

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Monte Hughes	Beaver Lake Lot Lessor
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Director Hein nominated John Slater for Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2004.

There being no other nominations Director Slater was confirmed as Chair.

Director Hein nominated Doug Hackman for Vice Chair of the Water Board for 2004.

Director Hackman declined due to extensive other commitments.

Director Hackman nominated Will Hansma for Vice Chair.

There were no other nominations and Director Hansma was declared Vice Chair for 2004. As Director Hansma was not at the meeting this appointment requires his acceptance.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 10th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Monte Hughes – Beaver Lake Lessor

Mr. Hughes, lessor of a lakefront lot at Beaver Lake above Lake Country, made a presentation on the value to Beaver Lake lessors on maintaining the environmental integrity of the Lake. He informed the Board that a year ago the Province had invited the lessors to buy the lease lots. He indicated that residents were willing to work with local government to ensure the quality of the Lake is maintained.

Director Hein invited Mr. Hughes and Beaver Lake lessors to meet with him, as Mayor of Lake Country, to work toward similar goals.

The Board discussed the potential effects of sale of leased lots on environmental and water storage issues.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Report on Request for Proposals

Mr. Armour reported that 10 expressions of interest were received in response to our newspaper advertising for expressions of interest. Of these, 7 were deemed acceptable Okanagan Valley manufacturers with the facilities and expertise to construct the machine; 2 were out of town (Kamloops and Lower Mainland); and one Okanagan firm did not meet our standards.

We are asking for RFPs from the 7 acceptable local firms.

He noted that details and technical specifications for the RFP were attached to the agenda. We are asking for completed tender submissions at our office by February 12th and completed machine delivery by June 30th.

New and Unfinished Business:**March 19th Workshop – Preliminary Program**

The Board discussed the preliminary agenda for the Water Management workshop to be held March 19th and agreed that this is not a technical workshop and needs to have a high political profile. It was agreed that MLA Tom Christianson had been overlooked in the invitations and that the Chair would contact Ministers Barisoff and Abbott to try and ensure their attendance.

The Board suggested that the Workshop have a more aggressive title and agreed on 'Running on Empty? Water and Our Common Future.'

The Board also wanted to see as part of the workshop discussion of groundwater resources, the Okanagan Partnership initiative and the linkage of water to economic success as well as a Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection representative. The Board added that media notification was also a necessary part of the workshop.

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Report on Request for Proposals

Mr. Armour advised the Board that proposals for construction of the new rototiller were to be received by Thursday February 12th. He asked if a public opening of tenders was required and the Board said it was not.

Sale of Lease Lots on Reservoir Lakes – Zoning Options

The advised that the three Regional District Planners should meet to discuss options for zoning alternatives for reservoir lake lease lots noting that all three Regional Board had already indicated their opposition to sale of the lots.

The Board asked that a letter be forwarded to Land and Water BC indicating our opposition to the sale of lease lots on reservoir lakes by February 15th.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That Mr. Stamhuis draft a joint resolution from the three Regional Districts to OMMA opposing the sale of lease lots on reservoir lakes."

CARRIED.

Director Hein left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Correspondence:

Senator D. Ross Fitzpatrick - Okanagan Partnership – Okanagan Competitiveness Strategy

The Board received a letter from Senator Fitzpatrick and an agenda from the launch of the Okanagan Partnership and Okanagan Competitive Strategy.

Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection, Groundwater Section – Okanagan Cadastral Maps

The Board received correspondence from the Ministry of Water, Land pertaining to groundwater evaluation in the Okanagan watershed. Mr. Armour advised the Board that the Ministry wished to have assistance in obtaining cadastral maps of each region and municipality for purposes of cataloguing current groundwater use. They would prefer that the maps be in electronic form.

The Board agreed to make this request of local government.

City of Vernon – Westbank First Nation Lakeridge Project Sewage Grant

The Board received a letter from the City of Vernon asking the Board to reconsider its decision to provide a full Sewage Facilities Grant for the above project and amend it to reflect the portion of the amount paid into the fund by the Westbank First Nation. (20%)

Director Hosbon said that he was under the impression that CORD had made up the difference to the Water Board by contributing the extra 80%.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Water Board receive the letter and investigate the amount paid by CORD on behalf of the Westbank First Nation. The Board asked that a letter be sent to the City of Vernon informing them that the Water Board will advise them of the results of this investigation and noting that the Board mandate is to provide funding where environmental issues exist regardless of how much has been paid into the sewage fund versus how much is received."

CARRIED.

Regional District of North Okanagan –Re-zoning in Spallumcheen of Lots Less than 0.8 Hectares Proposed for Septic Systems

The Board received a presentation from NORD Planner, Mr. Rob Smailes concerning a re-zoning involving creation of three lots in Spallumcheen of less than 0.8 hectares to be serviced by septic systems.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Water Board recommendation to Spallumcheen be that two lots be created of 0.8 hectares and the third lot be a homesite severance encompassing the remaining area. This would not contravene the Water Board Sewage Grant policy."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Field and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Water Board, in order to conform to Provincial guidelines, alter its current Sewage Grant policy that the minimum acceptable size for lots on septic systems is 0.8 hectares The new policy states that creation of lots of less than 1.0 hectare would jeopardize OBWB Sewer Grants."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 9, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
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IN-CAMERA

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board convene In-Camera to deal with matters deemed closed to the public."

CARRIED.

The Board adjourned to meet In-Camera at 10:05 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Water Board reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

MATTERS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA MEETING

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the contract for Construction of a new Aquatic Weed Rototiller be awarded to MultiPower Products Ltd. of Kelowna."

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 10th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**March 19th Workshop Program**

Mr. Tonn, of Urban Systems, joined the meeting for a discussion of the final aspects of the March 19th Workshop on Regional Water Management.

Mr. Tonn and Mr. Armour reviewed the list of attendees and speakers for the workshop.

Director Novakowski stressed the importance of someone taking a leadership role at the conference in order to achieve any progress. He said, there is not at present a mechanism to solve resource problems on a basin wide scale and posed the question of the willingness of the Water Board to take on more responsibility.

Mr. Tonn reviewed the scope and purpose of the workshop and suggested it is important for the Water Board to decide before the session what we wish to accomplish.

Chair Slater commented that if a clear direction comes out of the workshop, the Water Board must be prepared to move forward and have the resources to do it.

There was discussion on means to make the workshop successful in terms of achieving local political agreement.

It was agreed that media should be invited.

The Board discussed Director Hein's request to have a presentation on the sale of reservoir lots. It was felt that the purpose of the workshop was to engage the local politicians in a discussion, and avoid the perception of the OBWB controlling the workshop. It was agreed that if the issue became part of the discussion period this was appropriate. The Board agreed not to have a specific presentation on the reservoir lots issue during this workshop. There was discussion of the Water Board goals for the end result of the workshop.

Director Hobson said that a legislative model for regional management would be an important outcome. This could be a legislative body similar to the OBWB or a more cooperative model of local governments such as the Fraser basin Council model.

Mr. Tonn left the meeting.

Sale of Lease Lots on Reservoir Lakes – Zoning Options

The Board reviewed the draft resolution for OMMA, prepared by Mr. Stamhuis. The resolution has been approved by the three Regional Boards and Chair Slater agreed to act as the lead-in to present the resolution to OMMA.

Other Business:**Minimum Lot Size for Development on Septic Systems**

Mr. Armour informed the Board that a letter had gone out to Valley local government informing them of the change in Water Board policy making the minimum lot size 1.0 hectare rather than 0.8 hectares. This is consistent with Provincial policy.

Director Hansma asked for the written Provincial policy.

The Board agreed to ask applicants for sewer grants to submit verification that no lots had been created less than 1.0 hectares since the date of the policy.

The Board asked that a letter be sent to local government confirming that creation of lots less than one hectare on septic, would jeopardize Water Board grants for all municipal sewer projects.

Correspondence:

Central Okanagan Naturalist Club – Action Plan for Water Management presented by John Huby.

The Board received a copy of a presentation made by Mr. Huby to the Water Conference in Kelowna. It was agreed that the paper was very good and summarized many of the goals of the Water Board in achieving regional water management.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON APRIL 13, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director Gus Boersma	O.S.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 9th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

March 19th Workshop – Follow Up

Mr. Armour presented a memo for consideration by the Board for the next steps in moving forward with the recommendations from the March 19th workshop.

He Board discussed the continued involvement of Gerry Tonn from Urban Systems in facilitating Subcommittee meetings and providing some research and materials for committee consideration.

Director Hein commented that the Subcommittee should work out their own preference for the process.

Mr. Stamhuis noted that the committee has no budget at present and is dependent on OBWB assistance. He suggested that the committee work out terms of reference for their proposed actions.

Director Hein said that the committee should at least be given travel expenses and staff support from the OBWB.

Director Hobson entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Alternate Director Boersma noted that Community Futures would want to see a business plan for the subcommittee.

Director Field asked who the subcommittee would present their recommendation to.

Director Scheffler observed that the OBWB may end up being morphed into a new body which was more useful and acceptable to local government.

Director Hobson said that the Fraser Basin Council (FRBC) was a volunteer group of agencies who have agreed to deal with common issues. They have a basic administrative structure and support resources. The body is inclusive of major users of basin resource and government who cooperate to decide on actions that need to be taken.

There was a discussion of the membership of a framework management structure, the need for leadership, and the role of the Water Board.

Director Scheffler advised that a possible leader might be Mr. Jack Blaney who was retired but had previous involvement with the Fraser Basin Council and the International Joint Commission.

Other Board members put forward the names of Senator Fitzpatrick and Mr. Tom Siddon.

Director Hackman noted that Vernon is likely not on-side with these actions.

Director Hobson pointed out that the FBC does not require everyone to participate. The goal is cooperation, not take-over of local authority.

Kelowna Capital News – Workshop Review

The Board received a copy of an article from the Kelowna Capital News, which reported on the March 19th workshop.

Urban Systems – Proposal for Subcommittee Facilitation

Gerry Tonn of Urban Systems joined the meeting and introduced a proposed discussion guide for the afternoon's meeting of the subcommittee.

Director Hein suggested that the subcommittee develop their expectations for support needed for the Water Board and options for the way in which they would prefer to proceed.

The Board discussed the need for some sort of bridge funding to support the group and perhaps develop a charter for sustainability in the Okanagan. They felt that there needed to be a buy in from local government to the principles and strategy of integrated watershed management before a structure is endorsed.

The Board reviewed several options for getting information to local government including presentations to each council and a presentation through OMMA.

Director Hobson commented that OMMA probably represented too broad a focus and did not include the interests of non-government people and groups. He commented that there should be no Water Board direction on what the Subcommittee will do. The composition of the group is representative and the goals and outcomes should be a result of their efforts.

Correspondence:

City of Vernon – Homesite Severance Policy

The Board received a letter from the Vernon City Clerk regarding OBWB policy on the size of lots created by homesite severance and on septic systems.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board policy concerning creation of lots of less than 1.0 hectare be amended to exempt homesite severance and allow these lots to be less than 1.0 hectare in size and served by septic systems."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that these lots are on large acreages and only the homesite lot would be exempted from the requirement to be sewerred if less than 1.0 hectare.

Geological Survey of Canada – Groundwater Assessment – Project Outline

The Board received a project outline for groundwater assessment in the Okanagan to be undertaken jointly by the Geological Survey of Canada and the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection.

Mr. Armour reported on his involvement with the project steering committee.

The Board noted that this work would begin to fill a large gap in water data in the valley and questioned whether the information would eventually lead to legislation.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Board send a letter supporting the groundwater assessment project and local involvement at the outset."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that they looked forward to a continuing program which would result in better local ability to manage groundwater.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

Subcommittee Session:

The subcommittee formed as a result of the March 19th Workshop met from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the session was to make progress toward identifying a governance model that will work for regional Okanagan water management.

Present:

Denis Davis	Retired
Bob Harriman	Mayor of Peachland
Stu Wells	Community Futures of Okanagan-Similkameen
Toby Pike	South East Kelowna Irrigation, District BC Water Supply Association
Valerie Cameron	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Kirk Johnstone	Environment Canada

Missing:

Patrick Nicol	City of Vernon
Mickey Werstuik	Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Staff:

Mike Stamhuis	North Okanagan Regional District
Greg Armour	Okanagan Basin Water Board

Water Board Chair John Slater provided a brief introduction to the group. He said the March 19th workshop had reached agreement that the Okanagan Valley must take steps toward better coordinated and more sustainable use of water supplies. All parties with an interest in water should be included in developing a framework structure which will recommend basin wide steps for constructive actions.

Mr. Slater left the room at this point.

Mr. Tonn went through the discussion guide he had prepared for the meeting.

Ms. Cameron noted that the executive summary of the workshop referred to the potential institutional framework as an organization. She wondered if a partnership would be acceptable.

Mr. Tonn said that all models are open for discussion and the term organization was used in a very general sense. He asked the group to envision what the group would like to see as accomplishments of a basin wide management group from the perspective of looking back from 2010.

Mr. Pike said that he would like to see water license rationalization to better control supply and also a more universal demand management program.

Mr. Davis commented that better water allocation information should be available and the group should have evolved more trust and developed the framework governance model as problems needing joint action are identified.

Mr. Harriman said that we must set aside parochialism to ensure supplies of adequate quantity and quality of water for the future.

Mr. Johnstone said that we need to achieve better understanding of demands on water resources.

Ms. Cameron stated that an accomplishment of a basin wide structure should be that in the event of a severe water shortage, the best job possible was done to mitigate the problems.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that more thorough data and science on the extent of our water resources should be available.

Mr. Pike noted that there was a void in water information with Provincial reduction in staff and services. The valley wide organization could have a role in closing this gap.

Mr. Wells said there are too many bodies with water jurisdiction. In addition we should achieve a reduction in the IJC demand for Canadian water.

Mr. Johnstone advised that he is on the IJC Board and in renegotiating the agreement there are a list of BC issues to be dealt with in the Okanagan prior to establishing a BC position for the negotiations.

Shape of an Organization and Framework

Mr. Wells said that establishing another legally constituted entity is not the way to go. Despite far sighted legislation, the OBWB has been unsuccessful.

Mr. Harriman noted that the Fraser Basin Council got all parties to the table to deal with common problems. Facilitation provided by such people as David Marshall, had helped to bring this group together.

Ms. Cameron added that Ontario Watershed Associations has been used successfully and shown advantages to a more structured model. They deal with serious problems and provide efficient response.

Mr. Davis described three management options: the least legislated version such as the Fraser Basin or the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative; the Ontario watershed model or the prairie water boards; and the French system where all water management powers and taxation are vested with one authority.

Mr. Tonn noted that First Nations must be a full participant since they have a great deal of authority over water.

Mr. Stamhuis observed that initial buy-in to a consensus based group would be easier. Down the road they may identify areas where greater authority is needed.

Mr. Pike pointed out that choosing the right people to represent water interests will be integral to gaining trust and enabling additional future responsibility.

Mr. Wells noted that it is easier to later tighten up with more authority than to slacken later.

Ms. Cameron asked if today's goal was to establish a framework organization.

Mr. Tonn said it was not.

Mr. Harriman asked what the role of the Subcommittee is and where recommendations from this meeting would go.

Mr. Tonn said they would be referred to workshop participants.

Representation on the Board: requires leadership, governance, and direction.

Ms. Cameron said that input from a broad range is desirable but there should be accountability for decisions. This may fall on a variety of individual agencies, each accountable for their own decisions.

Mr. Wells stated that the organization which now exists does not work and broader representation is the only answer.

Ms. Cameron asked if the board will be advisory. She noted that this worked in the Fraser Basin, where the issue of gravel extraction brought people together in a collaborative role but without decision making authority. Fifteen partners achieved consensus on actions.

Mr. Tonn suggested that the accountability of this board would be to ask if consensus was achieved and not be accountable for decisions.

Mr. Stamhuis wondered what the linkage of the committee would be to the Water Board.

Mr. Pike said that it makes sense that there is a linkage since the Water Board has valley-wide political representation and taxation authority. He envisioned a group with a broader representation supported by the existing organization.

Mr. Harriman said that we face serious problems and have an opportunity to have all levels of government support the Board.

Mr. Johnstone advised that over time there tends to be stress on funding especially as problem levels fluctuate. Reliance on sustained funding from senior government is risky and there should be some sort of back-up mechanism to fund the organization.

Ms. Cameron agreed and added that at present the Provincial Government is very open to participating in innovative funding arrangements.

Mr. Davis suggested a small municipal tax on water used.

Mr. Stamhuis agreed that any program should not be crippled in the event of change in political situations.

Ms. Cameron offered that contribution of some partners could be 'in-kind' providing the base funding for the organization is in place.

Mr. Johnstone said that the scope of the work needs to be defined before looking for funding.

Mr. Tonn said that a business plan would be a useful tool.

Mr. Harriman wondered about having some sort of 'carrot' for participation

Approach to Decision Making

Mr. Wells commented that a majority method of decision making will not work.

Mr. Davis said that consensus based decision is the only thing that will succeed.

Mr. Johnstone said that it is time to try something other than a majority based body.

Ms. Cameron noted that consensus involves some options and we should define what it means in this case.

Problem Solving:

Mr. Pike said that the water management structure should deal only with basin-wide issues and initially, not with sub-basin problems.

Ms. Cameron commented that some land management issues impact water quality and quantity.

Mr. Tonn said that land management issues could be included when they are identified as major impacts on water.

Mr. Pike said he would like to see standardization of policies throughout the valley; for example water conservation. Knowledge should be shared among all jurisdictions.

Mr. Wells said that groundwater is a valley wide issue that could be addressed.

Mr. Pike said that we definitely need First Nations in order to address aboriginal title to water.

Keeping the Committee Engaged and Retaining Enthusiasm:

Mr. Davis suggested that we adopt a strict agenda and schedule and that we get scientist to identify what information we need. This critical work should commence as soon as possible.

Mr. Harriman said that he perceived water management as a very serious problem and that we should take a recommendation back to a second workshop.

The committee agreed that they would like to have:

- **Okanagan Basin Water Board involvement**
- **Funding support**
- **Engage broader representation**
- **Involvement of Gerry Tonn (Urban Systems)**

A second committee meeting will be scheduled in approximately two weeks.

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 11, 2004,
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C.
AT 10:00 A.M.**

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Mr. Allan Gatzke	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Field and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 13th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water Management Subcommittee Meeting May 10:

Mr. Tonn and Mr. Armour reviewed the May 10th meeting of the Workshop Subcommittee and the preparation of a draft proposal to enhance effectiveness of Okanagan Water Management.

Several members of the Okanagan Partnership Sub-Group developing a business plan for regional water management attended the latter part of the session. The group included John Byland, Nick Arkle, Vern Neilson, Tom Siddon, and Nelson Jatel.

2004 Okanagan Partnership Business Plan for Regional Water Management:

Mr. Armour said that the Partnership water management group had very similar goals to those expressed by the OBWB for better management of Okanagan water supplies. The inclusion of economic and business sectors might serve to bolster our efforts.

The Board discussed the advantages and drawbacks of an association with the Okanagan Partnership. On the positive side it was seen as a way to take a step beyond what we have achieved in the past. There were questions about the longevity of the Partnership and how a new water management group would survive after this support ended.

Links to UBC – Okanagan were stressed, and the advantages of leaders in many areas with potential senior government connections were noted.

The idea of the Partnership taking the lead in promoting a regional management structure was discussed, as was the need for strong leadership.

Mr. Tonn advised that he had approached Tom Siddon about leading the effort and he indicated interest if he were asked. He also said that the Partnership will go ahead with presentation of their plan for some sort of regional water management process whether we merge with them or not. The Workshop Subcommittee needs direction on the next step and leadership is required to move ahead.

Director Hobson suggested that we ask the Partnership to endorse and use our proposal in their presentation.

Mr. Gatzke commented that the Partnership has the grassroots level relationship with agriculture, forestry, etc. that is needed for success.

Draft Proposal from Subcommittee – Water Management Structure

Mr. Tonn summarized the proposal for the Board.

Director Hansma stated that updated water related data was the first thing needed to begin to manage water more effectively.

Director Clark posed concerns about the functioning of a new Board or Council. If it is incorporated under the Societies Act, which version would be used? Would mediation powers be binding or non-binding? He pointed out that consensus based decision making may not work for many real world issues.

Director Novakowski suggested that the organization would define itself and that the complete mandate need not be established immediately.

Director Hobson commented that less future regulation will be done by government but by a comprehensive group of stakeholders.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorse the subcommittee proposal for a framework water management structure and forward it to the Okanagan Partnership for inclusion in their recommendations."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Tonn left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Kelowna Daily Courier Column regarding Water in the Okanagan

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That The Board send a letter to the Kelowna Daily Courier, pointing out the inaccuracies in the news column and describing the reason for current water management initiatives."

CARRIED.

Correspondence:

Honourable George Abbott – Letter to Board and Response (G. Armour)

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the letter from Minister Abbott be received and his offer to attend a Water Board meeting be pursued."

CARRIED.

Copy of letter to Mayor T. Johnson, Summerland, from G. Abbott concerning Upper Elevation Lakes

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That a letter be sent to Minister Abbott thanking him for reconsidering the sale of lease lots on reservoirs and stating that we look forward to discussing the new studies to be undertaken and providing our input into decision making."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Update to Master Liquid Waste Plan

Mr. Armour was instructed to gather information on the nature of the proposed study and report back to the Board.

GeoSyntec Consultants – Request for OBWB Participation in Milfoil Study

Mr. Armour reported that a Boston based consultant had requested Water Board consent to be named in a proposal for work on aquatic weed growth and effects on water supplies. If the proposal is accepted the consultant anticipated approximately 50 hour of work from the Board staff and would compensate for this at the rate of \$65 per hour.

The Board agreed to this request.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 8, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Mr. Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Clark:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 11th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Jillian Tamblyn – Okanagan Nation Alliance

Ms. Tamblyn presented an update on the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) project for self sustaining fish populations. This project requires regional water resource management to be effective. Leadership of the project is provided by the ONA with representation on the steering committee from DFO, Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, and The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

Ms Tamblyn described the issues that need to be addressed to mitigate the decline in various fish species.

The Okanagan-Similkameen Watershed Based Planning Process will include:

- Establishment of priority watersheds
- Development of individual watershed plans
- Implementation and improvement of plans

Director Hobson noted that this regional watershed planning initiative focuses on fish and though fish are an indicator species of problems, it would be better to do watershed planning once with all interests represented. We should integrate the processes and not compete.

Director Field asked if water purveyors would support increased fish stocks in reservoir lakes when the correspondent increase in fishing could cause more pollution.

Ms. Tamblyn commented that although individual impacts have not yet been looked at, there was no wish to adversely affect other water users.

Director Hein suggested assigning a Water Board liaison to keep the Board informed during planning stages.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan Partnership – Regional Water Management and Schedule for Next Steps

Mr. Armour explained that Mr. Siddon had agreed to attend the Board meeting representing the Okanagan Partnership's Flagship Group for regional water management. The recommendation of the volunteer subcommittee formed from the March 19th workshop was that we combine our efforts with those of the Partnership. The Subcommittee recommendation of a draft framework a structure for regional water management was endorsed by the Water Board at its May meeting and forwarded to the partnership. The purpose of this session was to make sure the ideas of both groups meshed.

Mr. Siddon reviewed the Partnership origin and process. He said each group had prepared business plans and that each had identified water as a common issue. The aim of the Partnership is not to lead to new Government, but to stimulate cooperation to use water more responsibly and effectively.

Director Novakowski stated that leadership was essential in taking regional water management forward. He asked if Mr. Siddon would consider this position.

Me. Siddon said that he would.

The Board discussed the options available to a regional management structure such as proceeding without total participation, the inclusion of taxation powers, the need for the body to be able to initiate action, and the need to have economic support to drive participation.

Director Hein asked Mr. Siddon to review the proposal the Subcommittee of the workshop has forwarded and advise the Water Board of his thoughts and recommendations.

Mr. Siddon agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Alliance Professional Services – Results of First Newsletter

The Board received a letter and sample newsletters that were distributed to 100,000 water users in Alliance's first printing.

Mrs. de Vries asked the Board to consider either a half page or a full page sponsorship of the fall newsletter.

Director Hobson and Chair Slater said that the Board is not now in a position to say anything and suggested that money be set aside until we have made some progress.

It was the consensus of the Board to allocate money for sponsorship of a future Alliance newsletter but that it not be spent until we are in a position to make a report. The sponsorship would then be coordinated with the timing of a newsletter issue.

Honourable George Abbott

Mr. Armour reported that Minister Abbott will attend the July 13th Water Board Meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Phone Confirmation Received)

Director Hobson suggested that we should discuss funding for our Okanagan Partnership joint initiative. He also informed the Board that Deputy Minister Jon O'Riordan would be retiring soon and was keen to

use his expertise in the Okanagan.

Senator R. Fitzpatrick - Okanagan Partnership Implementation Launch

The Board received the letter announcing the Partnership Implementation Launch.

C.A. Dillabough – Water Supply Concerns

Mr. Armour advised that he had replied to the letter.

The Board received the letter on water supply concerns

RDOS – Forward Letter on Water Quality Concerns

Mr. Armour advised that he had replied to the letter.

The Board received the letter on water supply concerns

OBWB Endorsement of UBC--Okanagan Application for Research Funding

The Board noted the letter supporting research funding from the Chairman.

Environment Canada – ‘Threats to Water Availability in Canada’

Mr. Armour advised that the Environment Canada document was accessible on the WEB at the address noted on the covering letter. He said the report covered many of the concerns for Okanagan water supplies.

SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:

City of Penticton - Industrial Area Project

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Field:

"That the sewage grant application for the Penticton Industrial area project be approved."

CARRIED.

Town of Osoyoos – South East Sewer Extension

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Scheffler:

Town of Osoyoos – South East Sewer Extension

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the sewage grant application for the Town of Osoyoos South East Sewer Extension project be approved."

CARRIED.

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 JULY 13, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, VERNON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Honourable George Abbott	MSRM
Mr. Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
Mr. Nelson Jatel	Okanagan Partnership
Denis Davis	OBWB Subcommittee

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Clark:

"That the memorandum from M Stamhuis concerning water management items be added to the agenda."

CARRIED

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 8th, 2004 be adopted upon correcting the reference to Penticton in the approval for a sewage facilities grant for the Osoyoos East Side Extension."

CARRIED.

M.A. Stamhuis – Discussion Items for Meeting with Minister Abbott

Mr. Stamhuis outlined the contents of his memorandum regarding water management items which could be brought forward to Minister Abbott.

Director Hein expressed concern that he had not had time to review the recommendations and said that we should perhaps present more comprehensive thoughts rather than get into individual issues. Director Hobson suggested we ask the Minister if the Province will assist with resources to implement a Georgia Basin type of water management structure in the Okanagan. He added that we may not wish to alter our 21¢ levy but use some funds to participate in a new management structure. He suggested we inform the Minister of our work with the Okanagan Partnership to coordinate the Workshop Subcommittee recommendations with our own goals.

There was a discussion on water licensing and allocation issues.

Mr. Siddon commented on the relevance of the original Okanagan Basin Study to our present goals.

DELEGATIONS:

Minister George Abbott – Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

Chair Slater thanked Mr. Abbott for attending the OBWB meeting and complimented his Ministry for the excellent workshop they had put on in Penticton the previous week.

Staff provided a short outline of Water Board actions toward regional planning in the valley for more efficient water use.

Mr. Abbott referred to the Penticton forum describing it as an effort to avoid dealing with a crisis situation and to take action which will deal with water management issues in a more comprehensive manner. He said his Ministry wished to encourage Valley wide water management but also work in harmony with local political jurisdictions. The Province wishes to provide leadership but with valley consensus or unanimity of purpose. He would like to see a request from the valley or the OBWB for support in a particular course of action.

The Minister responded to a variety of questions about competing demands for water, licensing, and actions that the Province could undertake or mandate to promote conservation measures.

Director Hobson commented on the two approaches to regional water management looked at by the Board; enhanced authority for the OBWB to assume its original mandate and the alternate of a Fraser Basin Model. He suggested a weighted majority vote as an alternative noting the lack of agreement among valley jurisdictions to add to the Board mandate. Director Hobson said that until the valley water budget is defined and legislation for groundwater is implemented, achieving effective management will be difficult.

Director Hobson left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Mr. Abbott suggested that the Water Board send a letter to his Ministry and possibly to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services discussing changes to the Board's SLP's, but perhaps first do some work in building valley consensus.

Director Hein commented that our present SLPs do not allow us to do what we should do. He said that he was pleased that the Minister was open to discussion of these points and proposals.

Minister Abbott replied that government is moving away for dealing with single purpose functions.

Chair Slater said that the pressures of population growth, climate change, and demands for water among users especially considering the economic expansion of First Nations put the valley in a vulnerable position.

Minister Abbott replied that he is receptive to working with Land and Water BC and local government to look at ways of dealing with these problems.

Director Clark asked about the Ministry's intent for dealing with allocation of groundwater.

Mr. Abbott said that this represents an extensive piece of work but he is receptive to ways to resolve groundwater concerns.

Director Novakowski said that he could understand the Province's reluctance to be heavy handed but the Board needs support and some guidance to do our job.

Mr. Siddon added that sometimes government must lead with some unpopular decisions in order to stave off crises. He said that local government tends to deal with issues in their own back yard and provincial advocacy may be needed in addition to getting our own house in order.

Mr. Jatel reviewed the Okanagan Partnership evolution and noted that support from the economic sector for regional approaches will be of benefit.

Director Scheffler said that some 'attraction' of a non threatening nature is needed for local government to buy into a regional water management strategy.

Minister Abbott indicated the reason for the province to act is to head off a future crisis involving water and that political goals are secondary.

Director Clark said that a successful regional approach in the Okanagan could be used as a model for the rest of the province.

Director Field asked how we can proceed when there is no support from the City of Vernon. He commented that the attitude of a large segment of the public is that there is no water crisis now or in the future. There must be a 'marketing' of information.

Minister Abbott left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Director Hein left the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan Partnership – First Nations Symposium:

The Board received information from the Okanagan Partnership on a symposium held to explore economic opportunities with First Nations.

Mr. Siddon advised that Partnership representatives and Chair Slater had met with Community Futures of the Okanagan Similkameen to discuss the fall forum to put forward the Partnership's recommendations to local government. Mr. Siddon suggested an invitation from an official with high standing such as Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo might catch the attention of local officials.

Chair Slater said that sponsorship of the Roundtable discussion should come from all three Community Futures groups in the Okanagan.

Mr. Jatel advised that the roundtable is proposed for October 29th and that Federal funding is available to further partnership recommendations.

Land and Water BC Water Use and Conservation Forum:

The Board received the agenda from the forum held the previous week in Penticton.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Agricultural Water Supply Program:

The Board received a news article on a joint Canada – BC agricultural water supply expansion program.

Vancouver Sun article On LWBC Penticton Forum:

The Board received the Vancouver Sun report on the forum held the previous week in Penticton.

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Congestion of Oyama Canal

The Board received the letter from RDCO asking for comments or suggestions on boating congestion problems in the Oyama Canal between Wood and Kalamalka Lakes.

Mr. Armour advised that Coast Guard has jurisdiction over navigable waterways.

The Board could not offer any suggestions on how to improve the situation.

Federation of BC Naturalists – Long Term Water Management Plan for the Okanagan

The Federation of BC Naturalists forwarded a resolution to the Board urging a long term water management plan for the Okanagan. The resolution suggests a unified water supply authority.

SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:

OBWB Sewer Grant Policies

Chair Slater advised that Director Hobson asked that the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

The Board agreed to deal with the matter at the August 10th meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Sean Harvey	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Clark and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 13th, 2004 be adopted."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan Partnership - Presentation on Regional Water Management at Fall Forum

Mr. Armour advised that Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of the Water Management Flagship Group of the Partnership was unable to attend.

He added that Mr. Siddon has attended two previous OBWB meetings, along with other members of the partnership, to discuss possible approaches to better manage water in the Valley. He noted that the business plan of the OK Partnership water management group had been distributed which includes a list of partnership members and description of proposed recommendations.

All of the economic interests represented in the partnership identified better coordination of Water Management as being of primary importance to ensuring sustainable economic growth.

The agenda contained other information such as the Executive Summary of the Partnership Charter and the proposal prepared by the Steering Committee struck by the March workshop participants.

Chair Slater reported to the Board on a meeting he attended with partnership executive, Community Futures, and other economic interests.

Director Hansma asked if the Partnership would consider presentation of their water management recommendations to the three regional districts possibly as an open forum discussion involving other stakeholders.

Director Novakowski wondered if the OBWB was to become a member of a larger group coordinating regional water management.

Director Clark asked about the involvement of Community Futures and Chair Slater advised that funding from Western Economic Diversification was still available from the Community Futures Group.

Chair Slater summarized that the Partnership still favours a more structured approach to regional management and coordination of water use, rather than a consensus based structure similar to the Fraser Basin Council. The FBC took many years to become effective and we may not have the luxury of that amount of time.

Director Novakowski said that any management group cannot function without staff with technical expertise. He asked if our mandate as set out in Supplementary Letters Patent is suitable.

Chair Slater noted that the mandate was very broad and required only the consent of all three regional districts to explore a broader role.

Director Hobson commented that the Board is dealing with the same package of work as proposed by the workshop sub-committee group and also the same funds for costs of operation. He noted that the money would have to be assessed from the regional districts and felt that the Central Okanagan Regional District would likely support contributing their share. He said he felt there was an advantage to bringing in industry, First Nations, and University to the water management group.

Director Hackman asked if there was any indication that senior government funding would be available and if any such funding would be annual or for a longer term.

Director Harvey advised that we all draw our water through different systems and the Water Board must be very clear on the goals and outcomes of Regional Water Management when approaching local government for support. He said he is definitely opposed to a single authority controlling all aspects of water use. He indicated that he felt the Partnership report on water management recommendations and the business plan to achieve the goals was an excellent plan; very detailed and not at all vague.

Director Scheffler noted that Osoyoos has severe water quality problems as well as quantity issues.

Director Hansma reiterated that senior government support on a sustainable basis is needed.

Director Hobson said that the Fraser Basin Council has operated for many years on three year agreement for funding. They also receive additional funds for specific projects they are asked to take on and perhaps this could be applied to the organization we are discussing. He said he felt that if the three regional boards cannot agree, there is little chance of federal support. He noted that we currently do not know the cumulative impacts of development on our water supplies and the water budget of the Valley. This would be a valuable goal to achieve.

Director Scheffler stated that there may be other sources of funding through such organizations as Ducks Unlimited or US funds through the Douglas County Public Utilities District.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that we need to learn to manage water before it manages us. Right now there is a knowledge vacuum and the problems vary for each of the 200 valley utilities which experience widely varying levels of supply problems.

Director Clark wondered if it was realistic to set up an organization with no statutory powers for decision making. He felt the body should be capable of influencing decisions with more than advocacy.

There was discussion of methods for funding a regional water management body.

Director Hobson proposed that a letter of understanding be sought involving all three regional districts.

Mr. Armour advised that the Okanagan partnership would like to ask the Water Board to contribute \$10,000 toward the cost of staging the comprehensive workshop where recommendations and business plans from all sectors of the Partnership would be presented to local government.

The Board denied the request as the workshop scope went well beyond our role in water management.

Moved by Director Hansma:

"That Okanagan Basin Water Board support the Okanagan Partnership plan for regional water management and take it to the regional districts following the workshop."

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That at the October 12th meeting, the Okanagan Basin Water Board review the Okanagan Partnership proposal for regional water management in consultation with Chair Tom Siddon and refine the proposal for presentation to the regional districts."

CARRIED.

Director Hein entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The Board asked that the nature of the Partnership workshop be clarified as to whether all aspects relating to sustainable economic growth would be covered or just regional water management. The Board also asked that Mr. Siddon's agreement to make the presentations to the regional boards be obtained and that March workshop participants, local councils and MLA's within the areas be invited when these presentations are made.

CORRESPONDENCE:

North Okanagan Regional District - Change in Water Board Appointments

The Board received a letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan appointing Vernon Mayor Sean Harvey as Director on the OBWB and Stan Field as the Alternate Director.

Regional District of North Okanagan – Copy of Letter to Minister Abbott Regarding the Sale of Leased Lots on Reservoir Lakes

The Board received a copy of a letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan to Minister Abbott regarding the sale of leased lots on reservoir lakes. The Regional Board asked the Minister to notify them if any change in the status of the project was contemplated.

John Huby – Thoughts on Water Supply in the Okanagan

The Board received a copy of a letter from Mr. Huby directed to Penticton City Council describing his concerns about water quantity management and the need to take immediate steps to ensure a sustainable future.

The Board agreed to send a reply thanking Mr. Huby for his comments and outlining the OBWB initiatives and goals to achieve better water management.

OBWB 2004 Financial Statements – Resolution to Approve

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive and approve the 2004 Financial Statements for the Water Board and that the Board receive the 2004 audit and management letters dated May 19, 2004 from the Auditors."

CARRIED.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE**Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection - Okanagan Basin Water Supply Study (1994)**

Mr. Armour reviewed some of the findings from the 1994 report done by Province on Okanagan Water Supplies. He said that the Province is proposing to update study and has asked for input on what should be done and what information would be of value to Okanagan local government.

The draft RFP sent out by the Province for review seemed to underestimate the scope of work to be done. The Ministry now proposes to meet with Okanagan local government to refine the study criteria.

Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan

Mr. Armour updated the Board on the joint Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Geological Survey of Canada project to assess the quantity, quality recharge areas and other parameters of groundwater in the Valley. He provided the latest written update of progress and proposed actions of the study.

SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:**Sewer Grant Policy Regarding Retroactive Grants**

Director Hobson asked that the Board review Sewage Facilities Grant Policies especially referencing payment of retroactive grants. He said the City of Kelowna had not applied for OBWB grants for a significant number of qualifying sewer projects as they had not been informed that the Board had amended its policy to permit projects not receiving senior government grants to qualify.

Mr. Armour provided a summary of Water Board policies and the dates they became effective.

Mr. Armour said he would contact City of Kelowna Finance staff to review the qualifying projects where no grants had been applied for.

Director Hein suggested that the City of Kelowna send a letter to the Board making sure that all eligible projects from 2003 had received Water Board approval.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter clarifying OBWB Sewage Grant policies to Okanagan Valley local government."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:**Septage Disposal Facilities:**

Director Hansma informed the Board of the need in the North Okanagan to construct a septage plant to

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 12 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director Gus Boersma	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.
Nelson Jatel	Okanagan Partnership
Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Scheffler and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on September 14th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Okanagan Partnership - Presentation on Regional Water Management at Fall Forum

Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of the Water Management Flagship Group of the Partnership and Nelson Jatel, the Executive Director joined the Board for discussion of the Partnership regional water management recommendations.

Mr. Stamhuis summarized the information provided by staff (attached) to the Board concerning options for structuring and funding a regional council.

Director Hein indicated that he favoured a single body rather than a separate water supply council. The said the Water Board should be the funding authority.

Director Hackman commented that the suggested name 'Okanagan Water Supply Council' should be changed to eliminate the word 'supply' as it limited the focus too much.

Mr. Siddon explained that the Partnership favours an Okanagan Water Stewardship Council structured with an executive group similar to the current Water Board with the addition of First Nations representation and perhaps water purveyors, and a stewardship council of twenty to thirty members representing all stakeholders and reporting to the executive group.

He summarized the reasons supporting the need for this structure in a memorandum presented to the Board. (attached)

Director Hein asked if, in Mr. Siddon's experience an agreement requiring approval of all three parties was common.

Mr. Siddon noted that the fact that each regional district has separate Supplementary Letters Patent to establish the Water Board would indicate that a veto power was intended.

The Board discussed the ten points in Mr. Siddon's memorandum pertaining to the mandate and tasks of a new Council.

Director Hobson left the meeting at 11:10.

Mr. Siddon commented that this may be an opportune time to take this proposal to the public due to the awareness of water issues and availability of senior government funds.

Director Scheffler added that the international nature of the Okanagan Basin requires discussion with the United States regarding water quality issues in Osoyoos Lake.

Mr. Jatel explained that Mr. Siddon had presented the 'why' portion of the Partnership's views on regional water management and that he would like to talk about "how". He said that the Board, no matter how it is constituted, needs the power to make decisions. Making recommendations only tends to lead to inaction. He felt that the Board needs the ability to act on a two-thirds majority. Mr. Jatel reviewed the recommendations dating from the Okanagan Basin Study in 1974 to the March 2004 Workshop. All of these were in favour of an effective regional water management body to look at the Okanagan in its entirety.

There was discussion of the possible representation on such a body.

Director Scheffler cited the example of the Sterile Insect Release Board which required no annual review of budget during the first five years of its mandate.

Director Novakowski advised that the Board would need a voting structure and equality in financing. Would there be a weighted vote? How would the veto power of a single regional district be dealt with?

Mr. Jatel commented that the new body would, above all, require staff. He said that in business, once goals and a business plan are established, the business is staffed accordingly.

A presentation to all three regional district boards in November was discussed. The purpose would be to explain the concept of a Water Stewardship Council and the funding requirements and seek the approval of the Regional Boards. Mr. Siddon would make the presentation on behalf of the Okanagan Partnership with Chair Slater representing the Water Board.

The question of funding for the presentation and preparation, as well as ongoing involvement to establish to structure was debated.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) be provided to the Okanagan Partnership to raise the profile of the regional water management initiative, to develop advocacy, and to prepare a workplan and materials to present to senior government in order to obtain funding ."

CARRIED.

The Board also wished to present the proposal to the Workshop Subcommittee for their review and support.

Mr. Stamhuis suggested that the proposal contain a clause stating that a party to the agreement could opt out after a certain number of years.

Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006 Preliminary Budget Discussion

Mr. Armour reviewed preliminary drafts of the 2005 -2006 aquatic weed control and sewage grant budgets.

He noted that the sick leave accrual and the health and safety items were complete thus the aquatic weed budget was slightly lower than the current year. The operating increase for this year and for next year over 2003 -04 is for the increased hours with the new rototiller.

The provisional sewage facilities grant budget shown on the Regional District requisition is identical to the previous two years. The attached note shows revenues and expenditures since 2002. The amount in reserve is \$1.4million and includes interest earned.

The final requisition and budget does not have to be submitted to the regional districts until December 15th.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Groundwater Assessment in the Okanagan Basin (GAOB) – Timeline on Proposed Tasks

Mr. Armour updated the Board on this joint MWLAP and GSC project on. He noted that he is on the steering committee and noted that no funding has been requested from the Board, only participation and support.

Mr. Armour advised GAOB planned to send out a newsletter to local government describing the project and asked if this should come from the Water Board.

The Board indicated that the letter and information should come from the senior partners noting the participation and support of the OBWB.

The GAOB proposed meetings with local government to determine what the study should produce that best fits local government needs. Advice was sought on how to proceed with stakeholder meetings. Should the sessions involve all municipalities or the three RD's?

The Board agreed that sessions with each local jurisdiction would be required to address all concerns.

A combined workshop is planned for the spring of 2005 to report on progress.

Mr. Armour also noted that the group has tried, without success, to hire a student from UBC Okanagan for preliminary project work. He indicated that he will pursue this with the Freshwater Science Institute.

The Board asked Mr. Armour to invite a representative of GAOB to attend a future meeting.

SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:**City of Vernon – Okanagan Landing Sanitary Sewer Extension**

Moved by Director Field and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That City of Vernon be informed that a Sewer Grant for the Okanagan Landing Sewer Extension meets Okanagan Basin Water Board criteria and will be approved upon receipt of an application and schedule of projects costs."

CARRIED.

City of Kelowna – Grants not Claimed for Locally Funded Projects

The Board reviewed City of Kelowna information on past sewer projects for which Water Board grants had not been applied for. These projects were eligible for grants but the City believed they were required to incur debt to receive grants.

Mr. Armour noted that prior to 1994 the Water Board policy was that debt had to be incurred. In November 1994 the policy was reviewed and amended at the request of the City of Armstrong.

Mr. Armour advised that in March, 1999 he had provided the City of Kelowna Utilities Manager with a copy of the policy change in a grant summary letter dated 1997. He was unable to locate the original 1994 letter to local government. From the list of qualifying projects where no grants had been applied for supplied by the City of Kelowna Finance Department, Mr. Armour said two projects were completed in the period between 1994 and 1999. OBWB grants would total about \$54,500 if the Board decided to pay retroactively.

The Board agreed to wait until Director Hobson was present to make a decision.

Eligibility of Septage Disposal Facilities for Sewer Grants:

The Board discussed the need in the North Okanagan to construct a septage plant to pre-treat effluent prior to disposal in the Vernon sewage treatment facility and whether this project qualified for a sewage facilities grant.

Mr. Armour reviewed the OBWB criteria for grant eligibility and the Federal Provincial infrastructure grant policy. He pointed out that municipal tertiary treatment plant and collection systems are eligible.

The Board discussed whether the septage facility feeding into the Vernon tertiary treatment plant met these criteria.

Director Hein noted that Central Okanagan Regional District had not applied for a Water Board grant for their septage facility.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That policy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for sewer facilities grants include funding of septage facilities for treatment of pump out effluent from septic and holding tank systems for treatment in a municipal tertiary treatment plant."

CARRIED.

Director Hein opposed

The Board further discussed the implications of the motion.

Director Hein said he would like information on the long term cost implications of the policy and an

analysis of the benefits to water quality of funding septage facilities.

Director Field said that the policy could be restricted to the North Okanagan facility and considered for others once information is gathered.

The Board agreed to look into the policy implications more thoroughly before informing local government of changes.

Fraser Basin Council Annual General Meeting

Moved by Director Field and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That Chair Slater and Mr. Armour are authorized to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Fraser Basin Council."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Gus Boersma	O.S.R.D.
	Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Joanne deVries	Alliance Professional Services
	Gundy Volk	Interior Health Authority
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 12th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Joanne de Vries - Alliance Professional Services and Gundy Volk Interior Health Authority – Collaborative Communication Strategy

Mrs. de Vries presented information on a proposed collaborative newsletter project that would take the place of individual publications from water utilities. She indicated that this approach would be economically more affordable to the utilities and would provide a more uniform educational message to users.

The newsletter will cost about \$30,000 per issue to produce with two issues per year anticipated. About 72,00 households will be reached. Sponsorship has already been received from the Interior health Authority, the Ministry of Health, fifteen utilities, Irrigation Industry Association of BC, and the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection.

Mrs. de Vries asked the Water Board to sponsor the first two issues at \$5,000 per issue.

Director Hansma asked the minimum size of utility that would be reached.

Mrs. de Vries replied that the minimum would be 300 connections initially and then later introduce something for smaller utilities.

Director Hansma noted that Spallumcheem has 15 small utilities.

Mrs. de Vries said that these could be grouped together.

Director Hobson said the Valley has already agreed on the benefits of coordination of snow removal information. He confirmed that all major utilities would be covered and asked what OBWB would contribute to the newsletter that would be different from other sponsors.

Director Boersma indicated that he supported the newsletter and asked who would vet the Water Board contribution. He also said the Province should bear the greatest proportion of the newsletter cost and their contribution should be long term.

Mrs. de Vries said that Alliance Professional Services would review the editorial content and the Interior Health Authority will advise on what information has to be provided by utilities.

Director Hein agreed that the Province should commit long term funding and said that they are looking for ways of passing along the cost of implementation of new legislation to local government. He said he was not prepared to support a Water Board contribution of \$5,000 to the first issue.

Ms. Volk noted that the cost of individual publication from each utility is greater.

Chair Slater suggested that the individual utilities do not need a six page newsletter.

Mrs. de Vries said that a smaller format would not provide enough space for most utilities.

Director Hein asked again who would edit the Water Board message.

Mrs. de Vries said that it might be a committee.

Director Hein said that he would oppose Water Board participation as the message the Board wants to present could be edited out.

Director Novakowski asked what legislation currently requires utilities to report? He also noted that any expansion of the Water Board mandate is not currently accepted by the Regional Districts.

Ms. Volk commented that the Interior Health Authority is developing a strategy for reporting of utility information. She noted that a drinking water officer is now in place.

Director Hansma said that he thought this was a good initiative but asked if inclusion of contentious issues was not appropriate. He suggested that we might sponsor the first issues and use it to promote what we think the Water Boards mandate should be.

Director Hein said there needed to be education about source water protection which is our most important concern and which is not included in legislation.

Ms. Volk responded that source water is in legislation including both groundwater and surface water.

Mrs. de Vries noted that the brochure would not contain advertising from companies such as those producing bottled water.

Director Hobson commented that part of the Water Board mandate is to advise people on protection of quality and quantity of water, in an educational, not political way. Educational policy can be framed in an appropriate way to explain why an initiative is beneficial. Any editing would be for the tone of the article and not the content.

Alternate Director Boersma agreed and said it is the responsibility of the Water Board to put forward policy. He thought that all water users should get the newsletter and not just utility ratepayers. He asked if a contribution from the Water Board could go toward the rest of the water users.

Director Hobson said that 72,000 households must be close to all the residents.

Director Novakowski stated that the contribution of the Water Board would be education and policy on a broad basis, while the utilities would deal with their own assessments.

Director Hackman advised that if the Board were not allowed to comment on the residential lots on reservoir lakes issue, he could not support sponsoring the brochure.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that the Greater Vernon Water Utility has sponsored this project.

Director Field advised that he would not support Water Board sponsorship since he felt the newsletter was a duplication of local and utility efforts. He was not convinced that this was part of the current Water Board mandate.

Director Hein noted that a newspaper is provided four times per year to water users in Lake Country.

Mrs. de Vries said that the newsletter would replace a number of individual newsletters put out by utilities. She advised that any writing on OBWB issues would be done in consultation with Water Board staff.

Mr. Stamhuis suggested a number of topics that might be suitable for OBWB comment, among them:

- Reservoir lakes lots
- Success of milfoil control and the sewer grant programs
- Water management and climate change information
- Groundwater issues
- Water use conflicts with agriculture
- Water balance in the Okanagan Basin

Director Hein disagreed and said the average citizen is not concerned with these issues. We should however be trying to educate people on how they value their water. People do not understand the economic value of water.

Mrs. de Vries said an education approach should be integrated which gives what people need to know and what they should know.

Ms. Volk commented that the cost and value of water is one thing people need to be informed about.

Chair Slater asked if the newsletter would be site specific or generic.

Mrs. de Vries replied that only the utility reports would be site specific.

Director Hobson commented on Mr. Stamhuis's approach saying that most citizens and Councils do not know what the Water Board does or where their tax dollars go. It would be a valuable first step to be actively involved in promotion of policies and the betterment of water management.

Mr. Armour asked if the Regional Boards had been approached to contribute since the Water Board funding comes from regional taxation.

Mrs. de Vries said the regional boards had not been asked for funds.

Director Novakowski noted that education is a primary goal of the Water Board. The exact issue to be advanced in the newsletter could be determined later. He asked if the Board had funds available to sponsor the newsletter.

Mr. Armour said that there was sufficient funds remaining from monies already authorized by the regional districts for water management actions.

Director Hackman asked how Alliance Professional Services would deal with conflict between the message put forward by sponsoring agencies.

Mrs. de Vries said as long as the tone invites input rather than confrontation, this would not be a problem.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Water Board contribute \$10,000 to the first two issues of the water newsletter proposed by Alliance Professional Services."

DEFEATED.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Boersma:

"That the Water Board contribute \$5,000 to the first issue of the water newsletter proposed by Alliance Professional Services."

DEFEATED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Report on Request for Proposals

Mr. Armour reported that 10 expressions of interest were received in response to our newspaper advertising for expressions of interest. Of these, 7 were deemed acceptable Okanagan Valley manufacturers with the facilities and expertise to construct the machine; 2 were out of town (Kamloops and Lower Mainland); and one Okanagan firm did not meet our standards.

We are asking for RFPs from the 7 acceptable local firms.

He noted that details and technical specifications for the RFP were attached to the agenda. We are asking for completed tender submissions at our office by February 12th and completed machine delivery by June 30th.

The Firms selected are:

- A-1 Machine (Vernon)
- Donalds Machine Works (Vernon)
- Interior Machine (Vernon)
- Allcat Services (Kelowna)
- Multipower Products (Kelowna)
- Westway Machine (Summerland)
- Armstrong Machine (Armstrong)

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the report on the construction of the new rototiller be received for information."

CARRIED.

Hourly Charge out Rate for Aquatic Weed Rototiller

Mr. Armour reported that he had calculated a rough hourly charge out rate for contract work done by the rototiller.

Total Actual Rototilling Cost for 2001 –2002: (Includes supervisor allocation)	\$215,000
Total Operating Hours 2001 – 2002	1600
Cost per Hour	\$130.00

He stated that this indicates that last season we charged areas done on a fee for service basis about half of the \$130 rate. He charged 'out of pocket' costs – wages, fuel, vehicle mileage, but not portions of supervisor's cost, maintenance and repair, machine transport, truck driver wages etc. There were no expenses for the latter two items as contract areas were only done when the machine was in the vicinity.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the charge out rate for the rototiller be \$150.00 per hour to include a contribution to the equipment reserve fund."

CARRIED.

Provisional Schedule of 2004 OBWB Meetings

A provisional schedule of Water Board meeting dates and locations for 2004 was discussed.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Boersma:

"That 2004 meeting schedule be adopted as presented."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of Central Okanagan - Appointments to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Regional District of North Okanagan - Appointments to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

The appointments were received and it was agreed to wait for the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen appointments prior to electing Water Board officers for 2004.

Water Supply Association of BC – Crown Land Sales on Drinking Water Reservoirs

A letter from the Water Supply Association of BC was received commenting on the proposed sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs. The letter asked the assistance of the Water Board in encouraging local government to express their concerns regarding this action to the BC Premier and Minister Stan Hagen.

Director Hein provided background information on this issue. He reported that a meeting with BC Lands and Water was held at CORD to discuss a consultant's report on this issue, commissioned by BC Land and Water. A letter from NOD Manager of Infrastructure Service, Mike Stamhuis was discussed in which he pointed out many discrepancies in the consultant's report. He also stated that although the deadline for local government input is February 15th, the sales will not proceed until First Nation negotiations are complete.

Director Hobson commented that the report might not be the main issue but the fact that the province framed the terms of reference incorrectly to get the answer they wanted. We need to get information out

to the public in a short time.

Chair Slater suggested that a letter be sent to Councils and Regional Boards with the letter from Mr. Stamhuis attached.

Director Novakowski asked if a legal challenge would be possible.

Director Hein noted that this would require our own consultant's report.

Mr. Stamhuis added that his letter was to discredit the report and did not include all the issues pertaining to the sale of reservoir lots.

Director Field left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Chair Slater asked if the Regional Districts could prohibit development on reservoir lakes through bylaws.

Director Hobson said that bylaws would only have an effect on crown land after sales had taken place. Leased lots have no property rights. He indicated that some research needs to be done in this area.

Alternate Director Boersma added that Bill 75 says the province can over-rule such action if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the whole.

Director Hobson suggested we might utilize Regional District zoning as a means to protect water quality as such land use authority is usually with the regional districts.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Water Board express concern to the regional districts about the effect of sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs and the failure of BC Lands and Water to provide a satisfactory response to these issues; and that the Water Board recommend that the Regional Districts, in conjunction with water supply utilities, look into a zoning approach to protect water quality in these lakes. Also that the details of Mr. Stamhuis' analysis of the consultants report be included and the need for timely action be stressed."

CARRIED.

Other Correspondence

Groundwater Assessment

Mr. Armour advised that the joint Federal and Provincial Okanagan groundwater assessment was forming a steering committee and asked that the Water Board appoint a representative.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That Mr. Armour represent the Water Board on the Groundwater Assessment steering committee."

CARRIED.

Director Hein noted that Lake Country would also be represented.

Workshop

Mr. Armour reported that the workshop date had been delayed due to difficulties in getting speakers to attend the proposed January 16th date.

The proposed dates were now March 19th or 26th.

The Board agreed that March 19th was the more suitable date.

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 DECEMBER 14, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Project Manager(OBWB)
	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and Director Hein:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 9th, 2004 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Milfoil 101 – a Refresher Course

Mr. Armour gave a powerpoint presentation on the Water Board Aquatic weed control program. He provided some of the history of the program as well as an update on methods in use in other parts of the world.

Alternate Director Hanson asked if any of the insect biocontrol agents or the grass carp could be used in smaller sites such as Beaver Lake.

There was discussion of the dangers of importing exotic species into the Okanagan.

Mr. Armour said he would look into the cost and pros and cons of using these control methods.

Director Scheffler commented on the expansion of weed growth in Vaseux Lake.

Mr. Armour noted that rototilling was not permitted in this lake because the silt generated would adversely affect sockeye spawning areas downstream in the Okanagan River.

Director Scheffler suggested that the amount of rototilling done around the Town of Osoyoos be increased and less summer harvesting be done. He explained that the weed growth was restricting water flow and allowing the build up of sediment. Director Scheffler offered to contact community groups about marking obstacles such as water intakes.

Mr. Armour agreed that extra rototilling could be done starting this year.

Okanagan Partnership White Paper on Water Management – Next Steps

Mr. Armour updated the Board on presentations made by the Water Management Flagship Group of the Okanagan Partnership. The three regional boards had received presentations from co-chairs John Byland and Tom Siddon. Okanagan-Similkameen and Central Okanagan has supported the discussion paper in principle while North Okanagan had tabled the proposal until member municipalities and electoral areas were able to comment.

Director Hein advised that generally, the proposal was acceptable, but he would like to see a few changes in wording of the mandate items. He listed them as follows:

Point 1 – The reference to supply management was okay but the Province should be urged to deal with licensing problems

Point 2 – Coordinate and assist management of upper level reservoirs, improved irrigation practices, and aquifers.

Point 8 - . . . to ensure long term economic growth capacity.

The Board discussed a variety of changes that might be made in the Partnership's proposal for a Water Council. It was agreed that greater involvement of First Nations and Water Purveyors was needed to further refine the document.

Moved by Director Hein and Director Scheffler:

"That an invitation to an informal discussion about the Partnership discussion paper be sent to First Nations Bands, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Water Supply Association, and to members of the Partnership including Tom Siddon, and that the invitees be advised of the Water Board discussions concerning the document. "

CARRIED.

Director Novakowski Opposed

Chair Slater suggested that Provincial and Federal government representative be invited as well. The Board agreed.

Mr. Armour commented that senior levels of government had met a day previous to discuss collaborative actions in the upcoming year. On item was how to further the initiation of regional water management in the Okanagan valley.

The Board discussed initiatives that were underway in the Okanagan such as the groundwater assessment, the water supply update, and climate change research.

Director Clark said that the Partnership discussion paper should be an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest changes and eventually come up with an acceptable way to proceed.

There was discussion of Mr. Stamhuis' memorandum to NORD electoral area directors commenting on the Okanagan Partnership proposal. A number of ideas on long range tasks for a regional management council were discussed.

Director Clark noted that, with the right representation, the Board could take on a first determinant role in managing water supply.

Possible dates for a meeting were discussed. The Board decided that the meeting should be arranged for the date of the regular Board meeting in February. (tentatively February 8th).

Alternate Director Hanson suggested that we have a business plan ready for the meeting to show the

structure and costs associated with the new Board or Council.

There was consensus that a press release should be issued prior to the meeting.

Fraser Basin Council Bi-Annual General Meeting – Report from Chair Slater and G. Armour

Mr. Armour reported that he, Chair Slater and Director Hobson had attended the Fraser Basin Council Bi-Annual General Meeting, held November 26 and 27, in Vancouver. There were approximately 350 delegates and a wide variety of speakers. Material on the theme of Sustainability Works is available.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Resolution Endorsing Okanagan Partnership Proposal in Principle

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be received."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:

District of Lake Country:

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

Recommend approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility of District of Lake Country BNR treatment plant expansion.

- Stage II increase in plant capacity is needed to meet objectives of 1998 BNR project that was reduced in scale due to lack of funding.
- Federal Provincial Infrastructure Grant received.
- OBWB debt payment **\$49,100 per year**

2. Davidson Road Trunk Extension

Mr. Armour recommended approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility of District of Lake Country Davidson Road trunk main extension. This project was part of an Infrastructure Grant Application but deferred due to lack of funding. It will serve an existing area of 55 homes (not new development) currently on septic systems.

OBWB debt payment will be approximately \$2,378 per year.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Clark:

"That the District of Lake Country Davidson Road sewer extension and treatment plant expansion be eligible for Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage facilities grants."

CARRIED.

District of Summerland:

1. BNR Treatment Plant Upgrade (Centrifuge)

Mr. Armour recommended approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility for the District of Summerland sewage treatment plant upgrade. (Installation of a centrifuge) The centrifuge was proposed in the

original plant construction but was not feasible within budget at that time. The centrifuge is required to dry BNR sewage plant solids to recycle effluent through plant and reduce infiltration into soil.

Project Cost \$1,000,000 – OBWB **annual grant \$82,740.**

2. Sewer Collector Extension to Southeast Residential and Industrial Area

Mr. Armour recommended approval of the District of Summerland southern residential and industrial trunk main extension for OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility. The project was deferred from the original sewer project to lower costs.

Total cost \$1,500,000 – **OBWB Grant – \$124,000**

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the District Summerland southeast residential and industrial area sewer extension and the treatment grant upgrade be approved for Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage facilities grants."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Hein commented that senior government had opted out of aquatic plant control many years ago and yet the importance of this service to protect British Columbia tourism, to assist in the fast-tracking of resort development, and to add to the world exposure of the 2010 Olympic games, has increased dramatically. He suggested that we explore any opportunities that may exist for financial help in conducting the weed control program.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board agreed that the next meeting be held January 18th, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY