

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA , B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

STAFF: G. Armour Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 6th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan University College – Meeting and Discussion on Database

Mr. Armour reported on a December 14th meeting with A. Bielecki and N. Jatel (OUC) and R. Hobson. The meeting was held to follow up on OBWB interest in partnering with OUC in establishing a database. Adam Bielecki is Director of Campus Development and Strategic Planning, while Nelson Jatel is a consultant who has prepared a Strategic Organization Model for the BC Freshwater Institute.

OUC is investigating partnerships with several database and research partners.

- Pacific Agro – Research Institute – have a database which is comprehensive on valley bottom characteristics but sketchy on the upper watershed.
- OBWB – looking at a sort of water related information warehouse.
- Watershed Management (Forestry Based) The two FRBC endowed Chairs are in place. One is a Forest Hydrologist and the other a Soils Hydrologist. Their roles will be teaching and research.
- SIFERP – Rob Scherer – research Information extension and database

A. Bielecki pointed out the unique nature of the college in offering both a 4 year degree in Freshwater Science which has more of a focus on chemistry and engineering rather than ecology; and in the two year Water Quality Technology Diploma incorporating environmental sciences and wastewater management.

The Plan for the BC Freshwater Institute (BCFI) is to partner with 'Vitesse' a program which specializes in re-skilling people working in a particular industry; a process which may be useful in undertaking risk assessment and response plans for watersheds, under the new Drinking Water Legislation. There are plans to consult with BCWWA in February 2002 to determine requirements of industry to incorporate into

the program. A pilot course involving 20 to 40 people will be initiated in May to focus on risk management in water systems. This will be a pilot course for the Okanagan but the intent is to move throughout the Province.

R. Hobson pointed out a number of areas where the Water Board sees a need:

Risk assessment in watersheds – he noted that the new government will place the onus on forest companies to demonstrate that certain standards and results are guaranteed in waters reaching the lower elevations of the watershed. He noted that data and information already collected on Okanagan watersheds will be needed for risk assessments.

Lack of groundwater legislation

Lack of rules governing wells such as capping of abandoned wells and well registration information.

He added that areas of concern centred around funding for watershed assessments and for implementation of corrective response plans.

Mr. Jatel explained that the BCFI Strategic Model had been discussed with Dr. Shaun Peck, Provincial Health Officer. He noted that in the Health Officer's annual report for 2001, small water delivery systems were identified as being most at risk due to limited resources and low level of technology. He proposed that a database be developed to quantify water purveyors as to their ability to meet acceptable standards and deliver safe drinking water. The steps he saw as necessary were:

- Identify all purveyors on an Okanagan Region basis
- Develop a database where each purveyor would enter basic information
- Determine areas where data is missing indicating areas of risk where purveyors have not done testing. The Provincial Health Officer had agreed that this would be valuable information

Director Klim noted that data reporting is required from purveyors.

Chair Hobson advised that there are hundreds of small systems which individually supply a few houses where no sampling or reporting is done. These may be surface water supply or utilize groundwater.

Director Hein commented that the board should continue to work with OUC towards establishing a water information database. He added that municipal government should be encouraged to complete water supply plans and incorporate these into the database.

Director Novakowski asked about the function of a drinking water database.

Chairman Hobson noted that this database is in anticipation of Drinking Water legislation. He said that OUC has been working with the BC Water and Waste Association as well.

Director Coady said that the database the Water Board had discussed would contain more information than drinking water facts.

Mr. Armour agreed and said the College was looking at a number of existing database sets on water based information and how they could be utilized.

Director Klim stated that we should beware of taking over areas in the protection of drinking water which are provincial responsibilities.

Director Hansma noted that there is funding available for the collection of drinking water related information and this may be a reason for the focus of the College in that area.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to Okanagan University College to encourage their efforts in establishing a drinking water database and to give consideration to incorporation of water related information into a data repository."

CARRIED.

Workshop on Small Sewage Systems:

Mr. Armour informed the Board of progress in setting up a workshop dealing with options for sewage treatment for local government.

He said that he had consulted John Vos of the City of Kelowna and Andrew Swetlishoff of RDOS for their thoughts and comments. He summarized as follows:

Environment, Health should attend as regulators. Perhaps Indian Affairs because of experience with approving and use of small treatment systems on reserves.

Major concern of local government is liability issue including the ongoing cost of operation and maintenance of small systems.

Content of session – presentation of small system options including classes of systems – single dwelling or package plants; new construction or retro-fit
Reduction of local government risk
Possible pilot projects

Audience could include interested politicians, senior local government staff and major private developers. All of these individuals contribute to the present system of dealing with on-site sewage disposal and need to be aware of alternate (new) methods.

Attended several workshops sponsored by private firms that have introduced on-site disposal technologies from outside of Canada. These range from sand filtration systems to self contained biological systems. Alternate systems do exist that are superior to the present 50's technology of septic tanks. The problem that a lot of these alternatives run into is acceptance by the Ministry of Health.

The workshop should be held as early as possible this year, before we get into summer holidays, the growing season etc., possibly in Kelowna as it is central to the Okanagan region.

Mr. Armour added that he had subsequently spoken to both Provincial Government technical people non government resource people regarding the specifics of workshop content:

John Rowse (Health) said that the Second Draft of New Septic Regulations will be circulated in late January. He has list of new technologies for onsite and small treatment systems and protocol technologies or systems that have satisfied Health requirements in operation and have received 'stamp of approval.' He is currently working with Capital Regional District to include a component in their Liquid Waste Management Plan to address maintenance requirements for existing on-site treatment systems

Harry Vogt – WLAP – Manager of Technical Services, Pollution Prevention commented that there is a Technical Committee to advise on revision and implementation of new (1999) Sewage Disposal Regulations and also referred to VanCity Insurance Services proposal to underwrite liability of small systems.

Mike Williams – Manager, Engineering Services, Capital Regional District who is a member of Technical Advisory Committee on Sewage Disposal Regulations. (Committee still meets a couple of times a year, even though regs. are not 'new' anymore) Mr. Williams was involved in development of the Municipal Sewage Regulation and is working on incorporation of maintenance requirement (bylaw) for on-site systems into liquid waste management plan in CRD. Regulations have been drafted and they are now working on methods of cost recovery.

Chris Jenkins of the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection said that they do not have a list of 'approved' package plant systems but instead require a qualified professional to certify effluent meets the conditions of MSR. (outcome-based) Methods of liability and risk reduction for private systems include cash security, Local Government Service Area, and Assurance Plans.

VanCity Insurance (Laird Lockhart) had provided information on their PASS Financial Security proposal for small Sewage Treatment Systems. The maximum treatment system construction cost would be \$2 million and a two year renewable performance bond to 24 years would be provided to qualifying projects. (Maximum Bond 140% of treatment plant cost)

Mr. Armour noted that VanCity would like to be represented at any workshop to explain this program

The Board discussed whether the workshop should include information on package plants or be confined to advanced on-site treatment options only.

Director Hein stated that use of package plants to service a remote development often takes away the ability of local government to get the developer to pay for extension of community services.

Director Hansma felt the session should deal with on-site technology. He commented that in many rural areas, this is the only option available for sewage treatment.

Director Coady agreed that many areas will never receive Water Board grant for sewers, but that the Board should take a leadership role in looking at alternatives to provide higher quality service to these areas. She noted that the re-use of effluent should be looked at as a water conservation measure.

Director Klim said that the workshop should lead to a recommendation to local government regarding policy for hook up to community sewers.

Director Novakowski said that package plants were an alternative to septic systems.

Director Hansma agreed that while septic systems are acceptable in many rural areas, alternatives could be looked at in areas where the individual on-site system is not adequate.

Chairman Hobson noted that there is a difference in using a package system to upgrade and existing area rather than as a means to service a new area. He felt the debate on the subjects would be useful at the workshop.

Director Cardoso said that the goal of the Board should be to promote effective, economic and easily managed sewage disposal systems. He stressed that we need to expand our horizons beyond what we are currently familiar with.

Director Hein agreed that we should work toward long term effective treatment systems or ultimately our water supplies would suffer.

Chairman Hobson stated that perhaps we need to add to the workshop the perspective of our goals and objectives for the valley and the steps we have taken to get to the point we are at today. He suggested that the details be developed for the next meeting and should include information on what technologies the technical people can provide information on.

Director Klim commented that perhaps a consultant could research the available technology.

Director Hansma said that this step might be an outcome of the workshop.

There was discussion about adding the workshop on to the OMMA Convention in Vernon perhaps on May 1st. Director Hansma offered to determine if this was acceptable to the organizing committee and if space and a time slot would be available.

Provisional Schedule of Meetings for 2002

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the provisional schedule (attached) for Okanagan Basin Water Board meetings be adopted."

CARRIED.

Drinking Water Review Panel Interim Report

Chairman Hobson reviewed the recommendations of the Drinking Water Review Panel from the document submitted to the Province. He noted the chief recommendations to retain and amend the Drinking Water Protection Act and to create a Drinking Water Protection Agency. The latter would include government and non-government representation.

There was a discussion concerning how these recommendations were received by government.

Chairman Hobson commented on the watershed assessment process in response to questions about how this might be funded. He noted that this is the next major topic for the Review Board. He commented on the role of Drinking Water Officers and water treatment standards.

The Board discussed how these recommendations would be paid for. It was noted that ultimately there may be increased rates for water use to reflect these costs of protecting the resource.

Annual Report of the Provincial Health Officer

Chairman Hobson reviewed some of the content of the Annual Report of the Provincial Health Officer, noting that there were many parallels to the recommendations of the Drinking Water Review Panel. The exception was the recommendation for a single agency to represent water.

Aquatic Weed Control – Budget Update

Mr. Armour advised that \$300,627 had been spent to January 1, 2002 out of \$380,600 budgeted. With three months left in the fiscal year (to March 31, 2002) there should be adequate funds to complete the work schedule.

Willow Beach Pollution Order

Mr. Armour relayed a report from Alternate Director Slater concerning the pollution order for Willow Beach discussed at the November meeting. The trailer park has now been connected to the collection system and pumpouts are being taken to the Town of Osoyoos sewage treatment plant.

Alternate Director Slater reported that this resolved the situation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

RDOS Budget Information Request

Mr. Armour reviewed the response to the request from RDOS for the impacts to the Water Board programs of a one percent budget increase, a zero percent increase, and a two percent decrease

Director Cardoso and Director Coady reported that RDOS, after reviewing the information, had accepted the Water Board provisional budget as presented.

Hon. Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection – Aquatic Weed Control Program Funding

The Minister responded to an OBWB enquiry regarding contract weed control work performed at Paul Lake Provincial Park near Kamloops by saying that there were no funds available for any Okanagan work.

The Board asked that the Field Supervisor follow up on information sent to the Ministry on alternate sources of funding for Provincial contribution to weed control.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ecosystem Conference May 2002 in Spokane, WA

The Chair asked that information on this conference be brought to the next Board meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held February 5th in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERBEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Alternate Director Colin Day	C.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Mr. Armour called the meeting to order. He advised the Board that there was a request to delay the election of a chair until the next meeting. If the Board agreed to this, a Chair for the current meeting would have to be appointed.

Director Hein explained that he was aware that Director Hansma had expressed an interest in running for the position of Chair and that Robert Hobson had asked that his name stand as well. He said that he felt both parties wanting the position should be able to present their thoughts to the Board.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Board defer the election of Chair and Vice Chair until the March meeting."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That Director Hansma be appointed to Chair the February 5, 2002 meeting."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma assumed the Chair.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 8th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour advised that Vic Jensen of the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection had noted an omission from the minutes of the November meeting at which he made a presentation on Water Quality in Kalamalka Lake. He wished it noted that the negative changes seen in water quality in the north end of the lake are likely land use related, consisting mainly of an agricultural run-off component as well as some urban run-off and a septic tank component. He felt it was important to note this in choosing what area of nutrient pollution should be addressed in the future.

The Board agreed to amend the minutes.

DELEGATIONS

Dr. Stewart Cohen - Adaptation & Impacts Research Group (AIRG), Environment Canada at UBC

Dr. Denise Neilsen – Agriculture Canada, Summerland Research Station

Mr. Brian Symonds – Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection

Mr. Armour informed the Board that Dr. Cohen had, last year, outlined a one year project on the impact of climate change on the water resources of the Okanagan. He said that Dr. Cohen was here to review the results of that project and to inform the Board of funding from the Climate Change Action Fund to continue and expand this work over the next 2 years.

Dr. Cohen reviewed some of the data on the nature of climate change and its potential impacts on a regional scale in the Valley. He explained that there was a documented rise in temperatures over the last 100 years along with an increase in precipitation. This will result in a longer and hotter growing season with an increased demand for irrigation and for energy for summer cooling.

Dr. Cohen advised that only six Okanagan creeks had been monitored last year ranging from lower to higher elevations in the watershed. He said it is important to understand how the change hydrographs of these streams under climate change conditions will affect stakeholders. In general, lower elevation streams will have reduced volume and earlier peak flows. Those at higher elevations with more snowpack, will have consistent flows but also earlier peak flows.

Director Hein wondered if these changes were part of any international water agreement discussions.

Dr. Cohen said that while a conference of senior water managers from the U.S. and Canada had met last summer, climate change was not officially being incorporated into internationally discussions.

Director Hein asked about the effect of warming on water loss through evaporation.

Dr. Cohen said that they had not included this component in the study.

Director Klim asked how we could be sure that climate change was responsible for the observed variance and not just a longer term climatic cycle.

Dr. Cohen explained that studies have been unable to account for the changes over the past forty years based on natural climatic variation alone. There has to be a human component and this fits with the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations.

Alternate Director Day wondered how much technology would mitigate the effects of the climate change trends.

Dr. Cohen answered that identifying the vulnerability of the Okanagan to the projected changes is an important part of the study.

Director Hansma asked about the length of the study period and the role of population growth in the observed and future changes.

Dr. Cohen reported that growth scenarios vary widely among climate models.

Director Hein stated that a politician is dependent on good information and evidence in making decisions on spending taxpayers money.

Dr. Cohen noted that new climate change models were based on good science concerning impacts that will be felt in our lifetime. There may be longer cycles at work as well of which we are not yet aware.

Director Hackman asked if global warming through emission of greenhouse gases could be fixed.

Dr. Cohen said that he is optimistic that we will be able to level off the degree of climate change through the actions we are taking.

Denise Neilsen of Agriculture Canada explained to the Board how she hoped to relate climate change to the water requirement for crops. She indicated that mapping of changes in water demand under climate change scenarios predicted a 28 percent increase in crop water use by the middle of the century. The longer growing season, combined with warmer temperatures would be responsible for this.

Director Hackman asked if crop water use was based on measured use or on the amount of water applied.

Dr. Neilsen said that the usage was measured directly at the research station.

Director Hein asked if usage was based on the crops grown today or potential changes in crops due to warmer longer growing season.

Dr. Neilsen said part of what they hope to do in the next study is to determine what crops will be grown under climate change scenarios.

Director Hein emphasized that with two new chairs in watershed management being endowed at Okanagan University College, this research should have strong coordination with that group.

Dr. Neilsen replied that she and Dr, Cohen planned to meet with the two chairs today.

Director Klim asked if effluent irrigation would be considered a wasteful use of water, that if processed to a higher level could be used to irrigate crops or if it was all just water that returned to the system.

Mr. Symonds responded that the use of reclaimed wastewater reduces the use of other higher quality supplies. He noted that water lost through evaporation does not necessarily return to the same watershed system.

Alternate Director Day commented that the City of Kelowna had moved away from effluent irrigation because of the liabilities involved in crop irrigation. He wondered if soil types were incorporated in the crop irrigation work.

Dr. Neilsen said they were not, in this model.

Director Cardoso commented on the desert situation in areas like Palm Springs where water is expensive and brought in from the Colorado River. He noted that these areas have exact models of how much water is used and where it goes.

Dr. Neilsen said that the climatological data is much more extensive there.

Dr. Cohen reviewed the specifics of the new work to be done advising that it will involve 2 years of study and include the entire watershed and not just the six creeks looked at previously. They intend to hire a hydrologist and to incorporate economic and institutional considerations into the work.

Director Hein emphasized the importance of linking with the two new chairs at OUC, both of whom have extensive hydrology backgrounds.

Dr. Cohen noted that the local involvement is building as the project continues.

Director Cardoso asked who the work will end up with and what will be done with the results.

Mr. Symonds said, that as a water manager himself, this information is needed to incorporate into future decision making. It may be that the rules of the future for managing water supplies will have to be changed.

Director Novakowski noted that the Water Board is part of the decision making process and needs to stay current.

Alternate Director Gullen said that she is concerned that some of the research information is not exact and that water districts require accurate scientific information and trained technical staff to implement it.

Director Hein said that the OBWB is not unified in what its mandate is. He stated local government must become part of the management of water.

Director Klim commented on the degree of collective effort and cooperation needed to consolidate water management and delivery using NOWA as an example.

Chair Hansma thanked the delegation for their presentation.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Workshop on Small Sewage Systems:

Mr. Armour referred to information he had attached to the agenda concerning the small sewage system workshop. He advised that he had consulted with the OMMA convention organizer about the possibility of holding the session Weds. May 1st just prior to official start of OMMA at Silver Star. He reported that we could use one of the OMMA venues until about 4:00 p.m. The OMMA Program will be mailed out Feb. 11 if we wanted to include a registration for the session to get an idea of how many would attend. He wondered about conflicts with people travelling Wednesday to the OMMA session.

The Board felt that it would be reasonable for people to arrive in time for the session if it commenced mid morning on Wednesday.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Small Treatment System Workshop be scheduled on May 1, 2002 as a preliminary event to the OMMA Convention at Silver Star."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour referred to information in the agenda authored by Sebastian Moffatt, a consultant with the

SheltAir Group. Mr. Moffatt gave the opening presentation at the October conference on new technology for water wastewater and storm water treatment, and has worked with a number of major cities on sustainable infrastructure plans. Mr. Armour explained that he thought the session would benefit from someone with this background and expertise, who might be able to lead the workshop into looking at alternatives to conventional means of providing infrastructure. He advised that Mr. Moffatt would want \$1000 plus his expenses to prepare for an conduct the one day session.

The Board discussed the budget for the conference and agreed that knowledgeable leadership was worthwhile.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Small Treatment System Workshop be allocated a budget not to exceed \$5000, including a fee of \$1000 plus expenses to retain Mr. S. Moffatt of the SheltAir Group."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour said that he had proposed three other speakers: from Health and from WLAP, to talk about legislation, what tools local government has, and present information on specific treatment systems and their usefulness; and from VanCity Insurance to talk about the small systems assurance program they are offering. He felt this might occupy about 1.5 hours followed by a roundtable discussion in which each community could outline their current status and needs as far as sewage infrastructure goes. This would be led by Mr. Moffatt.

The Board felt that more time should be devoted to structured presentations but suggested that Mr. Moffatt indicate how he thought the session should best proceed.

There was some discussion about whether information on decentralized treatment options would encourage sprawl or whether this technology was appropriate for dealing with existing problems.

Director Hein noted that zoning authority rests with local government and the water quality interest is primary with the Water Board. Our interest is in using technology to clean up existing problems.

Director Klim asked that presenters have handout information and perhaps information booths at the venue.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ecosystem Conference May 2002 in Spokane, WA

The Board received the Ecosystem Conference Announcement for Spokane Washington April 27 – May 1 dealing with Columbia River but including a special session on the Okanagan.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the notice of the BC Groundwater Association Annual General Meeting scheduled for Feb. 28 – March 2 in Kelowna be received."

CARRIED.

Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group – Invitation to partner in Ecosystem Conference

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That correspondence from the Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group be received and filed."

CARRIED.

Sewerage Facilities Grants:

Municipal Financial Services – Letter to City of Penticton

The Board received confirmation that Penticton Industrial Area sewer projects would have been eligible for Provincial funding consideration. The Board had previously agreed to approve an OBWB grant for these projects subject to receipt of the letter from Province. It was noted that the Board, subsequent to this, had resolved that no more retroactive grants would be considered.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Grant application from the City of Penticton for the Industrial Area sewer project be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Armour reported on a request that he participate in a Lake Weed Control Symposium in Burns Lake March 8 & 9. He noted that the organizing group had a limited budget.

Director Hein advised that he had no objection to covering the Field Supervisor's time, but that the symposium organizers should be responsible for expenses.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held March 5th in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 5, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Mr. Armour called the meeting to order and asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2002.

Director Coady nominated Director Hobson.

Director Hackman nominated Director Hansma

Both nominees addressed the Board regarding their perspectives.

Directors voted by secret ballot and Mr. Armour tallied the vote and declared Robert Hobson the Chair for 2002.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Chair Hobson called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Board.

Director Hein nominated Director Hansma.

Director Cardoso nominated Director Coady.

Both candidates indicated their willingness to stand for the position and addressed the Board.

Directors again voted by secret ballot and Mr. Armour declared Director Coady, Vice Chair of the Water Board for 2002.

Chairman Hobson asked that the Directors give some thought to the challenges facing the Board and prepare to offer their perspective at the next meeting.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 5th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Workshop on Small Sewage Systems:**

Mr. Armour referred to program he had attached to the agenda concerning the small sewage system workshop to be held May 1st. He advised that all speakers have been confirmed and that the session was booked to run May 1st from 10:30 until 3:45. He noted that he had tried to see if someone from Municipal Affairs should or would attend but had received no response.

Director Coady asked if invitations had been sent to local government staff as well as politicians planning to attend OMMA.

Mr. Armour said that the material had just been sent out with the OMMA package.

Director Klim suggested that the information be emailed to local government administrators for circulation to staff, particularly those involved in planning or engineering.

Director Hein agreed that staff should attend, probably more so than politicians.

The Board agreed that an extension to the registration deadline would be made to try and reach a larger group of participants.

Director Hackman wondered if the time allotted to each speaker was too short and whether the session should be expanded.

Mr. Armour noted that delegates would be travelling on May 1st so an earlier start would be difficult. The venue was being used by OMMA after 4:00 p.m.

Director Klim asked that a display of information on technologies be incorporated into the session so that information might be explored with the speakers.

Director Hansma asked that a package of related technical information be sent out to registrants before the workshop.

Chairman Hobson added that the package should include some background on the Water Board and it's function.

Director Coady commented that a biography of each speaker should be included, perhaps with the email to local government administrators.

Mr. Armour spoke on progress with other initiatives, specifically the water information database. He noted that he had spoken to OUC staff and indicated that our interest is in a fairly broad based collection of water related data, not just drinking water information. He advised that he and Chairman Hobson were meeting with 2 OUC people after this meeting to discuss our involvement in an early April meeting

of all interested parties. OUC have met with senior Environment Canada staff who are very interested and will be at April meeting, along with Agriculture Canada representation.

Chairman Hobson noted that the direction the Board had taken in involving the College seemed to be correct as the interest was certainly there.

Chairman Hobson advised the Board that Paul Kluckner and Bruce Kay of Environment Canada wished to make a presentation to the Water Board at the April meeting on ecosystem planning. The Board agreed to invite the Environment Canada Staff.

Director Cardoso agreed that the involvement with the College and the BC Freshwater Institute was the right direction for the Board to take, but cautioned that the College is profit driven and our participation should be at the planning stage and not in maintaining an ongoing database.

Chairman Hobson agreed that this was the direction the Water Board had been given by the regional districts. He suggested that BCFI be invited to talk to the Board about the various roles and interests. He asked that Mr. Armour determine who should attend.

Drinking Water Review Panel – Final Report

Chairman Hobson referred to material from the Final Report of the Drinking Water Review Panel and noted that the organizational chart for a Drinking Water Protection Agency was under the Ministry of Health Planning. He said that there was a recommendation that assessments of watersheds be done as a shared responsibility between government and water users. He advised that the Province was reviewing the recommendations at this time and had stated their intention to pass drinking water legislation this year. This would deal with surface water and ground water. He also noted that since senior government will not have the resources to pay for all drinking water treatment, conservation will take on a more important role in reducing the amount of water that has to be treated. There will, as well be spin off benefits in reducing input to liquid waste treatment facilities.

Alternate Director Gullen asked about new Federal Government programs.

Chairman Hobson said that a new drinking water strategy was being worked on, following the events at Walkerton, but he was not sure about money being made available.

Alternate Director Gullen said that she had heard that there would be funding made available.

Director Hein stated that water should be at the top of the Board's mandate and the need to address the quality of water on a regional basis should be our priority for the future. He noted that the North Okanagan Water Authority (NOWA) is an example of cooperation on a sub regional level and that this same spirit should apply to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. He added that we are hampered by the position of the North Okanagan that we should only cut weeds and distribute sewer grants, and stay out of water quality and quantity issues.

Director Cardoso agreed but noted that this opposition is not restricted to the north Okanagan. He said that the South Okanagan has not come together as a region to deal with water issues. He commented that the election of OBWB representatives first to represent local interests was difficult to balance with taking a regional approach to resource issues.

Director Coady expressed an interest in getting a better understanding of NOWA. She wondered how far the Board could proceed in establishing a timetable for governance changes, and what approval would be needed from the regional districts.

Chairman Hobson answered that the Board would have to await the Provincial government response to drinking water recommendations to see what course of action should be looked at. Approval for any expenditure of additional funds would be required from the Regional Districts and the Boards would certainly want to see a list of deliverables such as dollar savings or time efficiencies resulting from any Water Board actions.

Director Coady said that there should be resources allocated to local government in the event of downloading of responsibility by the Province.

Director Klim gave an outline of the discussions taking place regarding NOWA. She said that Vernon, Coldstream, and Areas B and C recognized a serious situation with the way drinking water was supplied. Although a final plan had not been adopted yet, strides had been taken toward massive infrastructure development in the order of one hundred million dollars over the next forty years. She said that this concept needs to be promoted and applied in other parts of the valley.

Director Hackman added that compromises were being made by Vernon, Coldstream and NOWA in terms of the amounts of funding being contributed in relation to populations.

Chairman Hobson noted that there were problems in the Central Okanagan as well, with numerous water suppliers who might function better as a single utility.

Director Hansma said that the Water Board cannot and should not attempt to be what NOWA is. We should encourage other areas to look at this model and use it if it is found suitable.

Director Novakowski said that he has supported that expansion of the water Board Mandate and questioned why the North Okanagan had such a reluctance to cooperate.

Director Klim answered that all of the resources of the North Okanagan were tied up in these projects and that each region would have to go through a similar process.

Director Novakowski stated that we should all be moving cooperatively in a parallel direction.

Chairman Hobson noted that NOWA is moving toward a single utility with a treatment system to supply water to a large area.

Alternate Director Gullen said that it is commendable what NOWA is trying to achieve, but not necessarily applicable to all areas. She agreed that water must be at the top of our list of priorities and added that the pressure from the United States for our water could result in a loss of control over this resource.

Director Coady said that when Penticton had heavy infrastructure construction commitments, it did not pull out of the Water Board. She asked about other parts of the North Okanagan not covered by NOWA.

Director Hansma said that Spallumcheen purchases water from NOWA and also has eighteen water districts. He said that a study is currently underway leading to these utilities working together as a commission. He said that NORD has never refused to participate in Water Board actions, but that any consideration of an expanded mandate would have to be accompanied by a proper business plan.

Chairman Hobson asked the directors to examine the challenges facing the Okanagan and see if there is agreement on the actions required of the Water Board. He noted that many actions do not require money, but rather cooperation and sharing of information.

Alternate Director Gullen said that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has the opportunity to recognize the value of water and perhaps reward the efforts of those who have put in the necessary infrastructure and

who have implemented effective conservation programs. She stated that these areas are typically penalized under the current system since those who have failed to do the necessary work are rewarded with grant money.

Chairman Hobson asked that each director be prepared to discuss their thoughts on challenges and the role of the Okanagan Basin Water Board at the next meeting

It was suggested by Director Hansma and the Board agreed to make this discussion the subject of a separate meeting. It was decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m. in Kelowna.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter of support for the recommendations of the Drinking Water Review Panel to the Province. The letter should endorse the recommendations and, in particular, the concept of a single agency for drinking water."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Town of Osoyoos – Control of Canada Geese

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Klim:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board endorse the resolution proposed by the Town of Osoyoos to OMMA for effective means to control the population of non-migratory Canada geese."

CARRIED.

V. Jensen, Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection

The Board asked that Mr. Jensen be asked to make his presentation at the May meeting, in order that sufficient time be given to the Environment Canada presentation at the April meeting.

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Letter to City of Penticton

The Board received a copy of a letter from CUPE to the City of Penticton regarding concerns over private operators of water systems.

Director Coady said the City had asked if the Okanagan Basin Water Board had any comment on private operation of water systems.

Chairman Hobson noted that there was concern in some regions about the commercialization of water and that once public control was lost, it might be difficult to regain control over the resource.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Gullen:

"That letter from CUPE to the City of Penticton be received and that the Board get more information on private control of water systems."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Status of Provincial Government Programs in the Okanagan

The Board received information on the status of Provincial government programs in the Okanagan. The material included a synopsis of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Service Plan containing strategic shifts proposed by government to achieve their mandate with substantially fewer staff and funds.

A copy of a letter from City of Kelowna Environment Manager, Mark Watt was received. The letter outlines changes and reductions to Provincial staff and services in Penticton and Kamloops.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held April 2nd in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 7, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

STAFF: G. Armour Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 5th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Michelle Boshard and Deana Machin, Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group and Okanagan Boundary Fisheries Partnership

Ms. Boshard gave a presentation on the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group (TWG) and its terms of reference and principles of operation. (attached) She also reviewed the Strategic Plan for the Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership. (OSBFP) (attached) Ms. Machin represents the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission on both bodies.

Ms. Boshard explained that the TWG deals with fisheries issues on a government to government basis and uses fish as an indication of ecosystem health. An adaptive management approach is used where any changes made are initially small and reversible. Water interests are also considered on a transboundary level with US counterparts.

The OSBFP is run by a twelve person steering committee which includes local government. It has delivered \$1.5 million to community fisheries programs over the past three years. The funding came from Fisheries Renewal BC which does not exist anymore.

Ms Boshard suggested that the Water Board consider partnership for outreach programs to educate community groups and also continue with efforts to establish a converged database. She noted that the OBTWG has produced a discussion paper on transboundary communication issues and is looking for comments and suggestions. An aquatic ecosystem conference will be held in 2003 and the OBWB has been invited to partner by chairing a session on water quality and quantity. She said that the group is interested in avoiding duplication in conferences and in developing a closer working arrangement.

Director Hein asked if Ms. Boshard's position was funded by DFO.

Ms. Boshard replied that it is, under a 4 year program which ends in March of 2003.

Director Hein asked what projects from the \$1.5 million in grants contributed to improved water quality or quantity.

Ms. Boshard said over 100 projects were funded on such things as improvements to riparian areas, in-stream rehabilitation, and the Okanagan Lake Action Plan for kokanee recovery.

Director Novakowski asked about the US Agencies involved in water management.

Ms. Boshard stated that in Canada DFO and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection deal with fisheries issues, while the US has more regulatory groups involved in hydro power. The Bonneville Power Administration is committed to spending \$127 million on the Columbia River system. US agencies may look at spending money in Canada to mitigate against fish habitat losses in the US on the river system.

Ms. Machin noted that the Colville Confederated Tribes and the Okanagan Nation are the same tribe separated by the border. The Colville Tribe accesses BPA funding and contributes some money to Okanagan nation initiatives. There is also one Canadian project funded by the Douglas County Public Utilities District.

Director Coady asked about the Columbia Basin Trust money.

Ms. Boshard answered that these funds are not designated for the Okanagan, Similkameen, or Kettle systems. She added that Environment Canada does not fund fisheries related projects.

Director Coady wondered how the Ecosystem Conference would fit with a state of the basin conference which would include such factors as climate change and water conservation

Director Hansma asked how far the DFO initiatives had progressed now that the funding end is in sight.

Ms. Boshard observed that the original goals have changed somewhat and that progress has been made in networking of stewardship groups, capacity building and increasing government to government and government to community communication. She said she believes these function will continue after March 2003.

Director Cardoso said more communication is needed locally as many are not aware of the details of OBSFP projects.

Alternate Director Gullen asked if the TWG had looked at the impact of dam failures.

Ms. Machin replied that all issues cannot be dealt with due to staff limitations.

The Chairman thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Vic Jensen, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection – Water Quality in Skaha, Okanagan and Osoyoos Lakes

Mr. Jensen presented information from the work he does for the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. He samples the effects of discharges to the lakes under permits issued by the Ministry and to some extent, the effects of agriculture and forestry on the lakes.

Mr. Jensen noted that the first limnological study of Okanagan lake was performed in 1939 when the valley population was about 28,000. The next look at lake conditions was through the comprehensive Okanagan Basin Study from 1969 to 1972. Valley population at that time was about 115,000.

Director Hackman asked what the effect of failing septic systems is on the condition of the lakes.

Mr. Jensen replied that it is small in terms of the overall phosphorus loading to the lakes.

Director Hein noted that the damage to lakes and riparian areas caused by roads, railways, and human activities is a concern to local government. Information on the nature and extent of damage needs to get back to local people and then local government can put pressure on to get the money necessary to rectify these problems.

Director Klim said that Vernon is looking at stormwater management and requires information on what course of action to take. She noted that perhaps the Water Board can assist with incentives in this area as they have done for point source pollution. She said that information on the sources of nutrient pollution is needed.

Mr. Jensen advised that the cost to rectify point source problems is easier to estimate and the solutions easier to implement than those for non point source problems. He said there is a need to step back and decide what the important issues are for the next thirty years and how these should be addressed.

Chairman Hobson stated that there should be more linkage between senior government agencies in producing an integrated plan for the valley.

Director Hansma acknowledged that information on what 'normal' levels of nutrients are in the lakes is needed as a baseline in knowing what our goals should be.

Mr. Jensen said that his branch is trying to obtain funding to do sediment coring in Skaha Lake to provide some of this baseline information. He added that information on other parameters than nutrient levels is required to give a clear picture of normal conditions.

Ms. Boshard commented that we should be integrating funding rather than fragmenting it to achieve common goals.

Director Novakowski stated that we should be charging the real cost of water and applying the resources to remedial measures.

Director Klim left the meeting at 12: p.m.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jensen for his presentation.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion of Presentations:

Chairman Hobson asked the Board members for their thoughts on OBWB participation in the actions of the Technical Working Group. He wondered if our goals and audiences are sufficiently similar to work together.

Director Novakowski noted that we need empowerment from the regional districts to change our mandate.

There was discussion regarding the potential for a Water Board role in rural sewage systems or advanced on site disposal. The role of a catalyst and whether the commitment would involve financing was discussed. It was suggested that the Board work with technical and financial people to investigate and develop some possibilities which could be taken to the local technical community for discussion. A portion of the twenty-one cent Water Board levy could be allocated for this purpose.

Director Hackman added that if the courses of action investigated do not involve expenditure of additional funds, there should not be a problem but the North Okanagan will participate financially in sewer grants and weed control only.

Director Hein noted that the OBWB is the only taxing authority for water in the valley. He wondered if one of the three regional districts did not wish to participate in an initiative, could we proceed with the assenting regions.

Alternate Director Gullen felt that communities have an obligation to participate especially when the actions are supported by senior government and have international implications.

The Board discussed participation in the Ecosystem Conference.

Director Cardoso felt we should use the opportunity to reinforce the accomplishments of the Board.

Alternate Director Gullen noted that there is a lack of coordination of local regulations for providing water and sewer to developments and the Board should be proactive in ensuring that adequate standards exist for all developers.

Chairman Hobson wondered if we should work with BCFI to review water conservation in the Okanagan and put the information into presentation form to educate people in the valley. He said this might be a tool to change the mind set of local government regarding the value of water.

Alternate Director Gullen said that grants for metering of water use were necessary as a start for conservation and efficient use of water. She added that all water licenses issued should be catalogued and analyzed for their impact on quality and quantity of water.

Director Coady noted that there has been varied success with local government taking over the role of water purveyor.

Chairman Hobson said that one problem is that purveyors often have a mandate to supply water but no authority over land use. He asked if the Board had ideas for alternative uses of the funding designated for a water conservation workshop.

Director Coady suggested that the money be used to work with BCFI to summarize water conservation information and technical information on aspects of water licenses including water volume data.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Gullen:

"That Water Board provide up to \$6000 for a technical inventory of water conservation measures in the Okanagan Valley. The Board should work with the BC Freshwater Institute at OUC to determine the details of the investigation including conservation objectives, water volume utilization, and water license inventory information. A report on the proposed scope of the project should be brought back to the Water Board for consideration"

CARRIED.

It was agreed that the BC Water Supply Association and the Water Comptroller through the Provincial Government should be contacted for information. There was discussion about what level of college project this should be and it was agreed that a graduate level was preferable. The report brought back to the Board should indicate what is needed in terms of time and funding.

April 16th Water Board Goals and Objectives Meeting

Notes from this meeting were received

May 1st Workshop on Small Sewer Systems

The Board agreed that an outcome of the workshop was a need for specific technical information on alternate technologies for upgrading liquid waste disposal in areas not served by sewage treatment plants.

This should be compiled and included with a summary of the workshop.

April 3rd Database Meeting

The Board received a Discussion Paper on the outcomes of the meeting.

Drinking Water Source Contamination Workshop

The Board received a report on the workshop from Mr. Armour.

CORRESPONDENCE:

City of Penticton – Letter from CUPE Regarding Drinking Water Standards

The Chairman noted that the CUPE letter dealt with the issue of privatization of water supplies which was not considered by the Drinking Water Review Panel.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the letter from CUPE to the City of Penticton be received."

CARRIED.

Premier G. Campbell – Drinking Water Review Panel

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the letter from the Premier be received."

CARRIED.

Water Workshop and Think Tank – Simon Fraser University

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board pay the registration fee for Alternate Director Gullen to attend the Simon Fraser Workshop ."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held June 11th in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 11, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director Ruth Ann Guillen	O.S.R.D.
Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

STAFF: G. Armour Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 7th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Corporate Branch and Erik Karlsen, Environment Canada

Mr. Kluckner made a presentation to the Board on Environment Canada's perspective on promoting an ecosystem management strategy in the Okanagan Valley. He reminded the Board that Bruce Kay had reviewed the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI) in a presentation to the Board a year ago. He said that the five major ecosystem initiatives currently underway in Canada are not identical but represent unique adaptations to situations and circumstances in the individual areas. The priority ecosystems in BC were identified as the Fraser River system where the Fraser River Action Plan ran from 1993 to 1998. The legacy from that plan was the Fraser Basin Council which is supported by a per head tax and consists of local government and other stakeholders who come together to deal with a variety of issues.

Mr. Kluckner noted that the Georgia Basin was the second priority area and the ecosystem initiative is entering year five of a five year commitment. The ecosystem approach integrates environmental, social and economic goals and is a partnership of stakeholders in the geographic area working together toward coordinated action. It also acts to support local actions and solutions and develops and transfers new knowledge and best management practices. Data is collected to measure and report on trends.

Director Hein asked who manages the data collected.

Mr. Kluckner responded that both the Province through the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and Environment Canada have collected and interpreted data and are working toward meshing these databases. He said that one objective was to eventually take local data and use it to show regional trends and possibly integrate it into a national database.

Mr. Kluckner noted that the GBEI is linked to other organizations including the Fraser Basin Council, UBCM, Regional Growth Strategies and US government agencies.

Director Hein wondered what types of questions were to be answered by the data collected.

Mr. Kluckner said that information pertained to localized problems. There were too many factors at work to draw general conclusions over a larger geographic area.

Mr. Kluckner stated that the GBEI interaction with local government is helping to change federal policies. Traditionally the Federal Government has not dealt directly with the local level. He added that Environment Canada is pursuing funding to continue the GBEI and to add the Okanagan Basin. This would be an effort to incorporate ongoing ecosystem projects and bring the various initiatives together as well as help fill gaps. He said he and Mr. Karlsen had come to discuss the needs of the Okanagan and the interests, issues and priorities of local government. He indicated that he required the basis of a proposal by the end of summer to submit for budget consideration in September.

Director Hansma advised that the Water Board is limited in its current scope of activities by the approval and funding required from the regional districts.

Director Hackman asked if Environment Canada was looking for a financial contribution from the Water Board, or just information.

Mr. Kluckner said that he was looking for an indication of where Federal efforts could be utilized to fill gaps of bring communities together in order to better manage environmental resources.

Director Coady said our focus should be on what is needed in the valley, rather than on how much money is available and how to access it. She noted that the OBWB had initially looked at taking a leadership role to bring varied interests together in the valley but found that this was not within its mandate or financial resources.

Director Hansma commented that in many cases, individual local government were taking on programs which could be better implemented regionally. He asked how this was handled in other areas under ecosystem management.

Mr. Kluckner replied that the Fraser Basin Council is incorporated as a society with directors representing the various regions of the watershed. It has no decision-making role that is binding on the municipalities, but relies on information sharing and good will to achieve regional programs. The GBEI is directed by a Government Agency Steering committee that seeks to align the federal and provincial programs being delivered in the area. The goal is to mutually address priorities and avoid overlap.

Director Hein stated that there is importance in having this type of steering committee to form a coalition to drive a new system of management. We seem to be unable to arrive at this point on our own.

Director Cardoso said there is currently a low desire in local government to participate regionally and to consider ecosystem issues.

Mr. Kluckner describe the mandate of Environment Canada Corporate Services:

Clean Air – there is currently and effort to link data with costs of health care and to look at he effects of air traffic and marine vessels on air quality. Ozone and particulate forecasting is done and the effect on human health is resulting in such science as changes to sulphur content of fuels.

Clean Water – Water quality and quantity monitoring has been done for many years as past of the Water

Survey of Canada. This includes not only conventional components but such areas as endocrine disrupters from pharmaceuticals.

Environmental Monitoring and Conservation – including Species at Risk Legislation and preservation of migratory corridors.

Climate Change – at the global, national and regional levels. Monitor and predict changes in stream hydrographs and the implications and adaptations of changes. Concerned with reduction of ozone but also the adaptations which might take place to eventual climate change.

Weather and Environmental Prediction – such as the Mountain Weather Station in the Okanagan. Supplies a great deal of information to agriculture, industry, as well as road safety.

Director Hackman asked how Federal initiatives are communicated to the public.

Mr. Kluckner answered that traditionally the Federal programs have been noted for producing good science but Environment Canada is now trying to go a step further and make knowledge readily available to assist in local decision making.

Director Novakowski agreed that there are problems facing the OBWB in expanding its mandate and in working at the regional level. He asked what options the Federal Government has to create the incentive to work together.

Director Hein followed up on the federal interest in the Okanagan and whether it was regarded as a source of data for an example of the benefit of a regional approach to long term planning for Canada and perhaps internationally. He asked how much money might be available.

Mr. Kluckner said he would consider \$200,000 as a ballpark estimate if a proposal were included in his budget.

Director Hein said he would be in favour of establishing a Federal – provincial Steering committee to work towards a local regional management authority that would ensure issues are addressed to preserve the environment. He asked if there were specific examples of success stories from the GBEI.

Mr Karlsen said that it would be possible to get a description from local government of how they benefited from the GBEI.

Director Coady noted that the Water Board workshop in the fall of 2000 had incorporated a wide range of interests and developed a vision of water management in the Okanagan on a regional scale as well as some specific objectives. She added that there was insufficient leadership in local government to start and that creation of a new body where the OBWB is in a supportive role and local government is not investing new money might supply that leadership.

Director Hansma agreed that while he had hoped for a broader mandate for the Water Board to address valley issues this was not forthcoming.

Chairman Hobson commented that we have many fractured jurisdictions that impact on the environment of the valley. He said it is important to bring resource users, regulators, non-government groups, and First Nations together. He listed a number of regional programs and discussions underway in the valley and noted that these varied interests are not working together. He stated that some areas where these interests should be brought together to cooperate included scientific efforts to bring information to a current status and environmental indicators to identify benchmarks and predict trends,

Mr. Kluckner said that due to the complexity of issues, not all could be addressed.

Director Hein asked who would support a new organization over the longer term?

Mr. Kluckner said that the other Federal program followed a five year time frame with consideration of renewal at the end of that period. These program were not intended to go on forever but be terminated at some point.

Director Hein asked if the \$200,000 figure was a per year allocation.

Mr. Kluckner said that it was but a proposal needed to be developed and submitted.

Director Coady noted that the Fraser Basin Council came out of the Fraser River Action Plan. Without the planning phase it would be difficult to take any effective action.

Mr. Kluckner advised that it would be necessary to develop a vision of what the valley might look like based on growth projections and from that work back to issues that need to be addressed.

Chairman Hobson commented that a problem for Environment Canada would be to identify the client they would be working with in the Okanagan. Would it be the Water Board or the Regional Districts, or some new group? He noted that this will not be clear by the end of summer and wondered what Environment Canada would need to prepare a proposal.

Mr. Kluckner said that perhaps a Federal Provincial steering committee could be established on an interim basis and be represented by a staff member who would carry on outreach to local government over the course of the first year.

Director Cardoso said that the previous Federal provincial effort, the Okanagan Basin Study was not followed up on and as a result many recommendations were never implemented.

Chairman Hobson said that the Water Board had never included all agencies with an interest in or mandate for water. It was made up of the three regional districts.

Director Hein stated that a steering committee approach could be used to start the process and the final form may or may not resemble the present Water Board, but would incorporate the necessary people.

Mr. Kluckner said that he would consider the feedback given by the Board and return, if the Board wished, for additional discussion of what would work for Environment Canada to become involved in the Okanagan.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Kluckner and Mr. Karlsen for their presentation.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Green Sustainable Development Strategy

The Board received a summary of the goals of the project.(attached)

Chairman Hobson advised that RDOS Chair Dan Ashton was chairing the group, working with Westland Resources to develop a strategy and priority projects which would be eligible for Western Economic Diversification funding. The group consists of the three regional board Chairs, Senator Ross Fitzpatrick, representative from the Province, Community Futures, and Vanessa Sutton, Chief Administrative Officer of RDOS. He added that he saw links to areas of interest for the Water Board particularly projects which

provided solutions to environmental problems and which served as pilot projects for potentially exportable Canadian technology.

Simon Fraser University Water Workshop

Alternate Director Gullen reported on the workshop that she attended in late May. She submitted a summary of information from the event. (attached)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group

A letter asking for a decision from the Board about assisting with the planned ecosystem conference in the Spring of 2003 was received from the Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group. (OBTWG)

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board participate, as requested, in the spring 2003 Ecosystem Conference sponsored by the Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group."

CARRIED.

Director Cardoso opposed.

Director Coady commented that the Board needs to take on this role in order to raise our profile and express our interest and cooperation.

Director Cardoso was concerned that the OBTWG had not done a good job of keeping south Okanagan residents apprised of its actions. He said he would be more comfortable in participating in organizing the conference if the RDOS Board approved as well.

Director Hein noted that we may have an answer from Environment Canada by the spring and that might give us a key position in a conference on ecosystem based management.

Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership

A letter from the OSBFP was received asking the Water Board to attend a meeting with the steering committee.

Director Hein moved to receive the letter. There was no seconder.

Director Coady said that it was time we met with this group and talked to the steering committee about mutual objectives.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board arrange to meet with the steering committee of the Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership."

CARRIED.

Regional District of North Okanagan

The Board received a memorandum from Corporate Controller T. Mori outlining proposed changes to the 2002 – 2003 fiscal year budget. (attached)

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water receive the memorandum from T. Mori and that he be directed to take the steps outlined in the memorandum concerning trade payables and accrued vacation time and that he determine in consultation with Director Hackman, a policy for funding accumulated sick pay."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held July 9th in Kelowna if required. The meeting will be chaired by Vice Chair Coady.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 12:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 11th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Environment Canada Presentation from June 11th Meeting and Possible Action

Chairman Hobson said he had talked with E. Karlsen and P. Kluckner about the possibility of a follow up discussion with the Water Board at the October meeting. This would center around Environment Canada's desire to better coordinate their efforts with work being undertaken by local government, and in the areas of climate change and predictive ecology.

Director Novakowski asked if EC was still considering an annual investment of \$200,000.

The Chairman confirmed this and stated that the valley needs to put forward what we see our needs as.

Director Hackman asked if this was a one-year investment.

Director Hein recalled from the June presentation that a five-year time frame was discussed at which time there was a possibility of renewal. He noted that we need to get all three Regional Districts to agree on issues of water quality and quantity, beyond weeds and sewage grants, which the Board can become involved in. He asked again for clarification on whether two of the partners in the Water Board can proceed with a project should the third not wish to go ahead. He introduced a letter he had submitted to Lake Country Council. (attached)

Director Novakowski agreed that our Supplementary Letters Patent allow flexibility in taking on a broader water management role and those that wish to pursue this should be allowed to move ahead.

Director Hansma referred to the senior government funding of green infrastructure and suggested the Water Board restructure its grant funding to include some innovative systems for providing safe water supply and disposing of wastewater.

Director Hackman noted that NORD is not against a changed mandate but has not seen any plan, which they might consider.

Director Hein commented that NORD had rejected the plan for a water management partnership.

Director Klim said that the City of Vernon does not want the Water Board to pursue anything more than milfoil control and sewer grants. She noted that the North Okanagan is in the process of trying to put into place infrastructure to provide safe drinking water and to effectively dispose of liquid waste without the benefit of senior government grants.

Chairman Hobson added that the Province's plan for implementation of Drinking Water Legislation will be a key for local government actions. It may be a problem to find the resources needed to meet the requirements of the legislation.

Director Hein said that each community must do what is required to supply the necessary quality and quantity of water. Water, he noted, that is needed not only by the citizens but also by all parts of the ecosystem. He felt that in some cases source protection would be cheaper and more effective than end of pipe treatments.

Chairman Hobson commented that riparian protection is separate from the Drinking Water Legislation and we do not yet know if source protection is part of the Province's plan. He felt that the OBWB may prove to be a useful structure to help implement the legislation.

Director Coady said that this discussion of water goes around in circles at each Board meeting. She felt we need to move forward in areas where we can make things happen and accept those areas that our customers, local government, do not wish us to be involved in.

Director Novakowski agreed that we should move in a direction where we have a reasonable chance of success. He wondered if we could get the authority to become a watershed protection agency.

Chairman Hobson noted that the legislation will require purveyors to do assessments of risks in their watersheds, but the purveyors do not have the authority to protect these watersheds.

Director Klim said that the Province does have this authority but now lacks the resources to implement it.

Director Novakowski reiterated that perhaps local government should consider taking on the responsibility.

Director Klim stated that this would not be supported by NORD. The North Okanagan Water Authority is already performing some of the protection measures and they would not consider paying for similar measures in other parts of the valley.

Director Cardoso noted that the resources available to local government are limited to property taxes and this revenue is very small compared to the array of financial sources the Province has. The level with the revenue and resources should take on the responsibility.

Director Hackman disputed Director Hein's claim that source protection is cheaper and more effective than end of pipe treatments.

Chairman Hobson asked if NOWA looks at areas other than safe drinking water supply, such as riparian

and aquatic ecosystem integrity.

Director Klim said they do, to varying degrees.

Director Hein described the situation at Duck Lake where since Hiram Walker ceased operations part of Vernon Creek now runs dry in the summer. He stated that the Province cannot be relied upon to do the right thing for the environment and the integrity of resources and it is up to local government to push these important issues.

Director Hansma noted that watershed source protection tend to follow discovery of how polluted our supplies have become, and how expensive it is to purify them at the end of the pipe. He commented that the Okanagan Basin Water Board is looked at as a funding agency rather than the protection agency we might wish to be. He suggested that the only way for us to be more effective is to look at a funding role in other areas where projects proposed by local government that meet specific criteria become eligible for assistance.

Director Cardoso agreed but added that the larger responsibility would be in setting criteria that are leading edge and produce the best results. Monitoring of the projects would also be required.

Director Coady said that the criteria would require that certain structures and standards be in place in order to receive money.

Chairman Hobson noted that this type of advocacy role and financial grant process was part of the original mandate of the Water Board.

Alternate Director Gullen responded that in looking at an advocacy role we are missing an opportunity to put forward a united front to senior funding agencies.

She said we will face serious problems if we fail to work in a united fashion and while each area wants the autonomy to pursue its own initiatives, this does not present the proper perspective to the Federal Government.

The Board discussed the proposal to take on an advocacy role with financial assistance for new technology, and how this might fit with Environment Canada's interest in the region as well as green sustainable economic development. It was suggested that a sub-committee work on the requirements of such a role and incorporate the actions already authorized by the three regional boards. Information of Drinking Water Legislation and money available from the Province would be needed.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That Directors Novakowski and Hansma participate in a Water Board subcommittee led by Alternate Director Gullen to investigate an advocacy and funding role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in areas of water management beyond liquid waste treatment. The Committee would report to the October regular Board meeting with some recommendations of time frame for preparing a report."

CARRIED.

It was agreed that directors participating on the sub committee receive half of the regular meeting pay plus any travel and other expenses.

It was also agreed that Environment Canada would be invited to make a presentation to the October meeting.

Provisional Budget Fiscal Year 2003 – 2004

Mr. Armour presented a draft provisional budget for Aquatic Weed Control and Sewage Facilities Grants for consideration by the Board.

He noted the following under the weed control section:

The budget represented the same total figure as last year with some adjustment between line items to better reflect actual expenses:

The Equipment Reserve allocation will be reduced by \$9,000 as recommended in the attached memo from NORD to fund half of the total unaccrued Sick Pay over a 2-year period.

Harvester repairs – some refitting needed to machines originally purchased in late 1970's. Mr. Armour indicated that the lifespan of this equipment can be extended indefinitely and recommended this as the best option until some better design comes along. Harvesting currently makes up only 20 percent of the control program.

Derooting repairs – slight decrease to reflect actual expenses over past seasons.

Adjustment of insurance for loss and damage of equipment as the previous policy did not cover equipment used on water.

Interest charges reduced to reflect actual charges

Health and Safety Program contact terminates. A letter from McMullen and Assoc. offering ongoing program support was received and Mr. Armour will discuss the cost and benefit with Denis McMullen and report to the Board on the usefulness of continuing this service. He advised that crew and supervisors have received training in:

- Role and responsibilities of supervisor and employee in H&S
- Incident Investigation and Reporting
- Workplace Inspections, Crew Talk Program
- Ergonomics, Cold and Heat Stress, Working Alone,
- WHIMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods,

There have also been crew consultation sessions to identify critical tasks and safe procedures and written safe work procedures for equipment operation, moving, and repairs.

For the Sewage Facilities Requisition, Mr. Armour advised that a surplus of about \$750K will exist by March 2003. Lake Country will be eligible for payments on phases of LWMP following phase I. The requisition could be reduced for 2003 – 04 to use up some of the surplus.

Director Coady commented that it is not advisable to bounce the requisition up and down annually as this creates confusion for local government.

Director Cardoso said that the surplus should be retained.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the recommendations for the provisional budget for aquatic weed control presented by Mr. Armour and outlined in the memorandum from NORD be accepted and that the Sewage facilities Grant requisition for 2003 – 2004 be reduced to \$1,900,000. A completed Provisional Budget will be presented at the October regular meeting."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour presented a draft Capital Equipment Reserve plan with projection of capital requirements for equipment upgrades, refits etc. He noted that it does not include the cost of adding to or replacing complete piece(s) of equipment except for truck and trailers but shows how fund will accrue if the annual \$ 50,000 allocation is maintained. The key point is that at any time we will have the resources to add to our equipment or replace units.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BDO Dunwoodie – Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended March 31, 2002

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended March 31, 2002 be accepted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

Green Sustainable Economic Development

The letter and survey received by local government from the consultant were received for information. Mr. Armour noted attachments to the agenda including literature on 'Green' and 'Sustainable' communities.

Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had met with members of the sub-committee of the OSBFP to discuss mutual interests prior to a meeting between the Water Board and the Fisheries Partnership Board. One area that came up was the area of water licensing inventory and status and water conservation program coordination. The Water Board asked that information be obtained on retaining OUC to perform an inventory etc. to give baseline information on the amount of water available and being used in the valley, as well as the types and effectiveness of water conservation programs now in place. The OSBFP requires the same information as a basis for ensuring fish flows and screening of intakes in tributary streams and is also concerned that licensing information is unavailable, outdated or inaccurate. This led to the draft proposal submitted by the OBSFP.

The Water Board agreed to defer consideration of the proposal until they meet with the Fisheries Partnership.

The Board asked that Mr. Armour report at the next meeting on the conference proposed by the Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group, which the Board had agreed to support.

District of Lake Country – Official Community Plan

The Plan was received for information.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held October 1st in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
<u>Regrets:</u>	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	G. Armour	Field Supervisor

MINUTES

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on September 10th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Provisional Budget Fiscal Year 2003/2004 (Aquatic Weed Control and Sewage Facilities Grants)

Provisional Budget 2003/2004

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Provisional Budget for fiscal year 2003/2004 be adopted."

CARRIED

Report from Committee on Water Board Management Advocacy Role for OBWB

Director Gullen summarized the discussion of the sub-committee (Directors Gullen, Hansma, and Novakowski) on future roles for OBWB. The committee agreed on the following points:

- that both sewer grants and weed control continue to be important
- that the grant program should be extended to septic systems in rural areas
- that OBWB should undertake an advocacy role in water conservation
- that OBWB should be considering an infrastructure program for water treatment systems at the 18% level with the proviso that improvement districts move to regional districts or municipalities
- that OBWB water grants should match the criteria for green infrastructure funding

The Board had a wide-ranging discussion on these proposals. Director Cardoso reiterated that funding should only be for advanced systems and that special emphasis should go to rural areas. Director Hansma described his District's "dissolution policy" to ensure that infrastructure was brought to municipal standards prior to systems being dissolved. Director Hein suggested taking a serious look at the economic and ecological value of cutting weeds. He suggested OUC should be doing the science on this matter and that if weed cutting continued users should pay.

The Board agreed to ask the subcommittee to further develop these ideas with some involvement from regional district treasurers prior to the first meeting of the new Water Board in December.

Environment Canada

The Chair reported on his meeting with Paul Kluckner of Environment Canada concerning Environment Canada's interest in the Okanagan. Mr. Kluckner indicated thoughts would be going forth to the Federal Government later this fall and that it might be appropriate to meet with the new board in December. The Board agreed to invite Environment Canada to attend the first meeting of the new board in December.

Ecosystem Conference

The Board discussed participation in the Ecosystem Conference scheduled for June 22-24, 2003 at the Penticton Lakeside. Michelle Boshard gave a report on the progress of this conference. The conference will have four themes: water, fish, people and habitat. OBWB has agreed to lead the water theme in partnership with a U.S. representative.

Following discussion, the Directors agreed that a major theme of the water sessions should be water allocation. It was suggested that a comparison of American and B.C. experience would be useful. Participants could include the B.C. Water Supply Association, a ground water expert from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, officials from the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, and case studies from the area.

It was also agreed that the two OUC Chairs and watershed management should be part of the planning for the water part of the conference.

Planning Committee

Jane Coady agreed to provide interim continuity on the Planning Committee until Greg Armour returns to the job.

Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership

The Board discussed the Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership proposed collaboration for watershed restoration. Michelle Boshard explained that the first phase of the project would include assessment of water conservation programs with the goal of harmonizing messages and pilots in each Regional District looking at site specific water consumption in relation to water licenses, irrigation screening practices, and mapping of intake locations in relation to updated license holder information. This program would be a partnership between Okanagan Basin Water Board, Environment Canada, Water, Land and Air Protection, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Okanagan First Nations and the Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership.

Phase II would move to a more coordinated regional approach for water conservation that balances human and non-human uses.

The Board agreed that the project should include ground water sources as well as surface sources.

Director Gullen noted that the geological survey of Canada may have dollars available for aquifer mapping. She strongly agreed with the model proposed and suggested that no license should be allocated by the Province to corporations. Director Hansma indicated that Spallumcheen has good information on aquifer through a provincial mapping program and local research done by Michelle Tiernan. The Province also has maps and well records.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the Board support the collaboration project with \$15,000.00 from the Special Projects Fund".

CARRIED

The Board asked that the OBWB be given good public profile on press releases concerning this project.

OTHER BUSINESS:

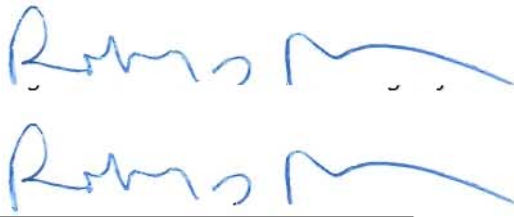
The Chair distributed the Provinces pamphlet entitled "Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia".

NEXT MEETING

The Board agreed that a meeting should not be necessary in November because of the election process but that a meeting would be held in December following the appointment of directors by the three regional district boards.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY