

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON APRIL 6TH, 1999, 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.
	Alternate Director K. Tribes	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director Hobson	C.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.
<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
<u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	Mike Nolan	Summit Environmental
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Two members of the Media	

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 2nd , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. M.A. Nolan - Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd.

The Field Supervisor noted that the Board had been polled by telephone following acceptance by the regional districts of the Review of Water Stewardship proposal submitted by Summit Environmental and agreed to proceed with the projects he introduced the Engineering Manager of Summit, Mr. Mike Nolan.

Mr. Nolan reviewed the background for the 'Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan' proposal noting the Project Objectives, describing the qualifications of project team members, and outlining the schedule for the various tasks. (see attachment)

Director Ross entered at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Nolan noted that there is a need to focus on the appropriate components of stewardship as the full range of activities would be too broad for one group to coordinate. He described the intention to report back to the Board about two-thirds of the way through the project to

communicate results. He also commented on the two workshops which would involve key agency and stewardship group personnel.

The Chairman asked about wetland restoration noting that this is an important component of non-point source pollution control from urban run-off.

Mr. Nolan advised that he would be attending a conference this spring in Seattle on the topic of wetlands and urban streams.

Director Novakowski noted that the Board might have to review its mandate following the study.

Mr. Nolan said that all local government must support the course of action. Some efforts might best be undertaken at the grassroots community level.

Director Ross expressed concern that a coordinating role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board could result in an increase in taxes for the citizens of the Valley.

Director Hobson observed that we should look at the Okanagan Basin Study as a starting point and that this is a politically sensitive issue. He suggested a 'non-threatening' approach which would build on things that have been proven to work and consideration of provincial responsibilities in Crown areas.

Director Slater noted that we must enlist the help of senior government agencies and not usurp their mandate.

Mr. Armour advised that the Board application for Fisheries Renewal BC funding had been rejected as it appeared the review board felt the Regional Districts were prepared to undertake the project with their own funding. He also commented on Federal funding for watershed coordinators through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, adding that this money will be focused on anadromous salmon stocks, which puts the Okanagan in a tentative position.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Nolan for his presentation.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control Equipment - Agreement with Province

Mr. Armour told the Board that the Ministry of Environment had agreed to turn over the aquatic weed control equipment owned by the Province (in whole or in part) to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for a nominal fee. Nothing had been received in writing at this point, however, the Ministry had asked that written agreements for sharing of equipment be arranged with Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Cultus Lake Park Board for the shared rototiller, and with Kootenay Boundary Regional District for use of a weed harvester. These arrangements had been made and the agreements forwarded to the Ministry.

Aquatic Weed Control - Update of F.Y. 1998-99 Expenditures

Mr. Armour reported on aquatic weed program expenditures to March 26, 1999, nearing the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. Expenses for harvesting, derooting, special projects, and administration totaled \$301,956 compared to \$357,950 budgeted.

He indicated that the budgeted transfer to equipment reserve of \$24,050 has yet to be made and that 1999 expenses prior to April 1st will be received over the next two weeks. Any unspent amount would be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Director Hobson asked if the reserve amount was sufficient to replace a machine if needed.

Mr. Armour replied that the reserve would be slightly over \$100,000, with the contribution for 1998-99, and that a new machine would cost upwards of \$250,000.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That staff build a financial model for replacement of an aquatic weed control machine through collection of adequate reserve funds over the next five to seven years."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Tribes noted that in the event of a change in Provincial government, the Okanagan Basin Water Board should remind the new government of its responsibilities in care of the Okanagan Valley Lakes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

RDCO, RDNO, RDOS - Approval to Proceed with Water Stewardship Review

Approval for additional funding to proceed with the 'Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan' was received from the regional districts of North Okanagan, Central Okanagan, and Okanagan-Similkameen.

Okanagan-Similkameen-Boundary Fisheries Partnership - Rejection of Funding for OBWB Water Stewardship Review Proposal

The application made by the Okanagan Basin Water Board for funding of the 'Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan' project was rejected by the Fisheries Partnership Review Board. The group indicated that they did not wish to fund a project that the regional districts were already prepared to undertake.

Minister of Environment - Elimination of Milfoil Control Funding

The Board received a letter from Minister McGregor stating that funding assistance for milfoil control had been eliminated at the provincial level and that responsibility for the function now rests with the regional districts.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That the a letter be sent to Minister McGregor advising that while the Okanagan Basin Water Board has been forced to take over the funding of the aquatic weed control program, responsibility for the lakes still rests with the Province and we do not accept that it is now the responsibility of the regional districts."

CARRIED.

Director McCoubrey added that local government could only assume responsibility with the transfer of an appropriate long term sustainable source of funding from the province. He asked that the Minister be reminded that the Okanagan Lakes are a provincial as well as a local resource.

Alternate Director Tribes asked that the letter remind the province that they began the weed control program in the mid 1970's.

Director Slater noted that Bill 31 was intended to give local government the ability to raise money from other than traditional local sources.

Chairman Kiss questioned the legal ground for the province to download this program and wondered about a legal challenge, perhaps through the UBCM.

Director Ross commented that this applied to other programs as well and we should have access to funding for a variety of water improvement efforts being left to local government.

Director Fourt reminded the Board of the various proposals to raise provincial funding for this program through boat trailer license fees and a surcharge on boat gas. None of these schemes had resulted in any action by the province.

Director Hobson remarked that it would likely be very hard to prove legally that weed control is a provincial responsibility, and that a legal challenge would probably be unproductive.

The Board agreed to send a copy of its letter to other milfoil control agencies.

District of Coldstream - Copy of Request for Update of Status of Flood Control Improvements on Kalamalka Lake:

Copies of correspondence between the District of Coldstream and the Water Management Branch were received. The material related to discussion for improvement to the control structure at the outlet of Kalamalka Lake at Vernon Creek which would enable the lake to be drawn down to a lower level in years of threatened flooding.

Alternate Director Tribes wondered if there is a viable engineering solution to this problem.

Chairman Kiss commented on a number of engineering difficulties with this project, both at the outlet of the lake and in Vernon Creek.

Director McCoubrey said the damage done by flooding should be assessed and compared with the cost of engineering improvements.

Director Hobson noted that some money is available through the Provincial Emergency Program for preventative flood control measures.

Director Ross added that the Ministry of Transportation and Highways worked with the Emergency Program on drainage and erosion problems in the south Okanagan.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Ross:

**That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support Coldstream's request for engineering improvements for flood control in Kalamalka Lake recommending that the Provincial Emergency Program be approached regarding*

preventative measures and that the letter be copied to the Water Management Branch as well as those copied in the Coldstream correspondence, and the Ministry of the Attorney General, responsible for the Provincial Emergency Program."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

City of Kelowna - Caramillo and Poplar Point Projects

Information was provided on two sewer projects completed in Kelowna at Caramillo Heights and Poplar Point. The sewers served areas of old growth from the 1960's and 70's. The amount payable by the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be \$41,592 (annual)

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the sewer facilities grant application made by the City of Kelowna for sewer extensions to Poplar Point and Caramillo Heights be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Summary Table of Local Government Information on Sewage Infrastructure

Mr. Armour reviewed information provided by local government relating to the survey on sewer infrastructure and funding sent out last fall. He noted that communities, in many cases, had not provided sufficient cost details to assess whether an increase in the Okanagan Basin Water Board sewage facilities requisition would be able to fund priority projects. He also noted the wide variation in DCCs for sewers charged by local government and the variety of land use policies in effect throughout the Valley pertaining to minimum lot sizes for properties not on community sewers.

Director McCoubrey said that the Board must deal with all communities on the same basis and wondered if we should penalize those who do not collect adequate DCCs or keep creating small lots served by septic tanks.

Director Hansma asked if the Board had a definitive policy as to what works qualify for grants and if there were specific cut-off dates.

Director Ross stated that we need to have details on local projects and wondered if the Water Board should invite local government representatives to attend a meeting to provide this information.

Director Slater questioned whether we should be involved in local decision making.

Director McCoubrey advised that we should be setting policy and criteria for grants that are logical and sustainable for the future.

Director Novakowski remarked that the Board has not come to grips with a firm policy regarding sewer grants. He wondered if it is possible for us to come up with such a policy or if we should just continue to pay on each new project.

Director Hobson said that the Board should prioritize its grants based on history and current land use policies. He noted that we need further information on local government needs for the next three to five years in order to prioritize for the limited Okanagan Basin Water Board dollars available. Director Hobson said that we should have a draft policy for the Board to consider and noted that in the Central Okanagan, where a sewer strategy for the Westside is being presented this month, additional information should be readily available.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That staff of the Okanagan Basin Water Board prepare a draft outline of sewer grant policy options for the future for consideration of the Board at the next meeting."

CARRIED.

Other Business:

Water Quality Technology Course at OUC:

Director Fourt reported that OUC is considering cutting fifty percent of its water quality program due to budget shortfalls. He suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board write a letter to oppose these cutbacks stating the value of the program to the Valley.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to Okanagan University College to oppose cutbacks in the Water Quality Technology Program noting the value of the program to the Valley and the financial support given by local government to the FRBC endowment of a watershed management program at that institute."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held May 2nd, 1999 in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

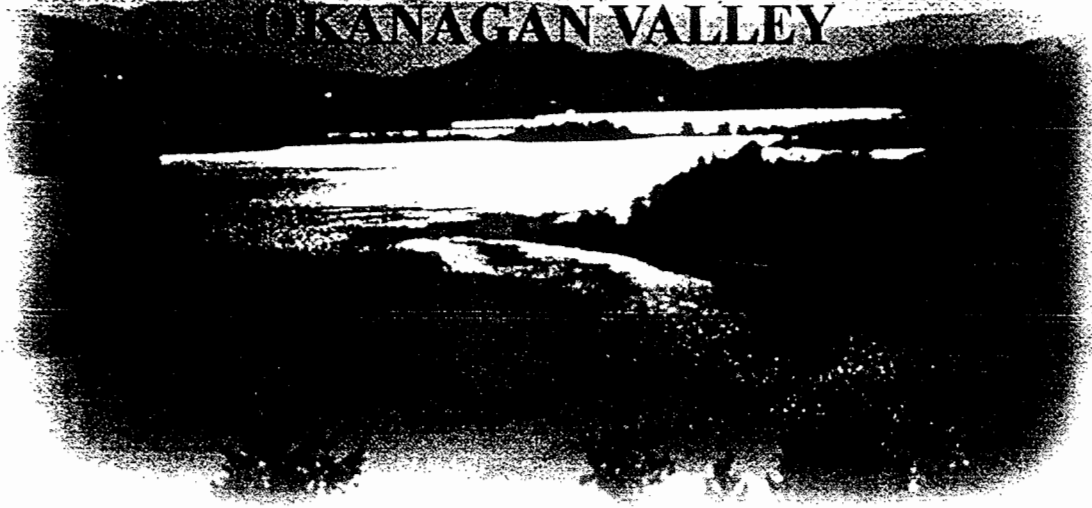
The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

PROPOSAL

REVIEW OF WATER STEWARDSHIP
in the
OKANAGAN VALLEY



Prepared for:

Okanagan Basin Water Board
c/o 9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, B.C.
V1B 2K9

Prepared by:

Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd.
#17A-100 Kalamalka Lake Road
Vernon, B.C.
V1T 7M3

Proposal #140.01

January 1999

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 1ST, 1999, 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 Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director A. Dinwoodie	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.
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 G. Armour	 Field Supervisor
 <u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	 George L. Morfitt	 Auditor General of BC
 <u>OTHERS:</u>	 Two members of the Media	

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 6th , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. George L. Morfitt, Auditor General of BC:

Mr. Morfitt commented on his recent report on *Protecting Drinking Water Sources in British Columbia*. He noted that the quality of drinking water is a major issue for local government and since 90% of the watersheds are under Provincial jurisdiction, his department investigated whether the Province is doing enough to ensure the integrity of this resource and whether it is being done in the most economical manner.

The Auditor General summarized the conclusions of his report:

- that the Province is not doing enough and thus leaves local government with the burden of addressing deficiencies in drinking water quality.
- That with up to 7 Ministries and two other agencies dealing with drinking water initiatives, there are too many disparate provincial interests involved.
- the report recommends that a lead agency be named or established to provide proper leadership at the provincial level.
- there are twenty other recommendations made in the report for provincial action.

Mr. Morfitt noted that his audit examined the water systems of 8 cities in BC including Kelowna. He added that while Kelowna has one of the better systems of those examined, it is not without challenges to maintain quality. The process is for government to supply written responses within eighteen months, specific to the actions taken to address the recommendations of the report. He advised that the report is reviewed by the all party Public Accounts Committee, and the proceedings of those meetings are public.

Director McGrath asked if the report dealt with the issue of combined irrigation and drinking water systems.

Mr. Morfitt said that it did not address this as a specific issue, but dealt with cattle and grazing impacts, human interactions, forestry practices, and so on. He noted that the report indicates a lack of management of the resource by the Province.

Director Ross commented that water for human consumption must meet the Canadian Drinking Water Standards. He wondered, with the MOE cutbacks, how water quality can be maintained or improved under these circumstances. He questioned at what level each Ministry would respond to the AG report recommendations.

The Auditor General advised that the Deputy Minister is usually called upon to respond to technical questions and to represent the official position of the Ministry.

Director Ross also noted that the Water Supply Association of BC is a source of information and recommendations on watershed management and maintenance of water quality.

The Auditor General agreed that suppliers should be at the table but this has not been the practice to date. He added that his report found groundwater contamination problems and a lack of information on groundwater sources and recharge etc.

Director Novakowski said that it is unlikely that any Provincial ministry will take on a coordinating role in management of watersheds. He asked for Mr. Morfitt's thoughts on the role of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the possibility for funding.

The Auditor General replied that his mandate is to look at the Province and their use of resources. On a number of issues he has recommended that local government should be consulted. He added that his report of four years ago indicated that the size of government had doubled and that bureaucracy has not downsized but merely changed priorities.

Director Fourt commented on the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Study in which the ministries of Health and Environment jointly participated for the first time.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie remarked that a coordinated municipal effort to work with the Province and avoid the 'alternative delivery model' which involves more local responsibility without additional funding, would be advisable.

Director Hobson informed the Board that the FCM Conference would include a major session on Federal Provincial infrastructure programs dealing with environmental health issues and not just roads. He noted the role of the Okanagan Basin Water Board over the past twenty years in funding sewage treatment improvements and the current participation of the Board in looking at watershed management and the management of water as a resource. He said that a number of local governments in this province have taken on a water management role and to be effective, need some authority over the resource ministries.

Mr. Morfitt commented that there is a willingness to decentralize authority to local government.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Director Slater stated that water quality priorities are the first item dropped by the province when finances are tight. He observed that water issues in the Okanagan will continue to increase in importance as growth pressures increase. He noted the lack of leadership from the Province in deciding who has jurisdiction. Director Slater also remarked on the wastefulness of treating all water to drinking water standards when only 1% is for human consumption.

Director McGrath added that he considers the cost of supplying acceptable drinking water an obligation of local government and not something that has been downloaded. He mentioned that Vernon's updated Liquid Waste Plan will incorporate a dual distribution system to alleviate the costs involved in supplying all water at a high quality standard.

The Auditor General noted that less work by the Province on its 85% of land comprising the watersheds in BC, means higher treatment costly for local government.

Director McGrath noted that as of July 15, 1999, reclaimed wastewater can be used to flush toilets in residential homes.

Director Ross explained that the Water Stewardship review being conducted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board is funded entirely by local government.

The Auditor General suggested that one course of action would be to explain what the Okanagan Basin Water Board is prepared to do, and ask what the Province is prepared to commit to.

Director Hobson noted that the City of Kelowna's water comes from a deep intake which is less likely to be contaminated and may not require any purification measures. Water from the Crown owned watersheds is more likely to undergo degradation if not managed properly.

Chair Kiss remarked on the result of climate change in the Okanagan noting the large spring runoff followed by a lack of water later in the summer. He advised that local government has only property taxes as a source of funding to deal with watershed management issues.

Mr. Morfitt commented that this office assists groups to form action plans and to define their role or mandate.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Morfitt for his presentation and answers to the questions posed by the Board members.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control - Fiscal Year End 1998-99 Expenditures

The Board received a statement of expenditures of the Aquatic Weed Control Program to March 31, 1999. Mr. Armour advised that the program was under budget by \$20,477 due mainly to lower than budgeted maintenance and repair costs.

He advised that the unspent amount would be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Aquatic Weed Control - Sale of Surplus Equipment

The Field Supervisor informed the Directors that the Okanagan Basin Water Board is advertising the following surplus equipment for sale, in conjunction with a clear-out of miscellaneous items from Regional District of North Okanagan departments:

Aluminum Pontoons:	2 sets
Outboard Motors:	9.8 hp Mercury (four) 25 hp Johnson (one)
Electric Winches	Husky 8500# (one) Warn 2000# hoist (two)
SCUBA Tanks	(Seven)
John Deere Spin Spreaders	(two)
AGNAV Radio Beacon Navigation System	

This equipment was MOE property and has been sitting for a lengthy period. It was turned over to us with the major weed control machinery and is of no use to our program.

The Board asked that proceeds go to the reserve fund.

Upgrade of Computer Hardware

The Field Supervisor recommended that the computer hard drive, and printer purchased in 1994 be upgraded to current standards, and that the equipment purchased be compatible with the other computers used by the Regional District of North Okanagan. This will allow the Water Board access to current versions of software on the regional district's central server.

Cost:	Hard drive \$1500
	Printer \$650
	Monitor - keep existing 15"
Taxes	\$300
Total	\$2450

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board upgrade office computer equipment as detailed by the Field Supervisor."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Aquatic Weed Control Equipment - Agreement with Province

The Board received a signed copy of the agreement to turn over various items of aquatic weed control equipment owned by the Ministry of Environment or owned jointly with the Water Board, to the Board for one dollar.

City of Kelowna - Response to Liquid Waste Questionnaire

The Water Board received the response from the City of Kelowna to its questionnaire on liquid waste treatment needs.

The Field Supervisor noted that this response had been included in the summary table of local government responses.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - OUC Water Quality Technology Program

A letter of support for continuation of yearly admission to the OUC Water Quality Technology Program was received from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Mr. Armour noted that the University College had already made the decision due to funding problems, to make this program alternate year entry.

City of Penticton - Minimum Lot Size for Development Served by Septic Systems

A response to the Okanagan Basin Water Board survey concerning minimum size for lots serviced by on-site systems was received.

District of Lake Country - Official Opening of District's Sewer System, June 11th

The Chairman advised that he would attend the June 11th opening of the District of Lake Country sewer system.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

City of Vernon - Blue Jay Subdivision

The Board received an application made by the Regional District of North Okanagan on behalf on the City of Vernon for a Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant to provide sewers to correct malfunctioning on-site systems in the Subdivision which is now a part of the City. The project was commenced by RDNO.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the sewer facilities grant application made by the Regional District of North Okanagan on behalf of the City of Vernon for the Blue Jay Subdivision, be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Summary Of Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants Paid in 1998-99

Assistance Grants Paid	Fiscal Year 1999	Fiscal Year 1998
Armstrong, City	\$165,354.23	\$166,609.50
Coldstream, District	35,695.77	45,570.09

Kelowna, City	512,186.17	869,229.15
Oliver, Town	151,563.00	151,563.00
Osoyoos, Town	19,269.57	28,452.00
Peachland, District	87,871.81	-
Penticton, City	382,122.31	395,693.24
CORD - Westbank	84,692.09	84,692.09
OSRD - OK Falls	9,700.84	26,463.36
Summerland, District	38,263.32	7,234.67
Vernon, City	<u>285,594.54</u>	<u>358,612.00</u>
	<u>1,772,313.65</u>	<u>2,134,119.10</u>
(Amount Requisitioned	1,754,435.00	1,901,461.00)

Mr. Armour noted that debt retirement had resulted in a net decrease in the amount of grants paid in 1999 over 1998.

The Board asked to be updated at the next meeting on the schedule of debt retirement.

Policy Options for Future Sewage Facilities Grants

Mr. Armour advised that he had met with Water Board Administrator Barry Gagnon and the Regional District of North Okanagan Deputy Treasurer to discuss policy options for the future of the Sewage Facilities Assistance Fund. The Board has considered a number of different directions for the fund; ranging from its elimination, to increased percentage funding of sewer infrastructure, to setting up a parallel fund for new water quality protection measures such as stormwater management.

Each of these options would require substantially different policy directions for the Okanagan Basin Water Board and a spreadsheet matrix was put together to identify implications of maintaining the status quo, increasing the Board involvement, and eliminating Board involvement for each of the initiatives considered by the Board. In some cases where there is no current Water Board involvement, the impact noted is a projection of what might occur with no intervention in the future, from any level of government.

Funds generated by a tax administered Basin wide spread the cost of water protection measures over the entire tax base of the valley, making projects more affordable, especially when initial start-up costs are high per capita. This, typically, is more of a problem in the smaller centres. Taxation collected from a specific area is normally intended for works that benefit a specific user group. Unit costs are higher than with a regional tax.

It has generally been held that the purpose of the Okanagan Basin Water Board Grants is to promote the highest level of liquid waste treatment, for the benefit of all who live in the valley, even those who do not receive actual hard infrastructure.

Perpetuation of the grants to upgrade and expand tertiary treatment for all centres of population in the valley is not the purpose of the Fund. Communities should be addressing the cost of expansions through local means. Only a relatively few areas identified in the

1999 Budgeted Contribution	24,050
Total	<u>\$107,945</u>
Other Available Funds*, **	\$ 3,902
*Balance left in now defunct 'Burlap Fund' used to subsidize cost of bottom barrier weed control for private citizens.	
**Require Board resolution to transfer \$.	
Total	<u>\$111,847</u>
Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Budgeted Contribution	24,050
Total Projected Capital Reserve at end F.Y. 99-00	<u>\$135,897</u>

• Future Needs:

Replacement of Rototiller (or addition of extra unit) \$325,000 (approx. in 1999 \$)

Requirements for annual contribution to allocated necessary funds in:
(assume 5% annual interest rate)

3 years (by March 2003)

Annual Contribution of approx. \$53,000

5 years (by March 2005)

Annual Contribution of approx. \$28,000

• Recommendation:

It is likely that within three years, the machine shared with CSRD and Cultus Lake will require a major refit. It is also likely that the increasing operating demands made on that machine by the three parties will make it preferable to opt out of the sharing arrangement and acquire an additional rototiller for the Okanagan.

The staff recommendation is to set aside the \$53,000 per year set out in the 3 year scenario, beginning with the Fiscal Year 2000 -2001 budget.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded Director Fourt:

"That the \$3902 remaining in the burlap reserve fund be put into the capital equipment reserve."

CARRIED.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded by Director Ross:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board set aside \$53,000 per year in the equipment reserve fund in order to have adequate funds to replace or purchase additional weed removal machinery in three years."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held July 6, 1999 in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1999, 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. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director B. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director R. Perrie	O.S.R.D.
	Director V. Fourt	O.S.R.D.

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

ALSO PRESENT:

<u>OTHERS:</u>	One member of the Media
----------------	-------------------------

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 1st , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour noted that the two documents which the Auditor General had offered to supply; his report on Protecting Drinking Water Sources, and the discussion of that report by the Public Accounts Committee, had been received and were available for Board Directors.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Armour informed the Board that Mike Nolan of Summit Environmental was unable to attend the meeting, but had supplied a written summary of work performed and a revised proposal for completion of the Review of Watershed Stewardship.

There was discussion about whether a final report received in February would enable the Board to incorporate recommendations into funding requests to the Regional Districts.

Director Slater recommended that the project be completed prior to the mandate of the current Board expiring.

Director McCoubrey agreed, saying this would at least allow a recommendation to be made to the new Board.

The question of the effect of Bill 88 on the regional district budget process was debated, as to whether changes applied to capital as well as operating budgets and to regional districts as well as municipalities.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That staff of the Water Board investigate the time line needed for completion of the Review of Watershed Stewardship project and the potential impact of changes to legislation on any recommendation for funding made to the regional districts."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour advised that a meeting would be sought with Environment Ministry officials; possibly Prad Khare, Water Management Branch Director and Jon O'Riordan, Assistant Deputy Minister, to determine the Province's intentions and commitment toward stewardship.

Director Hobson apprised the Board of a meeting held between the UBCM Environment Committee which he chairs, and Assistant Deputies Dr. O'Riordan and Don Fast. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Ministries business plan and the effects of regional staff cutbacks. He felt that it was important to have another meeting to obtain a more comprehensive response, as well as to be informed of any changes forthcoming under the new Minister. He noted that the new Minister had stated her priority for water management issues and it would be an opportune time to clarify the ministry's resources and role for the coming year.

Director Novakowski said that although he would like to see an earlier completion of the Summit Project, he would not want to rush the process to a degree where the final product would be inferior.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That Summit Environmental be asked to advance their project schedule for the Review of Watershed Stewardship to produce a final report by December, and that Summit be requested to supply information available to date to Water Board Directors for use at UBCM."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Board seek a meeting with the Minister of Environment at UBCM to discuss the specific issues of weed control, staffing of regional MOE offices, the Ministry's plan for stewardship involvement, and responsibilities for watershed management." The Board also agreed to seek a meeting with the Opposition Environment Critic at UBCM.

CARRIED.

Director Hobson added that we need information on what resources will be provided to the Ministry of Environment and what programs are currently being carried out. He suggested that it might be beneficial to meet with Prad Khare of MOE on these topics.

Director Novakowski wondered if the Okanagan Basin Water Board should ask the MOE to take the lead in coordination of stewardship groups.

Director McGrath suggested that the Board tell the Ministry that we consider it their job to coordinate these groups.

Director Fourt commented that we need to be prepared to do something ourselves if the Ministry refuses its responsibility.

Director McCoubrey stated that we could inform the Minister that we are preparing a plan for watershed stewardship in the Okanagan and we expect them to fund it.

Director Slater reiterated that water management is the prime issue on which to pressure the Province.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That a meeting be arranged between Ministry staff and the consultant, and that there be political representation from the Okanagan Basin Water Board at that meeting."

CARRIED.

It was suggested, and the Board agreed that the Chair and the Field Supervisor should meet with Summit Environmental to express the Board's dissatisfaction with the revised project schedule.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL BUSINESS:

Summary of 1999 Aquatic Weed Harvesting and Observations on Lake Conditions:

The Field Supervisor provided a verbal report on 1999 summer harvesting and lake conditions. He noted that despite early high water levels and generally cool temperatures, weed growth was more extensive this summer than in the past three or four years. Areas not derooted as part of the Okanagan Basin Water Board rototilling schedule such as the North Arm of Okanagan Lake, were particularly bad and residents of several developments had expressed interest in fee for service work. Unfortunately, most of these requests could not be accommodated as equipment was kept busy on the regular schedule.

Director Novakowski asked if any private contract work was available to pick up some of these areas.

Mr. Armour replied that only one small contractor, working out of Vernon had performed weed control services, to his knowledge. People seemed reluctant to pay for this service even when aquatic plant growth interfered with recreation.

Director Hansma asked if the amount of equipment available was sufficient in view of the increased weed growth.

Mr. Armour responded that earlier anticipation of the situation would have helped in scheduling equipment. He surmised that the Eurasian watermilfoil plant growth cycle is exhibiting a longer term pattern, where after a number of 'off years' of growth, we may

experience more vigorous growth for a few years. He noted that the number of machine loads cut, while significantly greater than the past few years, was nowhere near the levels of the late 1980's.

Christina Lake Contract Weed Harvesting

Mr. Armour reported that as agreed to as a condition of the receipt of the weed control equipment from the Province, a short harvesting contract was carried out for Kootenay Boundary Regional District at Christina Lake. The equipment was operated by Water Board employees and costs will be recovered.

Aquatic Weed Control Budget for FY 2000- 2001

Chairman Kiss asked if it was the wish of the Board to approach the Ministry of Environment for aquatic weed control funding next year.

Alternate Director Perrie asked if any of the alternate revenue generating schemes considered by the Province, such as the boat trailer license surcharge, was still viable.

The Chairman informed him that the province had rejected all alternate methods of paying for aquatic weed control.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board maintain an requisition from the regional districts for Fiscal Year 2000 for adequate funds to conduct the aquatic weed control program, and in addition lobby the province to recognize its responsibilities and provide a share of the funding."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OUC - Endowment in Watershed Management

A letter from Okanagan University College informed the Board that the endowment from FRBC for a Chair in Watershed Management had been rejected. The institute was re-submitting its proposal at the encouragement of FRBC and was looking for an additional letter of support.

Mr. Armour advised that the letter had already been provided, in view of the August 15 deadline.

Director Hobson expressed a lack of confidence that OUC would receive its funding in view of the cutbacks within FRBC. He stated that this would be extremely unfortunate as University College personnel had spent perhaps thousands of hours on this endowment and had raised complementary funding, some of which had come from the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Regional District.

George Abbott, MLA, Shuswap - Account of Legislature Debate on EWM

Information from Hansard was forwarded by the Shuswap MLA concerning the House discussion on the elimination of funding for aquatic weed control by the Province.

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter of thanks to MLA Abbott in appreciation of his consistent efforts to remind the government of their responsibilities for aquatic weed control. In addition the Board wished to ask Mr. Abbott to convene a meeting of Okanagan Valley opposition MLAs, himself and the Liberal Environment Critic."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Okanagan -Similkameen - Soil Mapping Request

Director Slater explained that the Regional District felt that the cumulative effects of development served by on-site sewage systems in some rural areas was not being fully recognized, and posed a threat to the environment. His Board wished to consolidate soil mapping information and identify potential problem areas to make sure that no new problems were created.

Chairman Kiss noted that this was usually the responsibility of the particular municipality or regional district under zoning bylaws.

Director McCoubrey advised that in Lake Country, soil capability mapping for septic systems was prepared in conjunction with Phil Epp of the MOE. He added that once lots are created the Ministry of Health will allow septic disposal if the lot meets percolation requirements.

Director McGrath commented that the local jurisdiction has a responsibility to impose a minimum lot size and it should be up to the developer to supply hydrological information as to the cumulative effects of the total number of units.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to local municipalities and regional districts to encourage them to incorporate into bylaws, provision that soil mapping and geotechnical analysis applied to non sewerable lots be of a sufficiently broad nature to deal with the cumulative effects of development rather than the capability of individual lots."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Perrie noted that not all septic disposal systems are inherently bad, given proper condition and system construction. He noted that it is very difficult to take away the right to develop.

Director McCoubrey said that even with geotechnical analysis and reports, there is often no long term accountability for future reliability of the engineering reports.

Director Hobson questioned whether this broader cumulative effect approach was not being done by local government now.

Director Slater answered that mistakes are still being made in development in the Okanagan Valley.

Director McCoubrey suggested that we make all local government aware that the right to develop should be conditional on all necessary issues of waste disposal being addressed. He noted that the Okanagan Basin Water Board should be more active in promoting stringent development standards which are sometimes overlooked by local government but are necessary to ensure adequate and acceptable sewage disposal.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Recommendations from Water and Air Quality Committee

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That discussion of the recommendations made by the RDOS Water and Air Quality Committee be postponed until the review of Watershed Stewardship was completed by Summit Environmental."

CARRIED.

North Okanagan Water Stewardship Committee - Concern About Bulk Sale of Water

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the efforts of the NOWA Watershed Stewardship Committee to prohibit the bulk export of water as a commodity under NAFTA."

CARRIED.

The Board asked that written information be obtained on this subject from Mr. Neil Davidson in Vernon.

Director Hobson questioned whether water would be considered a commodity under the agreement until such a bulk sale occurs, and therefore not subject to NAFTA.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications: None at this time

Other Business:

Audited Financial Statement

Moved by Director Slater and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board accept the audited financial statement for the year ended March 31, 1999 as circulated."

CARRIED.

Lake Country Development Proposal

Director McCoubrey advised that the District of Lake Country would be accepting comments and input regarding a large residential subdivision proposed for that area.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to the District of Lake Country recommending that proposed development should have full urban services including tertiary sewage treatment."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held October 5, 1999 in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 5TH, 1999, 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. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director A. Dinwoodie	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.
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 G. Armour	 Field Supervisor
	B. Gagnon	Administrator
 <u>ALSO PRESENT:</u>	 M. Boshard	 BC Lake Stewardship Soc.
 <u>OTHERS:</u>	 Two members of the media	

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 September 7th , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour distributed a corrected page replacing one that was incorrectly photocopied.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. M.D. Maxnuk, Ministry of Environment, Water Resource Inventory Program:

Mr. Maxnuk described the monitoring of water quality in community watersheds in the Okanagan Valley, undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, with FRBC funding. He explained that the Forest Practices Code has approximately twelve sections designed to protect water quality in areas of community watersheds subject to timber harvesting, or serving as livestock range land. The definition of a community watershed is an area where water is used for human consumption, the water is licensed and controlled by a water user committee, and the area is not greater than 500 square kilometres.

Mr. Maxnuk explained that the purpose of this monitoring was to establish water quality objectives for such things as human consumption, food processing, aquatic life, livestock, crop

irrigation, industrial processes, and recreation. In the case of competing water uses, the objective would be set for the most sensitive use.

Director Ross asked whether Canadian Drinking Water Standards played a part in these objectives.

Mr. Maxnuk answered that the Canadian standards tend to be hard and fast while the objectives established through the community watershed monitoring will show more variation depending on existing background levels and type of use.

Mr. Maxnuk gave a brief overview of the types of sampling used, from simple discrete or 'grab' sampling, hand held instrumentation, to continuous automated stations. He described the parameters which are tested and noted that most are directly related to impacts of forestry on the watershed. He also outline typical location of sample sites to determine the quality of water being delivered to the diversion point, or the point where the community takes its water, noting that it is difficult to find a point in most watersheds, where there have been no human impacts.

Sampling is scheduled to be done for three consecutive years, and while some sites are nearing this term, others require more time. At the end of the monitoring phase a water quality assessment and objectives report will be prepared, which will consider hydrology, water uses, and influences on water quality for each watershed. Mr. Maxnuk noted that a vast amount of the Okanagan Valley is comprised of community watersheds.

Director Hobson asked for information on the term of funding for this program, and wondered whether the goal was to establish permanent monitoring or just a snapshot in time.

Mr. Maxnuk replied that he is currently planning the next two years of activity with no anticipation of funding reductions. The project will lead to a prescription for a monitoring regime which will allow determination of whether objectives are being met. He did not know who would carry out the long term work.

Director Hobson asked about the community watershed monitoring budget.

Mr. Maxnuk said the water resource inventory for the Southern Interior Region is budgeted at about \$800,000 per year with \$280,000 going to the Okanagan region.

Director McGrath left the meeting at 10:30 a. m.

Director Hobson questioned if this monitoring was a new program or replaced work previously done by the Ministry.

Mr. Maxnuk said that limited previous monitoring was carried out in the watershed dealing mostly with hydrological parameters or focusing on the valley bottom areas. This baseline monitoring in the upper watersheds is new.

Alternate Director Dinwoodie expressed concern that FRBC and the Province might expect local government to take on this responsibility without designation of the necessary funding. He added that senior government must recognize water as a resource on comparable terms with other natural resources.

Director Hansma asked if data from the monitoring would be made available to anyone requiring it.

Mr. Maxnuk said that the raw data was stored in the Ministry database. The final water quality and objectives report will be distributed and there is thought to making the data available electronically.

Director Slater commented that the cumulative result of all watershed sampling and data was what ultimately affected Osoyoos Lake as the most southerly point in the system, and the significance of the monitoring to each individual watershed may not be what Osoyoos needs to know.

Director Novakowski asked if the Provincial Government was expecting to lead this initiative or anticipating that local government would take charge.

Mr. Maxnuk noted that the Auditor General's Report on Drinking Water had identified the confusion among authorities having control in the community watersheds and recommended that a single Ministry have jurisdiction.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Maxnuk for his presentation.

Mr. Mike Nolan, Summit Environmental - Review of Water Stewardship Project

Mr. Nolan outline the revised schedule for the Review of Water Stewardship Project, updated the Board on progress to date, and sought input from the Board. He informed the Board that the final report submission would be moved up to year end or early January and an interim report would be available for Water Board review in late November.

Director Slater expressed disappointment that the terms of reference had not been met by Summit, in that the project was running so late. He added that some elected officials may not be in place to see this project through to completion and he felt it would be unfair to put the task before a new group. He also stated that the work was of such importance to the Valley, that there was little use in rushing its completion and getting an inferior product.

Mr. Nolan assured the Board that the report will be full value for the Board's investment and while the circumstances resulting in the delays were Summit's responsibility, the interim report provided for input from the current Board would be substantially complete.

Director Hobson informed the Board of discussions held by the UBCM Environment Committee (which he chairs), official of the Ministries of Environment and Health, and the Auditor General's Office. He said that a memorandum of understanding had been signed by the two ministries on how water management issues will be handled, in view of the current confusion and overlap pointed out in the Auditor General's Report. He said that the decision was to have the Medical Health Officer lead. He wondered what additional resources will be made available to the health Officers to carry out this mandate, and noted that it was his opinion that the Province had totally failed to deal with the Auditor General's Report and ignored the recommendation that the water resource be raised to the status of other resources.

Chairman Kiss commented that perhaps the UBCM Environment Committee should lobby for a new and different lead agency and both MOE and health have separate and non-comprehensive mandates when it comes to water resource management.

Director McGrath re-entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Director Fournier wondered if the Water Board should discontinue the Review of Water Stewardship Project and re-submit a Request for Proposals when the new Board is in place.

Director Ross suggested that the interim report be presented by Summit at a special meeting in November so that the report can be considered by this Board and a recommendation made to the incoming Board.

Director Hansma observed that Summit was extensively into the data collection part of the project and this should likely not be interrupted. He pointed out the Directors would need the report for review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Nolan suggested that the interim report be distributed on November 23rd, and a meeting be held on November 30th in Kelowna. The Water Board agreed to this approach and asked staff to set up the meeting.

Michelle Boshard, President of the BC Lake Stewardship Society, commented that the Summit questionnaire distributed to stewardship contacts was a duplication of data already gathered and reported in her response to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Request for Proposals. She added that the Watershed Stewardship Alliance is considering the issue of providing coordination of stewardship activities.

The Chairman asked Ms. Boshard to forward information from the Watershed Stewardship Alliance to Mr. Armour.

Mr. Nolan updated the Board on responses received to date from approximately 25% of the 350 questionnaires sent out. The following comments were noted in a significant number of responses:

- a cooperative approach to stewardship is favored
- there is a perceived void in leadership in stewardship coordination
- there is a recognition that the limited authority and scope of the many bodies having some degree of involvement in water stewardship, does not make for effective management.
- that while the volunteer approach will continue to be the source of a great deal of actual stewardship work, it is limited in the long term by a lack of coordination
- there is a need to work effectively with all local jurisdictions, that is, have an administrative component to the coordination.
- that water management is not a stand alone issue and must be integrated with issues such as transportation, growth, and tourism.

Director Hobson advised that he had sensed some interest from senior government in a 'visioning' exercise for the Okanagan, similar to that conducted under the Georgia Basin Initiative. He noted that the spin-offs of this lead to better communication, pooling of resources, and a better look at the broader picture through the region. He said that the Federal Government is interested in these initiatives and perhaps an early approach from local government would be beneficial.

Director Novakowski commented that the Okanagan Basin Water Board represented the Okanagan watershed and was suited to take a lead role.

Director Hansma remarked that following completion of the Summit Report the Board could decide whether to take on a more extensive mandate dealing with water and other environmental issues.

Director Slater noted that the Regional Districts will have to be sold on any such initiative.

It was suggested that OMMA might provide a suitable forum for the Board Directors, Administration, the consultant, and the Ministry of Environment, to explain the initiative to local government.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Slater :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board notify OMMA that it wishes to present information at the spring conference, on the Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan Valley and receive input on the recommendations of the study."

CARRIED.

Mr. Nolan advised the Board that he had been asked to make a presentation on the project to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Air and Water Quality Committee on the Review of Water Stewardship project. The Board had no objection to this.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL BUSINESS:

1999 Aquatic Weed Harvesting:

The Field Supervisor provided a written summary (attached) of aquatic weed harvesting activities for 1999.

Provisional Budget for FY 2000- 2001

The Field Supervisor presented a provisional budget for Aquatic Weed Control for Fiscal Year 2000- 2001. He noted that the only significant change in the budget from the preceding year was the increase in the allocation to the equipment reserve, from \$24,050 to \$53,000 in accordance with the Board resolution from the June 1999 meeting.

Moved by Director Fourn and seconded by Alternate Director Dinwoodie:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the provisional budget for fiscal year 1999 - 2000 totaling \$415,095 as presented by the Field Supervisor."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour reviewed the status of the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant fund. He explained that the requisition from the regional districts had been set at \$1,754,435 for fiscal years 1998 through 2000, based on projections of debt retirement and new project costs for those years. The Board had wished to keep the requisition consistent from year to year. The plan was to eliminate any surplus in the fund accruing from requisitions made for projects whose commencement was delayed. Mr. Armour reported that a lowering of the requisition for FY 2000 -2001 of \$100,000 would still leave adequate funds to meet the Board's current obligations and any new projects accepted for funding in the 2000 - 2001 FY.

The Board agreed to reduce the requisition for Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants to \$1,724,439 and to indicate that \$70,000 of that requisition was being set aside for Water Stewardship Programs subject to the approval of the regional districts in the final budget process.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Dinwoodie:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board requisition a total of \$1,724,439 for Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants for fiscal year 2000 - and that \$70,000 of that requisition be set aside for Water Stewardship Programs subject to the approval of the regional districts in the final budget process."

CARRIED.

Director McGrath left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Minister of Environment - No Meeting With Minister Sawicki at UBCM

A copy of correspondence from the Office of the Minister of Environment was received stating that the Minister would be unable to meet with Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors at UBCM.

Director Ross suggested that requests for future meetings at UBCM be submitted at an earlier date to have a better chance of being incorporated into the Minister's schedule.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Concern about lack of summer meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board

A letter expressing concern about the cancellation of the July and August meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was received from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Mr. Armour pointed out that the July meeting had been canceled but that no August meeting had been scheduled by the Board.

Director Ross stated that some business such as the request for a meeting at UBCM should have been conducted earlier and that even a short meeting should be scheduled to cover such items. He noted that it would be preferable to omit the July meeting rather than August, from a business standpoint.

The Board discussed the option of holding a meeting by telephone conference.

Y Horrey, W. Rozniak - Concerns about proposed Marina near Gellatly Bay

Two residents of the Gellatly Bay area of Westbank submitted a letter and information documents concerning a proposed project in that area, which they felt would adversely impact the water quality of area as well as their own lifestyle.

Director Novakowski noted that the project, under the jurisdiction of the Regional District of Central Okanagan, had recently received second and third reading and appeared to be a well planned project that met the zoning criteria of the area.

Director Ross commented that the zoning of the adjacent areas should be known to residents on purchase of their property and if the zoning were changed after purchase the residents had the opportunity to have input into the process.

Moved by Alternate Director Dinwoodie and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board reply to the letter from Y Horrey, and W. Rozniak stating that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has no jurisdiction in this area and since the new development is on sewer the development does not go against Board recommendations to local government."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Recommendations from Water and Air Quality Committee (Deferred from last meeting)

This item will be dealt with following completion of the Summit Review and consideration of the future role of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

City of Armstrong - Cumulative Effects of On-site Disposal Systems

In response to a letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Armstrong Council passed a motion supporting the Board's proposed policy concerning development of lots of less than one hectare in areas served by septic tanks.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications: None at this time

Other Business:

Impact of Bill 88 on Regional District Budget Process:

As directed by the Board at the September meeting, the Administrator supplied a memorandum (attached) summarizing information on the effects of Bill 88 on the budget process for the Regional District.

Referrals from District of Lake Country:

Mr. Armour explained that following discussion at the September meeting of proposed developments in the District of Lake Country, a letter had been sent (as resolved) expressing the Okanagan Basin Water Board's view that no development in the sensitive areas near Kalamalka Lake should occur without full urban services.

For the Board's further information the referrals supplied by Lake Country had been included with the October agenda.

Director Slater said a copy of the Board's letter should go to the Ministries of Environment and Health.

Director Ross wondered if, following completion of the stewardship review, the Water Board should contact local government and ask to be on the referral list.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the Water Board did receive referrals from local government during the early 1980's but had opted out of this process. He was not sure of the reason for not continuing this process.

Director Novakowski stated that we should make comment on a case by case basis, and not receive all development proposal referrals.

Director Slater suggested commenting on referrals for projects in environmentally sensitive areas only.

Director Hobson expressed concern that the Okanagan Basin Water Board lacks the capability to analyze the technical aspects of development proposals. He cautioned that the Board should keep comments to the areas of water issues and sewers,

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Fourt:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board defer consideration of its role in the development proposal referral process until after completion of the Review of Water Stewardship."

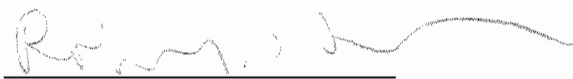
CARRIED.

Next Meeting

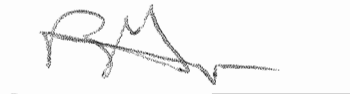
The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held November 2nd, 1999 in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN



MEMORANDUM

October 5, 1999

To: Okanagan Basin Water Board

From: Barry Gagnon, Administrator

Subject: Impact of Bill 88 on Regional District Budget Process

Recommendation

For information.

Background

At the September 7th, 1999 meeting the Board directed staff to research as to whether Bill 88 changes applied to capital as well as operating budgets and to regional districts as well as municipalities. The status as of today's date is as follows:

- The financial reforms contained in Bill 88 will take effect Jan 01, 2000.
- The financial plan required under section 327 will apply to municipalities and not to regional districts.
- The financial plan must include the proposed expenditures by the municipality (capital and operating), the proposed funding sources, and the proposed transfers between funds.
- The working group reviewing regional district reform will be providing recommendations relative to financial planning requirements for regional districts. It is anticipated that financial planning requirement will be incorporated into year 2000 municipal act revisions.
- There is no requirement for municipalities to incorporate collections for other governments into their financial planning process. Accordingly, the budgeted process for the OBWB will not be impacted at this time. From a practical perspective however, it is likely that a 5 year financial planning process for the OBWB should be undertaken so that regional districts and municipalities can identify the impact of requisitions as part of their overall financial planning strategies.
- Transitional provisions for municipalities are as follows:
 - A municipality may adopt a provisional budget or a 5 year financial plan by December 31, 1999.
 - A 5 year financial plan must be adopted by May 15, 2000.

Respectfully submitted

Barry Gagnon, Administrator

Memorandum: Aquatic Weed Harvesting 1999
To: Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors
From: Greg Armour, Field Supervisor
Date: October 5th, 1999

Cosmetic mowing was used to clean up priority sites which were not derooted due to obstacles (intakes, proximity to service pipelines or cables), unsuitable lake bottom type, or which showed regrowth requiring treatment. Most rototilled areas do not need harvesting the following summer, but as discussed previously, weed growth was more expansive this summer in many areas, than at any time in the past five years.

Two Aquamarine H-650 machines were used. Equipment operated five days a week, eight hours per day. Due to the extensive weed growth in some areas, the progress of removal was slowed compared to past years.

Many areas which reported problem growth of Eurasian watermilfoil are not on the regular treatment schedule, either because they are considered lesser priority, or in numerous instances, they are fronting First Nations lands, and subsequently do not pay taxes. Contract work at these locations on a fee for service basis is a possibility if equipment time is available.

Harvester H65028:

- **Wood Lake**

North Boat Launch and Beaches	July 7 - July 13	12 loads	17.6 machine hours
-------------------------------	------------------	----------	--------------------

- **Okanagan Westside & Vernon Arm**

Alexis Beach (contract)	July 19 - 21	47	21.0
-------------------------	--------------	----	------

Adventure Bay (Vernon Arm)	July 22	6	7.0
----------------------------	---------	---	-----

Paddlewheel Park & Marinas	July 23 -28	21	20.0
----------------------------	-------------	----	------

Tronson Road	July 29	1	2.5
--------------	---------	---	-----

Philp's Corner	July 30 / Aug. 4	9	11.5
	August 24-Sept. 3	42	34.3

- **Central Okanagan**

Hot Sands Beach	August 5	7	4.0
-----------------	----------	---	-----

- **South Okanagan - Penticton**

Yacht Club and IronMan Start Site	August 9	2.5	9.0
-----------------------------------	----------	-----	-----

HARVESTING PRODUCTION RECORD

Year	Loads	Tonnes	Cost (\$)
1978	557	947	
1979	1642	2791	
1980	1475	3212	
1981	1906	4104	
1982	1533	3207	
1983	1458	2987	
1984	1440	2817	123,735
1985	1189	2294	98,875
1986	1430	2749	114,785
1987	1356	2640	89,697
1988	1209	2315	96,272
1989	1012	1868	96,427
1990	723	1367	98,560
1991	792	1434	98,000
1992	57	188	72,685
1993	63	107	32,187
1994	421	716	65,839
1995	121	206	60,543
1996	145	247	67,155

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 30TH, 1999, 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. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. McCoubrey	C.O.R.D
	Alternate Director C. Day	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.
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 G. Armour	 Field Supervisor
	B. Gagnon	Administrator
 <u>OTHERS:</u>	 M. Boshard	 BC Lake Stewardship Soc.

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 October 5th , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Township of Spallumcheen - On-Site Disposal Systems

A letter was received from the Township of Spallumcheen, supporting the Water Board's recommendation of a one hectare minimum lot size fro development serviced by on-site systems.

City of Vernon - On-Site Disposal Systems

The City of Vernon supported the OBWB proposal to not to participate in funding of sewer works in communities that allow development served by on-site systems on lots less than two acres (0.809 ha)

City of Kelowna - Small Lot Sewering Policy

The City of Kelowna asked for a letter of support from the Okanagan Basin Water Board for their actions taken to prevent development of small lots served by septic systems.

Director McCoubrey asked whether Kelowna's policy of not developing small lots (less than 0.8 acres) was consistent throughout the city.

Alternate Director Day noted that two possible exceptions were at McKinley Landing and a limited number of lots in southeast Kelowna.

Director McCoubrey asked that the City's policy be clarified prior to taking any further supportive action.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the letter from the City of Kelowna asking for support of their development policies with respect to lot sizes and on-site systems be received and no action taken until all information is received."

Motion Withdrawn.

Alternate Director Day clarified the policy for these two areas for the Board noting that no new lots were being created for McKinley Landing and seven lots in southeast Kelowna had been granted a two year extension for on-site servicing, after which time they must hook into community sewer.

The Board discussed whether we should be ratifying support of any communities development policy or just communicating the Okanagan Basin Water Board guidelines for future grant applications for sewerage infrastructure. The Board agreed that a minimum lot size of 2 acres or 0.8 hectares would be acceptable as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs had already accepted this for Kelowna and Vernon.

Moved by Director McCoubrey and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board not participate in funding of sewerage infrastructure in communities that create new development on lots of less than 0.8 hectares (2 acres) serviced by on-site septic systems as of January 1, 2000."

CARRIED.

The Administrator suggested that this policy be referred to the Regional Districts and advanced to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the Sewerage facilities Grant funding formula.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That this policy to not participate in funding of sewerage infrastructure in communities that create new development on lots of less than 0.8 hectares (2 acres) serviced by on-site septic systems as of January 1, 2000 be referred to the Regional Districts and advanced to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the Sewerage facilities Grant funding formula."

CARRIED.

District of Summerland - Minimum Lot Sizes

The District of Summerland provided information on its new subdivision bylaw which requires

that all urban residential subdivisions be serviced by community sewer.

District of Lake Country - Subdivision Application Referrals

The District of Lake Country advised that the comments of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on two proposed subdivisions on Kalamalka Lake had been copied to council and noted that the servicing bylaw required full services including community sewer and water.

Regional District of Central Okanagan - Effect of On-Site Disposal Systems

The Board received information from the Regional District of Central Okanagan regarding the cumulative effects of on-site disposal systems.

Director McCoubrey noted that while the purpose of the Water Board recommendation for a minimum lot size for on-site disposal was not to interfere with local subdivision bylaw policies, the response seemed to indicate a departure from our recommendation.

Director McGrath stated that the Water Board should not permit development on lots smaller than 0.8 hectares under any circumstance, including soil and geotechnical analysis.

Director Novakowski suggested, and the Board agreed that staff should assess the responses from local government and report on the status of conformance to OBWB policy.

Okanagan Mainline Municipal Association - Response to OBWB request

The Okanagan Basin Water Board received confirmation that results of the Review of Water Stewardship would be on the agenda for the OMMA Spring Conference.

George Abbott, MLA, Shuswap - Response to OBWB request

The Board received correspondence from MLA Abbott indicating his willingness to participate in discussions with Liberal MLA's in the Okanagan regarding aquatic weed control. Mr. Abbott suggested contacting MLA R. Thorpe who is Chair of the Okanagan Caucus.

Okanagan University College - Support for Earth Sciences Degree Program

The Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at OUC asked the Board for a letter of support for the new degree program involving the proposed Chairs in Watershed Management. The Board agreed to endorse this.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Chemical Control of Aquatic Weeds in Washington State

The Field Supervisor provided an update (attached) on recent changes in the status of the use of the herbicide 2,4-D for aquatic weed control in Washington State.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Ross:

**That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the State Department of Ecology for Washington and copy the letter to the Province of BC, the International Joint Commission, and the Washington Lake Protection*

Association to express concern over the use of herbicides without following permit procedures required for every other chemical weed control."

CARRIED.

BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance - Community Organizations Workshop

A letter from the Chair of the BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance was received in which a partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board was discussed in coordinating water stewardship activities in the Okanagan.

Mr. Armour also noted that a copy of a proposal from the BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance for funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund had also been received.

Moved by Director Ross and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the correspondence from the BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance be received and that the Okanagan Basin Water Board continue to update the group on the progress of the Review of Water Stewardship."

CARRIED.

Auditor General - Hansard Report of Public Accounts Committee Discussion of Protecting Drinking Water Report

The Board received the Hansard transcript of the discussion by the Public Accounts Committee of the Auditor General's Report on the Protection of Drinking Water.

Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society - Concerns about Review of Water Stewardship

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the President of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society had sent a letter expressing a number of concerns pertaining to the information gathering and workshop phase of the Review of Water Stewardship. He advised that the matter had been resolved and that Mr. Dallas, the author of the letter, had attended and made a presentation at the workshop.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

City of Vernon -

Director McGrath supplied a letter from the City to the Okanagan Basin Water Board asking for approval of a grant for sewage infrastructure installation along the North Shore of Vernon Arm of Okanagan Lake.

Mr. Armour advised that this request had not yet been reviewed by staff.

Moved by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Slater:

"That the application for the Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage Facilities Grant for the City of Vernon project be approved for payment subject to confirmation of the eligibility of the project and the associated cost by staff."

CARRIED.

Other Business:

Review of Water Stewardship - Presentation and Discussion of Interim Report:

Mike Nolan and Leah Hartley of the Summit Environmental Consultants team provided a overview of the contents of the interim report on the Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan Valley. (The report had been distributed to Board Directors a week in advance)

Mr. Nolan reviewed the results of the stakeholders workshop, held November 10th, in Kelowna and the survey responses submitted by stewardship groups. He advised the Board that four approaches to water stewardship by the Okanagan Basin Water Board could be considered:

Status Quo: Groups continue to act on an individual basis

Clearinghouse: The Water Board acts as a repository for stewardship information and provides information to local government and community stewardship groups.

Leadership Role: Involves expansion of the Board mandate, or at least fulfillment of more of the original role outlined for the Board in the Basin Study.

High Level Partnerships: Both provincial and federal government agencies demonstrate an increased willingness to partner with local government in areas of water stewardship, fisheries enhancement, preservation of drinking water quality, and regional growth management.

Director Ross wondered if senior government would delegate authority to a local agency for coordination of water management activities. He suggested that in the past they have been unwilling to do this.

Director Slater noted that within the provincial government there seems to be considerable confusion over responsibilities in water management as pointed out in the Auditor General's report.

Alternate Director Day informed the Board that Kelowna's experience with the Mill Creek Project was that provincial ministries do not want to give up authority. He also noted that with any delegation of authority there must be the necessary funding made available or the means to raise it.

Director Ross stated that we should be looking at a regional leadership role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. This is necessary because of cutbacks in senior government with the result that what needs to be done is not getting done.

Director Hansma added that along with assuming a leadership role the Board should form partnerships with ministries of senior government. He cautioned that this must take place at the political level as lower level staff are not on a position to give up authority and responsibility.

Mr. Nolan advised that the timing is optimum for getting funding through partnerships. He noted that Environment Canada is looking at partnering in major initiatives which are based on an ecosystem approach, that is, include environmental, social and economic factors.

Director Novakowski commented that the Okanagan Basin Water Board cannot just ask for dollars to assume a leadership role but must have the necessary staff and infrastructure in place.

Director McCoubrey advised the Board that he had looked at information available on other broad scale water management initiatives, such as the Delaware Basin Board. He noted that the constitution of this Board was at the highest level with governors of the four states involved participating along with a fifth member appointed by the President. He added that we must eliminate the funding tie to property taxes and also the semblance of an appointed Board. A Board elected by the people for whom the service is provided should be considered, because with the current Board structure a broad scale water management role will fail.

Director Hansma said that another level of bureaucracy will not be acceptable.

Director Novakowski observed that the Okanagan Basin Water Board must be prepared to fund some of the start up costs of any new role it undertakes in water management or stewardship.

Director Fourt added that the funding should come from the purveyors of water.

Director McGrath questioned the nature of the problem we are attempting to solve by entering into the stewardship issue.

Director Ross answered that in order to preserve the water resource of the valley, someone must take charge, and it is increasingly apparent that senior government will not do this.

Director McGrath agreed that it is imperative that monitoring be maintained to show trends and tell us how we are doing, and while Ministry of Environment resources have been reduced, staff have indicated that the basic work is continuing.

Director McCoubrey commented that we are trying to be forward thinking and prevent a crisis. He asked what the cost of taking on a leadership role might be and what dollar resources might be available from the Province.

Mr. Nolan commented that there needs to be a clear definition of a leadership role. The problem requiring attention seems to boil down to 'who is minding the store.'

Director Hansma noted that there is no management of the groundwater resource or protection of these waters. He favoured the clearinghouse approach and coordination role as being of immediate need in the valley.

Director McCoubrey stated that the Water Board needs a final report that details how much each of the options costs including what changes need to be made within the Board and the cost of these.

Director Hansma moved that Summit Environmental be directed to provide a complete definition of a leadership role in water stewardship for the Okanagan Basin Water Board, further define opportunities for senior government partnerships and the resources needed

from the Water Board, and identify costs associated with establishing a clearinghouse to act in a leadership role in providing water stewardship information and guidance for the valley

Chairman Kiss suggested that we should look more closely at existing watershed models such as the Fraser and Georgia Basins and see how they are constituted and funded.

Director McCoubrey observed that funding of the Fraser Basin Study was directly linked to votes and the large population residing there. He reiterated that the options for Okanagan Basin Water Board involvement must carry costs and sources for the funds or else we are being asked to make a decision without all necessary information. He asked that the report be completed in a form which will give us the basis to make a decision.

Mr. Nolan agreed that the terms of reference specified a cost-benefit analysis and while there is a need to provide this, it is proving to be no easy task.

Director McCoubrey advised that the consultant should suggest and cost out the best option. If the Water Board agrees it can be incorporated into the ongoing budget process so we don't wait another year.

Mr. Nolan cautioned that we need to see how the senior agencies react to any proposal.

Director Slater added that it will take time to obtain any commitment from senior government, and it was likely too premature to talk to them at this stage of our review about specific support.

Moved by Director McCoubrey and seconded by Director Ross:

"That Summit Environmental Consultants prepare a plan and the associated costs of implementing the options for the Board to act as a clearinghouse; to act in a leadership role; and to form high level partnerships. This information can then be considered by the Board and a decision made as to which course it is willing and able to pursue."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

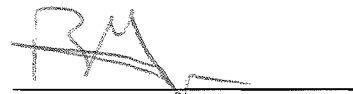
The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held February 1st, 2000 in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY