

Memorandum

TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

FROM: Robert Hobson
Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan

DATE: February 1, 2000

SUBJECT: ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVE IN THE OKANAGAN BASIN

Recommendation:

That the Okanagan Basin Water Board pursue a partnership and funding agreement with Environment Canada and the BC Ministry of the Environment, Lands and Parks to undertake an Ecosystems Initiative in the Okanagan Basin similar in scope and intent to the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative of the lower mainland, Sunshine Coast and eastern Vancouver Island.

Background:

The Okanagan Basin has been under intense pressure from urban expansion and resource extraction activities in recent decades. The population base of the region has increased from 114,000 in 1971 to about 275,000 in the year 2000. This represents an increase in the order of 140 per cent. Recent growth projections suggest an increase in the order of 80 per cent over the next twenty-five years; this amount of growth would mean a total population of about 500,000 in the basin.

This growth has put great stress on the Okanagan Basin's water resources, (creating concerns with quantity and quality); its land base, ecosystems that support a large number of rare and threatened species; and its air quality. Ongoing resource extraction activities also put stresses on the natural systems of the region; for example, resulting in significant changes to stream hydrology.

There are a host of environmental management programs operating in the region.

Some of these activities are co-ordinated for maximum benefit to the communities of the region, some are not. These include,

Water conservation and water stewardship activities of local government and non-governmental organizations;

Ecosystem inventory of natural habitat of the South Okanagan and the Central Okanagan;
Air quality protection initiatives in the region.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan has initiated a Growth Management Strategy with a strong focus on environmental protection, water resource management, transportation demand and the protection of air quality. This initiative strives to co-ordinate efforts and to facilitate co-operation between local government bodies in the Central Okanagan.

The Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative is a partnership between the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and local government bodies. Programs of the initiative are intended to achieve:

Clean water
Clean air
The protection of natural habitat*.

It also considers the effects of climate change on the natural ecosystems and ways to address the negative impacts of climate change.

The federal government has earmarked \$40 million over a period of five years for this program. Provincial government and local government commitments to the initiative are also significant.

* See attached press releases for the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (Dec. 11, 1998).



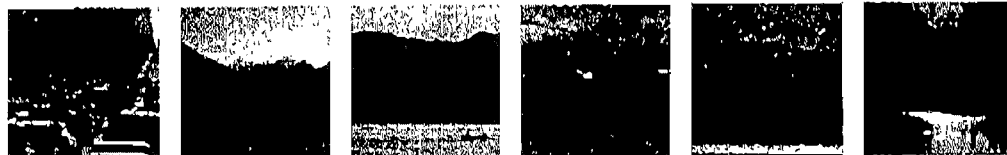
Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Français

news from the basin



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GEORGIA BASIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative

Vancouver - December 11, 1998 - Federal Environment Minister Christine Stewart announced today the federal government's commitment to work with British Columbia toward the long-term sustainability of the environment and communities in the Georgia Basin.

The Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative is the British Columbia member of the Canadian family of ecosystem initiatives. Environment Canada works with a broad spectrum of partners across the country to achieve environmental results and sustainable development.

"My department has earmarked \$40 million over the next five years to ensure that the goals committed to in the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative are delivered," said Minister Stewart. "This \$40 million is expected to leverage an additional \$110 million in other federal, provincial, municipal and community support."

Environment Canada is engaged in a number of large ecosystem initiatives, including the Atlantic Coastal Action Program, the St. Lawrence Action Plan Vision 2000, Great Lakes 2000, and the Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative. Environment Canada has recently completed the Fraser River Action Plan and work is also underway to develop a Northern Ecosystem Initiative.

"These initiatives represent a positive and dynamic way of bringing communities together to work cooperatively and constructively toward a common goal," added Minister Stewart. "They will make a difference for Canada's environment in the next millennium."

Ecosystem initiatives respond to the unique problems of targeted areas and communities and address environmental, economic and social concerns. They are characterized by a number of principles, including an ecosystem approach, decisions based on sound science, federal/provincial/territorial partnerships, a citizen/community base, and pollution prevention.

For further information, please contact:

Art Martell, Regional Director General
Environment Canada
(604) 664-9145

Backgrounders Available:

Why the Georgia Basin?
Georgia Basin Action and Coordination



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canada

Français

news from the basin



WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE GEORGIA BASIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND BC MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND PARKS COMMIT TO PROTECT THE GEORGIA BASIN

Vancouver—December 11, 1998—Federal and provincial environment ministers today released plans to work toward the long-term sustainability of the Georgia Basin.

The joint action plans were announced by federal Environment Minister Christine Stewart and B.C.'s Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Cathy McGregor at the end of a meeting with key conservation and protection representatives to discuss current and future partnerships to deal with environmental issues in the basin.

"Our commitment in the Georgia Basin builds on progress achieved in the Fraser River Basin," said Minister Stewart. "Urban growth is threatening this uniquely diverse environment and the quality of life and health of its residents." "The joint action plan goals under the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative will achieve clean air, clean water, protection of nature and will contribute significantly to combating climate change."

"Building a sustainable environment for Basin communities will require cooperation at every level - from governments, to industry to community groups and individuals," said Minister McGregor. "We have to find ways to work cooperatively to deal with the stresses that growth will place on our environment, our economy, our health and our quality of life."

The two ministers released action plan goals for the Georgia Basin, including commitments to meet national and provincial air quality standards, re-open shellfish areas, support community-based environmental projects and protect valuable habitat and species at risk.

Over the next few months, the federal and provincial environment ministries will seek out other partners and develop detailed plans to ensure sustainability of the Basin.

Residents, industry and governments will need to work together to undertake projects designed to improve the quality of life of Basin residents and build healthy communities. The two senior levels of government, in partnership with others, will provide tools and resources and a broad framework for action, to assist these initiatives.

Environment Canada provides the scientific data and environmental standards necessary to achieve progress in providing cleaner air and water, protecting habitat and wildlife and combating climate change. The department also helps coordinate projects with the United States, in Washington State's Puget Sound region - part of the ecosystem that comprises the Georgia Basin.

Through its regional offices, the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks provides the programs and support to make long-term sustainability happen and has the people, the contacts and the tools to effect change.

"The environmental outlook is positive if we act now," added Minister Stewart. "The health of our environment affects the health of our economy, our own health and the health of our children and grandchildren. We can't afford to miss this opportunity, as unique as the ecosystem in which we live."

Further information on the Georgia Basin is available from Environment Canada's Green Lane web site at: <http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca>

For further information, please contact:

Mark Colpitts
Environment Canada
(819) 997-1441

Alex Dabrowski
BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
(250) 387-9423
(250) 920-6026 (cell)

Bruce Kay
Georgia Basin Coordination Office
Environment Canada
713-9528
Web: www.pyr.ec.gc.ca

Backgrounders Available:
[Why the Georgia Basin?](#)
[Georgia Basin Action and Coordination](#)



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[Clean Air](#) | [Clean Water](#) | [Habitat and Species](#) | [Sustainable Communities](#)

part of Environment Canada's Green Lane™

URL of this page:
http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/GeorgiaBasin/gbi_news/comitteng.htm
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OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2000 AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
	B. Gagnon	Administrator
<u>OTHERS:</u>	V. N. Sutton	Administrator (RDOS)
	M. Nolan	Summit Environmental Consultants

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD:

Regional District of North Okanagan

- Director Jack Borden
- Director Alice Klim
- Director Will Hansma
- Alternate Directors Jim McGillivray, Gerry Oglow, Ed Columbus

Regional District of Central Okanagan

- Director Robert Hobson
- Director Len Novakowski
- Director Rollie Hein
- Alternate Directors Aaron Dinwoodie, Colin Day, Andre Blanleil

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

- Director Tom Shields
- Director Joe Cardoso
- Director Jane Coady
- Alternate Directors John Slater, John Piazza, Dan Ashton

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

The Field Supervisor called for nominations for the Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2000.

Director Novakowski nominated Director Hobson for the position of Chair.

Mr. Armour called for further nominations a second and a third time, and there being none, he declared Director Hobson Chair of the Water Board.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:

Director Hobson called for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2000.

Director Coady nominated Alternate Director Slater for the position of Vice Chair.

Director Hobson called for further nominations a second and a third time, and there being none, he declared Alternate Director Slater Vice Chair of the Water Board.

SIGNING AUTHORITIES:

Mr. Armour informed the Board that new signing authorities would have to be appointed due to the changes in directors on both the Water Board and the Regional District of North Okanagan Board.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Signing authorities for the Okanagan Basin Water Board be as detailed on the attached signing authority banking resolution ."

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 30th , 1999 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD, HISTORY, CURRENT ISSUES AND BUDGET:

Mr. Armour reviewed information on the composition and operating practices of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. In addition he discussed the Aquatic Weed Control Program, the Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grant Program, and the Review of Water Stewardship. This information is in the attached summary.

The Board reviewed the provisional budget for fiscal year 2000-2001 for weed control and sewerage grants, as well as requisition amounts for each regional district.

Director Hein questioned whether weed control money was being spent in the best interest of local government; with the province withdrawing financial support, he asked whether provincial parks were still receiving weed control.

Mr. Armour replied that many were.

Director Hein suggested that perhaps there should be a direct charge to the Province for this service. He also commented on the value of water as a resource in the valley.

The Chairman asked that a Report Card on the Okanagan Basin Study previously presented to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be included in the next meeting agenda.

The Chairman offered each director an opportunity to state their priority issues concerning water management.

Director Cardoso said that the Board needs to keep on top of new research and discoveries as well as methods working well in other areas.

Director Hansma stressed the importance of good water management at the top of the valley noting that the impact of poor practices was felt right down the lake system. He commented on the importance of stewardship initiatives in preserving water quality values. He added that it is important for each director to report back to their respective regional districts regarding the needs of the valley.

Director Klim entered the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Director Coady stated the importance of valley wide water management initiatives which help avoid duplication and overlap. She said her priorities related to the quality of life in the valley and expressed that it is a priority to educate people as a means of influencing their actions.

Director Hein remarked that water quality must be a focus in the valley, and that we are just witnessing the start of the influx of people to this area. We must be prepared for the pressures this will bring on our resources. He wondered if Okanagan Basin Water Board grant funding should be geared toward not disposing of treated sewage effluent into the lakes, and rather utilizing more land disposal.

Director Novakowski said that although there are differences in urban versus rural needs, that stewardship is an area in which the Okanagan Basin Water Board should provide leadership across the valley. He supported the continuation of milfoil control for tourism values. He also stated that sewerage grants should be examined and the criteria for their use broadened.

Director Klim urged that the Board maintain a regional perspective since people are not well served by local interjurisdictional conflict. She addressed Director Hein's comment on land disposal in saying that more work needs to be done on nutrient removal prior to effluent irrigation to ensure that deleterious material does not leach back to the lakes. She commented on the importance of upgrading liquid waste treatment facilities, noting that Vernon needs a new treatment plant.

Alternate Director Slater also stressed the importance of water to the valley and noted that while phosphorus removal has been a success of the Board, it has also taken up seventy-five percent of our budget. He said that the mandate of the Board must be expanded to include a leadership role in stewardship and coordination of water quality measures. An important aspect is to educate the public and make information available in a usable form.

Director Hobson noted the need to work cooperatively to maintain the quality of life in the Okanagan and that this must include integration of air water and terrestrial factors. He suggested that an ecosystem based management initiative should be explored for the valley. To do this local government should agree on a vision for the valley and approach senior government for funding. He added that he has long regarded the Okanagan Basin Water Board as a watchdog for the watershed. This fact had been underscored by the Auditor General's Report on Drinking Water where the lack of a voice for water had been the primary concern. Director Hobson noted that the Regional District of Central Okanagan had hired a consultant to review water stewardship in the Central Okanagan with a workshop for public officials to be held in the spring. He mentioned that the link between air and water quality should be kept in mind. Director Hobson also referred to the LRMP process and noted that

most if not all future parks will be created from Crown Land with initiatives such as the Protected Areas Strategy, since local government does not have the money. He summarized by saying that he is supportive of valley wide initiatives, not only in water and air quality but in transportation and planning.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters of Appointment to Okanagan Basin Water Board NORD, CORD, RDOS

The letters appointing directors and alternates to the Okanagan Basin Water Board from each regional district were received.

Proposed Schedule of Okanagan Basin Water Board Meetings for 2000

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the schedule for meetings (attached) of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for the year 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

The Chairman noted that monthly meetings were proposed, but that in the event of insufficient business to warrant a meeting, he would ask the Field Supervisor to notify the Directors of cancellation and the schedule would resume the following month at the location listed.

State Of Washington Department of Ecology - Use of Aquatic Herbicides

The Board received information from the State Of Washington Department of Ecology in response to a letter expressing concern over the changes in regulations for use of the aquatic herbicide 2,4-D in that State.

Community Futures Development Corporation of Okanagan Similkameen

A letter was received from the Community Futures Development Corporation of Okanagan Similkameen (CFDC) regarding possible coordination of water stewardship programs in the valley.

The Board asked that a representative of the CFDC be invited to attend the next meeting of the Water Board.

Staff Recommendation Concerning Replacement of Board Owned Work Trucks

The Field Supervisor reviewed a staff recommendation (attached) pertaining to replacement of two Water Board owned work trucks.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Field Supervisor be authorized to replace the two Okanagan Basin Water Board work trucks as outlined in the staff recommendation memo."

CARRIED.

City of Penticton and City of Vernon - Policy on Sewering of Small Lots

Two letters were received for information on the Okanagan Basin Water Board initiative to limit lots served by on-site sewage disposal systems to a minimum 0.8 hectare size.

Memorandum Concerning Ecosystem Initiative for the Okanagan Basin - R. Hobson

Chairman Hobson asked for the authority of the Board to explore the concept of, and funding for an ecosystem initiative for the Okanagan basin similar to the Georgia Basin Initiative. He said that in dealings with both provincial and federal environment officials in his position as Chair of the UBCM Environment Committee, he sensed that there was a receptiveness to such a proposal.

Alternate Director Slater wondered if we should send a letter to the regional districts informing them of this ecosystem concept initiative and solicit their approval to proceed with non-binding talks.

Director Novakowski thought this would raise questions at the regional districts which would only be answered by obtaining the information sought by the Chairman.

Director Hein noted that a delay might be costly in obtaining senior government interest and support.

Director Coady added that any preliminary talks could not include a local financial commitment, without authority of the regional districts.

Director Cardoso commented that as the newly appointed Chair of the RDOS Air and Water Quality Committee, he was concerned with his own lack of background in this area and thus reluctant to give authority for discussion at the Federal or Provincial level until he was updated.

Alternate Director Slater reiterated that the timing might be right now for discussions and a delay might not be prudent.

Director Hansma said that if there is no cost to the Okanagan Basin Water Board or the regional districts, we should proceed to gather information.

Director Coady asked if there was any link between growth management and ecosystem initiatives. She noted that the RDOS had not yet initiated any growth management initiative.

Director Hobson informed the Board that his understanding was that an ecosystem based management focus would bring together water, air, and terrestrial concerns and could be seen as a parallel initiative to growth management. He felt this would be a valuable process in the Okanagan which is characterized as a rapidly urbanizing region with a fragile ecosystem.

Director Hein stated that he felt the Chairman was well enough informed to gather information, as part of his activities, on an ecosystem management approach for the Okanagan,

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board inform the Regional Districts that information on an ecosystem management approach for the Okanagan similar to the Georgia Basin Initiative is being gathered. This may involve the Water

Board Chair having non-binding talks with senior provincial and federal officials as part of his duties as UBCM Environment Committee Chair. The Okanagan Basin Water Board welcomes any comments from the regional districts and will keep local government apprised of senior government interest."

CARRIED.

B.C. Water Stewardship Alliance

The Board received a letter from M. Boshard, the regional representative for the BCWSA, informing the Board of talks with the City of Kelowna about establishing a stewardship centre operated by the BCWSA.

Chairman Hobson asked that the Board defer consideration of this letter as he was not sure that all the information was current.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board defer consideration of the letter from the BC Water Stewardship Alliance until clarification of the information concerning establishment of offices in the City of Kelowna is received."

CARRIED.

**City of Vernon - Letter to Minister Of Environment Regarding Eurasian
watermilfoil Control**

Mr. Armour noted that the letter from the Mayor of Vernon to the Environment Minister asked for information on control of nuisance weed growth and referred to Alberta's use of the Grass Carp. He noted that this option had been discussed as part of the review of aquatic weed control he had presented to the Board earlier in the meeting.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff summarize information on alternative methods of aquatic weed control, including the grass carp, and provide this to the Mayor of Vernon and in addition, send a letter to the Minister of Environment urging that Ministry technical staff review new options for aquatic plant control developed and used in other jurisdictions."

CARRIED.

Mayor W. Gray, City of Kelowna - Kelowna Environmental Expo

The Board received a letter inviting participate in the first Kelowna Environmental Expo on June 2 and 3.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff investigate the possibility of participation in the Kelowna Environmental Expo and report back to the Board."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Okanagan Basin Water Board Resolution (Nov. 30, 1999)

The Chairman asked that review of the policy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board with respect to liquid waste treatment and development on lots of less than 0.8 hectares be deferred until the next meeting when more complete information was available.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Review of Water Stewardship - Presentation and Discussion of Final Report from Summit Environmental Consultants (M. Nolan)

Mike Nolan of Summit Environmental Consultants presented excerpts from the final report on the Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan (attached). He advised that the complete report was not yet available due to printing problems.

Director Hein asked for background information on the reasons for and the scope and terms of reference for the study, noting that he and others were new to this initiative.

Various other Board members responded and filled in the background information.

Director Hobson questioned Mr. Nolan on the amounts committed to stewardship attributed to various levels of government in the report. He asked if this was ongoing funding commenting that it is unlikely we could not rely on this large a financial commitment as being reliable on an annual basis.

Mr. Nolan confirmed that the funds listed were those identified for the current year.

Director Hobson asked about the consultants definition of water stewardship versus water management, saying that funds for regular senior government water management activities could not be included as stewardship commitments.

Mr. Nolan reviewed the water stewardship program delivery alternatives.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board review the completed final report and ask the consultant to attend the next meeting to respond to the Board's questions."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Slater asked if the Fraser and Georgia Basin Initiatives had been reviewed.

Mr. Nolan responded that both had been reviewed through their respective Internet websites.

Director Cardoso asked if there were other models for water stewardship programs.

Mr. Nolan said that The Salmon River Roundtable, several Conservation Authorities in Eastern Canada, as well as the Delaware Basin Program had been looked at.

Director Hein asked that the specific project objectives outlined in the terms of reference be answered at the next meeting.

The Consultant wondered if a table of information on other water stewardship models would be a good addition to the final report.

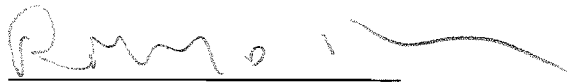
The Board agreed and asked that specific information be included on financing, governance, and decision making processes in other models.

Next Meeting

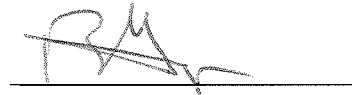
The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held March 7th, 2000 in at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

(The provisions of the By law regarding the signing of cheques must conform to
the provisions of the relative Act)

Delete
one not
applicable

"Corporation of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (the "Corporation")

Board of School Trustees of School District No. _____
(the "Corporation")

COPY

~~By law~~ Resolution _____

WHEREAS it is desirable for the Corporation to authorize certain of its officers to, inter alia,
sign cheques, deposit promissory notes and cheques, receive paid cheques, obtain and deliver from
the Corporation's bankers copies of all or any stocks and bonds;

NOW THEREFORE the Corporation hereby enacts as follows:

*Insert
"General"
"School Board"
"library"
or otherwise
as appropriate

1. That all cheques of the Corporation drawn on its " _____

General Current account(s) be signed on its
behalf by Any two of the following: Robert Hobson, Chair; Jack Borden, Director
Stan Field, RDNO Chair; Barry Gagnon,
Administrator; Douglas Holmes, Treasurer; Terry Mori Deputy Treasurer.
(insert name of officer and indicate whether he/she is Mayor, Treasurer or another Officer)

as the case may be)

~~and signed~~ _____
(indicate name of officer and indicate as above)

2. That Barry Gagnon, Administrator; Douglas Holmes, Treasurer; Terry Mori, Deputy-Treasurer.
(insert name of officer)

~~Secretary/Treasurer~~ of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Cor-
poration to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the Bank of Montreal (but for credit of the
said Corporation account only) all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Cheques and Orders
for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse the same
or any of them on behalf of the said Corporation, either in writing or by rubber stamp.

3. That "same as #2"
(insert name of officer(s) and title of his office)

be and is/are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation from time to time to
arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the said Corporation and the
Bank; and to receive all paid cheques and vouchers, unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange
and other negotiable instruments.

arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the said Corporation and the
Bank; and to receive all paid cheques and vouchers, unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange
and other negotiable instruments.

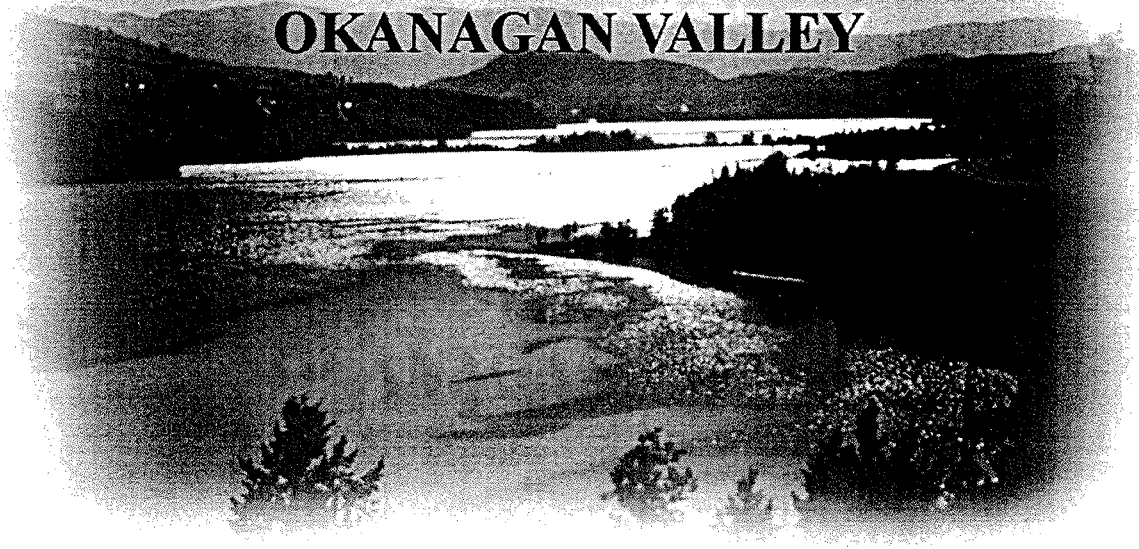
4. That "same as #2"
(insert name of officer(s) and title of his office)

be and is/are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to obtain delivery from
the said Bank of all or any stocks, bonds and other securities held by the said Bank in safekeeping
or otherwise for the account of the Corporation and to give valid and binding receipts therefor.

Greg -
Here is a copy
of the signing authority
banking resolution
for the minutes
C

FINAL REPORT

**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

Project #788

February 2000

noted as “not determined”. Estimated annual expenditures are summarized at the end of this section.

Agencies have been sorted into their appropriate jurisdiction:

- Federal
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - Environment Canada
- First Nations
 - Okanagan Nation Alliance
 - Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission
- Provincial
 - Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks
 - Ministry of Forests
 - Forest Renewal BC
 - Fisheries Renewal BC
- Local Government
 - Regional Districts
 - Municipalities
 - Improvement Districts
- Non-Government Organizations
- Universities and Colleges

The following components are described for each agency (where information is applicable and available for this study), particularly as they relate to programs delivered in the Okanagan basin:

- the agency’s mandate
- staffing and volunteers
- approximate annual expenditures, and
- other relevant information.

2.1.1	Federal
Agency Program	Fisheries and Oceans Canada Various, particularly the Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Program .
Mandate	“The program will establish a regional network of Habitat Auxiliaries and Stewardship Co-ordinators. They will support community watershed stewardship groups and/or work directly and proactively (with other agencies). The key objectives are to prevent damage to fish habitat, advance sustainable land and water use planning and promote better land and water use practices” (Fisheries & Oceans Canada, 1999).
Staffing & Volunteers	Anticipated appointment of 2 community stewardship co-ordinators for the Okanagan valley. (\$100,000/yr).
Related Expenditures	Program budget for project/capital expenditures in the Okanagan was not determined.
Other Information	<p>Until recently, Fisheries & Oceans has delegated most if not all authority in the Okanagan region to MELP. Fisheries & Oceans was, however, a participant in the original Okanagan Basin agreements that established flows for fish, including spawning sockeye salmon in the Okanagan River system, and cross-border flows. Because of the recent increased interest in Okanagan River sockeye, there is an increased program focus in the Okanagan basin.</p> <p>Fisheries & Oceans has recently announced a Pacific Fisheries Restructuring & Adjustment Program, which will “inject \$400 million into the West Coast fishery” to restore salmon stocks in the province (Fisheries & Oceans Canada, 1999). One component of the program is the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program (budget \$35 million over five years). Under this program, Fisheries & Oceans plans to introduce “stewardship coordinators” throughout the province. At this time, Fisheries & Oceans Canada anticipates two Okanagan-based positions: a staff person in the Penticton MELP office, and a community-based stewardship coordinator to work with non-government organizations. (The latter position is presently being negotiated with the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission in partnership with Community Futures Development Corporation and Fisheries Renewal BC.)</p>
Agency Program	Environment Canada Various programs.
Mandate	Priorities are on “clean air, clean water, and the protection and conservation of nature” (D. Millar, pers. comm., 1999).
Staffing & Volunteers	Environment Canada has 400 staff in the BC and Yukon region. No specific positions are identified in this report as dedicated to the Okanagan valley.

2.1.7 Summary of Expenditures

Table 3 Estimated Annual Expenditures for Water Stewardship Programs within the Okanagan Basin.

Agency/Program	Estimated Annual Expenditures ¹		
	Staff	Project	Total
Fisheries & Oceans	100,000	n.d. ²	100,000
Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission	25,000	n.d.	25,000
MELP – Wildlife Branch	150,000	n.d.	150,000
MELP – Pollution Prevention Branch	50,000	n.d.	50,000
MELP – Water Management Branch	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	n.d.	450,000	450,000
Forest Renewal BC	n.d.	400,000	400,000
Fisheries Renewal BC	n.d.	420,000	420,000
Regional Districts	200,000	30,000	230,000
Municipalities	190,000	n.d.	190,000
Improvement Districts	100,000	n.d.	100,000
Total	\$ 815,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 2,115,000

¹ refer to program descriptions in sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.6.

² n.d. = not determined in this study

In summary, expenditures in the order of \$2,000,000 per year are presently being committed to water stewardship activities within the Okanagan basin. This represents about \$6 to \$7 per year per resident, and is equivalent to about \$ 0.12 per \$1,000 assessed value within the Okanagan basin.

Several alternative program delivery models have been examined, covering a range of program scope and involvement of other agencies. The purpose of examining these alternatives is to review the models' suitability to meet the needs and objectives of the valley residents, decision-makers and government agencies.

It is not intended that this study provide an in-depth examination of the costs and benefits of these models. If a change is made to the present approach, the ultimate structure will undoubtedly be different (refined) than the models discussed here.

The alternatives examined include:

- providing an **Information Clearinghouse**
- **OBWB as the Prime Water Stewardship Agency**, and
- establishing a **Board of Strategic Partners**.

The three alternatives are described in the following sections. Within each section, the following attributes of each model are examined:

- general description
- potential partners
- implementation steps
- constraints to implementation, and
- staffing and program costs.

4.1 INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

Table _ “Information Clearinghouse” Conceptual Model

Model A – INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE
Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish single location for basin water resource library • provide information maintenance and distribution service • provide networking contact for programs, funding sources and research • potential for fee-for-service and electronic (internet-based) format • not intended to perform data analyses
Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider OUC (Dept. of Earth & Environmental Science, and Library Services) • agreements with referral agencies regarding data sharing • be aware of other active data management programs (avoid duplication)
Implementation Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secure arrangements with service provider (e.g.: OUC) • locate and collect data • develop database and website applications • estimated first year cost \$50k - \$100k
Constraints to Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential duplication of existing libraries and databases (i.e.: will other agencies transfer responsibility?) • potential fees to secure existing information and data
Staffing and Program Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff - 1 full-time librarian/scientist, plus support say 1.5 f.t.e. @ \$75k/yr = \$110k/yr • program - \$10k to \$100k/yr, depending on scope

4.2 OBWB AS PRIME WATER STEWARDSHIP AGENCY

Table _ “OBWB as Prime Stewardship Agency” Conceptual Model

Model B – OBWB AS PRIME STEWARDSHIP AGENCY
<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBWB is lead agency for water resource initiatives in the Basin • functions include planning, prioritizing, soliciting and directing funding, and evaluation • includes clearinghouse role • does not include existing municipal utility functions • project implementation by others (e.g. NGOs, municipalities) • work towards ecosystem-based management approach
<p>Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no formal partners, but MELP, DFO, local government co-operation • working agreements with existing agencies
<p>Implementation Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refine new agency’s mandate and division of responsibilities between OBWB and existing provincial and federal agencies • develop and achieve consensus of regional districts and other agencies • review and amend legislation (if necessary) • estimated first year costs \$50k - \$100k
<p>Constraints to Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have to resolve conflict with mandates of existing agencies (e.g., MELP, Fisheries & Oceans, First Nations) • may not have authority on Crown Land • perception of “new level of government” • may not address issues of overlap and duplication amendments to legislation • potential additional cost compared to present approach
<p>Staffing and Program Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff - 1 full-time administrator, @ \$75k/yr • 1 full-time scientist, @ 75k/yr • f.t.e. librarian/clerical, @ \$50k/yr = \$75k/yr • Board costs @ \$50k/yr • Total = \$275k/yr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • program - \$100k to \$1M/yr, depending on scope

4.3 BOARD OF STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Table _ “Board of Strategic Partners” Conceptual Model

Model C – BOARD OF STRATEGIC PARTNERS
Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high-level board of strategic partners is established • model similar to Fraser Basin Management Plan • functions include policy-setting, planning, prioritizing, directing funding and evaluation • includes clearinghouse role • high-level representation enables/authorizes agency co-operation • includes project review mandate (co-ordinated referral process) • agencies perform similar operations roles as today • may create advisory sub-committees • work towards ecosystem-based management approach
Partners (Board Members)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Canada, Fisheries & Oceans • MELP, MOF, BC Lands • First Nations • Local Governments • NGOs, or public representatives
Implementation Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refine new agency’s mandate with prospective partners • develop and achieve consensus • review and amend/create legislation
Constraints to Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amendments to legislation • potential additional cost compared to present approach
Staffing and Program Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staff - 1 full-time executive director (scientist?), @ \$75k/yr • 2 full-time scientific/technical (biologist/hydrologist), @ 120k/yr (total) • 1.5 f.t.e. communications, @ \$50k/yr • 1.5 f.t.e. support/clerical, @ \$60k/yr (total) • Board costs = \$75k/yr • Total = \$380k/yr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • program - \$100k to \$1M/yr, depending on scope

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD DIRECTORS

Greg Armour, Field Supervisor

February 8, 2000

Replacement of Water Board Aquatic Weed Work Trucks**Current Status:**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board currently owns the following two pick-up trucks

1992 Chev 1/2 ton 2whd Mileage 170,000 km

1988 Chev 1/2 Ton 4x4 Mileage 175,000 km

Both trucks were purchased used in 1994. (for \$11,900 and \$10,800 resp.)

Use: Equipment operator transport
 Fuel transport and service for aquatic weed control equipment
 Workboat Tow vehicle

Options:

- Lease: In the past we have purchased used vehicles due mainly to the annual variation in level of funding of the program. Rather than be tied to monthly payments over a 3 or 4 year lease, we paid for the trucks at a time when money was available.
- Purchase: Considerable savings in buying used units. Length of time vehicles are kept and amount of mileage more in line with purchase.

Recommendation:

Replacement of both vehicles by purchasing more current used units (1997 or newer) from equipment reserves.

Estimated Cost: \$49,700

Capital Reserve Fund has approx. \$135,900 as of Feb 1, 2000.

(Additional \$53,000 allocated in F. Y. 2000 budget)

Current trucks to be traded or sold. Proceeds of sale to be put in Capital Reserve

Estimated Revenue: \$6,500 (Total)

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 7TH, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director J. Borden	N.O.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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OTHERS:

V. N. Sutton	Administrator (RDOS)
M. Nolan	Summit Environmental Consultants
L. Hartley	C.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 8th, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Community Futures Development Corporation of Okanagan Similkameen

George Stayberg, Wayne Beggs, and Bruce deHart representing Community Futures Development Corporation of Okanagan Similkameen explained to the Board that the group is a non-profit, volunteer association, primarily involved in helping to start or maintain business in the area. They also help community groups achieve the goals for various projects, and are currently involved in a number of stewardship initiatives.

The group expressed a concern that much of the stewardship work seems to be quite fragmented in terms of how it relates to an overall goal or vision. They hoped to address this lack of coordination and long term strategy through the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mr. Beggs advised that he is the coordinator for Fisheries Renewal BC as well as a member of Community Futures, and approximately \$600,000 has been set aside for FSRBC projects. About \$300,000 of this has been allocated to date, but he wished to explore with OBWB, means to better coordinate funding.

The Chairman noted the lack of completion or update of many issues raised by the Okanagan Basin Study (OBS) and that there appears to be a problem in senior government agencies sharing information. Local government is concerned over the shrinking effort and funding put forth by

senior government but reported that at present the Okanagan Basin Water Board has no technical staff and is not consulted about any senior government projects or initiatives.

Mr. Armour noted that the major effort resulting from the OBS, removing point sources of pollution, had been very successful, in part because the problem was readily identifiable, and we had the means to correct it. Other problems are much more complex and difficult to solve.

Director Klim advised that she is a director of the Community Futures Development Corporation of the North Okanagan. She noted that the three Community Futures groups in the valley are starting to work jointly on a valley wide basis. She felt that it might be appropriate to invite the OBWB to make a presentation at some point.

Director Hein stated that tough questions need to be asked about projects addressing such concerns as the kokanee fishery in Wood Lake, and other competing uses of water such as tourism.

Alternate Director Slater referred to the problems in getting a single water management authority to take responsibility.

The Chairman noted the similarity in the Community Futures comments on coordination of water stewardship and the Summit report. He invited the delegates to remain and take part in the discussion of the final report.

Summit Environmental - Review of Water Stewardship (Final Report)

Mr. Mike Nolan of Summit Environmental Consultants Ltd. Presented the final report on the Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan.

Chairman Hobson asked Mr. Nolan to review the answers generated from the terms of reference for the study.

Mr. Nolan summarized the material noting:

- The data on non government organizations, questionnaire responses, and workshop results was contained in an appendix report, one of which will be forwarded to each regional district.
- A high percentage of money currently spent on stewardship (45%) is spent on administration.
- There is a lack of easy access to existing information.
- He noted the table comparison of selected watershed based management models.
- He noted that the report recommendations each correspond with one of the models.

The recommended approach of an 'Alliance of Strategic Partners' corresponds to the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI) in that residents did not want new taxes or another level of government, but wished to make better use of existing resources by bringing together stakeholders. The 'Board' would be staffed by senior level management to facilitate quick and effective decision making without the need to report extensively 'up the line'.

He referred to the difficulty in addressing a cost benefit analysis due to the slow and incremental nature of degradation of the water resource and the corresponding slow improvements which make it impossible to quantify the benefits in dollars of a specific program.

Mr. Nolan commented that the GBEI system tries to make the most efficient use of existing resources and the ability to capture maximum available financial assistance. He added that the \$2.1 million currently spent in the valley translates into about \$7 per capita while the GBEI money equates to \$20 per capita. This federal funding for 'enhanced ecosystem development' has been committed to 5 or 6 areas in Canada for a period of 5 years. It is not a one year program. Mr. Nolan concluded by saying that his own thought was the if the Okanagan Basin Water Board does not assume a lead role in water management, who will?

Director Hein noted that the report recommends assuming the mandate set out for the Okanagan Basin Water Board some twenty five years ago by the OBS.

Mr. Nolan replied that the Water Board could represent local and regional government at the table of any ecosystem initiative, but likely not as the sole authority described in the Basin Study.

Director Coady wondered how many groups currently envisioned themselves in this coordinating role.

Mr. Nolan responded that there are at least three such groups including local volunteer community based group with time and resource limitations; the Ministry of Environment Lands and Parks, whose program cutbacks and reorganization pose problems, and Environment Canada who are looking nationally at critical areas for funding of ecosystem initiatives.

Director Borden asked if the GBEI was the best model to follow.

Mr. Nolan said that it most likely was as it was designed for an area of rapidly expanding population with the associated impacts on a fragile ecosystem.

Chairman Hobson Reported that the GBEI was an international initiative taking in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. The Okanagan could be similar with continuation into Northern Washington as well.

Director Hein commented that local water remediation funding is very fractured in nature with one ministry funding work and another licensing a competing water use.

Chairman Hobson reported that he had not talked to federal or provincial officials following the February meeting, realizing that more information was needed on the wishes of the water Board following completion of Summit's study. He felt that after this review, should the Board wish to pursue the ecosystem approach, discussions with senior government would be appropriate.

The Board discussed sources of funding for future involvement.

Director Hein noted that the public is opposed to additional funding for 'studies' and also that OBWB is 'light staffed.' He added that the Board may require additional meetings to initiate a comprehensive management approach, and this would certainly not be a one year project. He asked how we would accomplish this without additional revenue from local government.

Director Hansma suggested the Board consider a workshop for local government possibly using Mike Nolan as a facilitator. He noted that it would be necessary to introduce this idea as it is certainly beyond what is considered the mandate of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Klim noted that the Community Futures groups have the ability to leverage funds, and wondered if it might be appropriate for us to seek their assistance.

Alternate Director Slater added that once we decide on a model for water management and an

action plan to begin, we must be clear on who we involve and why. A first step would be to invite GBEI to comment on problems and the solutions developed.

Director Coady asked about bringing in municipal government to a workshop so that they have an understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and buy-in at an early stage. She noted that it is very difficult to do this by directors reporting back to their regional boards.

Director Novakowski commented that the OBWB directors might not be the appropriate choice to act as leaders, since each represents diverse interests in their own area.

Mr. Nolan informed the Board that GBEI representatives had offered to speak to the Water Board.

Director Borden said that we are looking for the next logical step to achieve a goal which we have not yet defined.

Director Cardoso explained that he had some difficulty in coming to the conclusion of the report. He asked if we are leading if the money is coming from senior government.

Director Hansma stated that the Board should decide on which recommendation it supports, or provide an alternative.

Alternate Director Slater responded that we cannot be sure that the recommendation is achievable by this Board.

Director Hein said that the report from GBEI to this Board is of prime interest in making a decision.

Chairman Hobson summarized that it appeared to be very useful to have GBEI representation address the Water Board or a workshop and include senior representation from the Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada. He asked the Board for their thoughts on how big a workshop should be at this stage.

Director Hansma replied that he thought it would require a two day workshop with somewhat different participation each day. The second day could be convened as a Board meeting.

Chairman Hobson noted the cost of a two day workshop as well as the time required to effectively organize it. He asked what the Board wished to accomplish at a workshop and who we needed to participate to do this.

Director Borden answered that it would be the least costly approach to have GBEI, MELP, and Environment Canada representatives speak to the Board at its next meeting, and use this information to decide on the next step.

Director Cardoso asked about participation of non government organizations. It was suggested that this be at a later time.

Director Klim observed that we might wish to include potential funding partners as well as representation from local councils.

Chairman Hobson envisioned more of a working session of the Board with the invited expertise from senior government. There could be some invited representation from local councils.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board invite representatives of the Georgia Basin Initiative, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, and Environment Canada, as well as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to discuss an ecosystem based management approach for the Okanagan as presented in the final report from Summit Environmental and that copies of the final report be forwarded for background and comments."

CARRIED.

Director Coady wondered about First Nations involvement.

Director Hein suggested and the Board agreed, that the second meeting would be more appropriate once the water Board has more fully determined its direction.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board explore the assistance of the Community Futures groups in the Okanagan in organizing and funding a workshop on an ecosystem based management approach."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Newport Beach Recreational Park - Request for Aquatic Weed Control

The Field Supervisor commented on a letter and petition received from Newport Beach Recreational Park. The letter noted the increase in aquatic weed growth in the summer of 1999 and that no weed control had been done in many years at this site.

Mr. Armour told the Board that Newport Beach along with several other Westside areas; Alexis Beach, Joe Lawrence beach, and Head of the Lake, had experienced increased weed growth last summer. These areas are on First Nations land and do not pay taxes to the regional districts hence do not financially support the weed control program. He said that some fee for service work had been undertaken at Alexis Beach, but that equipment time was too short to attend to all sites. In addition, there is no private contractor currently available who can handle weed removal on this scale.

Director Hein suggested that the first step would be for these areas to coordinate their request in view of the shortage of equipment time.

Chairman Hobson added that additional operating time would require capital investment in equipment as well as the associated operating cost.

Director Klim commented that the Okanagan Band might be better able to access sources of capital funding than is the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Borden:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board reply to Newport Beach Recreational Park citing the information on shortage of equipment time and also approach the Okanagan Indian Band about raising money on a specified area basis to purchase aquatic weed control services ."

CARRIED.

Lionel Dallas of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality society entered the meeting.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Effects of MtBE in Water

The Field Supervisor provided information on the octane enhancing gasoline additive MtBE, in response to an inquiry from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. He noted that while this substance is added to fuel to promote more complete combustion thus less carbon monoxide and ozone, its small molecular size and high solubility allow it to move rapidly into ground and surface waters. The potential for human health risks is not well understood.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen representatives noted that a presentation to the Air and Water Quality Committee is being made at the next regular meeting on this subject.

Moved by Director Borden and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and ask what the status of MtBE in British Columbia is, and request information on potential for human health risks. The Board directed that a copy of the letter be forwarded to the UBCM Environment Committee"

CARRIED.

Pacific Enviro Supplies Ltd. - Little River Pond Mill for Weed Control

Information was received on the use of a water circulation system, the Little River Pond Mill, to remediate various water quality problems, and in particular, reduce the growth of rooted aquatic weeds.

Mr. Armour noted that the representative of Pacific Enviro Supplies, Mr. Jim Johnson, had been in contact with the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society as well as the Okanagan Basin Water Board, regarding the possibility of improving conditions in Solana Bay on Osoyoos Lake using the Pond Mill. He advised that Mr. Johnson felt a minimum of three Pond Mills would be needed, and that solar power would be required due to lack of consistent wind in the bay. The cost would be close to \$40,000.

Director Hein asked if the company had referred to demonstrated successes with this equipment. Mr. Dallas informed the Board that numerous 'testimonials' mainly from sites in eastern Canada had been forwarded.

Director Hansma asked about funding sources for this type of experimental work other than the Water Board.

Mr. Dallas wondered about Federal money for research and added that Deer Lake in Burnaby had purchased several of the machines.

Chairman Hobson suggested that the Burnaby Parks and Recreation Department be contacted about borrowing or leasing equipment for a trial.

Alternate Director Slater said there were approximately 120 property owners in Solana Bay.

The Board discussed potential problems with security, vandalism and liability.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff follow up on information about funding, security and liability for use of the Little River Pond Mill for aquatic weed control in Solana Bay at Osoyoos Lake."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Okanagan Basin Water Board Resolution (Nov. 30, 1999)

The Chairman provided a copy of a draft letter to the Board from the City of Kelowna outlining discussion with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs about the minimum lot size for properties served by on-site systems. He suggested the Board might wish to look at this information in attempting to draft a policy for our own sewage facilities grants. The Kelowna suggestion allowed the creation of smaller lots if a overview of the capability of the site were undertaken to address long term cumulative issues.

Alternate Director Slater expressed concern over the reliability and validity of such engineering studies.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the information from the City of Kelowna on minimum lot size and review it and any other explanatory information pending further discussion of Board policy fro servicing of lots smaller than 0.8 hectares."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Report Card on the Okanagan - Review of Information from the Okanagan Basin Study (OBS)

The Board reviewed a presentation made, in 1995, by Dr. Peter Dill of OUC in which he reported on the degree of compliance to that time with recommendations from the Okanagan Basin Study.

Director Hansma asked if there was an updated report on enhanced on-site treatment systems.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Ministry of Environment and UBCM had produced a review of new technology which had been sent to local government. He asked the Field Supervisor to obtain a copy.

Director Hein observed that what was regarded as new technology at the time of the OBS, was now outdated in many cases. He observed that the Bardenpho treatment process has now been superseded by more advanced methods.

There was discussion around the lack of ability of the Water Board to keep current on technological advances.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Letter Concerning Water Quality

Strategy (deferred from Sept, 1999)

Mr. Armour suggested and the Board agreed that while discussions about ecosystem management measures were ongoing, an answer to this letter was still not possible.

BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance - Letter from M. Boshard deferred from Feb. 2000 Meeting

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance Chair, Mike Romaine, and inform him of our intention to pursue information on an ecosystem based management approach for the Okanagan."

CARRIED.

Final Budget Requisition to Regional Districts for Fiscal Year 2000-2001:

The Board discussed the requisition for fiscal year 2000-200, and specifically what to do with the provisional \$70,000 for Water Stewardship.

RDOS Administrator V.N. Sutton commented that the regional districts could be informed that the \$70,000 will be needed in F.Y. 2000-2001 and they will be consulted when the final course of action is determined by the Water Board.

Chairman Hobson asked that staff determine if we have the authority to requisition this money and obtain approval from the regional districts to spend it at a later time. He noted that the money could not be spent on a new project without regional district consent.

Moved by Director Borden and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board notify the regional districts that the \$70,000 requisitioned for fiscal year 2000-2001 for water stewardship will be allocated only with the approval of the regional districts once the Water Board has determined a proposed course of action."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

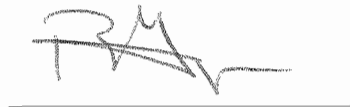
It was agreed that the next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be set around the availability of GBEI staff. The Chairman suggested a date of April 18th and the Board agreed to work toward this time for its next meeting in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON APRIL 18, 2000,
AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD,
KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
	B Gagnon	Administrator
<u>OTHERS:</u>	D. Hackman	Councilor, Distr. Of Coldstream
	Bruce Kay	Manager, Georgia Basin Coordination Office
	Ken Arcuri	Director of Planning, CORD
	Tom Slater	Environment Canada
	Dean Watts	Dept. Of Fisheries and Oceans
	Terry Macdonald	BC Environment
	Doug Macfarlane	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	Elizabeth Cooper	Office of Minister D. Anderson
	Kevin Murphy	Ministry of Agriculture
	Ken McAra	Ministry of Agriculture
	Ken Smith	BC Environment
	Joanne Howery	Alliance Professional Services
	Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 7th, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Bruce Kay, Manager, Georgia Basin Coordination Office – Georgia Basin Ecosystem initiative

Chairman Hobson introduced Mr. Kay and offered some remarks concerning the interest of the Okanagan Basin Water Board in the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative. (GBEI)

He commented that the Board had asked for information on the GBEI in order to look at integration of water, air, terrestrial, and growth management issues. As part of discussions with Federal and Provincial Environment Ministers Anderson and Sawicki, they had expressed some interest in expanding the ecosystem approach to the Okanagan region of BC.

He said that we wished to discuss the potential of an ecosystem approach for better environmental management of the Valley, determine the next steps we must take, and possibly lead towards a fall workshop for local government if the interest is there.

Mr. Kay explained the Environment Canada version of an ecosystem approach noting that the focus is on all aspects going on within a specific geographic area rather than an area with political boundaries. The idea is to develop the ability to respond to the unique issues in that area and to attempt to integrate socio-economic issues into decision making. Partnerships are formed with multiple stakeholders, and there is an emphasis on preventative planning rather than response to problems.

There are currently six ecosystem initiatives underway or completed in Canada. (Atlantic Coastal Action Plan, St. Lawrence Action Plan, Great Lake Action Plan, Northern Rivers Ecosystem Initiative, Fraser River Action Plan, and a Northern Communities Initiative)

The GBEI is an international, trans-boundary initiative, involving rapidly growing areas including Puget Sound, Seattle, south-eastern Vancouver Island, and the lower Mainland. Mr. Kay informed the Board that the process began in 1992 with the formation of a BC – Washington Environmental Cooperation Council, the 1993 BC Roundtable on Environment and the Economy, the 1994 Marine Science Panel report on environmental issues, the 1995 proclamation of the Growth Strategies Act, the 1996 release of priority areas for ecosystem based planning, the Fraser basin Council in 1997, and the formation of the GBEI in 1998 by the Federal and provincial Environment Ministers.

Mr. Kay advised that the first steps in setting up the GBEI involved identifying shared issues such as habitat loss and degradation, air pollution and health risks, toxins in freshwater and marine environments, and non-point source pollution. The majority of the problems in the Georgia Basin are a result of urban growth and not so much industrial pollution as is the case in the Great Lakes. The population has increased from 2.1 million in 1960 to 6 million currently, and is projected to reach 9.5 to 11 million by 2020. While the geographic area covered by the Georgia basin is quite large, only about 5% of the land is populated. Director Hansma

Mr. Kay listed the partnerships that had to be established: Federal and Provincial environment ministries, Fisheries health and Municipal Affairs, local government, universities, First Nations, Community Groups, Industry Groups, non-government organizations, and the media. A shared vision was established of managing growth to achieve healthy, productive, sustainable ecosystems and communities. This vision goes well beyond traditional environmental concerns to include enhancement of environmental health, building of sustainable communities, establishing of trans-boundary relations, enhancing human well being, and inclusion of economic considerations.

Funding for the GBEI came from the ecosystem funding envelope of Environment Canada (a total of \$22 million) and was additional to the funding already committed to EC activities in the region. This brings the total to \$40 million. There is no specific financial requirement on other partners, only that they commit to the shared goals for the five year term, and bring whatever resources they have to the table.

Mr. Kay reviewed the management structure used in the GBEI, including a steering committee composed of deputy ministers from the four major partners, a management committee, and planning and implementation teams. The latter deal with issues of clean air, clean water, habitat and species, and sustainable communities. Others may be added later.

Mr. Kay concluded his presentation and Chairman Hobson asked for questions.

Director Hansma asked for a copy of the presentation material and wondered if resource

extraction commitments were found to conflict substantially with the sustainability goals.

Mr. Kay explained that much of the extraction activities take place in private lands in the GB area and the program must rely on stewardship to protect streams and the terrestrial environment. Funding and technical assistance has been made available to the community in order to look a sustainability. The community identifies their goals and the GBEI assists in moving in a sustainable direction.

Director Hansma asked how the steering committee representation was arrived at.

Mr. Kay said that the major partners (EC, MELP, Fisheries and Oceans, and Municipal Affairs) formed the committee but the goal was to involve as partners, all community stakeholders on the planning and implementation teams. There is no representative local government body in the GB and Puget Sound areas.

Director Novakowski asked if the initial goal of the GBEI was pollution prevention or if this was arrived at during the project. He also asked about the status of the Fraser River Action Plan. (FRAP)

Mr. Kay commented that precautionary decision making is built into the ecosystem approach. Funding for FRAP ended in 1998 but implementation is ongoing through the Fraser Basin Council which is the governance body established through FRAP and which continues to receive federal funding.

Director Hein wondered about the possible overlap and duplication of the GBEI with other current initiatives such as growth management strategies, and the LRMP processes.

Mr. Kay replied that more gaps than overlaps had been identified in the initial planning for GBEI. He noted that local governments are at different point with this type of strategic planning and that GBEI is not so much a study, as an effort to take information we have and use it to make informed decisions at the local level.. The focus is on information transfer to the local government and community level.

Director Klim asked about the amounts of money allocated for planning versus implementation .

Mr. Kay said 80% of the funding is going into works on the ground. Most of the costs of the bureaucracy are built into the agencies participating.

Joanne Howery asked how much lead the GBEI had taken from other strategic planning processes such as the World Water Vision and the Stewardship of the Water Process in BC.

Mr. Kay said that the GBEI supported access to stewardship information through a clearinghouse website and through Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans stewardship coordinator positions. The Provincial Water Strategy is brought to GBEI by the Ministry of Environment as part of their goals in protecting drinking water. Much of this is out of direct EC jurisdiction.

Alternate Director Slater inquired about the management structure noting that there was no public involvement until the implementation portion.

Mr. Kay added that there are many other initiatives ongoing in the area which involve the public. The GBEI was initially created to improve joint federal and provincial planning.

Chairman Hobson remarked that the Okanagan Basin Study had an unprecedented degree of public involvement in its consultative process.

Alternate Director Slater wondered about international participation in any program implemented in the Okanagan.

Mr. Kay advised that at present, U.S. money is only spent on that side of the border. There are significant US Federal resources made available to Puget Sound albeit by a different management process in which the State is delegated the authority.

Dean Watts questioned any savings under the ecosystem initiative program.

Mr. Kay replied that the focus was on best use of dollars rather than achieving savings.

Director Coady asked how any overlaps in program are dealt with.

Mr. Kay responded that this is done at the planning and implementation team level where projects are looked at along with the dollars available. He noted that the GBEI is not specifically a funding agency.

Terry Macdonald commented on the confusing array of stewardship initiatives facing local government today and commended the Okanagan Basin Water Board for seriously looking at a model to address this problem. He asked Bruce Kay if the GBEI had gone through any public visioning exercise.

Mr. Kay said they had not but relied on the information from the BC Roundtable on Economy and the Environment.

Director Cardoso wondered if there would be provincial support for our effort, noting that there are signs that federal support is there.

Mr. Kay noted that the Ecosystem approach is supported at the highest levels as a better way of doing business.

Mr. Armour asked if anything had been learned during the Fraser River Action Plan which had resulted in changes in the GBEI set up.

Mr. Kay answered that the FRAP program was already well defined when senior government tried to initiate local partnerships. There was little room for local input.

Director Klim asked why the Ministry of Environment is not making stewardship funding and programs work better when they recognize the confusion which has been created.

Terry Macdonald responded that the Regional Growth Strategies Act is attempting to provide more strategic direction, though this focuses on private lands only.

Doug Macfarlane noted the differing interests of Federal, Provincial, and local governments. They do not have the same ecosystem focus and respect political boundaries rather than geographic areas. There is no one body to represent these interest in the Okanagan Valley.

Chairman Hobson explained that one problem with multiple political jurisdictions is that they all have their own viewpoint and perspective. At present the OBWB has no authority in the areas of licensing pollution protection and so on, and with a lack of federal involvement since the time of the Basin Study, there has been a gap in coordination with this level as well.

Director Hein stressed the importance of water to the valley and the apparent conflicting goals of

different agencies funding programs in the area. He asked if the GBEI was set up to deal with this.

Mr. Kay answered that the GBEI was set up more to establish goals, transfer information to local government and the community and bring together stakeholders. It is not a resource management authority or an implementation body. The challenge for the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be to identify partners and find common ground.

Ken Smith asked what indicators are used to see if the programs are working in the Georgia Basin.

Mr. Kay noted the need to consolidate the reporting process especially across the border to deal with data already collected. There will be a need to develop new indicators and perhaps collect new data or employ new collection methods. Ecosystem indicators will be different than simple performance measures.

Chairman Hobson asked Mr. Kay to spend five minutes reviewing the action plan for the Georgia Basin.

Tom Slater, South Okanagan Ecosystem Conservation Program:

Mr. Slater reported on the imminent signing by the Federal and provincial Ministers of Environment, of the South Okanagan-Similkameen Ecosystem Conservation Program, which is near to an ecosystem initiative and centers on species at risk in the geographic area.

He explained that the partners to the agreement were Environment Canada, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, the Nature Trust of BC and of Washington State, the Nature Conservancy, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund,

The program area is low elevation grasslands in the Okanagan-Similkameen and includes wetland riparian regions as one of its priority areas. Mr. Slater noted that the program will identify preferred alternatives for development and work with local government to integrate these into decision making. It will also promote stewardship, working through existing programs and a regional stewardship coordination office. Key habitat will be acquired and preserved but at the same time, attention will be given to compatible economic opportunities.

Chairman Hobson thanked Mr. Slater for outlining this program.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Chairman Hobson summarized the similarities between the Okanagan and the Georgia Basins and added our concerns with air quality and water quantity. He asked the Directors to comment on where they see the Board going with this type of ecosystem management initiative and said that the had been asked to advise the federal and provincial Ministers of Environment on the outcome of our deliberations.

Director Hein noted that from a perspective of twenty years of involvement with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, we have failed to look after the watershed on behalf or valley residents. He wondered if the GBEI is too broad based and duplicates or overlaps existing initiatives.

Director Klim stated that whatever we create must be efficient at providing services, avoiding duplication and utilizing the money available.

Alternate Director Slater commented on the lack of public involvement in the GBEI as a drawback to NGO's who want a say in where the money is spent.

Director Cardoso applauded the cooperation of the federal and provincial governments in the Georgia Basin. He said that while he is convinced that a basin approach to water management is needed, he is not sold on inclusion of other issues such as air. He stressed the need to avoid interfering with the rights of individual communities to determine their own future, while recognizing that we all have to live here.

Director Novakowski approved of the idea of a less authoritarian Board, and more focus on facilitation. He noted the importance of building consensus before dealing with specific problems.

Chairman Hobson summarized that the Board did not favour adoption of an ecosystem approach at this time, but preferred to focus on its mandate for water. This may give a more measurable means to gauge our progress. He added that the other issues might follow eventually, as a result of their close relationship with water quality and quantity. He asked the Board what steps we would take to assume a new role.

Director Coady wondered who in fact, would be leading in the case of local government participation with senior ministries which hold the purse strings.

Mr. Kay commented that the Water Board needs to clarify what its role should be and who we need to partner with to get the appropriate authority. We need at the table the longer term interests who have some resources.

Director Hein asked what funding is available to respond to a changed role of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Chairman Hobson said that we need to talk at the political level and to do this we require a clear idea of what we want.

Director Novakowski noted that the Water Board has limited staff to prepare a proposal. He asked if we are prepared to add to this to move to the next level with this initiative.

Director Cardoso suggested that the stewardship coordinator positions being funded by DFO offered the possibility of additional staff. He also noted that a coordinating body similar to GBEI in the Valley would likely have been informed of these positions.

Chairman Hobson offered a list of potential OBWB roles in water management:

- A long term vision for water quality and quantity
- A clearinghouse for stewardship information
- A role in public education and consultation
- The development of ecosystem health indicators and a Basin Health report
- The coordination of research and monitoring
- Use of best management practices
- Support of community based initiatives (possibly financial)

He said that we need to package our role and its associated cost into a proposal, perhaps have some public consultation, and identify the resources we can offer, and submit this to senior government.

Ken McAra noted that the Ministry of Agriculture has a great interest in the stewardship of water as water is an integral component of agriculture in the valley.

Director Hein said that perhaps agriculture should be a source of funding because of their need for water.

Mr. Watts commented that the quality and quantity of water is a major concern and that too little

attention is paid to conservation activities.

Ken Smith noted that the Ministry of Environment needs to form local partnerships to move from a reactive approach to a proactive one. He said that the Board appeared to be in a good position at this time to seek provincial support.

Director Hein noted the jurisdiction of each water district over a small sector of water management.

Tom Slater suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board should focus on a role of leadership and that other organizations and groups will follow this lead.

Chairman Hobson summarized the consensus that the Okanagan Basin Water Board go back to the senior ministries and indicate what we perceive our role to be and what resources we can bring to the task, in order to obtain their cooperation and support.

Alternate Director Slater asked how we would put together this proposal and what the cost might be.

Chairman Hobson said that we needed to describe the actions proposed in the Summit Report, and the discussion of the Board.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board research and prepare a proposal, for submission to Environment Canada and The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, defining a partnership to advance broader based water management in the Okanagan Valley in a manner similar to the purpose of the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that the authority to proceed and to spend any funds to develop the proposal would have to come from the three regional districts. There was some discussion of the amount which should be requested for this purpose.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board amount spent on development of a proposal for senior government not exceed \$15,000 and that the funds be allocated from the \$70,000 requisitioned from the regional districts for Fiscal Year 2000 - 2001 with the consent of the regional boards."

CARRIED.

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

The Board agreed to have the Chair apprise the Ministers of our intentions.

Director Klim asked for a one page summary of the presentation and consensus of the Board so that reports back to regional boards are consistent.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Minister of Environment – Information on Aquatic Weed Control using Chinese Grass Carp**

The Board received for information, the response to its letter regarding the use of grass carp for control of aquatic weeds

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Intergovernmental Advisory Committee – Information and April 6th Meeting

The Board received this for information.

City of Kelowna – Minimum Lot Size

The Board received a copy of a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs from the City of Kelowna and the Ministry's response.

The Chair suggested and the Board agreed to defer the discussion on this item and invite a representative from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to the next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Town of Osoyoos (Lacey Point Extension) Total Project Cost \$456,000

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve for payment the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant for the Lacey Point sewer extension."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:**Proposed Changes Regional District Representation on the Okanagan Basin Water Board – Memo from Staff**

The Board was informed that the Regional District of North Okanagan was being asked to consider appointment of Mr. D. Hackman, councilor from Coldstream to the Okanagan Basin Water Board, in place of Director Borden.

Mr. Armour advised the Board that Administrator Barry Gagnon suggested that the Supplementary Letters Patent for the Board be changed to allow appointment of three elected officials from each regional district two of whom must be regional board directors.

The Chair asked if it would be possible for NORD to appoint Mr. Hackman as an alternate to the Okanagan Basin Water Board and he could then sit in Director Borden's place.

Next Meeting:

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for May 2nd in Vernon. He suggested and the Board agreed that the meeting stay as scheduled and if business did not warrant the meeting, it would be cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 30, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF: G. Armour Field Supervisor

OTHERS: Eric Bonham Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Representatives from Okanagan Municipal and Regional Government

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 18th, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Eric Bonham, Director of Municipal Engineering Services, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Chairman Hobson introduced Mr. Bonham and noted that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (the Ministry) had recently clarified and strengthened its policy regarding lot size for areas not on community sewer. He added that this meeting was to update these developments for the Water Board and for local government in the Valley.

Mr. Bonham stated that the concern of the Ministry was that planning in both urban and rural areas for liquid waste disposal uses the latest in technology and information and that situations are avoided where expensive remedial work to correct problems has to take place. Where one or two lots on septic systems are not normally a problem, the cumulative effect of additional development results in many instances in expensive corrective action. He explained that the Ministry had established a reasonable limit to mitigate against future problems and that is one hectare. This is a policy that existed before and has now been reinforced. He said that a harder line is now being taken after examining alternatives put forward by local government. The Ministry cannot afford to open itself to funding corrective actions with the limited sewer grant dollars now available; a situation that is not likely to change in the near future. He noted that even advanced on-site treatment systems have issues of maintenance and cumulative hydraulic loading. With increasing level of technology, the maintenance issue becomes more critical.

Director Novakowski asked if the one hectare (1 ha) size was a firm number.

Mr. Bonham said it was and noted that two acres does not meet the requirement.

Director Hein asked for a comment on the Ministry's position on dry sewerage an area and interim operation on a community package treatment plant. Would this jeopardize Ministry funding at the time when community sewer was extended to the area. He noted that Lake Country is in need of additional residential development, but that sewers to proposed areas are some years away.

Mr. Bonham advised that he would want to ensure the quality control of the package plant and see that it didn't turn into a permanent solution. If Lake Country was responsible as co-permittee, this would be looked on favourably. He added that he would require a financial plan for the extension of the community sewer.

Director Hein noted that a financial commitment from the Province would be needed to develop a financial plan. While the developer is responsible for installation of the dry sewer, the money is not there yet to extend the community sewer.

Mr. Bonham commented that the Province, as a whole, faces huge problems with existing development served by on-site systems. They do not want to exacerbate this by continuing to allow similar new development.

Director Hansma supported the position of the Ministry and said that he would like to see funding focus on existing problems rather than new systems. In his community where groundwater is a drinking water source, contamination from septic systems is a real concern. He felt that urban containment areas are where development should occur and expressed some skepticism regarding advanced on-site technology and the associated maintenance issues.

Mr. Bonham noted the priority system for funding within the Ministry ranks growth projects at the lowest and they do not receive funding.

Alternate Director Slater referred to a rural subdivision in Osoyoos on half acre lots on the lake. He wondered how local government can ensure that these developments are not approved. He asked who takes responsibility for maintenance of systems and monitoring.

Mr. Bonham replied that standards and means for monitoring are currently being developed. This is something that has been successfully implemented in other areas. The options range from increased responsibility for the individual to have regular system inspection and maintenance; local government involvement; to having local government responsible for the entire process. He added that technology must follow planning and that is not what has been happening. A change of philosophy is needed.

The Chair opened the questions to the local representatives in the gallery.

Mr. Langlois of Armstrong noted that they have the one hectare policy in place.

Mr. Berry of the City of Kelowna advised that Kelowna had submitted a bylaw to the Ministry incorporating a 2 acre minimum lot size with provision to alter this with appropriate engineering evaluation of cumulative effects. This had been rejected and Council had directed staff to revise the bylaw. He asked about development applications currently in the system and whether the new rules would affect these.

Mr. Bonham advised that these would be grandfathered in providing zoning was already in place and development permit fees had been paid.

Mr. Berry noted that the Agricultural Land Commission has an opposing view on the larger size lots pertaining to homesite severance. The idea is to preserve the integrity of the agricultural land by creating a minimum size new lot.

Mr. Bonham agreed this point requires discussion with the ALC.

Mr. Berry asked about unsewered properties with suites in urbanized areas.

Mr. Bonham replied that the main concern is that the disposal system does the required job.

Mrs. Sutton, RDOS Administrator, commented that her region was active in addressing on-site disposal problems. She advised that she thought rural areas should be varied by analysis of soil transmissivity and noted that considerable soil mapping had already been done by the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Bonham agreed that one hectare is indeed an arbitrary number but one based on many years experience across the province, and likely to yield a 90% success rate in avoiding problems.

Mrs. Sutton noted that within the environmentally sensitive zones surrounding the lakes, one hectare may be too small a minimum. She asked if the Ministry could look at this and adopt a policy which would give local government a basis to act on.

Director Cardoso asked if the Ministry would vary its policy based on supportive geotechnical evidence.

Mr. Bonham said that this has been done in the past and despite the best judgement at the time, problems have repeatedly occurred.

Director Klim asked for a definition of an environmentally sensitive area.

Mr. Bonham replied that these had been determined based on soil exchange or transmission data.

Director Hein questioned how the Ministry would view a cluster development on a larger piece of property.

Mr. Bonham said that this is not favoured by his Ministry. If local government approved a cluster of development on septic systems on small lots in part of a larger parcel of land, they will bear the responsibility in the future.

Mr. Batalan, Public health Inspector from the South Okanagan was present but had no questions.

Mr. Seminoff of Peachland noted that they have no policy or bylaws in accordance with the Ministry. He stated his concerns about difficulties in implementing a one hectare lot policy in Peachland. He added that sewer extensions will help comply with the policy, but a financial plan is needed to proceed. He added that cluster development effects can be mitigated by such things as green space and no-build areas.

Mr. Bonham stated that he is not opposed to these views, but it depends in each case how waste disposal is handled, that is, a treatment plant, not just individual on-site systems.

Chairman Hobson noted the advantages in ease of servicing cluster development, and the minimization of disruption of surrounding land. He expressed concern over local government taking over and operating package treatment plants.

Mr. Morley of Summerland noted that they do not have a policy in place to conform with the Ministry. He felt the arbitrary designation of the one hectare minimum was unacceptable, but agreed that we do not want to create new problem areas. He asked for clarification of how the new policy would affect funding of previously approved projects.

Chairman Hobson said that existing program funding would remain intact but no funding would be available to rectify new problems if this policy is not in place.

D. Butler of Penticton noted that very few lots have been developed on septic outside the urban area, but the policy does not comply with the Ministry as one acre is used as a minimum size.

G. Betts of Coldstream noted that their policy does not conform and expressed his concern that no funding would be available to address past errors.

F. Levitt, NORD, advised that in general the policy is that new development is to be sewered, with the exception of a proposed development of .22 ha lots in Coldstream with supporting geotechnical engineering reports. There would be approximately 100 lots.

Mr. A. Pattison of NORD noted that the ALR also include hobby farms and not just large agricultural parcels. In NORD rural areas, the minimum parcel size is 2 hectares for on-site treatment, with no urban densities contemplated. He expressed concern that local government is not insured to be a co-permittee for a treatment system.

Mr. Bonham agreed that this policy breaks new ground and some changes will have to take place. There is a need to gauge whether local government is willing to become involved in monitoring of system maintenance, and a need to resolve this under the Health and Municipal Acts.

Chairman Hobson noted that a variety of positions had been taken by municipalities in discussions at the UBCM Environment Committee.

Director Hein reported that the District of Lake Country had taken over package treatment systems which have then failed. These failures are costly to rectify.

M. Stamhuis of NORD said that the model where a small community or private improvement district looks after a treatment system does not work.

H. Hettinga of CORD informed the Board that all residential development must be sewered and connect to the community system.

Director Coady asked Mr. Bonham if a community does not pass a bylaw requiring the minimum 1 hectare lot size for on-site servicing, does it follow that the community will not be eligible for Ministry assistance in the future, even to correct old problems.

Mr. Bonham affirmed this.

Chairman Hobson restated this in terms that if lots of less than one hectare are developed, they must be on sewer.

Director Hansma requested a letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs clarifying this policy.

Director Cardoso asked if this will also be Okanagan Basin Water Board policy.

Chairman Hobson said that we would follow the senior government guideline as our grants have always been contingent on eligibility of a project for provincial assistance.

The Board agreed to draft a letter detailing our grant policy following receipt of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs letter at the next meeting.

Chairman Hobson thanked Mr. Bonham for his presentation and answers to the various questions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Authority to Proceed with Water Management Proposal
Regional District of North Okanagan - Authority to Proceed with Water Management Proposal
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Postponed Consideration of request pending receipt of detailed terms of reference and cost projections.

Chairman Hobson informed the Board that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen requires clarification that our intent is to deal with water issues only, and that no new funds will be required in this year's budget.

Director Cardoso explained that the reference to the Georgia Basin Initiative led RDOS to believe this was to be a broad undertaking for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. He added that the matter had been turned over to the Air and Water Quality Committee which meets June 1st.

The Board agreed to provide a letter better describing the intent of the proposal for this meeting.

Chairman Hobson summarized his comments from the last meeting on the possible role of the Water Board and noted that we have not asked for any water management authority or any legislative role.

The Board agreed to add 'coordination of water management agencies and programs' to the list of potential roles to be examined for the Board.

Eco-Guide International – use of Pond Mill Aerator for Milfoil Control

Mr. Armour informed the Board that Mr. Boudrias a consulting biologist in Quebec, visited the Okanagan in April and toured Solana Bay. He has used the pond mills successfully to achieve both improved water quality and rooted aquatic weed control. His theory is that the plant is stressed by the action of the water movement at a time when it is usually dormant. This forces the plant to become active and use up its stored food reserves and not survive the winter. In addition he has noted that the introduction of oxygen into sediments causes decomposition and a reduction in sediment build-up. Mr. Armour also commented on the issues of concern to the Board raised at the last meeting:

- Safety – electrical tech cable is widely used in aquatic applications such as marker lights, submersible pumps.
- Shrouding impeller on pond mill. While slow moving it could still cause damage.
- Vandalism – do not recommend solar panels – easily damaged.
- Liability - We are covered for damage to person or property from our weed machines and I see no more inherent danger in the pond mills.

Mr. Armour noted that we have no budget to draw on for experimenting with new technology and any costs would have to come from our weed control budget. A partnered enterprise would have to be sought. The total cost would be \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Director Hein said he felt the electric connection in water, especially near the surface posed a safety hazard which the Board could not condone. He also expressed doubts about the ability of the product to deliver water quality improvements described.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Board forward the information to the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society and copy the letter to the Town of Osoyoos offering to allocate the cost of our derooting and harvesting control in Solana Bay if the Town wishes to experiment with other technology."

CARRIED.

Chairman Hobson advised that funds cannot be given to a society by the Water Board.

The Board agreed to copy the letter to Mr. Boudrias, thanking him for his interest.

Don Fast, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment – MTBE in Gasoline

Information further to our inquiry on the status of MtBE use in BC was received on behalf of the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the letter from Don Fast be received for information."

CARRIED.

Regional District of North Okanagan – Appointment of Doug Hackman to Okanagan Basin Water Board

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan appointing Mr. D. Hackman to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be received."

CARRIED.

Regional District of North Okanagan – Recommendation on Employee Purchase of Service under Municipal Pension Plan

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That pursuant to Section 12(1)(b) of the Pension Municipal Act, that the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the purchase of any service for all employees, providing the employee contributes 100% of the total cost."

CARRIED.

Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Final Expenditures for Aquatic Weed Control – Memo from Staff

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the aquatic weed control program ended up with an expenditure of \$8871 over budget for Fiscal Year 1999-2000. This amount will come the current years' allocation. He noted the following reasons for the over-expenditure:

- Water Stewardship Study – \$20,647 came out of weed control budget
- Equipment operation was not curtailed by winter this past season.
- Shop break-in cost \$5000 in replacement of stolen equipment, plus installation of an alarm system.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the summary of Aquatic Weed Control Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 be received."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

Sewage Grant Debt Retirement - Memo from Staff

The Board received a summary of projected Sewage Facilities Grant payments.

Mr. Armour explained that despite retirement of old debt, the cost of new projects such as Summerland, Peachland, and Lake Country would result in a net increase in funds required over that requisitioned this year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Okanagan Basin Water Board Records

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Coady:

" That administrative staff be permitted to determine which archived Okanagan Basin Water Board records are no longer required to be retained and allow for their disposal."

CARRIED.

Water Quality Status:

Chairman Hobson suggested that in view of recent drinking water contamination events, the Board invite the Medical Health Officers for the two Okanagan Regions to attend the next regular Water Board meeting. He indicated that they could provide advice to the Board on protecting the integrity of our water systems, update us on progress with the Auditor General's recommendations, and comment on lessons learned from recent events.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board invite the Medical Health Officers from the Okanagan Regions to attend the next regular meeting."

CARRIED.

De-Commissioning of Similkameen River Dam

Director Cardoso informed the Board that discussions were underway between senior government and First Nations regarding decommissioning of a dam on the Similkameen River. He said that

there was no local representation at the discussions and he had concerns about the upstream effects of this action, in the Okanagan.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the appropriate agency expressing our concern about impact on the Okanagan resulting from any actions changing water flows in the lower Similkameen and would like to be represented at the discussions."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting:

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for June 6th in Penticton. He suggested and the Board agreed that the meeting be cancelled and the next regular meeting be held July 5th in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JULY 5, 2000,
AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD,
KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Dave Whiting	Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP
	Steve Carr	Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP
	Doug Macfarlane	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	Ken Arcuri	Director of Planning (CORD)
	Leah Hartley	CORD
	Steve Gormley	CORD
	Ron Smith	Ministry of Environment, Lands and

Parks

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Klim :

***"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 30th ,
2000 be adopted as circulated."***

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Dave Whiting and Steve Carr - Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP Process

Mr. Whiting gave some background on the Land and Resource Management Planning process for Crown Land which has been on-going in the Okanagan Shuswap area since 1995. He described the area covered in the plan, the participants and some specifics of the plan recommendations.

Mr. Whiting noted that new protected areas totaling 120,000 ha are to be added to parks in the Plan area, bringing the total parkland to 4.9% of the land base. He described the Resource Management Zones (RMZ's) outside the Protected Areas where more stringent regulations will apply. He noted that this LRMP differed from others in BC in the complexity of issues involved, the extensive tourism industry, that fully 255 of the area is community watershed, that the economy is diversified and not just forest based, that there is significant overlap of resource values, and in the detailed objectives and strategies proposed.

Director Klim asked if individual regional districts would be receiving presentations on the draft LRMP document.

Mr. Whiting said the Regional Boards would receive presentations.

Director Coady asked if analysis of the plan data was complete.

Mr. Whiting answered that most of it had been done.

Director Novakowski asked when the document would go to Cabinet and received final approval.

Mr. Whiting said he expected ratification by the LRMP Table by the end of September and approval by government by the end of the calendar year.

Director Klim repeated her concern that the report be reviewed by the Regional Boards at a time when their input could be included.

Mr. Carr stated that the LRMP must be ratified by the Regional Boards and that input should be received as soon as possible.

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

Director Hein noted that the Crown interagency and community consultation process was similar to the role being discussed for the Water Board.

Director Hansma asked if water purveyors had been included in the stakeholders at the table.

Mr. Whiting said that representation included some purveyors but not all. He added that water is a difficult resource to deal with as it flows across boundaries between Crown and private lands. Some of the issues are outside the jurisdiction of the LRMP and in these cases 'advice' has been provided to government. Various water objectives and strategies have been identified; the objectives refer to where we want to go and the strategies propose how to get there.

Director Hein asked if the document focussed on surface water as well as groundwater

Mr. Carr replied that most of the LRMP document dealt with surface water, as groundwater information is scarce and the resource is, at present, unregulated.

Mr. Whiting commented that the objectives and strategies for the agriculture and fishery sections of the report impact on water management. He described the Resource Management Zones where enhanced regulations are proposed: Riparian areas, community watersheds, the community-Crown interface, and a special RMZ for Mission Creek.

Chairman Hobson asked if there would be enhanced riparian reserves.

Mr. Carr explained that there would be a 10,000 ha 'budget' of additional riparian area which could be applied to timber harvesting areas to increase or implement riparian reserves.

Director Coady asked why Mission Creek was singled out.

Mr. Whiting answered that this is the single largest tributary entering the Okanagan system. He added that in total, there are 332,500 ha of Crown land in community watersheds.

Director Hein asked about water storage and dams and whether there was some flexibility for future needs.

Mr. Whiting responded that those needs helped to determine the Protected Area boundaries. He described the proposed commitment of government to work more closely with local government in the community-Crown interface areas in order to address such issues as recreation, aesthetics, and water issues.

Chairman Hobson asked if the Water Board would have a potential role in discussions regarding water licensing.

Ron Smith commented that this might occur in larger allocations.

Director Hein noted the lack of communication between Provincial and local government in the areas of licensing and competing uses of water.

Mr. Whiting said that the LRMP proposed water planning in the smaller watersheds to bring together local and senior government interests. Mr. Smith added that the challenge will be to prioritize watersheds that receive this type of more intensive planning process.

Director Hein wondered how the Community – Crown interface boundary was established.

Mr. Whiting said that the representatives at the table from the regional districts located the boundary and that the regional districts could amend the boundary if they wished. He went on to outline the Mission Creek Enhanced Watershed Advisory Committee, which would add another level of consultation for this specific area. The group membership would be broad based from the community.

Director Cardoso pointed out that interest in Mission Creek extends well beyond the immediate area as the largest tributary entering the lake affects downstream conditions.

Director Hein wondered if this could be a potential role for the Water Board.

Director Coady asked if other watersheds would receive this enhanced treatment.

Mr. Whiting said that they could if a need was perceived.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Mission Creek Advisory Committee includes areas of the watershed outside the bounds of the LRMP.

Mark Watt commented that the focus of the Mill Creek Water Stewardship Committee placed more emphasis on private land areas.

There was some discussion on the authority of the LRMP Committee and whether their advice to government will be heeded.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Growth Management Strategy provides that the Province must follow the strategy agreed to in the process. He wondered if the same level of authority would apply with the Mission Creek Committee.

Ken Arcuri stated that this would likely form part of the negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province.

Director Coady commented that the number of committees and consultation groups seemed to threaten to create greater bureaucracy.

Mr. Whiting added that the LRMP is asking for funding to do a business case analysis to determine what requirements will be for local government upon implementation of the LRMP recommendations.

Chairman Hobson observed that everyone wants a say in the use of Crown resources and more consultation leads to increased costs and time.

Director Hansma wondered if there was sufficient time to review of the LRMP by the regional districts

Director Novakowski noted that at the local level, greater detail may be required than that provided by a strategic plan. He asked if the province was looking for ratification of the LRMP or approval in principle.

Chairman Hobson observed that there might be a range of responses from the different regional districts. He asked if the LRMP required ratification by 100% of the regional boards.

Mr. Whiting explained that the LRMP provides advice to government which they may choose to accept or disregard. The fact that the LRMP process is based on consensus from the table makes it more likely that the advice will be taken.

Director Cardoso commented that if the plan is similar to an OCP, it will be amended and changed over time.

Mr. Whiting added that there will be an implementation and monitoring committee with local government involvement to oversee the plan.

Director Coady said that many local politicians have not been directly involved in the LRMP process but must rely on the staff that has been involved. The Boards should be reminded of their staff involvement and input when discussing ratification or approval.

Alternate Director Slater noted that there may be ignorance among local councils, which have changed over the 4 or 5 year time span of the LRMP, and perhaps a presentation is needed for municipal councils as well as regional boards.

Director Hansma asked for a copy of Mr. Whiting's presentation.

Leah Hartley - CORD Review of Water Management in the Central Okanagan

Ms. Hartley updated the Board on the report prepared for CORD by Dobson and Associates on Water Management in the Central Okanagan. She noted that the report parallels the analysis done by Summit Environmental for the Okanagan Basin Water Board, with a focus on the central Okanagan.

Ms. Hartley explained that the recommendations of the report were that CORD consider involvement in community watershed issues, consistent riparian management standards, and water allocation coordination with land use planning. There was an analysis of staffing requirements and costs to undertake these activities. The regional board has received the report but not decided to pursue a particular objective as yet. The board wants input from other regional districts in the province who have undertaken similar involvements, and further information on what role the Okanagan Basin Water Board decides to take on. She noted that copies of the report will be made available to the directors.

Chairman Hobson thanked Ms. Hartley for her report.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Authority to Proceed With Water Management Proposal**

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen authorizing the Board to proceed with a proposal to Environment Canada for broader based water management be received."

CARRIED.

District of Lake Country – Copy of Letter to Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding Minimum Lot Size

The Board received the letter from the District of Lake Country.

Eric Bonham, Manager of Financial Services, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Board received Mr. Bonham's letter summarizing his presentation at the May 30th meeting.

Director Coady wondered when these regulations take effect.

Chairman Hobson noted that Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage Facilities Grants are contingent upon eligibility for Provincial funding, thus the Board will follow the Ministry policy contained in the letter.

There was discussion regarding the intent of the letter in specific situations.

Dr. Stewart Cohen, Environment Canada, UBC – Effect of Global Climate Change on the Okanagan

Mr. Armour provided the Board with a short message from Dr. Cohen of the Adaptation and Impacts Research Group of Environment Canada outlining a project to be conducted over the next ten months in the Okanagan Valley. Dr. Cohen offered to attend a future Board meeting to provide additional information on the scope and nature of the project.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications: None at this Time

OTHER BUSINESS:**Request for Proposals to Prepare Water Management Submission to Environment Canada**

The Board directed the Field Supervisor to make some wording changes in the RFP and authorized Mr. Armour to approach consultants with the altered document.

Mr. Armour asked about firms not based in the Okanagan.

After some discussion the Board agreed to approach Okanagan Valley and 'outside' consulting firms to ensure that a sufficiently broad range of expertise was brought in.

F.Y. 2002 Provisional Budget Notes

Aquatic Weed Control Budget

- Increases have been made to the Administration Contract with NORD; to equipment operating costs under fuel and repairs; and for training to meet current WCB Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.
- Total budget costs represent approximately a 7% increase from 2001.
- Includes \$53,000 contribution to equipment reserve (same as FY 2001)
- The requisition level for weed control is approximately 2.5¢ per \$1000 assessed value. The maximum allowable is 3.6¢.

Sewerage Assistance Fund Budget

-
- The OBWB is requisitioning about 11¢ per \$1000 assessed value for sewage grants. (the allowable maximum is 21¢)

Fiscal Year 2001 Accomplishments

Okanagan Basin Water Board Chair Robert Hobson (CORD) and Vice Chair John Slater (OSRD)

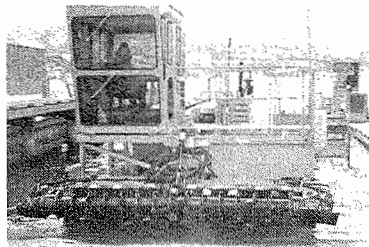
✓ **Aquatic Weed Control (Program Budget - \$439,626)**

The control program consisted of:

- Derooting (4 machines) as the primary method of weed control.
- Mechanical harvesters (2) to cosmetically treat sites that are not derooted or require clean-up in the summer following derooting.
- Treatment of public use recreation areas as first priority, resort areas as next priority, and private residential foreshore as lower priority.
- Control of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) at Swalwell (Beaver) Lake using diver removal and bottom barrier application.
- Evaluation of treatment effectiveness using aerial surveys and photos and surface surveys (by boat) of selected areas.
- Public information signs at boat launch facilities.



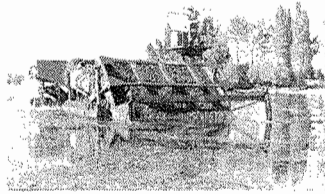
Derooting: (Rototilling)



Derooting is the most effective method of milfoil control yielding longer lasting results and decreased interference with recreational activities. The mild winter conditions enabled 12 month operation again this year.

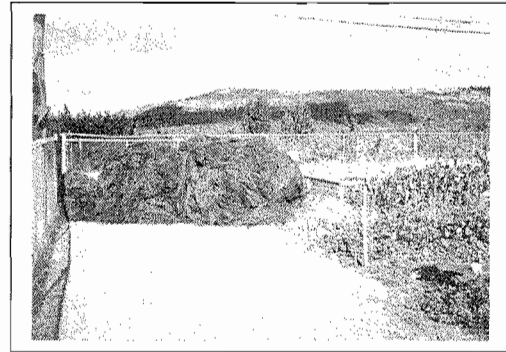
Area or Lake	Machine Operating Hours 2001
Wood Lake	350
Kalamalka Lake	148
Okanagan Lake	
• North Arm	23
• Vernon Arm	351
• Kelowna	439
• Westbank	88
Skaha Lake	25
Osoyoos Lake	197

Harvesting:

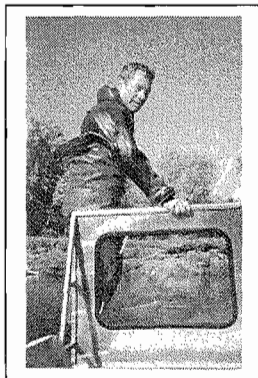


Used as a follow up to derooting where re-infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil or growth of other species takes place; in areas where conditions do not permit derooting; and for lower priority sites needing cosmetic weed control. Machine loads average 2 tonnes each and are disposed of for use as compost.

Area or Lake	Machine Loads
Wood Lake	24
Okanagan Lake Vernon	16
Okanagan Lake Kelowna	23
Christina Lake (contract)	43
Osoyoos Lake	67



Swalwell Lake:



Limited milfoil control work was done in 2000 in Swalwell (Beaver) Lake due to problems in certifying diving personnel. The lake was surveyed by boat in the fall of 2000 and year 2001 work is underway at this time.

✓ Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grants

\$2,072,398 was paid to local government as part of the grant program to initiate advanced liquid waste treatment in all sensitive areas of the valley. New infrastructure in Summerland and Peachland was funded last year and the first phase of the Lake Country system was completed and operational in 2001.

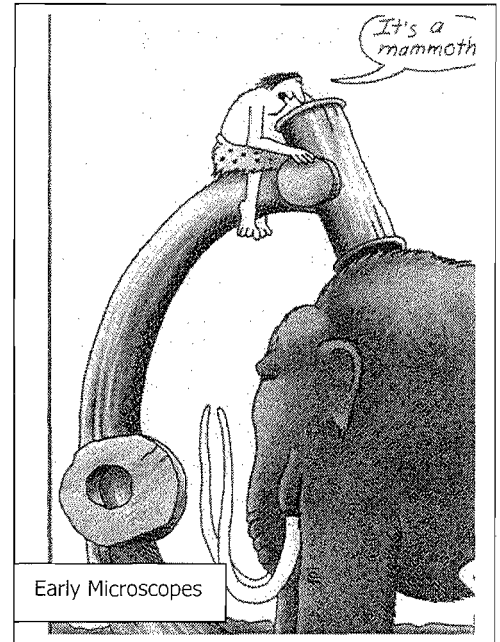
✓ Water Resource Management

Following the Review of Water Stewardship in the Okanagan, a report completed by Summit Environmental Consultants and preparation of a proposal defining a partnership to advance broader based water management in the Okanagan Valley (Westland Resource Group), the Water

Board reported back the three regional boards.

The Chair and Field Supervisor explained the actions that the OBWB wished to promote as a first step in improving management of water in the Okanagan. These included:

- An Okanagan **conference on water management** in October 2001. This major event put on by Alliance Professional Services and supported by a variety of sponsors including the OBWB, will focus on how water is managed in other parts of the world.
- **A 'State of the Basin' conference** to bring us up to date on the environmental conditions in the valley. Growth has exceeded the highest expectations of the Okanagan Basin Study (the last major look at the Valley lakes, completed almost thirty years ago) and the Water Board sees a need for another look. It is likely that our science is outdated . . .
- **Data Centre** - Currently information is collected by many agencies – Ministry of Land, Air and Water Protection, Environment Canada and water purveyors, but it is not integrated. It does not tell us what is taking place in the lake environment as a whole or help us gain insight into the functioning of a complex ecological system.
- **Focus Meetings** to adopt a Regional Approach to Specific Water Management Actions: Session would be designed to bring local government staff together to share knowledge and question experts on issues of common interest. These are to include:



Sewage Disposal - On-Site Systems

There are over 160,000 septic systems in the Okanagan. The per capita input of phosphorus into Okanagan Lake is now 17 grams from point sources and 24 grams from non-point sources.

Is our money better spent on improvements to these systems rather than costly extensions to community sewers? Many areas may never be sewered - are there better options than the traditional septic tank - tile field? What is the latest technology and how good is it?

Drainage

Stormwater treatment and disposal is one of the next big issues we face. It isn't rain water anymore: urban storm water run-off contains pesticides, road salts, bacterial and viral pathogens, hydrocarbons from petroleum products, heavy metals, toxic organics from pesticides, and nutrients from fertilizers. Typically, communities usually have no DCCs to address this problem. What are the possible solutions and how much will it cost?

Saving Water

How much water do we have for human use without adversely affecting the rest of the environment and how much will we need in years to come? What conservation measures have been successfully implemented and are there others we might consider?

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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OTHERS:

V.N. Sutton	RDOS Administrator
Craig Nelson	Okanogan Conservation Authority

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanogan Basin Water Board held on July 5th, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Craig Nelson, Manager Okanogan Conservation Authority

Mr. Nelson reviewed the Okanogan watershed Water Quality Management Plan prepared by the Okanogan Conservation District. He noted that the three year process was funded in part by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Locally developed plan that:

- ◆ Characterizes current watershed conditions
- ◆ Identifies water quality problems
- ◆ Develops voluntary solutions to the problems
- ◆ Recommends a strategy to ensure completion of tasks
- ◆ Stakeholder's Advisory Committee composed of representatives of local organizations and government representatives with land management responsibilities
- ◆ Technical Advisory Committee composed of representatives of local, state, federal and tribal agencies with water quality protection responsibilities

Data was limited or non-existent for some areas and the objective for data collection was to keep characterizations specific, not to complete extensive inventories.

Result is a comprehensive characterization utilizing existing data:

- ◆ Developed from characterization and local knowledge
- ◆ Problems represent risks to water quality and are real or potential sources of pollution
- ◆ Problems were identified by sub-basin
- ◆ Action items developed to address specific types of problems
- ◆ Action items are to be implemented on a VOLUNTARY basis only
- ◆ Items are ranked for priority of implementation
- ◆ Items have a lead group identified

The plan is intended to be a "living document":

- ◆ Implementation Committee developed to track progress
- ◆ Implementation Committee will also update the plan as new information is developed

This is a locally developed plan to be implemented voluntarily by watershed residents. Implementing this plan is the key to minimizing regulatory efforts. Simply put, the plan is asking everyone to be good stewards of the land and water resource.

Director Hein asked if any monitoring of the effects of recreational activities on lakes in the system was being done.

Mr. Nelson said that no data on the lakes had been collected except for the U.S. portion of Osoyoos Lake. He noted that preliminary monitoring is underway to characterize the status of three lakes.

Director Cardoso questioned the degree of compliance by undertaking voluntary actions and also asked about any plans to work with British Columbia.

Mr. Nelson advised that cooperation with B.C. is part of the action plan and that although actions are voluntary, there are strict state regulations which must be met.

Chairman Hobson asked about the Implementation Committee overseeing the recommendations of the Plan.

Mr. Nelson said that the Committee consists of twenty-five members from government and various stakeholder groups. He added that while the Conservation Authority has a major role in many of the recommended actions, staff consists of himself and two others. He informed the Board that the Conservation Authority was established some sixty years ago and is a political subdivision of state government authorized through enabling legislation. It is a grant funded agency and does not tax.(although this is legally permitted) Money comes from the State Department of Ecology and the Washington Conservation Authority. He receives about \$90,000 annually in operating funds to work with the agricultural and ranching community to develop and implement conservation techniques. The population in the watershed is only about 28,000.

Director Coady wondered if BC Environment had cooperated in the initiative.

Mr. Nelson replied that Dr. Jim Bryan, of Water Management Branch in Penticton had supplied a tremendous amount of information on BC government activities.

Director Hein asked how enforcement of the plan objectives was achieved.

Mr. Nelson responded that while peer pressure and a general desire to do things in an environmentally acceptable manner are effective, the State Clean Water Act allows for fines of \$10,000 per day for violations. Normally, the State will investigate a complaint and if it determines that action is needed, it is referred to the Conservation Authority. They have up to 18 months to assist the landowner in bringing the situation within State guidelines.

Director Coady asked if the Conservation Authority has any control of water flows.

Mr. Nelson commented that they are working with the International Joint Commission but little has been accomplished yet.

Chairman Hobson wondered if there was any skepticism about local involvement in watershed protection and feeling that it is more of a State problem.

Mr. Nelson said this question was frequently asked but there was a feeling that the Conservation Authority had been given the opportunity to develop local solutions to problems whose source was often diffuse and difficult to identify. The alternative would be to have the State take a regulatory approach and while the Department of Ecology characterizes areas by sampling for a 'total maximum daily load' It would be difficult to pinpoint and fine the offenders in many cases.

Chairman Hobson commented that this approach of acting as a conduit for funding from other agencies to be put to work on the ground was on role being considered for the OBWB.

Mr. Nelson noted that the U.S. Federal Government cannot pay money directly to private citizens, but can fund efforts of the Conservation Authority.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Provisional Budget

Mr. Armour reviewed the proposed Provisional Budget for Aquatic Weed Control for Fiscal Year 2001-2002. He noted the following:

- Includes proposed salary and wage increases
- Includes \$53,000 contribution to equipment reserve
- Separates Field Supervisor salary into weed control and administrative components.
- Is about \$12,700 (3.1%) higher than FY 2000-2001 budget.
- Changes to line items (such as addition of 'communications' category for cellphones, etc.) which do not affect the budget total.

Director Hein wondered what the result would be if in the absence of any provincial funding, the OBWB abandoned aquatic weed control. He surmised that this might force the province to reconsider its current lack of support.

Director Klim said while she would not support stopping weed control, she agreed that we needed to try to bring the province on-side again, perhaps by asking for incremental support.

Alternate Director Hackman stated that the adverse effect on tourism might prove too much.

Director Cardoso noted that staff and wages form a big part of the budget and he would support a review of the funding of the program.

Director Novakowski commented that it might prove hazardous to reduce weed control as it would be local government that would suffer. He agreed that there should be more effort to have the province again help out.

Director Hansma supported Director Hein and said that it was time to take a firm stand on having the province contribute. It is unfair that the Water Board is left as the sole caretaker of a provincial resource. He noted that we must weigh the importance of water quality protection against aquatic weed control.

Director Coady agreed that a strategy to get the province back to the table should be developed. She suggested that we notify Provincial Parks that we will no longer provide free weed control to their parks.

The Field Supervisor suggested that we apply for provincial grants to do this work, rather than stating that we would not do it at all. He advised that in the case of previous provincial funding shortfalls, the majority of complaints from the public regarding lack of aquatic weed control had been directed at local government rather than at the Province.

Alternate Director Hackman commented that a change in government might result in a different policy.

Chairman Hobson noted that we must deal with the provisional budget now.

Alternate Director Slater advised that he was worried that any significant reduction in weed control would have a major impact on the tourist based economy in Osoyoos.

Director Coady noted that she would like to see a 15 percent reduction in the weed control budget to reflect not scheduling weed control in Provincial Parks.

Director Klim agreed that we should either have a contract with parks or not do the work.

Director Novakowski reminded the Board that there is an obligation to look after the interests of local taxpayers and businessmen.

Director Coady suggested that there would be public support of channeling some funds into water quality measures at the expense of weed control.

Director Cardoso agreed that the Water Board could gather support in describing new priorities for water quality.

Chairman Hobson supported the water quality approach noting that any move by the Board in a new direction will result in reallocation of resources. He suggested that we put money from weed control into a water quality fund and ask local government to re-assess local priorities for weed control and indicate their reaction to a reduced program resulting from lack of provincial support.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That fifteen percent of the proposed 2001-2002 Aquatic Weed Control Budget be set aside for water management improvements and that the Okanagan Basin Water Board inform the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks that free aquatic weed control service to Provincial lakefront parks will no longer be provided."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That The Okanagan Basin Water Board arrange a meeting with the Minister of Environment at UBCM and request from local government a resolution supporting the Water Board in seeking renewed provincial support of the aquatic weed control program."

CARRIED.

Director Klim suggested that the successes of the weed control program be documented at the UBCM meeting.

Mr. Armour reviewed the provisional Sewerage Assistance Fund budget and noted

- Does not incorporate the \$70,000 requisitioned in 2000-2001 for water stewardship/management work. (\$15,000 of this has been allocated to the contract underway to prepare the proposal for Environment Canada) The remainder can either be applied to reduce the requisition, or retained for additional similar work.
- Represents a 21% increase over the 2000-2001 requisition. He explained that this increase was mainly necessary due to the artificially low level of requisitions for the previous three years established to use up reserves. In addition, the debt produced by new projects is larger than that being retired as the new works are much more expensive.

The Board agreed to requisition \$2,271,301 for Sewerage Facilities Grants for fiscal year 2001-2002.

Annual report for Okanagan Basin Water Board

The Board asked the Field Supervisor to prepare a brief summary of the accomplishments and activities of the Water Board during the year as background for the provisional budget to be sent to regional and municipal government.

First Nation Involvement with Okanagan Basin Water Board

Director Hansma advised that he had discussed possible First Nation participation in Water Board activities with the Chief of the Okanagan Indian Band. It was suggested, by Chief Wilson, that an invitation be extended to Byron Lewis.

Mr. Armour reported that the Okanagan Nation Alliance had been invited to send representation to the October 31st workshop and noted that Mr. Lewis works for the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission.

Osoyoos Lake Water Quality

Director Cardoso provided the Board with a copy of a publication from the Osoyoos Lake water Quality Society providing information on water resources and Osoyoos Lake.

Hot Sands Beach Weed Control

Chairman Hobson referred to correspondence forwarded by the City of Kelowna from a resident concerned with proliferation of weeds at Hot Sands Beach. He noted that Mr. Armour had responded but asked that he follow up on the suggestion that the SCUBA club be approached to assist in clean-up of the area.

Integrated Management of BC's Drinking Water Sources – Draft Report from Auditor General

The Board received the draft document for information. A Provincial representative has been invited to address the Board after policy decisions are made.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Westland Resource Group Ltd. – Water Management Partnership Proposal**

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the subcommittee established at the July meeting had selected Westland Resource Group Ltd. to prepare the proposal for broader based water management to be submitted to Environment Canada.

Chairman Hobson added that preparations for the workshop to be held October 31st were underway and reported on a meeting he attended with the Federal Deputy Minister of Environment.

Hon. H. Dhaliwal, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

The Board received the letter in which the Minister acknowledged and supported the Okanagan Basin Water Board effort to advance water management in the Okanagan.

D. MacTaggart, Municipal Financial Services - Copy of Letter to District of Coldstream

Alternate Director Hackman explained that a letter received by the District of Coldstream from the Province concerning a land subdivision, seemed to contradict the message give by Director of Municipal Engineering Services, Eric Bonham, at the May meeting of the Board.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Water Board write to the Executive Director of Municipal Financial Services expressing disappointment with the apparent relaxation of the standard outlined at the May meeting, noting that local government had acted on this statement and the follow up letter by enacting appropriate bylaws and regulations."

Alternate Director Hackman noted that he was not in agreement with the motion and felt the Ministry had made a wise decision in this case.

Director Klim agreed noting that the letter allowed local government flexibility to make site specific decisions.

Director Cardoso opposed the motion stating that the letter was a clarification of the intent of the Ministry and not a contradiction.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Alternate Director Hackman:

"That the motion be tabled and the Board ask for clarification of the apparent contradiction in Ministry of Municipal Affairs policy concerning lot size for properties served by on-site systems."

CARRIED.

R. Mayer – Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Liquid Waste Management

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady:

"That letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be received and dealt with as part of the October 31st workshop discussion concerning the role of the Water Board."

CARRIED.

R. Mayer – Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Aquatic Weeds

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the copy of the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen concerning proliferation of noxious weeds on crown lands be received."

CARRIED.

Audited Financial Statement for FY 1999 - 2000

Alternate Director Hackman advised that he had a conflict with this item and left the meeting.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the audited financial statement for fiscal year 1999-2000 be accepted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

Resignation of KPMG as Auditors:

A letter of resignation was received from KPMG, the firm that prepared the audited financial statement. Alternate Director Hackman noted that as a retired KPMG partner he continued to undertake some contract work on behalf of the firm and this was deemed to be a conflict of interest.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the resignation of KPMG as Okanagan Basin Water Board auditors be accepted."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady:

"That BDO Dunwoody be appointed as external auditors for the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Hackman returned to the meeting.

BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance – Watershed Initiatives in the Okanagan

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That letter from the Watershed Stewardship Alliance be received and dealt with as part of the October 31st workshop discussion concerning the role of the Water Board."

CARRIED.

State of The Fraser Basin Conference

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Board authorize Chairman Hobson to attend."

CARRIED.

In Camera:

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting continue in Camera."

CARRIED.

Matters Arising from In-Camera Meeting:

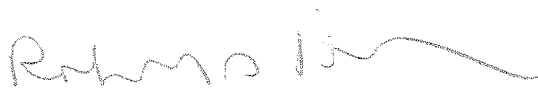
Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the wage adjustments approved by the Board and described in the attached memorandum (for the entire increase in year 1) from Mr. Armour be incorporated into the Provisional Budget for Aquatic Weed Control."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

"Doing and Measuring"

State-of-the-Fraser Basin Conference 2000

November 24-25, 2000 — Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, British Columbia

N O V E M B E R 2 4



- 7:30 – 8:45am **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- 8:45 – 9:00am **Conference Welcome**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Elder *Mary Charles*, Musqueam Band
Conference Co-Chair *Roy Mussell*, Vice-Chair, Fraser Basin Council
Conference Co-Chair *Darlene Marzari*, Director, Fraser Basin Council
- 9:00 – 9:45am **State-of-the-Basin Address**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Ms. Iona Campagnolo*, Chair, Fraser Basin Council
- 9:45 – 10:00am **Discussion on Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Indicators**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Mr. David Marshall*, Executive Director, Fraser Basin Council
Mr. Malcolm Smith, Basinwide Coordinator, Fraser Basin Council
- 10:00 – 10:30am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
(In Breakout Rooms – See Concurrent Sessions Below)
- 10:30 – 11:00am **Concurrent Sessions: Working Models in the Fraser Basin**
- Measuring A Town's Movement Toward Economic Sustainability Through Diversification*
Mr. Chris Hartridge, Wood Enterprise Centre, Quesnel
(Minoru D)
- Monitoring and Indicator Work in the Fraser River Estuary*
Ms. Reena Lazar, Fraser River Estuary Management Program, Burnaby
(Westminster Salon 2)
- Quantitative Measures in the Study of Mental Illness and Services for Asian Canadians*
Dr. Han Li, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George
(Westminster Salon 1)
- Measuring the Effectiveness of the Kamloops Land and Resource Management Plan*
Mr. Gary Reay, BC Ministry of Forests, Kamloops
(Westminster Salon 3)

"Doing and Measuring"

State-of-the-Fraser Basin Conference 2000

N O V E M B E R 2 5



- 7:30 – 9:20am **The "Four Orders" of Government Sustainability Breakfast**
(Minoru Ballroom - speakers begin at 8:00am)
- Ms. Iona Campagnolo*, (Moderator) Chair, Fraser Basin Council
Chief Stewart Phillip, President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Mr. Jim Abram, President, Union of British Columbia Municipalities
The Honourable Ian Waddell, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks
Mr. Keith Draper, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Pacific Region, Western Economic Diversification Canada
- 9:20 – 9:35am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- 9:40 – 10:40am **Sustainability and the Private Sector/Non-Government**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Mr. David Essig*, (Moderator) Chair, Islands Trust Council
Mr. Wayne Soper, Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Westcoast Energy Inc.
Mr. Mark Anielski, Director, Green Economics Program, The Pembina Institute
- 10:40 – 11:15am **Workshop Report and Next Steps**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Ms. Patricia Howie*, Praxis Pacific
- 11:20 – 12:00pm **Sustainability Indicators: A Global Perspective**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson*, Chair, Global Water Partnership;
Former President of CIDA and the World Population Council
- 12:00 – 2:20pm **Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Awards Luncheon**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Conference Co-Chair *Roy Mussell*, Vice-Chair, Fraser Basin Council
Conference Co-Chair *Darlene Marzari*, Director, Fraser Basin Council
- 2:20 – 2:30pm **An Invitation to Attend the Brisbane, Australia Riverfestival 2001** (Minoru Ballroom)
- Mr. Greg Oliver*, Manager, International River Management Symposium
- 2:30 – 2:40pm **Presentation of the "Doreen Wright Award for Personal Excellence Facilitating Sustainability"**
(Minoru Ballroom)
- Presented by Mr. Derek and Ms. Mary Wright*
- 2:40 – 3:00pm **Close**
- Ms. Iona Campagnolo*, Chair, Fraser Basin Council
(Minoru Ballroom)



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Okanagan Basin Water Board

FROM: Robert Hobson

DATE: December 4, 2000

SUBJECT: Follow-up to the Westland Report

Having reviewed the Westland report and having reviewed trends in water based management elsewhere, I am convinced that the partnership approach is appropriate for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. In fact, I am convinced that partnership with non-government organizations, including stewardships groups, industry and researchers is essential if we are to move forward and create credibility for the future management of the basin.

I had the opportunity to talk to Dr. John O'Riordan at the Fraser Conference. We agreed that OBWB would require a budget in the \$200,000 range to take on its new functions with \$50,000 - \$70,000 from each of the federal, provincial and local governments. We also agreed that the Board would require:

1. A program manager
2. A public educator
3. Administrative support

In a nutshell, the role of the new partnership would be three fold:

1. listening to the concerns and experience of all interest in the basin who have a relationship with water.
2. Integrating the results of research and monitoring to manage water resources for all users.
3. Collaborating with a wide range of partners to improve water management and achieve agreed upon goals.

"Doing and Measuring"

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Mr. Gary Reay, BC Ministry of Forests, Kamloops
(Westminster Salon 3)

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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OTHERS:

David Harper	Westland Resource Group
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 3^d, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water Management Partnership Proposal:

David Harper of Westland Resource Group led a discussion of the draft proposal for a new water management partnership for the Okanagan. He said that he wished to verify that the proposal is consistent with the Board's view of the potential partnership, determine how much detail should be included or omitted from the proposal, and methods of gaining support for the partnership proposal.

Director Hansma stated that there should be a clearly defined consultation process built into the mandate of the partnership to address feedback, ideas and concerns from outside the group.

Alternate Director Slater noted that additional priorities may be forthcoming from the public.

Chairman Hobson suggested adding to the mandate that the partnership provides the opportunity and mechanism for the public and non-government organizations to directly communicate their concerns to the partnership.

Director Cardoso asked if the watchdog role referred to suggested enforcement.

Chairman Hobson replied that the group would act more as a conscience for water management activities and no enforcement role was envisioned.

Director Hansma referred to the mandate item of collecting water supply and quality data. He asked whether we would actually collect the samples.

Mr. Harper said that the partnership would obtain data collected by partner organizations and distribute it to appropriate agencies.

Director Hackman wondered how this integrated with agencies who are doing and have done work in these areas already.

Chairman Hobson suggested that there may be a role for water purveyors in the partnership.

Director Hein observed that the partnership, when formed would likely fine tune its mandate.

Chairman Hobson said that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has to agree on the proposal that goes forward, regardless of changes that are contemplated later.

There was discussion about inclusion of the Similkameen area. It was noted that this area does not pay into the water Board function at present, but the area does form part of the international watershed of the Okanagan.

Mr. Harper reviewed the Membership And Structure section of the proposal.

Director Cardoso felt there was too much government representation in the partnership and a lack of representation from agriculture and industry.

Director Hein asked what would take place at the proposed twice annual partnership meetings.

Chairman Hobson said the group would develop priorities for the year based on recommendations from the secretariat and the resources available to do the work.

Director Hansma wished to scale down the number on members in the partnership. He proposed that there be one water board director representing each regional district as well as at large representation from business and industry.

Director Klim advised changing the structure to something that was less controlled by the partnership. She suggested that the Advisory Groups, Partnership and General Public all have input to the secretariat.

Director Novakowski commented that if the provincial and federal governments are funding a third of the partnership, they need to be active members. The partnership should act in a capacity of setting direction and goals.

Alternate Director Slater reminded the Board that the original goal of the partnership was coordination of all water management activities in the valley and to do this we must have buy in from all partners.

Chairman Hobson noted that the traditional model of a partnership was that those with regulatory authority and finances formed the lead group. Another model would be an open partnership where anyone with an interest or concern in water management was welcome . He advised that the Fraser Basin Council had very broad representation as demonstrated at the recent State of the Fraser Basin Conference.

Director Klim wondered if we needed some sort of different representation to attract federal dollars.

Chairman Hobson suggested that an open conference might be a good way to set some priorities and recommendations for the partnership to begin on.

Mr. Harper noted that flexibility is built into the task groups to accommodate specific interests.

Director Cardoso compared the two partnership models to cabinet versus parliament. He felt that many of the secondary groups should not be labeled advisory but that a large group should agree on a course of action.

Director Hein observed that the partnership was a new undertaking of the OBWB and that the Board would continue to perform its regular function for the immediate future. He said a trial of the partnership was a means to achieve our goal of better coordination, better management, and better conservation of water in the Okanagan.

Director Novakowski agreed that the structure as proposed was a good place to begin.

Chairman Hobson commented that the partnership is really the structure as a whole headed by a steering committee.

Mr. Harper outlined the possible staffing of the secretariat and the potential costs involved. He stated that matters such as equal representation would come into play if decisions were made by vote rather than consensus.

Chairman Hobson informed the Board that he had spoken with Deputy Minister of Environment, Jon O'Riordan, at the Fraser Basin Conference. He felt the partnership would require a program manager, perhaps seconded to the Board from senior government, an outreach educator, and administrative support.

Director Hansma suggested that we have an initial partnership meeting and then decide what resources are available to begin with.

Chairman Hobson asked if we required a budget page in the proposal, and if so what should it contain.

Mr. Harper said that a detailed proposal would provide clear direction to potential partners, reduce any uncertainties regarding costs and mandate, and show consideration of the issues.. A general proposal could be as brief as a Memorandum of Understanding. It would give general direction and thus offer fewer targets for criticism. There would perhaps be less fear of commitment and flexibility for planning, funding, and seeking support might be enhanced.

Director Cardoso said the Water Board could decide on its own financial commitment but not that of the partners.

Alternate Director Slater noted that by specifying what we will contribute we may limit the contributions of others.

The Board discussed the problems in selling the partnership to the regional districts.

Director Hein said that a report on the successes resulting from Water Board expenditures in the past would help. He singled out the improvements made to water quality throughout the valley as a result of our sewage grants as an example.

Mr. Harper advised that it would be prudent to give an indication of operating and administration costs in the proposal. In relative terms, these are small costs compared to the action items that may be

undertaken later. He agreed to take the Board's changes and incorporate them into the final version of the proposal document.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Harper for his assistance.

State of the Fraser Basin Conference:

Chairman Hobson reported on the State of the Fraser Basin Conference which he attended. (attached)

He noted that the Fraser Basin Council gave out awards annually to deserving citizens and businesses. The Chairman thought that this might be a consideration for the future for the partnership.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Water Supply Association of BC – Involvement in Water Partnership

The Board received a letter from Mr. Bruce Wilson, the Chair of the Water Supply Association of BC, asking that the Association be involved in any future water management discussions undertaken by the Water Board.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had spoken to Mr. Wilson and indicated that the focus of our last workshop was on potential funding partners for the new management proposal and the Board had tried to limit the number of participants to this focus group. Although the Water Supply Association had been consulted during the Review of Water Stewardship, it was an oversight not to include them as a major participant in the following workshop.

Glenfir Resources – Okanagan River Channel Restoration

The Board received a letter from Mr. Chris Bull of Glenfir Resources, providing information on work being undertaken to investigate the possibilities of restoring parts of the Okanagan River Channel to a more natural state.

The Board received this for information.

KPMG – Recommendations arising from Audit

The Board received a letter from KPMG Chartered Accountants who performed the audit for the past fiscal year. The company made recommendations which were addressed in a Memorandum from NORD Treasurer, Douglas Holmes. (attached)

Some discussion took place regarding whether the Board wished to be informed of over-expenditures on line items of the budget, or just totals for the major categories.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That any over-expenditure of a budget line item be brought to the Board at the next meeting for approval."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that the policy remains that the Field supervisor shall obtain prior Board approval for any single expenditure of over five thousand dollars.

**BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance – Proposal for Workshop
T.W. Van der Gulik – Ministry of Agriculture – Okanagan Water Management Seminar**

The Water Stewardship Alliance proposed a workshop on water management for early in 2001 and in addition, Mr. Van der Gulik proposed an agriculture oriented water workshop for late January or early February. The Board agreed that it would be premature to discuss its intentions with regard to the Water Management Partnership at this time.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Board not act as co-sponsors for any water management conferences to be held early in 2001 until our own direction and resources are made more clear. The Board will be happy to have someone attend and make the information available to its members."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES ASSISTANCE GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

District of Lake Country – Clearwater and Woodsdale Phases

Mr. Armour reviewed the application from the District of Lake Country and informed the Board that it met Water Board criteria for funding. Phase 2 and 3 part of the original first phase of the liquid waste plan but were delayed due to Provincial funding constraints.

Director Hansma asked if the Clearwater and Woodsdale areas were new growth.

Director Hein said they were older areas with some lots which were yet to be built on.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the application for a sewer grant for Phase 2 and 3 (Clearwater and Woodsdale areas) of Lake Country's liquid waste plan be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Director Cardoso asked what information was provided to the board on the results of the project.

Mr. Armour noted that only financial information was received although grants were allocated for projects approved by the Province as part of an approved liquid waste management plan for the specific area. As such the permit issued by the Ministry of Environment involved inspection of the works and checks to assure the systems functioned as designed. The Board was not in a position to do this type of assessment.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2001 Meeting Schedule:

The Chair asked Mr. Armour to draft a schedule of meetings for 2001 for consideration at the next meeting.

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting on January 9th, 2001 in Penticton.

Wellhead Protection:

Director Hansma informed the Board that Spallumcheen had initiate work to ensure the quality of groundwater in that area and was making use of the Province's Wellhead Protection Kit. He asked that The Field Supervisor obtain the kit information and review it so that the Water Board could consider endorsing it as a useful tool.

Meeting with Environment Minister at UBCM:

Director Cardoso asked if the Board had met with the Minister of Environment at UBCM.

The Chairman reported that he and Vice Chair Slater had met with the Minister and Assistant Deputy Jon O'Riordon. He said that while the meeting was positive, the cabinet shuffle resulted in Ian Waddell replacing Minister Sawicki shortly after. He suggested that a letter be sent to the new Minister expressing our thanks for the meeting and indicating that with the improved provincial financial picture, perhaps they could resume their support of the Aquatic Weed program.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY