting for Duck Lake for the 1998 season.

The Field Supervisor advised that weeds in Duck Lake usually matured earlier than in other sites due to the shallow depth and warm temperatures. This enabled scheduling of cutting in late June or early July prior to commencing work in other areas. He added that this would likely be possible this season.

The Board asked that the Water Ski Club be notified.

District of Coldstream - Kalamalka Lake Flood Control

The District of Coldstream, by way of a copy of a letter asking the Ministry of Environment to consider altering the control structure at Kalamalka Lake, asked the Board to support this expenditure of public funds. The measure would allow the lake to be drawn down to a lower level than is presently possible, during winter, in potential flood situations.

Moved by Director McCoubrey and seconded by Director McGrath:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write a letter of support for the District of Coldstream request to the Ministry of Environment, to alter the flow control structure at Kalamalka Lake."

CARRIED.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment - Milfoil in Solana Bay, Osoyoos

Dr. J. O'Riordan sent a copy of a response to residents of Solana Bay in Osoyoos who had petitioned concerning the growth of aquatic weeds in that area.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the area had been cleared of weed growth in the past month by Okanagan Basin Water Board weed control rototiller.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

No new applications were received at this time.

Director McGrath asked that payments on approved grants be summarized for the Board's information. He also asked that the criteria for grant eligibility, which have changed substantially in recent years, be summarized in writing.

Mr. Gagnon advised that this is being worked on and would be brought to the Board when completed.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Next Meeting

The Board discussed whether there was enough business to warrant a June meeting.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be held in July in Vernon."

CARRIED.

Following additional deliberation regarding the need for future meetings it was resolved that:

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the June meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be reconvened June 2nd in Kelowna."

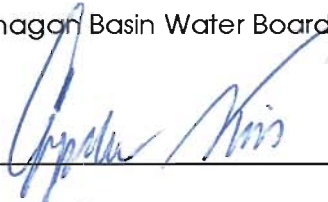
CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned to committee at 12:00 P.M.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

<u>REVENUE:</u>	F.Y. 1997 - 1998	F.Y. 1998 - 1999
Province of B. C. (50% Grant)	86,000.00	86,000.00
R.D.C.O. Requisition	130,558.00	163,287.00
R.D.O.S. Requisition	60,012.00	73,394.00
R.D.N.O. Requisition	51,025.00	62,764.00
Transfer from Equip. Reserve		0.00
Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit)		<u>0.00</u>
 TOTAL REVENUE:	 327,595.00	 385,445.00
 <u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
Harvesting Operations		
Supervisor Wages	10,000.00	11,000.00
Harvester Operator Wages	13,000.00	14,000.00
Payroll Benefits	4,000.00	5,000.00
Driver's Wages	7,000.00	7,000.00
Equipment Transport	2,000.00	2,000.00
Pickup Truck Rentals	3,500.00	3,500.00
Pickup Operation and Maintenance	4,500.00	4,500.00
Travel Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00
Crane Rental	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fuel and Lubricants (Harvesters)	2,000.00	2,000.00
Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	7,000.00	7,000.00
Contract Weed Disposal	1,000.00	1,000.00
Water Intake Repairs	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
 Harvesting Subtotal:	 58,000.00	 61,000.00
 Winter Derooting Operations		
Supervisor Wages	34,000.00	34,000.00
Operator Wages and Contract Work	50,000.00	55,000.00
Driver's Wages	17,000.00	22,000.00
Payroll Benefits	15,000.00	19,000.00
Equipment Transport	7,000.00	8,000.00
Pickup Truck Rental	9,000.00	9,000.00
Pickup Operations and Maintenance	8,000.00	9,000.00
Travel Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00
Crane Rental	2,000.00	2,000.00
Fuel and Lubricants	12,000.00	13,000.00
Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	<u>37,000.00</u>	<u>43,000.00</u>
 Derooting Subtotal:	 192,000.00	 215,000.00

**1997-98 Expenditures
Actual vs Budget**

REVENUE:	F.Y. 1997 - 1998 Budget	F.Y. 1997 - 1998 Actual
Province of B. C. (50% Grant)	86000	86000
R.D.C.O. Requisition	129519	129519
R.D.O.S. Requisition	61099	61099
R.D.N.O. Requisition	50977	50977
Transfer from Equip. Reserve		
Previous Year's Surplus (Deficit)		
TOTAL REVENUE:	327595	327595
EXPENDITURES:		
Harvesting Operations		
Supervisor Wages	10000	13121
Harvester Operator Wages	13000	17868
Payroll Benefits	4000	5691
Driver's Wages	7000	6546
Equipment Transport	2000	1672
Pickup Truck Rentals	3500	3179
Pickup Operation and Maintenance	4500	4222
Travel expenses	2000	2182
Crane Rental	1000	950
Fuel and Lubricants (Harvesters)	2000	829
Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	7000	5495
Contract Weed Disposal	1000	nil
Water Intake Repairs	1000	963
Harvesting Subtotal:	58000	62718
Winter Derooting Operations		
Supervisor Wages	34000	32916
Operator Wages and Contract Work	50000	48879
Driver's Wages	17000	25217
Payroll Benefits	15000	18850
Equipment Transport	7000	3876
Pickup Truck Rental	9000	5192
Pickup Operations and Maintenance	8000	5976
Travel Expenses	1000	
Crane Rental	2000	562
Fuel and Lubricants	12000	8986
Maintenance, Repairs, Supplies	37000	54406
Derooting Subtotal:	192000	204860

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 2ND, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss ✓	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath ✓	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma ✓	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey ✓	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski ✓	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson ✓	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater ✓	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt ✓	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	M. Boshard	BC Lake Stewardship Society
	J. Howery	Alliance Professional Services
	M. Watts	Westbank First Nation

<u>STAFF:</u>	B. Gagnon	Administrator
	G. Armour	Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 5th, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Ross :

"That minutes of an in-camera meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 5, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Michelle Boshard - BC Lake Stewardship Society

Michelle Boshard outlined the activities of the BC Lake Stewardship Society, in the region she represents. Ms. Boshard commented on the various groups involved in stream and watershed stewardship initiatives, including the BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance. (information letter attached)

The BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) has been funded by a grant from the Habitat

Conservation Fund for a period of two years. It is hoped that a volunteer monitoring program will be established in the Okanagan Region.

Chair Kiss asked about the type of monitoring which would be done.

Ms. Boshard referred to the efforts of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society and added that some water quality parameters such as clarity were simple to measure and required little in the way of equipment while others required education of the groups or individuals.

Director Novakowski wondered about membership numbers and the affiliation of the BCLSS.

Director McCoubrey asked about the relationship between the BCLSS and the BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance.

Ms. Boshard said that the two were separate groups, although she held positions with both. The Watershed Stewardship Alliance dealt with such matters as forest resource issues affecting the water resource as well as stream stewardship.

Director McCoubrey asked if money to fund the group was the issue, as there did not seem to be a shortage of eager and interested people.

Ms. Boshard replied that the BCLSS funding through the HCF was for two years only and the Society would be looking for funds to continue its efforts and to support a full time coordinator.

Director Ross asked about the involvement of the MOE in the volunteer monitoring program.

Ms Boshard noted that the MOE has Environmental Youth Team staff to work on the program and will have a role in review of data, providing technical expertise, and possibly provision of some testing equipment.

Director Ross asked what proportion of the membership would undertake actual projects.

Ms. Boshard estimated that 50% of the membership were eager to participate in actual field work.

Director Ross asked the cost of a full time BCLSS Coordinator position.

\$55,000 per year is currently supplied by the HCF grant for the wages and expenses of the coordinator. Ms. Boshard noted that a business plan is currently being prepared by the BCLSS which will outline future requirements for funding.

Director Fourt asked about the area of jurisdiction of the BCLSS.

Ms. Boshard said that her territory as an area director covered Penticton, Kamloops, and Williams Lake Regional Offices of the MOE.

Director Hobson questioned the duties of the coordinator position.

Ms. Boshard commented that the person would supply information to groups wishing to take on or participate in stewardship initiatives. There would be limited involvement in actually organizing the groups or projects.

Director Hobson asked for information on what monitoring was currently being done.

Ms. Boshard noted that there were gaps in monitoring and the locations of sampling which needed to be filled. There also needed to be some quality control and assurance for volunteer monitoring efforts.

Joanne Howery of Alliance Professional Services commented on some local stewardship initiatives and noted that her company had been active in preparing newsletters for several water purveyors, and a newspaper called 'Fresh Outlook.' She wondered what the area of interest of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was.

Director Slater asked if the BCLSS business plan would include an actual schedule for sampling.

Ms. Boshard responded that it would not since the BCLSS would act more as a linking and coordinating agency.

Director Slater asked who would analyze data collected if the Okanagan Basin Water Board committed funds to volunteer monitoring programs.

Director Fourt noted that it would be imperative to involve the Province in analyzing data from monitoring programs.

Joanne Howery informed the Board about the 'Know H2O' project which had gathered a significant amount of information on monitoring done by irrigation and improvement districts. This could be looked into prior to collecting additional information. She also referred to the next issue of 'Fresh Outlook' which would feature a look at the Okanagan Basin Study as a source of information much of which had not been acted upon.

Director Ross commented on the lack of resources made available by the province to their stated top priority of water.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the Province expressing concern over the apparent lack of funding for the senior government top environmental priority of water quality monitoring and education in the Okanagan, as evidenced by the delegations at the last two meetings seeking funding for water stewardship initiatives."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson noted that he doubts the Province will participate in analysis of additional data in view of their operating fund cutbacks at the local level. He added that the Board requires a clear picture of what is needed in terms of lake and stream monitoring, shallow versus deep sites, what is being done currently, and also the need for water quantity information. Before considering funding for a stewardship coordinator, we would need to know the focus of that position.

Joanne Howery commented on the efforts of irrigation and improvement districts to educate and inform customers and to obtain baseline information concerning their water supplies.

Director Novakowski agreed that we need a definition of stewardship and what needs to be done in order to define the role of the Water Board.

Director McGrath entered the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Director McCoubrey reiterated that we need specifics from the MOE about what is not being done in water quality monitoring and what they are asking the Okanagan Basin Water Board to take on.

Michelle Boshard suggested a meeting of selected representatives from the regional districts, irrigation districts, the MOE, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board to look at the gaps in information being gathered.

Director Hansma asked that the Board receive information on the specific issues addressed by stewardship.

Ms. Howery agreed that the Board needed an understanding of what stewardship involves as a basis for any involvement. She advised that there was a role for a Coordinator in providing local government with information on how to initiate stewardship programs with individuals in a positive way as opposed to enforcement techniques.

Mike Watts entered the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Michelle Boshard offered to organize the specifics of the Stewardship Coordinator position.

Director Slater stated that money could be spent on actual phosphorus removal initiatives rather than further data gathering. The Province should be lobbied to make additional revenue sources available to local government in the absence of grants to projects.

Director Ross agreed that we should drive home the point that water is a priority and the Province must be a player in ensuring maintenance of this resource.

Director Fourt said that the Board should prioritize items from its April 3rd discussion before proceeding with any stewardship programs.

Director Novakowski said that perhaps the Okanagan Basin Water Board should offer to partner with the MOE in water quality initiatives.

Director Hobson stated that the Provincial objective is to find ways for others to do the business of the Ministry. We need to have an understanding of what really needs to be done.

Director McGrath observed that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has no money and the Province has no money. He said we should ask the opposition for their proposals of what would be done under their leadership, to address water quality and quantity concerns in the Okanagan.

Director McCoubrey said that we need to know what the Province is asking the Okanagan Basin Water Board to do in terms of water quality work.

Director Novakowski expressed concern that the Province would not state what they wish to download to local government. This Board must decide what they wish to take on and adopt a position on water quality and stewardship.

Director Hansma said that the Okanagan Basin Water Board should establish its requirements for water quality stewardship in the Okanagan and communicate these to the Province.

Director Slater supported this idea of a stewardship business plan.

Director McGrath also said he is concerned about asking the government what it wants local government to do. He added that we should tell the Province what we expect them to do and what local government would take on.

Director Hobson noted that we need to take steps to encourage public advocacy in stewardship as well as coordinate research and monitoring to ensure that needs are addressed and gaps in information eliminated.

Director Ross wondered if the Okanagan Basin Water Board is the correct body to do this and whether the regional districts should be asked if this is a role for the Board.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff prepare a proposal on details of what is involved in a stewardship program for consideration by the Board in prioritizing issues from April 3rd discussions of the mandate of the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson added that a meeting as proposed earlier to get the interested parties together including the MOE at a staff level could provide useful information.

The Chairman thanked Michelle Boshard and Joanne Howery for their assistance at the meeting.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control Program Update

The Field Supervisor presented a summary of aquatic weed control derooting work performed in 1997-98. (attached)

He advised that the summer harvesting season would likely begin in late June or early July, and that two harvester/cutters would be operated again this year. Harvesting is utilized to clean up areas not derooted or where re-growth following derooting is extensive.

CORRESPONDENCE:

District of Coldstream - Grant Eligibility for Proposed Sewer Project

The District of Coldstream informed the Board that they would be proceeding with the plan to establish their own sewage treatment and disposal system. They forwarded confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that the project would be eligible for provincial grants.

The Board received the information.

Regional District of North Okanagan - Appointment of W. Hansma

The Regional District of North Okanagan advised the Board of the appointment of Director W. Hansma to the Okanagan Basin Water Board as one of the three representatives from that

region.

The Board received this correspondence for information.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

No new applications were received at this time.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan Basin Water Board Mandate and Role - From Meeting of April 3rd, 1998

The Board reviewed notes prepared by Administration on the topics discussed at the Special Meeting held April 3rd.

Director Ross asked if the Board's sewage facilities levy could be increased above the .21¢ per \$1000 assessment level.

The Administrator said it would require the agreement of the regional Districts and legislative changes to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Supplementary Letters Patent.

Director Novakowski advised that neighbourhood sewer collection systems require some sort of financial boost when being retro-fitted to areas currently on septic. The cost to the individual homeowner is initially too high. The subsidy could be repaid over a longer time period. He explained that the requirement is for the initial capital to proceed as there is insufficient time to allow for a multi year taxation period to raise the money.

Director Slater asked about increasing the percentage of Okanagan Basin Water Board participation from the current 18% especially since the Board only requisitions 10.9¢ to meet current obligations.

Director McGrath stated that each area should remain responsible for its own requirements, without asking the Okanagan Basin Water Board to raise additional tax dollars.

Director Fourt noted that many of the treatment and collection systems already in place were funded by larger groups of taxpayers in the form of Provincial Government grants which are no longer available. He agreed that the Okanagan Basin Water Board should consider paying a greater percentage of new projects.

Director McCoubrey said he would consider raising the Water Board percentage but is concerned that this action might cause the Province to back away from any future grants. He advised that we would need to maintain equitable methods of funding projects from one community to another. Some areas, such as Lake Country, have instituted special local parcel taxes to add to the revenue to make a project feasible. Director McCoubrey also advised that most projects will by necessity incorporate a component to serve future growth, simply because this is necessary to pay for the system. There should also be a moratorium against future development in unsewered areas on parcels under one hectare in size to guard against future problems.

Director Novakowski said the 18% funded by the water Board should be extended to services

required to connect individual homes to sewer.

Director Hobson asked that the implications of the different funding strategies proposed be examined, including funding of local collectors, and payment of an additional percentage to compensate for a lack of senior government grants.

Director McCoubrey commented that local government should agree to common standards for new development. In addition, he said that perhaps smaller enhanced package systems for areas such as Oyama, which are unlikely to receive community sewers, should be considered. Such package or satellite systems serving established areas now on septic would not be viewed the same as a developer proposing a package system for a new subdivision.

Director Hobson left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Director McGrath agreed that we should not perpetuate the types of development which give rise to future problems whether the problems are water or sewer or other.

Director Ross observed that we need an innovative approach to funding in order to get on with the work that needs to be done.

Chair Kiss commented that the level of Okanagan Basin Water Board funding could be adjusted according to the presence or absence of senior government grants or the level of such grants.

Director Fourt wondered about making grants retroactive for projects which have gone ahead without senior government assistance.

Director McCoubrey asked how much of the valley needs could be financed with the full amount available from the Okanagan Basin Water Board 21¢ levy.

Mr. Armour advised that the current amount requisitioned of 10.9¢ raised \$1.9 million. About \$100,000 is needed to service Okanagan Basin Water Board debt on the 18% portion of a \$5 million project. An additional \$1.9 million would then service the OBWB share of approximately \$95 million in total project costs.

Director Hansma informed the Board that in Spallumcheen, Council considered any 'external' funding to be a bonus as we cannot reasonably anticipate any senior government funding.

Director McGrath noted that grants from senior government can lead to a lack of accountability on the part of local government if a project is undertaken simply because the grant makes it relatively inexpensive to local taxpayers.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the staff examine the implication of options for an expanded role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in funding sewer infrastructure."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to local government in the Valley noting the advisability of adopting land use policies consistent with

that suggested by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for a one hectare minimum lot size requirement for development in areas served by on-site systems ."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director McCoubrey and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to the UBCM regarding the continuing need to address interest costs in DCC's for sewer infrastructure and send a copy of the letter to the regional districts and to OMMA."

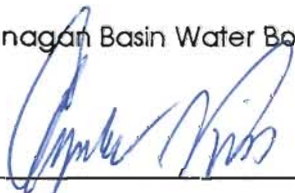
CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held July 7th, in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned to committee at 1:45 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY-TREASURER



BC Lake Stewardship Society

"Furthering Lake Stewardship Through Communication and Education"

Science Building, 3333 College Way, Kelowna, B.C. V1V 1V7
Phone: (250) 868-1027 Fax: (250) 868-1047 E-mail: cwconsul@direct.ca

Dear Board Members,

Please find below some points to consider during discussion of the potential benefits of partnership between the Board, BCLSS and other groups BCLSS might allow.

Shared Affiliations: The BCLSS would be of service as it is already a linking body not only between different public groups, but also between other province- and nation-wide organizations. *Just a few* examples of the cross-section of affiliations include:

Province/Country Wide Non-Profits

North American Lake Management Society
BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance
Federation of BC Naturalists
The Living by Water Project
Fraser Basin Council

Local Affiliations

Salmon River Watershed Roundtable
Osoyos Lake Water Quality Group
Lake Country Environmental Protection Society
Friends of Brandt's Creek
Friends of Mission Creek
The C.O.O.L. Project (Okanagan Dive Club)

Others

Ducks Unlimited
Okanagan University College
BC Environmental Network
BC Heritage Rivers Foundation

Government

City of Kelowna—Environment Dept.
BC Ministry of Environment
Habitat Conservation Fund

The most interesting and useful of a number potential joint-projects which would benefit the Board, the BC Ministry of Environment, and the BCLSS would be a partner to produce a continuous Volunteer Stewardship Monitoring Program (VMP). A VMP for the Okanagan Basin could be relatively easily accomplished as the Board, the Ministry of Environment and the BCLSS would be able to provide the three essential components (money, expertise and manpower, respectively). Such a program would provide not only education and awareness about stewardship in the Basin, but also data needed by the Board and the MELP to understand and manage the Okanagan's precious water resources.

The past year, the BCLSS has been indirectly funded through Habitat Conservation Fund via contracted work by Michelle Boshard of Cougar Watershed Consulting Inc. Since the contract began, the BCLSS has become incorporated as a society, made extensive progress on networking, begun their membership drive. The past year, the BCLSS has been indirectly funded through Habitat Conservation Fund via contracted work by Michelle Boshard of Cougar Watershed Consulting Inc. Since the contract began, the BCLSS has become incorporated as a society, made extensive progress on networking, begun their membership drive, held a technical workshop on lake / water stewardship, and begun to act as an information distribution resource for questions from the general public regarding lake and other water related issues. The objectives in the next year for the BCLSS include: development of a volunteer stewardship monitoring program, development of long-term funding sources and proposals, completion of charitable tax status application, development of membership services, and hosting of another technical workshop.

There are many different levels at which the Board might be involved in stewardship, ranging from funding a full-time permanent Stewardship Coordinator position for the valley down to hosting public awareness events. The BCLSS would be delighted to work with the Board to accomplish mutual goals and would like to further explore the possibility of a stewardship coordinator for the valley. I look forward to meeting with you to consider options for the future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Boshard
BCLSS President

Memorandum: Derooting 1997-98 Summary Of Operating Hours
To: Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors
From: Greg Armour, Field Supervisor
Date: June 2nd, 1998

Derooting operation for the 1997-98 season have been completed. Work began in November, 1997 and continued throughout the winter due to mild conditions. Final work was completed June 1st, 1998.

Hours of operation totaled 1803 which is up slightly from the previous two years. The amount of time required to treat the scheduled sites remains relatively constant, however, from year to year.

A summary of sites treated and the work done in each lake will be included as part of the 1997-98 annual report.

Machine	Operating Hours 1997-98	Operating Hours 1996-97	Operating Hours 1995-96
Rototiller #1	308	353.1	299
Rototiller #2	691	695	586
MRV Okanagan	714	617	629
Bombardier	90	70.0	151
Total	1803	1735.1	1665

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JULY 7TH, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	M. Boshard	BC Lake Stewardship Society
	T. Gow	City of Kelowna

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 2nd, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Tracy Gow, Watershed Coordinator, City of Kelowna

Tracy Gow outlined the stream stewardship program conducted by the City of Kelowna. She included some of the benefits of stream stewardship, a description of volunteer projects undertaken, such as garbage removal, noxious weed removal, riparian replanting, storm drain marking, and adopting a portion of a creek or stream.

The role of the coordinator was to apply for funding, to initiate and facilitate projects, to organize equipment and materials, to coordinate volunteers and provide liability coverage, volunteer training, and media awareness.

Director McGrath entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Director Hansma asked how the Kelowna Stewardship program was initiated.

Ms. Gow replied that the Environment Division proposed two coordinator positions to Council, and these were recently made permanent.

Michelle Boshard - BC Lake Stewardship Society

As a result of discussions at the June 2nd meeting of the Board, Michelle Boshard representing the BC Lake Stewardship Society returned to answer some of the Board's questions.

Ms. Boshard presented a proposal outlining the general definition of stewardship and the anticipated benefits, as well as the duties of the coordinator position, and the costs involved.

Mr. Armour noted that, as suggested by the Board, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, BCLSS, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board had met to discuss stream stewardship. He noted that comments indicated that a parallel initiative focusing on Wildlife Stewardship had only achieved results with the appointment of a full time coordinator. He added that the Ministry was considering establishment of a Watershed Stewardship Fund and he was awaiting more details on this.

Ms. Boshard observed that there could be opportunities to partner with a variety of organizations including the Province, BC Hydro, and local industry.

Director Hobson and Chair Kiss commented on the effect on local government of reductions in provincial staff and activities in terms of enforcement of legislation, and degradation of parks and watersheds in the Okanagan.

Michelle Boshard remarked that non point source pollution represented a different set of problems to deal with than point sources. The pollution was more varied in nature, and spread over a much wider areas.

Director Ross questioned how the Province proposed that the effects of cutbacks will be dealt with. There has to be a reduction in provincial taxes and a corresponding amount of assets made available to local government if they are to step into this role.

The Board discussed provincial downloading implications and the advisability of stepping into the funding of stream stewardship.

Director Fourt noted that while taxpayers might fully support the intent of an initiative, they often balk at the cost of paying for it.

Director Hobson advised that the City of Kelowna is already paying for two watershed coordinator positions and it is unlikely that they would wish to participate in funding another valley position. He added that there is a need to look at the whole environmental protection picture in the Valley, as the Province backs out of enforcement and regulation obligations.

Director McCoubrey wondered what the source of funds would be for a Watershed Stewardship Fund and added that if the water users were assessed in some way, this would be the best source of money to support a Valley Coordinator position.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Boshard for her proposal and presentation to the Board.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Harvesting Schedule for 1998 (attached)

The Field Supervisor presented a harvesting schedule for the summer of 1998 using the two Aquamarine H650 cutters.

He explained that work had commenced as schedule in Duck Lake, but that weeds were not at nuisance levels yet in Vaseux Lake and the start of work there had been delayed. Crews were surveying the lake again this week to determine if cutting could begin.

Mr. Armour also brought to the attention of the Board, a request from the operators of the Inkameep Campground in Osoyoos to remove milfoil growth. This site is on Osoyoos Indian Band Lands and operated by the Band.

The Board noted that First Nations did not pay into the cost of the aquatic weed control program. The Board advised that the Field Supervisor should provide the Band with an estimate of the cost of harvesting and time permitting, offer to do the work if the Band wished to pay the cost.

Columbia Shuswap Regional District Milfoil Control Committee

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had attended the CSRD meeting on June 17, and that CSRD wishes to continue to work with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Kootenay Boundary Regional District, and the Cultus Lake Park Board to lobby the province for an adequate share of the costs of aquatic weed control. He added that they also wish to have stakeholders in the area write to the appropriate provincial ministers to inform them of the need to continue to provide adequate resources for milfoil control.

CORRESPONDENCE:

District of Coldstream - Kalamalka Lake Flood Control

The District of Coldstream updated the status of their request to the Ministry of Environment to plan and install modifications to the outflow of Kalamalka Lake to enable better regulation of lake levels in potential flood years.

Mr. Armour noted that the Okanagan Basin Water Board had provided letters of support as requested by Coldstream.

The Board received the information.

The Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Environment - Aquatic Weed Control Funding

The Minister confirmed funding for the current fiscal year at the same reduced level as the previous year. She also indicated that this was the final year of the five year agreement and said that the Ministry would not be in a position to renew the agreement next year.

Mr. Armour noted that there was some question as to what would occur with jointly owned pieces of equipment, wholly provincially owned equipment, and unspent equipment reserve funds to which the province had contributed.

The Directors discussed the implications of termination of the agreement and agreed to wait for the Province to indicate its intentions.

Mr. Armour also noted that the letter stated that the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks would not be in a position to renew the agreement in 1999.

Richard Taylor, Director, UBCM - Inclusion of Interest in DCCs

In response to the inquiry from the Okanagan Basin Water Board, dated June 3, 1998, Mr. Taylor advised that the Provincial policy which prohibits the inclusion of interest in DCCs was under review, and that an amended policy was expected by the end of this summer.

Kelowna Capital News - Interview with Provincial Fisheries Minister

The Provincial Minister of Fisheries, Dennis Streiffel, indicated that the addition of phosphorus to Okanagan Lake was being considered to alleviate the decline in kokanee fish stocks.

The Chairman noted that he had responded on behalf of the Board, indicating the amount of resources that had been spent by both local and provincial government in removing phosphorus from the lakes in the valley, and also outlining questions which need to be answered prior to implementation of any recovery steps.

The Field Supervisor added that a public meeting of the Kokanee Action Plan had been held in Vernon June 22nd, and local staff commented that addition of phosphorus was not viewed as a viable means to address the kokanee decline. The focus was currently on habitat improvement and reduction of mysis shrimp which compete with the kokanee for food.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:**Grant Applications:**

No new applications were received at this time.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Okanagan Basin Water Board Mandate and Role - From Meeting of April 3rd, 1998**

The Board reviewed notes prepared by Administration on options for altering the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants discussed June meeting.

Director McGrath advised that the Okanagan Basin Water Board should deal with its current needs and policies, and not worry about the history of the grants or what the Province may do in the future.

Director Hobson wondered how much money would be needed to address the requirements for neighborhood sewers which currently do not qualify for either Provincial or Okanagan Basin Water Board funding.

Director Slater noted that at double the present level (36%), there would be a significant amount of money available if the levy were maximized. The fund would be able to share in the debt of about \$49 million worth of projects.

Director McCoubrey said that even that amount would not likely be nearly enough to participate in all projects throughout the valley.

Director Novakowski responded that the level of funding might be dictated by the willingness on the part of the taxpayer, to pay.

Director McCoubrey stated that the Board required updated, valley wide information on the needs of each jurisdiction for infrastructure funding in the future, and also some assurance that proper land use planning would be undertaken to guarantee that we did not create more problems.

There was discussion of the availability of senior government funding.

Moved by Director Fourt and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the Province and ask that they consider paying interest on debt rather than a portion of the project cost for sewage infrastructure."

There was discussion about the implications of offering the Province an alternative to the current system of grants which might prove more economical to them and preclude any up front grants in the future.

Director Fourt withdrew the motion.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director McCoubrey:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board correspond with local government in the valley to determine the cost of treatment and collection systems proposed for the future, and the timing of these projects."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson noted that Liquid Waste Plans might not contain figures for the local collector systems needed to deal with older subdivisions not yet connected to sewer.

Director Hansma questioned the benefit to Spallumcheen of paying into this fund when they have no sewer system, nor the likelihood of installing one.

Director McCoubrey commented that this was the same for a number of areas in the valley, and the overall benefit was in maintaining the quality of the lakes.

Director Hobson said that if the Okanagan Basin Water Board is opposed to making any changes to the Grants, it should not be collecting information. There was agreement among the Directors that changes to the funding formula and eligibility criteria would be considered.

Director McCoubrey asked that the motion in addition to updating the status of Liquid Waste Plans, include updating information on land use policies adopted by local government to ensure that new problems are not created, comments and approval of the Board considering grant modifications, and information of how local government collects DCCs.

Director Hobson suggested that the Field Supervisor set up appointments with the appropriate staff of valley local governments and present a standard set of questions to obtain the above information. The Board agreed with this approach.

Water and Stream Stewardship

The Board discussed the stream stewardship information presented earlier in the meeting.

Director McCoubrey suggested that stewardship not be undertaken locally by the Okanagan Basin Water Board without the means to raise revenue being transferred from the Province.

Director Hobson indicated that the Board should correspond with the MOE offering to administer stream stewardship programs providing the Province gives us the authority to raise funds from other than property taxes.

Director McCoubrey remarked that funding from the Province might be withdrawn at any time and once the program had begun it would be necessary to then supply local resources to keep it going.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board correspond with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks stating that the Water Board believes stewardship of the water resource to be important and encourages the Province to continue to fund stewardship initiatives."

CARRIED.

The Chairman indicated his concern that the reductions in Ministry of Environment staff in the Okanagan Region would severely hamper many necessary programs.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board correspond with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks to express concern about the impact of staff reductions on programs run by the Ministry in the Okanagan Region."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held September 1st, in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.

ALSO PRESENT:

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 7th, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Harvesting 1998

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|
| • South Okanagan | Osoyoos Lake | Harvesting began July 14th
Completed July 23rd |
| | Skaha Lake | not done |
| | Vaseux Lake | not done |
| • Okanagan Central | Duck Lake | June 29th - July 6th |
| | Westbank and Kelowna | Started July 27th |
| • North Okanagan | Wood Lake | July 9th to 23rd |
| | Okanagan L. Vernon | July 27th |

Mr. Armour noted that weed growth was not vigorous this summer despite warm temperatures. In Vaseux Lake, for example, plants did not reach the surface in much of the lake, and at the time harvesting was scheduled, there was little to be cut.

Skaha Lake - Most areas consisted of small patches of plant growth; the larger sites having been treated by derooting in the spring. No harvesting was done.

In Osoyoos Lake, the weeds in front of Inkameep Campground were cut and the Indian Band will be invoiced. The area cut in the rest of the lake consisted of small patches not treated by derooting.

The Central Okanagan conditions looked good in general. Some shallow sites such as Rotary Beach supported populations of pondweed growth in depths of water less than one metre. These types of areas are difficult to deal with using the harvester. Hot Sands Beach had a significant amount of EWM and should be considered for derooting this season.

Wood Lake plant growth did not reach nuisance levels at most sites. The north end seemed much improved as a result of derooting carried out in the winter and spring.

Vernon Arm - small patches of EWM in areas not derooted. Plants appeared very laden with algae growth possibly as a result of warm temperatures. This may account for the plant growth not reaching the water surface.

Harvester #3 was vandalized at Kelowna. Fairly extensive breakage, destruction of wiring and filling of tanks with sand. Time lost was four days.

The presence of EWM was confirmed in Tuc el Nuit Lake at Oliver. The weed is relatively sparse and occupies a narrow shoreline zone in front of private residences. (Water depth up to 2.5 metres) The lake has a creek inflow and a pipe outflow to the Okanagan River Channel. Power boats are not allowed.

Loads cut will total approximately 200 or about the same as last couple of years.

Beaver Lake (Winfield)

The Okanagan Basin Water Board three person dive crew started August 10 . An area which contained EWM was cleared of log debris to allow removal by hand. Plant growth in the rest of the lake was at a relatively low level including the population of *Elodea canadensis* which rings the lake.

Aquatic Weed Control 1998

Update to Aug. 13th

Costs to Date	\$Spent	\$Budget	\$Remaining
Harvesting	41,919	61,000	19,081
Derooting	61,355	215,000	153,645
Special Projects	7,790	48,850	41,060
Administration (incl. yard and insurance)	<u>13,387</u>	<u>33,100</u>	<u>19,713</u>
Total	124,451	357,950	233,499

(4 1/2 months into the FY.)

Biocontrol of Eurasian watermilfoil

The Field Supervisor informed the Board that studies using a weevil as a biocontrol agent for EWM are underway in several states. He noted that the weevil acts by boring into the stem of the plant causing it to lose buoyancy and disrupting the flow of nutrients within the plant. The insect is also present naturally in the lakes of the Okanagan. The studies will involve rearing large number of the insect and introducing them to plant populations to observe the effects and the level of control achieved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

City of Vernon - Liquid Waste Plan

The Chair asked Vice Chair Hobson to take over the meeting so that he might comment on the letter from the City of Vernon.

Director Kiss provided a copy of the District of Coldstream's letter to the City of Vernon offering capacity in the sewage treatment plant facility proposed by Coldstream. He commented on the reasons for Coldstream's wish to proceed with their own treatment facility instead of remaining as customers on the City of Vernon system. He noted that the new City of Vernon Liquid Waste Plan called for pumping of liquid waste to a new treatment facility above Vernon on the Commonage, and then pumping of reclaimed water to Coldstream for disposal. He said that he felt it made more sense to treat Coldstream's effluent in Coldstream and then dispose of it at the same location. Some extra plant capacity could be available to the City of Vernon which would extend the lifespan of their present plant.

Director McGrath responded that his letter was part of on-going correspondence on the issue with Coldstream and both of the funding principles; the Ministry of Environment and the Okanagan Basin Water Board. He added that the City intends to honour its agreement to receive sewage from Coldstream at the same rate offered its own users. He noted that Coldstream can opt out of the agreement but the City cannot. The City will have to revise its Liquid Waste Plan if Coldstream is not a user of the system.

Vice Chair Hobson asked if Vernon opposed funding sources paying for a new Coldstream facility.

Director McGrath said that if the plant serves growth he is opposed to the Okanagan Basin Water Board paying a share of the cost.

Vice Chair Hobson observed that there is no real issue for the Water Board until an application is received from Coldstream and then the Board must consider the purpose of the plant capacity.

Director McGrath pointed out that Coldstream has already received Water Board funding for their collection system and connection to the Vernon treatment plant. This served the then existing population and a new plant would serve growth.

Director Slater asked if the capacity freed up in the Vernon system if Coldstream built their own facility, would be used for growth or sewerage old areas.

Director McGrath replied that there are still areas of Vernon which have been established for many years which require sewers.

Director Slater added that the Okanagan Basin Water Board needs applications from both Coldstream and Vernon to resolve this issue.

The Board agreed that communities must indicate the purpose of new treatment plant capacity when applying for Okanagan Basin Water Board funding. There was discussion about defining what portion of a treatment system capacity serves new growth, and what picks up problems from established areas.

Director McCoubrey observed that as long as capacity in Vernon's plant is used for old growth, there is not a problem. The Water Board also needs to know if growth is paying its way in terms of funding required expansions. Perhaps this should be a criterion for Board funding.

Director Kiss re-assumed the Chair.

G. Battersby, Chair, Columbia Shuswap Regional District

- Aquatic Weed Control Funding
- Mailout Concerning Weed Funding
- Draft Joint Resolution for UBCM

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the resolution to the UBCM, proposed by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District concerning funding of aquatic weed control programs. be supported."

CARRIED.

The Chairman commented that the mailout describing the status of weed control funding in the Shuswap Region was a good idea. He wondered if the Board should take similar action.

Director Novakowski thought our case could first be stated at UBCM and if an unsatisfactory response was received, further action such as the mailout could be taken.

Director Hobson pointed out that despite the busy schedule of meetings for the Minister at UBCM, it was still a relatively inexpensive means of conveying our message.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board try to arrange to meet the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks at UBCM, and if a positive response is not forthcoming, to proceed with a mailout similar to that provided by Columbia Shuswap Regional District."

CARRIED.

Inkaneep Point Resort - Milfoil Control

The Field Supervisor informed the Board that the area of weeds at Inkaneep Resort, referred to in the letter, had been harvested.

Joanne Howery. Alliance Professional Services - Distribution Costs of
Newsletter

The Board received a letter from Alliance Professional Services asking that subsidization of distribution costs of the second issue of the 'Fresh Outlook' newsletter be considered.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board consider the request for funding of distribution of the Fresh Outlook newsletter as part of the 1999 budget."

The Board discussed whether any funds could be made available from the current budget.

Director McCoubrey suggested that the Board buy some advertising instead of a direct contribution to distribution costs.

Director Slater withdrew his motion.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the staff of the Okanagan Basin Water Board meet with Alliance Professional Services and determine what advertising or news article could be purchased in the Fresh Outlook newsletter with a budget of \$1000 and that the information be presented at the next meeting."

CARRIED.

Minister of Environment - Reply to OBWB Concerns Regarding Staff Reductions

The Board received the response from the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks to its letter of June 3, 1998.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks referring to the letter of August 4, and ask which projects have been cut in the Okanagan Region."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Copy of Letter to Minister of
Municipal Affairs

The Okanagan Basin Water Board received a copy of a letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The letter urged the Minister to consider the inclusion of interest costs in DCC's

Residents of Solana Bay, Osoyoos - Milfoil Control

The Okanagan Basin Water Board received a letter of thanks from the residents of Solana Bay at Osoyoos, for the derooting work done in the spring of 1998 to alleviate Eurasian watermilfoil problems.

District of Coldstream, Town of Oliver, District of Lake Country District of Summerland, Town of Osoyoos - Sewage Facilities Grants and Land Use Zoning

Replies were received to the Okanagan Basin Water Board letter of June 4, 1998 concerning approval of lots served by on-site systems on parcel sizes of less than one hectare.

Director McCoubrey said that the Administrator for Lake Country wished to know if smaller lot size would be acceptable with proper application of soil mapping and geotechnical reports.

There was discussion regarding whether a one hectare minimum lot size should be a hard line rule.

Director Hobson noted that grants would not likely be forthcoming for future sewerage of new growth as part of the current policy of the Board, but he wondered if the Board would refuse grants for other projects within a community which did not apply proper land use policies to new development.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board clarify the letter of June 4, 1998 concerning minimum lot size for service by on-site systems, by sending a second letter stating that if communities choose to approve development on lot sizes of less than one hectare, served by on-site systems the Okanagan Basin Water Board is considering a policy of not participating in funding of sewer works in that community."

CARRIED.

Provincial Boating Regulations Officer - Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood
Lakes Speed Restrictions

The Okanagan Basin Water Board received notification of the acceptance of boating restrictions for Okanagan, Kalamalka, and Wood Lakes.

The Field Supervisor noted that 21 signs are being supplied by the Province. These will be erected at boat launches by the Board, and it will likely be necessary to obtain additional signs due to the area being covered.

Director Hobson added that boat and watercraft rental agencies would have to be informed along with tourist publications such as Suncruiser Magazine.

Director McCoubrey said that perhaps these regulations could be a subject for advertising in the Fresh Outlook newsletter.

Okanagan University College - Update on FRBC Endowment Application

A progress report on the FRBC endowment for Chairs of Watershed Management at OUC was received. The Institute informed the Board that they are still some \$500,000 short of their funding objective and asked that the Board reconsider the previous funding request.

The Board noted that the previous request had been forwarded to the individual Regional Districts and that both the North Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen Regions had advised that they would not support Okanagan Basin Water Board financial involvement. The Central

Okanagan Regional District had made a contribution directly to OUC.

Director Slater suggested that OUC be advised to make a presentation directly to the two Regional Districts, not participating.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board advise Okanagan University College through Mr. R. Filipiak to deal with the two Regional Districts not participating in funding of the Watershed Management program."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

No new applications were received at this time.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Survey of Municipal Government in the Okanagan

Mr. Armour proposed a list of questions (attached) to be directed to local government to obtain information to guide the Okanagan Basin Water Board in assessing the future of liquid waste grants.

Director Hobson suggested that a covering letter be included to explain the purpose behind collecting the information. He indicated that this package could be sent to each administrator, and that it might not be necessary to visit each office.

The Board agreed with this approach.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held October 6th, in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 6TH, 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	Mike Watts	Westbank First Nation
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<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
	B. Gagnon	Administrator

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on September 1st, 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

Meeting with Minister of Environment at UBCM

Chairman Kiss informed the Board of a meeting with the Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Environment, Lands, and Parks, which took place at the UBCM convention. He and representatives of the three other jurisdictions with milfoil control programs lobbied the Minister to continue to participate in cost shared funding of aquatic weed control. He commented that the Minister reaffirmed that there was no funding available.

Mr. Armour asked if the Provisional Budget for aquatic weed control in 1999-2000 which would be presented at the next Board Meeting, should be sent to the Ministry even though the five year agreement will have expired.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board submit the 1999-2000 Provisional budget for aquatic weed control to the Ministry of Environment and ask for a 50% grant as part of the Province's responsibility for water quality in the Okanagan Valley."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed the shortfall which would occur in the budget if no provincial funding was forthcoming.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board Provisional budget for aquatic weed control in 1999-2000 incorporate an additional \$86,000 to be requisitioned from the member regional districts which would be available to sustain the program in the event that no provincial grant is received."

CARRIED.

Paul Lake Provincial Park (Kamloops Region) - Harvesting Contract

The Field Supervisor informed the Board that a contract weed harvesting job had been completed fro BC Parks, the week of September 21 to 25. This work has been done every three years after completion of the season in the Okanagan.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Minister of Fisheries - Kokanee Fishery Restoration

The Board received a letter from the Honourable Dennis Streifel, Minister of Fisheries responding to concerns raised over statements made by the Minister regarding adding nutrient to Okanagan Lake to help the kokanee stocks. The Minister advised that the preferred methods of enhancement would be in spawning habitat improvements and mysis shrimp control. Addition of fertilizer would not be contemplated without consultation with local government.

Peter J. Carr, Ethel M. Carr - Storm Sewer Outfall at Vernon

A letter was received from Peter and Ethel Carr, residents of Smith Road on Okanagan Lake in Vernon. The residents thanked the Board for harvesting the growth of EWM near their property, and voiced concern about the appearance of the weed in conjunction with construction of a pipe discharge to handle run-off water.

Director McGrath pointed out that the City has no storm sewers in this area and that storm water management would be part of the revised Liquid Waste Management Plan.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director McCoubrey:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward the letter from Peter and Ethel Carr to the City of Vernon for reply on the drainage issue."

CARRIED.

Next Step Designs Inc. - Septic Tank Monitoring Program

Next Step Designs Inc. asked the Okanagan Basin Water Board to endorse a free program of septic system monitoring proposed by the company.

Director McCoubrey said that the Board would need to know more about the supplier of a service to endorse the company. He added that the Board could encourage local jurisdictions

to institute bylaws for on-site system maintenance.

Director Hansma noted that the Board is not in the practice of endorsing specific private enterprise.

Director Slater commented that there is difficulty with failing systems in that action cannot be forced until the failure is proven.

Moved by Director Fourt and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the principle of a maintenance program for on-site systems but not endorse any specific suppliers of the services."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Water Quality Monitoring and Enhancement

The Administrator advised the Board that it might be prudent to discuss the issues brought forward by RDOS and forward them to the other two regional districts prior to receiving input from resource people. He asked if the intent of the recommendations was to include the Okanagan only.

Director Slater replied that it was intended to cover the Okanagan Valley.

Mr. Gagnon noted that with respect to water stewardship, the focus could be on issues which should be handled by the local groups, and others which could be addressed regionally.

Director Hansma commented that a meeting was needed to deal with the water stewardship issue.

Director Novakowski said that regional goals should be defined for the committees

Director Ross entered the meeting at 10:35.

Director Fourt asked for the boundaries of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mr. Armour advised that areas of NORD and RDOS which did not drain into the Okanagan Basin were excluded. This comprises the Similkameen area of RDOS (Princeton, Hedley, and Keremeos) and Lumby and Enderby in the North.

Director McCoubrey pointed out that some costs would have to be determined for the RDOS initiatives before meaningful debate took place.

Director Slater wondered if the local water stewardship groups should be invited to the next meeting.

Director Novakowski noted that the regional districts were waiting for recommendations from the Okanagan Basin Water Board concerning these issues.

Director Fourt suggested the RDOS document be referred to the other regional boards

Director McCoubrey reiterated that a cost analysis would be required first.

Director Slater said that the information being collected on liquid waste treatment needs would help to define the cost of that initiative.

Director Hansma wondered if the scope of the RDOS recommendations was more than the Okanagan Basin Water Board could handle.

Director Ross stated that the Board could deal with policy and the staff with day to day matters.

Director McCoubrey suggested that the Board support the concept of valley wide water management and ask staff to cost the various options for discussion at the next meeting.

Director Slater indicated that the Board should consider philosophical approval on such issues as stormwater management.

Director McGrath noted that local government is required to deal with stormwater management in any update to its liquid waste management plan. This is ongoing in Vernon at this time.

Director Ross advised that the Okanagan Basin Water Board could initiate one or two objectives and lobby for others as a start. Objectives could be implemented in stages. He added that the Board should endorse the concepts as a first step towards preparing a plan.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorse the concept of integrated water management in the Okanagan Valley and prepare an analysis of cost and staffing implications for the next meeting."

CARRIED.

Director McCoubrey added that the First Nations should be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Watts noted that the Westbank First Nation was interested in the water management issue, but he could not speak for other bands.

Director McGrath asked that the First Nations be given a special invitation to attend the next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and that if they are unable to attend, a special presentation be made to their council.

The Administrator suggested that representation from municipal government water stewardship groups be included.

Deputy Minister of Environment - Impact of Staff Reductions in Penticton Sub-Regional Office

The Okanagan Basin Water Board received a letter from the Deputy Minister of Environment responding to its inquiry about the impact of cutbacks on regional services of the Ministry.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

No new applications were received at this time.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Shoreline Speed Regulations for Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood Lakes

Mr. Armour informed the Board that twenty one signs were received from the BC Parks Rafting and Boating Regulations Officer, to be installed at boat access points on Okanagan, Kalamalka, and Wood Lakes. He said that a letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board had gone to local governments with jurisdiction on the shoreline of these lakes, asking for permission to post the signs, and assistance in installing them where possible. He noted that there are approximately 38 accesses on the three lakes at while not all will require signs, it may be necessary to purchase additional signs. The cost of installing twenty one signs was estimated at \$2200 including wages.

Mr. Armour also advised that the funds to post the signs, if paid by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, could only come from the weed control budget.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board allocate \$2200 from the Aquatic Weed Control budget toward posting of shoreline speed restriction signs at launches on Okanagan, Kalamalka, and Wood Lakes."

CARRIED.

Osoyoos Rural Sewer Project

Director Fourt informed the Board that the Osoyoos rural sewer project was to be implemented without Provincial funding. He commented that the Province will not consider an application until such time as funding is available. There is no retroactive approval of projects, which were commenced at a time when senior funding was not available. Director Fourt asked the Board to correspond with MLA's and MP's on this subject.

Director Ross noted that projects could be phased as they are affordable and perhaps the provincial government could participate in a subsequent phase.

Moved by Director Fourt and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board lobby Okanagan MLA's and MP's to consider retroactive grants to environmentally urgent sewage infrastructure projects which are undertaken in the absence of any senior government grants."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting


The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held November 3rd, in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY-TREASURER

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 3rd 1998, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA B.C. AT 10:05 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director W. Ross	O.S.R.D.
Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

STAFF:

B. Gagnon	Administrator
C. McCurrach	Executive Assistant, NORD

ALSO PRESENT:

V. Sutton	Administrator, OSRD
S. Gormley	Environmental Planner, CORD

(the following people arrived at 12:30 p.m.):

M. Boshard	BC Lake Stewardship Society
R. Clarke	Water Quality Technician, NORD
Mi. Cam	Environmental Planner City of Kelowna
M. Watt	Environmental Planner City of Kelowna
L. Dennis	Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society
B. Wilson	Kelowna Joint Water Committee
B. Kastelen	Chair NOWA Water Stewardship Committee NORD
T. Forty	Ministry of Environment
J. Curtis	Okanagan University College

OTHERS: 1 member of media present in the gallery

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 6th , 1998 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

1999-2000 PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR AQUATIC WEED CONTROL AND SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

The Board reviewed and discussed the 1999-2000 Provisional Budget for Aquatic Weed Control and Sewage Facilities Grants.

The Board was advised that the 1999-2000 provisional budget included the \$86,000 that the Province had committed but will not cover. The \$86,000 has been reflected in the requisition amounts from the Regional Districts.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the 1999-2000 Provisional budget for the Okanagan Basin Water Board be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund - Reply to Board Regarding Lake Stewardship Funding

The Board received a letter of reply from R. Silver of the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund recognizing the OBWB's support for work of volunteers and the promotion of water stewardship activities. It was emphasized that support for a coordinator position for water and stream stewardship in the Okanagan must receive broad based community support and partnership funding.

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association - Copy of letter to Premier Urging Reinstatement of Milfoil Control Funding

A copy of a letter to the Premier was received from Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association urging the Province to reinstate Milfoil control funding

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director McCoubrey:

"That the above correspondence be received for information."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed the lack of Provincial funding for Milfoil harvesting.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward a letter of support to the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association concerning their letter to Premier Glen Clark dated October 19, 1998 and further advising that the OBWB agrees with their letter requesting that the Provincial funding for harvesting of Milfoil

be restored as it is an integral part in maintaining the tourism revenues in the Okanagan-Shuswap Lakes Region and that in absence of the funding commitment by the Province in the amount of \$86,000. The Okanagan Basin Water Board has been required to requisition \$86,000 from property owners in the Okanagan Basin."

CARRIED.

The Board agreed that the tourism revenues collected in the Okanagan Basin should be shared for the purpose of funding Milfoil harvesting as the two have a symbiotic relationship.

Responses concerning Minimum Lot Size, Liquid Waste Plan Updates and Funding Alternatives

The Administrator advised that not all responses had been received and the replies would be summarized and submitted to the Board when all were received.

The Board considered the issue of soil suitability. It was suggested that perhaps minimum parcel size must be reviewed in conjunction with soil suitability.

Director McGrath noted that the province will not fund systems failed based on parcel size. The Province will not fund systems regardless of size if soil suitability tests show soils are not adequate. Comment was made that the Province is infringing on local government ability to zone.

Director McCoubrey reminded the Board that the rationale at the time was to limit the availability to funding of the day that adheres to the bylaws of the day. The minimum parcel size requirement of 1 ha. was chosen arbitrarily.

Director Hobson raised the issue that in the City of Kelowna there are areas designated in the Official Community Plan outside sewer limits that are zoned parcels smaller than 0.8 ha. He expressed concern that the city could be challenged if servicing is restricted. It was also noted that subdivision under Section 946 of the *Municipal Act* could create a subdivision smaller than 1.0 ha.

Suggestion was made that it is necessary to state a policy that discourages septic systems in the Okanagan Basin overall.

It was agreed that it was important to give direction to local government and guidelines through a policy even though the policy may or may not be enforced. The Okanagan Basin Water Board still has the ability to approve the granting of funds for sewer systems.

It was agreed to defer the matter until comments from all jurisdictions had been received and summarized for the next agenda.

ACTION.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Water Quality Monitoring and Enhancement

Director Slater introduced Vanessa Sutton to give an overview of the nine objectives contained in the OSRD Report - Proposed Strategies to address existing Okanagan Basin Water

Quality Concerns Ms. Sutton explained that the premier issues were to preserve and enhance air and water quality. This would be done in cooperation with the Okanagan University College with respect to Water Quality and Analysis education programs. She noted that it has also been suggested to incorporate partnerships with volunteer organizations interested in water stewardship.

1. Develop a strategy to lobby Provincial Government to maintain or enhance current watershed and lake monitoring capabilities to assess high phosphorus levels. A possible strategy suggested is to explore the feasibility of establishing a valley wide water stewardship program
2. Develop a strategy to lobby senior governments for infrastructure support. A recommended strategy is to have the OBWB identify the financial and environmental challenges face by local government due to the reduction in provincial government infrastructure funding, forward to the province with copy to all MLA's requesting support to reinstate the historic provincial infrastructure funding contribution commitment.
3. Develop a lobbying strategy to encourage the OBWB to develop an innovative parcel tax/revised tax assessment funding strategy to sewer environmentally sensitive areas identified within the 1993 Valley-wide Liquid Waste Management Plan. A recommended strategy would be to encourage the OBWB to identify various financial contribution rate options and associated local government tax requisition implications for public consideration by the three regional districts during the 1999 provisional budget process.

Concerning Objective 3, it was noted that this must be made a high priority item for public awareness. It was agreed that there would be a greater impact if the issue was presented on a united front valley-wide. It was questioned as to whether this was just another form of provincial downloading and if we accept this responsibility we may never receive funding again.

Director McGrath stated that future problems would be limited as new developments pay 100% of sewer and lines. Support is needed for problems created prior to 1985 from poor development in sensitive areas. He reiterated that the Okanagan Basin Water Board must honour its commitment to municipalities who have paid into the fund but the program should not be extended or enhanced.

Suggestion was made that the lobby effort be summarized as a lack of water quality monitoring and lack of maintenance of Milfoil control is due to lack of funding. All income derived from lakes in the Okanagan Basin should be returned back to the area to assist in maintaining lake quality.

A two track strategy was suggested to change the priorities of government and influence politically at large:

1. Pursue higher government
2. Public relations strategy (lobbyist)

Director Hansma noted that the population base of some areas does not allow funding to finance these systems.

Director Novakowski stated that in the future the Okanagan Basin Water Board will face the challenge of not only assessing the need and sensitivity but as well who can pay for the project.

Director McGrath noted that the only way will be through three level infrastructure funding. The Okanagan Basin Water Board should lobbying for the reinstatement of the infrastructure program.

Director McCoubrey urged to Board to move forward with the recommendations submitted by the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District even if only to begin lobbying the federal and provincial governments for funding.

He further stated that Regional Districts have a responsibility. The problem needs to be identified and corrected with or without senior government funding assistance.

Director Ross emphasized that tourism is the prime revenue generating industry in this area but does not appear to be a priority for receiving of Provincial funding. He stated that an agreement is needed with the Province that a project would still qualify for funding even if the project was underway or completed. It is impossible to standby and wait for funding assistance for projects that are crucial in sensitive areas.

It was noted that there must be a concrete cutoff for retroactive funding so as not to mislead taxpayers with hopes of assistance.

4. Develop a strategy to address storm draining and ground water quality issues by encouraging OBWB to review and analyze existing MOE data (in particular non point source pollution) with Ministry of Transportation and Highways and local government. Then provide a list of valley-wide water quality enhancement recommendations to the three participating regional districts for consideration during the 2000 provisional budget process.

Comment was made that there is no difference in the OBWB dealing with stormwater than sewage.

Director McGrath reminded the Board that the issue of stormwater management has been recognized for years.

Director McCoubrey urged that the issue needs to be addressed on a valley-wide basis. The richer economically successful communities are supported by the "bedroom" communities.

Director Fourt stated that the Okanagan Basin Water Board's role is to encourage land use planning through OCP's, zoning and subdivision to set standards with a global philosophy on maintaining water quality.

5. Develop a strategy to address the anticipated reduction in sewage discharge monitoring by encouraging the OBWB to initiate an annual onsite septic system monitoring program in environmentally sensitive areas, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, with the understanding that the provincial service will be provided on a 100% user fee basis.

6. Develop a strategy to address the need to provide an annual State of the Environment Report to the electorate with a OBWB publication in consultation with the Okanagan University College.

As the mandate of the OBWB is to provide leadership in the area of water quality, it was also

suggested that the State of Environment Report include air quality. It was generally agreed that involvement of the College would provide an unbiased view based on the data collected.

7. Develop a strategy for managing non point source pollution by encouraging all Okanagan Valley land use jurisdictions to incorporate NPS pollution prevention strategies and policies into municipal and rural OCPs and RLUBs.

8. Develop a strategy for managing agricultural related water pollution by encouraging the provincial government to improve administration of the existing Agricultural Waste Control Regulation under the *Waste Management Act* to reduce water contamination from farming practices.

9. Develop a strategy for managing forestry related water pollution by encouraging the provincial government to support the application of the Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act regulations to private forest lands.

Objective 8. and 9. would be referred to industry, agriculture forestry and first nations for comment.

Director Slater summarized the presentation by Administrator Sutton. He advised that OSRD felt the items needed first to be prioritized to set attainable goals and not become overwhelmed with the scope of the project and finally to figure out a strategy to succeed.

The meeting adjourned for a lunch break at 11:55 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

The Chair called for introductions of everyone present and went on to advise that Provincial Government funding shortages have made a serious impact on the preservation of water quality. He explained that the Okanagan Similkameen Regional District has submitted a proposal for a Okanagan Basin Water Board Water Stewardship Strategy. He introduced Administrator Sutton from OSRD to present an outline of her proposal to those present.

Ms. Sutton recounted the proposal concerning water stewardship on a valley-wide basis.

Those present representing different water stewardship groups agreed that there were many groups in the valley who are all working towards the same end but perhaps a more formalized coordinated structure would assist in reaching that goal faster without as much duplication of effort and loss of resources. It was noted that because of the volunteer nature of the groups and those parties interested in water quality, training would need to be provided in certain areas, such as sampling of water quality.

Tim Forty, representative of the MOE stated that the cutback on stream monitoring by the Province is an ideal area for a valleywide group to receive training and hands on experience in the monitoring of streams and water quality.

Mark Watt, City of Kelowna advised that the City has been building its stream (now Water) stewardship program since 1986. A holistic approach has been taken to this full environmental program. In 1998 the budget for this program was \$150,000 (\$125,000 of that being gift-in-kind) A soft engineering approach is taken, such as erosion control affecting creeks. In 1999 1000 metres will be restored while in 1998 creek restoration amounted to 400 metres.

Suggestion was made that it may be beneficial to open the 1972 Okanagan Basin Water Board Study to ensure watershed approach covers the entire Okanagan Valley.

It was reiterated that the use of volunteers can equate to many dollars in manpower savings. Volunteers can also achieve many tasks through the interest and dedication to the issue. A coordination of information to all common groups would assist greatly in saving time and effort as well as funds.

The Board was advised that there are many concerned water stewardship groups in the valley. There is a need for leadership and the Okanagan Basin Water Board has the target area to pass information in order that changes can start to be made.

The Board was advised that education of the public seems (especially primary grade school children) seems to be the biggest tool for water stewardship groups to make progress with.

Jeff Curtis of the Okanagan University College suggested that since the scale of water stewardship is such a broad perspective it should be managed by the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The project should encompass stewardship as well as monitoring. He reiterated that there is always a need for a monitoring component. For the data to be useful, inferences must be drawn and for those inferences to be useful the data base must be designed with that in mind. He stressed the importance of including this design in the call for proposal.

Chair Kiss thanked the group for its input and they left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

The Board was asked if they feel the OBWB should accept Stewardship for the Okanagan Basin and perhaps the principle should be reviewed.

The Administrator reviewed with the Board that the objective of the OSRD proposal was to convince the Okanagan Basin Water Board to support the concept. After support is given then interested individuals would be asked to supply proposals on how to coordinate the information, what are the benefits, economies of scale and funding opportunities for valley wide water stewardship and to make recommendations on how best to achieve coordination. He noted that many resources are already directed at this issue and that money would be saved inter-regionally if there was a better coordinated effort.

The Board discussed the ability of the Okanagan Basin Water Board to enter into a request for proposal prior to reviewing the matter with the Regional District participants. Suggestion was made to first endorse plan and recommend to the Regional Districts to participate in a coordinating body for water stewardship in the Okanagan Basin. The Regional Districts and municipalities will need to have a dollar amount. A valleywide stewardship is likely to save funds with redirected resources on a coordinated basis.

Concern was raised that a request for proposal would need to be included in the final budget process of the Regional Districts.

Director McGrath left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board recommend to the participating Regional Districts to proceed with a Request For Proposals throughout the Okanagan Basin Water Board for the coordination of water stewardship within

the Okanagan Basin; with the results of the Request for Proposals to be brought to the Regional District if there are any monetary modifications or impact on the final budget."

CARRIED.

It was agreed that the chair would write a letter to the Regional Districts advising them of the proposal outline and request approval for the OBWB to undertake a Request for Proposals.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That Administration forward a cover letter outlining the timeline for the Request for Proposals to be sent out by mid December and a referral to the Okanagan Basin Water Board by early February who will then review and refer the Regional Districts prior to adoption of the final budget."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held December 1st, 1998 in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:22 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY