

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 09, 2007 AT THE OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND OFFICE, VERNON, BC.

PRESENT: Chair John Slater Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lorraine Bennest Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn Regional District North Okanagan
Director Pat Cochrane Regional District North Okanagan
~~Director Bill Firman Regional District North Okanagan (absent)~~
Director Ron Perrie Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alternate Director Fabian Alexis Okanagan Indian Band

STAFF: Greg Armour Program Manager,
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears Water Stewardship Director
Mike Stamhuis Regional District North Okanagan
Genevieve Doyle Water Stewardship Coordinator
Debbie Taylor Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT: Glen Taylor Regional District North Okanagan
Buffy Baumbrough Regional District North Okanagan

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

Chair Slater welcomed Director Manuel and Alternate Director Alexis to the meeting. He thanked Alternate Director Alexis for hosting the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for January 09, 2007 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Item 5.4 being Academic Research Projects be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 6.5 being Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Drinking Water Protection be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held December 05, 2006

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on December 05, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

4.2 Schedule of 2007 Meetings

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Provisional Meeting Schedule for 2007".

CARRIED.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Minutes of Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on December 14, 2006

Dr. Sears gave a verbal report of the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

5.2 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting Summaries – Oct/Nov 2006

Director Bennest commented that the summaries of the Work Plan Presentations were very useful.

Concerns regarding posting the summaries of the Work Plan presentations on the website were discussed. The Board agreed that information should get to the public as soon as possible but were concerned that proposed recommendations would be considered as official if posted. Suggestions included amending terminology in the summary.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Chief Alexis

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board instructs Staff to amend terminology in the summary of Work Plan presentations to read Staff Synthesis from Presentations and Discussion and to read Possible Considerations for the OBWB and Other Local Governments".

CARRIED.

The Province is considering re-writing portions of the Water Act, to make it easier to re-allocate water from existing licenses, and may even consider removing the seniority provisions for water rights. The OBWB would request participation in discussions. Alternate Director Alexis noted that the Okanagan Nation Alliance would support the recommendation of the Board.

Chair Slater stated that the matter would be an Agenda Item at the OBWB meeting scheduled for February 06, 2007.

5.3 OBWB Goals and Objectives for 2007

The Board discussed the Goals and Objectives for 2007.

Director Siddon commented that the OBWB Goals and Objectives for 2007 did not include a reference to the Okanagan Nation Alliance nor the First Nations.

Director Manuel stressed the historical significance of water in the culture of First Nations people. He noted that participation of First Nations in the Okanagan Basin Water Board as an equal partner was past due and he was glad to represent the Okanagan Nation Alliance on the Board.

Dr. Sears invited Director Manuel and Alternate Director Alexis to participate in a First Nations Panel at an upcoming Water Stewardship Meeting.

Staff would amend Goals and Objectives for 2007 and bring back to the Board at the February meeting.

5.4 Academic Research Projects

Mr. Armour informed the Board on interest from several University graduate students in conducting research in the Okanagan. He commented that there was value in supporting work relevant to Okanagan Basin Water Board goals and in supporting grant applications put forward to academic funding sources.

The Board authorized Staff to provide support for academic research related to the goals and objectives of the OBWB as time permits.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Regional District of North Okanagan Administration Charges

Mr. Armour advised the Board that the hours charged for the Corporate Controller in the provisional North Okanagan Regional District administration contract had been miscalculated. The error did not affect previous administrative charges which were based on a contract price.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

“That the December 06, 2007 letter from the North Okanagan Regional District Chief Financial Officer be received by the OBWB and that the OBWB amend the Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 budget using the revised contract amount.”

CARRIED.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board broke for lunch at 11:49 and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

6.2 Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Study Update

Mr. Armour reported that a Project Manager & Technical Coordinator for the Water Supply and Demand Study would be selected on January 16th. The Manager would be a consultant who would work on an hourly basis rather than a full time employee. A working group meeting would take place with the Project Manager soon after selection was made.

6.2.1 Water Supply and Demand Working Group December 16, 2006 Meeting Summary

Summary of the December 16, 2006 meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Working Group was received by the Board for information.

Phase 1 of the Water Supply and Demand Study identified existing data, data gaps and an approach for conducting the supply and demand study.

Phase 2 of the Water Supply and Demand Study would include compilation of existing data, limited new data collection and the supply and demand analysis.

Alternate Director Alexis stated that the report completed in Phase 1 likely was missing a large First Nations component. He commented that water licenses were allocated to First Nation Reserves when they were created. With some bands moving away from agriculture and ranching there is concern that unused water may be re-allocated. He expressed optimism that the new relationship developing with government would help to resolve these issues.

Alternate Director Alexis recommended that Chair Slater, Greg Armour and Dr. Anna Warwick Sears attend the Chief's Executive Council Meeting scheduled for January 25, 2007 at the Okanagan Nation Alliance Office in Westbank.

6.2.2 Correspondence to Jim Mattison Requesting a Meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Study Steering Committee

Correspondence to Jim Mattison, Ministry of Environment requesting a meeting of the Steering Committee be convened was received by the Board for information.

6.3 Groundwater Assessment in the Okanagan Basin Project Update

A written update provided by Vicki Carmichael, BC Ministry of Environment on the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin Project was received by the OBWB for information.

6.4 Symposium on Groundwater in the Okanagan Basin January 23, 2007

Mr. Armour commented that many of the invitees had confirmed their attendance to the Symposium and extended an invitation to the Board Members.

6.5 Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Drinking Water Protection

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Inter-Agency Accountability and Coordination on Drinking Water Protection was received by the OBWB. The MOU is intended to promote sharing of information and reflect a sense of partnership and shared responsibility for drinking water protection and risk management.

Dr. Sears suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board be represented on the drinking water team.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Effluent Discharges on Sugar Lake

Correspondence from a resident of Electoral Area D in the North Okanagan was received by the OBWB for discussion. Director Fairbairn stated that local residents were concerned about a large development having had received approval from the Ministry of Environment to discharge treated effluent in to Sugar Lake.

Alternate Director Alexis noted that the Okanagan Indian Band had a responsibility over the described area and that they had conducted an archeological study on that area last year. The OBWB agreed that the First Nations have more authority than the Board over such matters. Chief Alexis suggested that the Band could have some authority regarding environmental and land issues.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Reid

"That correspondence regarding effluent discharges on Sugar Lake be forwarded to the Fraser Basin Council noting the matter was not in the jurisdiction of the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

7.2 Water Metering and Monitoring Policy Recommendation of OWSC

A letter containing recommendations on hydrometric monitoring, water use monitoring and metering was received from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed policies on metering and the Board asked that Staff revise these recommendations.

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the OBWB endorses the recommendations received from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council regarding Hydrometric Monitoring and instructs Staff to revise the recommendations regarding Water Use Monitoring and Metering."

CARRIED.

Director Siddon exited the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

8. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

8.1 Correspondence to Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Services, Requesting Attendance at OBWB Meeting to Clarify Provincial Sewage Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Staff advised that a response to the Okanagan Basin Water Board letter has not been received.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, February 06, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alternate Director Alexis

“There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.”

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Program Manager

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 06, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, KELOWNA, BC.

PRESENT: Chair John Slater Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lorraine Bennest Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn Regional District North Okanagan
Director Ron Perrie Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike Water Supply Association of B.C.
~~Director Tim Manuel Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)~~
Director Glen Taylor Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough Regional District North Okanagan

STAFF: Greg Armour Program Manager. OBWB
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears Water Stewardship Director. OBWB
Michael Stamhuis Regional District North Okanagan
Genevieve Doyle Water Stewardship Coordinator. OBWB
Debbie Taylor Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT: Judie Steeves Kelowna Capital News

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for March 06, 2007 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That Item 10.1 being Environmental Mind Grind Challenge be added to the Agenda as a Late Item."

"That Item 10.2 being Canadian Water Network Study: Water Security Index be added to the Agenda as a Late Item."

"That Item 10.3 being Distribution of OBWB In-Camera Minutes be added to the Agenda as a Late Item."

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board convene an In-Camera Meeting to deal with matters deemed closed to the public in accordance with Section 92 of the Community Charter."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held February 06, 2007

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 06, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. APPOINTMENT OF SIGNING AUTHORITIES

5.1 Resolution as to Bankers and Signatures for Municipal Accounts 2006

The Board agreed that the Resolution regarding signing authority would be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer for amendment.

6. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

6.1 Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage Grant Draft Revised Terms of Reference

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the Board endorses the Revised Sewage Grant Terms of Reference being:

- 1. Local Control;*
- 2. Small Lots on Septic:*
 - a. One Hectare Bylaw;*
 - b. Permanent Infrastructure Exception;*
- 3. Definition of Community;*
- 4. Geographic Scope;*

and that the One Hectare Bylaw be in effect by January 01, 2008."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the Board request clarification of due diligence taken by the Province when granting Sewage Grants."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That Staff draft policy recommendations and investigate feasibility, cost and funding of a liquid waste management plan for the Okanagan Basin."

CARRIED.

6.2 Possible Projects of the Sewage Facilities Grant Program

- 6.2.1 Update of 1993 Okanagan Basin Master Wastewater Management Plan Section 1.0 – Introduction**
- 6.2.2 Judie Steeves, Kelowna Capital News, Articles Regarding Concerns about Endocrine Disrupters and Pharmaceutical Residues in Effluent Discharges to the Lakes**
- 6.2.3 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada letter to the OBWB Requesting Funding to Study the Use and Quality of Water from Okanagan Wastewater Treatment Plants**

6.3 District of Coldstream Grant Application

- 6.3.1 Correspondence from District of Coldstream Confirming 1 Hectare Bylaw**

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses funding the District of Coldstream extension of the Kalamalka Road sewer line."

CARRIED.

6.4 Kelowna – Grant Approval Request

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Rutland Bench and McKenzie Road sewer extension projects be approved for payment and that the November 2004 Okanagan Basin Water Board minutes be amended to indicate the grant approvals."

CARRIED.

6.5 City of Vernon – Grant Approval Request

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board table Item 6.5 until further information is received."

CARRIED.

Agenda Item 6.5 was lifted from the table.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 OBWB Strategic Planning Session

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That Staff provide a report of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council to the July meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and schedule a Strategic Planning Session in the Fall."

CARRIED.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board broke for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:38 p.m.

7.2 Water Supply Association of B.C. Proposal for Turbidity Notification Program Revision

7.2.1 OBWB Press Release Supporting New Water Quality Notification Proposal

7.2.2 Vernon Courier Editorial Opinion

7.3 OBWB Coordinated Water Conservation

The OBWB discussed the memo with changes from the Water Stewardship Council.

7.4 Local Government Bylaw Review

The Board received the Bylaw Review for information.

7.5 OBWB Letter to John Baird, Minister of Environment, Environment Canada Regarding Hydrological Monitoring in the Okanagan Watershed

The Board had not received a reply to their February 28, 2007 letter to John Baird, Minister of Environment, Environment Canada.

8. STAFF REPORT

8.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on January 11, 2007 to be received

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on January 11, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

8.2 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on February 08, 2007 for information

Minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council were received for information.

8.3 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting Summary, February 08, 2007 – Priority Planning Session Summary

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the summary of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council – Priority Planning Session be received as staff interpreted."

CARRIED.

8.4 Water Supply and Demand Study Update

A meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for March 07 to discuss user needs.

9. WATER CONSERVATION and QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

9.1 Press Release and Local Government Notification

The Board discussed Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants.

Director Reid exited the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

9.2 Update on 2007 Grant Proposals

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the OBWB will send a letter to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Regional District of North Okanagan regarding noxious species management."

CARRIED.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Environmental Mind Grind Challenge

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the OBWB will contribute \$500 to each of the three Regional Districts towards the Environmental Mind Grind Challenge."

CARRIED.

10.2 Canadian Water Network Study: Water Security Index

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the OBWB will support the Canadian Water Network Study: Water Security Index by contributing staff time to the project."

CARRIED.

10.3 Distribution of OBWB In-Camera Minutes

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board direct Regional Board Directors to a Director on the OBWB to receive In-Camera Minutes of the Meetings."

CARRIED.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, April 03, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to meet "In Camera" at 2:07 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Program Manager

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON APRIL 03, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, VERNON, BC.

PRESENT: Chair John Slater Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lorraine Bennest Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn Regional District North Okanagan
Director Ron Perrie Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike Water Supply Association of B.C.
~~Director Tim Manuel Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)~~
Director Glen Taylor Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough Regional District North Okanagan

STAFF: Greg Armour Program Manager, OBWB
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Michael Stamhuis Regional District North Okanagan
Genevieve Doyle Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB

OTHERS

PRESENT: Lorna Bissell – Alternate Director, NORD

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Armour advised that Correspondence item 9.6 should be followed by Regional District of North Okanagan Service Review as 9.7 and all other correspondence should be move to the next number.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for April 03, 2007 be approved as amended."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That a letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen on Funding for the Water Supply and Demand Study be added as 9.11

"That Reports on the Water Supply and Demand Study and Hiring of a Technical Writer/Administrative staff person be added as Staff Reports."

"That Item 10.3 being Okanagan Basin Water Board policy for Distribution of In-Camera Minutes be added to the Agenda as a Late Item."

"That a letter from the City of Vernon requesting a Service Review of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be added to the NORD letter notifying the Water Board of the review."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held March 06, 2007

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 06, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Fern Schultz (Director of Science and Information Branch) and Tony Cheong, (Manager of Information and Forecasting) Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment
The Hydrometric Network and the Okanagan: Working to the Future**

Ms. Schultz and Mr. Cheong made a PowerPoint presentation on increased importance being given by the Ministry of Environment's (MOE) Water Stewardship Division to stream flow and hydrometric information and the need for greater local stakeholder input.

The hydrometric network is currently managed by the MOE and Environment Canada but

funding and staff cutbacks have reduced the number of monitoring stations in the Okanagan to 22 and the total number of stations in BC from 600 to the current level of 450.

Dr. Sears noted that this seemed to be a low percentage of the total 450 stations in BC, considering the importance of the Okanagan region.

Ms. Schultz said that many stations were dependent on money from partners such as forestry, mining and other industry.

Director Pike inquired about the funding formula used to determine a partner's share of the cost of a monitoring station.

Mr. Cheong replied that there is no official formula and that the percent funding from each contributor depends on the purpose of data gathered, the potential usefulness to other groups, the location of the station (remote or not) and other factors. Each station is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Schultz said that additional information can be inferred for unmonitored streams through the application of hydrology models. This means that an increase in the number of stations is not always necessary, but that a well thought out network of stations is important.

Director Fairbairn asked about reports generated from information gathered to date and Director Reid asked about identifying the exact locations of stations in the valley.

Mr. Cheong replied that information is available through websites and he will provide the addresses of those websites to the board. Mr. Cheong said the Water Supply and Demand Study will contribute to local information in addition to determining the need for other monitoring stations that are not currently integrated in the network.

Ms. Schultz said that while the provincial and federal governments have historically driven the hydrometric network the Ministry of Environment is looking toward more stakeholder involvement to ensure the stability of the network. She said that the Ministry is looking to pilot a more regional approach in the Okanagan.

Director Bennest stressed the importance of reliable hydrometric network to provide confidence in the data where decisions must be made about water supply or fish flow.

Ms. Schultz said that the Ministry is looking to the OBWB and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council for advice and guidance on the best way to make this pilot effort for regional network management work locally. The Province isn't looking for ways to devolve responsibility but to establish stable funding by partnering more broadly.

Dr. Sears mentioned that the Water Supply and Demand Study is key to identifying what the needs for the Okanagan are and that because the models developed through the study will be 'living' models with continually updated information, the Okanagan will need to have a solid hydrometric network.

Director Siddon said that he has been involved with Water Highway BC and that organization feels the Ministry should assume responsibility for the Hydrometric Network in BC.

Director Pike stated that as a water purveyor he does not have confidence in the accuracy of hydrometric data. He asked if the hydrometric network will affect water licensing.

Ms. Schultz responded that she didn't know how new information would affect licensing.

Director Reid expressed interest in maintaining an open dialogue but noted that local governments are concerned about downloading of costs from the provincial agencies.

Ms. Schultz said that the Ministry is hoping to host a workshop in June with participants from the Water Board, Environment Canada and Water Highway BC.

Director Siddon asked Mr. Cheong and Ms. Schultz if they would consider bringing a proposal or a white paper with them to the workshop, so there is a starting point for discussion.

The Water Board expressed interest in the workshop suggested by Mr. Cheong and Ms. Schultz.

Action: Send letter to the Ministry of Environment, indicating our participation in a workshop to be held in June 2007.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SIGNING AUTHORITIES

6.1 Appointment of Okanagan Basin Water Board Signing Authorities 2007

Mr. Armour advised that the signing authority resolution appointing Directors Fairbairn, Taylor and Baumbrough as signing authorities for OBWB cheques had been re-drafted.

Moved by **Director Novakowski**

Seconded by **Director Reid**

"That the Signing Authority Resolution be approved as presented."

CARRIED.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Draft Letter to Regional Board Chairs on Noxious Species Control

As requested at the March 6, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, staff presented a draft letter to the Regional Board Chairs regarding regional noxious species control.

Director Hobson mentioned that CORD has agreed to fund \$25,000 for a regional function of

noxious species control, subject to NORD and RDOS committing the same amount of funds.

Director Bennest suggested that the regional districts should look at how staff could be incorporated to work on a valley wide scale together instead of creating a new entity to deal with noxious species.

Chair Slater said that there is not an appetite for another regional board, and that the province is reluctant to fund individual local issues, they want to see regional cooperation.

Director Hobson clarified that CORD is not proposing a new body; they are just raising the issue of noxious species control.

Director Reid does not want to send the letter as it currently reads as it suggests creating a new entity, but he does support the idea of regional cooperation on this issue.

Director Perrie said that RDOS includes lots of area in the Similkameen Valley too where they have separate programs. He also noted that there was no support for a starling control program in the RDOS and that the Similkameen didn't participate in it.

Director Hobson said that other participants are willing to come forward and if there is moderate investment from the regional districts then could have an effective noxious species control program.

Director Reid warned against creating compulsory taxation as it can cause political dissent if certain areas feel that it isn't a priority and their needs are not being met.

Dr. Sears mentioned that in her experience with a noxious species control program (in California) it was set up so that certain areas could opt out of the program but there were enough participants to create economies of scale.

Director Hobson agrees that the regional chairs when they meet will be informed that the Water Board has discussed the issue and encourages cooperation and discussion to determine options in order to effectively proceed.

Moved by **Director Fairbairn**

Seconded by **Director Reid**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board encourages the Chairs of the three Regional Districts to work together to discuss options for noxious species control”

CARRIED

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on March 8, 2007 – First Nations Panel Session and Dr. Hans Schrier Presentation on Virtual Water Concept

Dr. Sears informed the Board that the OWSC First Nations panel discussion was an interesting and productive session.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip commented that treaty negotiations have evolved from reparation issues to a stewardship focus.

Chief Fabian Alexis has agreed to forward a letter to the province expressing First Nation concerns on the sale of leased lots on reservoir lakes.

Moved by **Director Pike**

Seconded by **Director Perrie**

“That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on March 8, 2007 be received subject to OWSC adoption.”

CARRIED.

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30

8.2 Summary of WSC Session on Source Water Protection

Director Hobson left the meeting at 12:35 and re-entered at 12:40.

Director Pike commented that on average in the province, the percentage of community watersheds surrounded by multiple use Crown Land is 7% to 8 %, while in the Okanagan it is almost 100%. We have little control over activities in our watersheds.

Director Siddon said that the concept of land reserves is important to protect watersheds.

Dr. Sears advised that this is noted on Page 9 of the summary.

Mr. Stamhuis added that the problem of the involvement of so many Provincial ministries in water leads to conflicting actions such as the sale of reservoir lots.

Director Reid said that outside expertise from areas that have successfully implemented source water protection might be valuable in leading to legislative change.

Director Hobson advised that the District of lake Country proposed boundary expansion would take in the entire watershed. He noted that there has to be commitment to a political direction and that local governments have not always made the best land use decisions with respect to source water protection. He added that the Auditor General’s report recommended a balanced approach using both watershed protection and treatment.

Moved by **Director Pike**

Seconded by **Director Perrie**

“That the summary of WSC Session on Source Water be received for posting and

distribution subject to adoption by the Water Stewardship Council.”

CARRIED

8.3 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

Ms. Doyle gave a report on the Grant proposals and informed the Board that staff will be evaluating them and making a recommendation to the Board at the May meeting.

8.4 Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce – Stream Flow Monitoring

Dr. Sears reported that the Vernon Chamber of Commerce requested any Okanagan Basin Water Board water-related policies for submission to BC Chamber for incorporation into their policy and positions manual. Dr. Sears and Dawn Lasby of the Vernon Chamber jointly developed a policy statement around the need for stream flow hydrometric monitoring. This will go to the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM in May, 2007.

The stream flow hydrometric monitoring statement was received by the Board.

8.5 Presentation to Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Mr. Armour reported that he, Chair Slater and Dr. Sears attended a CSRD meeting in response to a request for a presentation on the history, governance and current initiatives of the OBWB.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum – Funding Request

Moved by **Director Hobson**

Seconded by **Director Fairbairn**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board provides \$5000 for sponsorship of the International Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum Conference being held Sept. 17/18, 2007.”

CARRIED.

9.2 Dr. Paul Hasselback, Interior Health Authority – Drinking Water Turbidity Notification

The Senior Medical Health Office IHA response to the OBWB letter of Feb 9th (to Murray Ramsden CEO of IHA) supporting the WSA proposal to modify the Turbidity Notification Program was reviewed by the Board.

Director Reid advised that the District of Peachland is working with the Water Supply

Association on a resolution to OMMA supporting the WSA proposal for revisions to the turbidity notification process.

Director Hobson noted that there was some concern at the City of Kelowna that the Okanagan Basin Water Board was endorsing the lowering of water quality standards.

9.3 Michael Stamhuis, RDNO – Comments on Dr. Hasselback’s Letter

Received by the Board

9.4 Copy of OBWB Letter to Hon. George Abbott, Minister of Health

The Board reviewed a copy of the OBWB letter to the Minister of Health requesting independent mediation for IHA / WSA discussions, a review of the adequacy of design of the previous turbidity notification survey. The letter expressed support for an Independent Advisory team to review policies now in place and recommend the most effective approach to turbidity notification.

9.5 Town of Oliver – Letter of Support for Turbidity Notification Review

The letter was received by the Board.

9.6 Black Mountain Irrigation District – Mission Creek Water Storage Initiative Regional District of North Okanagan

A BMID proposal to be submitted to MOE for consideration for funding was received.

BMID is proposing to exchange water license with the Province for a higher quality drinking water source (Loch Long instead of Belgo Reservoir) and also increasing storage in two other reservoirs.

Director Hobson noted that BMID is not a municipal government entity and is not eligible for infrastructure funding. Municipalities would likely not support such a request because it would be in direct competition with their own infrastructure projects.

Moved by **Director Hobson**

Seconded by **Director Perrie**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the Black Mountain Irrigation District proposal in principle, recognizing that accessing infrastructure grant funds would require that BMID become a part of municipal government.”

CARRIED.

9.7 Notice of Service Review Requested by City of Vernon

Director Baumbrough advised the Board that the City of Vernon had initiated a review of many of the services provided by NORD to the City. The Okanagan Basin Water Board is included in those services to be reviewed.

9.8 Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Impact of Mountain Pine Beetle on Okanagan Lake – Request for Funding

A funding request for \$200,000 to conduct an assessment of the potential for Mountain Pine Beetle to affect turbidity entering Okanagan Lake and tributary sub-watersheds was received.

Director Hobson referred to a study conducted in the Central Okanagan by Dobson Engineering Ltd. as a possible pilot for a larger regional study. He also noted the Federal commitment of \$250 million in assistance for impacts of mountain pine beetle and suggested that we should be looking at this funding source first.

Director Reid said that the Board should not formally respond at this time but should consult with RDOS to exchange information on this regional issue.

9.9 Regional District of North Okanagan – Approval of Water Supply and Demand Matching Funds

9.10 Regional District of Central Okanagan – Approval of Water Supply and Demand Matching Funds

9.11 Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Approval of Water Supply and Demand Matching Funds

The Board received Items 9.9 to 9.11 for information.

10 SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Sewage Grant Terms of Reference

The Board received the amended sewage grant terms of reference for information.

Hydrometric Monitoring

The Board discussed the presentation on hydrometric monitoring made by Ms. Schultz and Mr. Cheong.

Moved by **Director Reid**

Seconded by **Director Siddon**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board agree to the participation of the Chairs and Vice

Chairs of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and Water Stewardship Council in a workshop to look at a shared stewardship approach to hydrometric monitoring and that a discussion paper outlining the Federal Provincial proposal be received prior to the workshop.”

CARRIED.

11 REMOVAL OF ITEM FROM IN-CAMERA

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 2:05 p.m.

Moved by **Director Hobson**

Seconded by **Director Novakowski**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board removes from In-Camera minutes of the November 7th, 2006 meeting, the following resolution:

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the OBWB authorizes increasing Mr. Armour’s salary in the 2007 – 2008 Provisional Budget by \$1,000.”

CARRIED.

The In-Camera meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for May 01, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

13 ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Certified Correct:



Chair


Program Manager

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD ON MAY 01, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-
SIMILKAMEEN, PENTICTON, BC.**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
	Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
	Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
	Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
	Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
	Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
	Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
	Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
	Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
	Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliancee (absent)
	Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan (absent)
	Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 Greg Armour	 Program Manager, OBWB
	Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
	Genevieve Doyle	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB
	Inge van Oostveen	Administration & Communications, OBWB

OTHERS

PRESENT: David Alexander – Summerland

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That Mr. David Alexander be welcomed to the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board as a guest."

CARRIED.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on May 01, 2007 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That Correspondence Item 7.6, a letter from the Science and Information Branch of the Ministry of Environment dated April 30, 2007, be added as a Late Item."

CARRIED.**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held April 03, 2007.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 03, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS****5.1 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants – Staff Recommendations for 2007 Grant Awards**

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowksi

"That staff recommendations for 2007 Grant Awards of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants be approved."

CARRIED.**Discussion of 2007 Grant Program:**

Director Reid commended staff on a job well done, adding that future funding decisions will benefit from a successful track record.

Director Hobson inquired whether the political body approving or endorsing a funded project could offer some guarantee that the data collected by the project would be put to use or implemented.

Director Hobson wondered how we can encourage community organizations or citizen-led initiatives to apply and receive funding for important projects in communities throughout the Basin.

Dr. Sears advised the Board that funding was distributed between different types of projects, and that each successful project received funding as close as possible to the requested amount to ensure project success.

Director Pike inquired whether recommendations for partial funding were derived by an established formula or determined subjectively.

Dr. Sears replied that the Regional Districts, and in particular, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, may at times advise staff on the suitability or priority of some grant applications.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on April 12, 2007

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on April 12, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

Discussion of the User Needs Assessment workshop:

Dr. Sears said that the Water Supply and Demand Study will require input from a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure it is relevant for users at all levels. The current needs assessment report spans more than 60 pages. Workshop participants emphasized the need for high quality data.

Director Siddon reviewed the 60-page report and commented that little new information was revealed, that a summary was missing, that the data was buried in tables, and that the user needs assessed were not comprehensive enough.

Chair Slater agreed that the outcome of the report seemed pre-determined and did not reflect suggestions made previously by this Board.

Director Siddon wondered whether Board members should write to express their individual disappointment or provide collective feedback.

Director Fairbairn commented that the report was confusing for the layperson and lacked a

precise, easy to comprehend summary.

Director Bennest expressed concern regarding the cost and directions of the WS&D study, and requested that the Board and staff re-direct the consultants accordingly.

Dr. Sears replied that the user needs assessment was only one aspect of the study, and that the core components - hydrologic and water budget modeling - are proceeding in a rigorous process.

Director Reid suggested separate discussions or workshops for a scientific user group and a practical user group.

Director Siddon reiterated the need for red/green/yellow "traffic light" modeling.

Director Pike considered the study from an applied point of view, and wondered how much of licensed allocation is currently being used. Are water licenses based on sound supply data, and how robust is our supply information? He suspects many gaps in our current supply data, and wishes to increase the confidence level.

Director Hobson agreed, stating that although all models by their very nature include some level of uncertainty, more accurate information and modeling is vital for decision-makers.

Dr. Sears explained that information collected at the workshops will be reviewed by the working group and steering committee. The collection of demand data and the development of the hydrological model and water budget model are already underway.

Director Fairbairn encouraged the steering committee to focus the consultants' direction for the next step.

Director Siddon placed high priority on addressing allocation questions.

Director Reid emphasized the need for scientists to calculate error factors and suggested that from a user standpoint, error should be expressed as a range or probability. Decision makers in the valley require accurate data with as little error as possible, given the dollars spent.

Director Siddon commented that the error factor increases as time progresses, and that the model would still provide a rough idea.

Chair Slater stated that if the model is accurate at this point in time, we should be able to plug in more data to improve the model for future use.

Mr. Armour added that confidence levels will increase as more accurate information is added. Weaker components of the study can be identified and efforts will be made to decrease uncertainty. The level of error is within limits and should still allow the Board and others to make better decisions. Mr. Armour agreed with Director Pike that many unknowns remain.

Director Pike suggested that outcomes of the study may assist the Board in developing policy resolutions.

6.2 Presentation to First Nation Chiefs' Executive Council

Mr. Armour and Dr. Sears reported on their presentation to the First Nation Chief's Executive Council in Revelstoke on April 26, 2007. Common interests in water management and stewardship were identified. Chief Fabian Alexis was appointed to the Water Stewardship Council. Discussion of the Water Supply and Demand study ensued. Chief Alexis identified a potential Ministry of Health funding opportunity through the First Nations environmental toxins fund with an application deadline of November 2007. Staff recommends pursuing further collaboration and partnerships with Okanagan Nation for mutual benefit.

Chair Slater suggested that UBCO could take a lead role on this project.

Director Hobson expressed interest in inviting greater collaboration and participation with Okanagan Nation and advised that a member of the band (non-voting) will now attend Kelowna council meetings.

6.3 Water Supply Association Discussion Paper and Interior Health Authority Proposal for Presentation at June Meeting

Staff advised that the Board draft specific questions to be addressed by the Interior Health Authority (IHA) at the June meeting.

Director Reid identified source water protection as a primary concern.

Director Siddon encouraged the Board to continue finding collaborative solutions, and to embrace this opportunity for leadership by the IHA.

Director Pike observed that the IHA is becoming more responsive and that some conditions of the 4-3-2-1-0 protocol have been relaxed. The Water Supply Association (WSA) has drafted a Discussion Paper to gather input.

Director Bennest suggested that the Board review its role in these discussions and that the Minister should direct IHA to meet with water purveyors for resolution.

Director Hobson suggested prioritizing and acquiring funding for high risk projects, and assessing actual, short-term risks to develop practical solutions. Water treated to drinking water standards is not necessary for all users, and developing an end-user solution only (i.e. a filtration plant) does not address watershed activities and other factors affecting water quality.

Director Fairbairn suggested staff work closely with the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council to develop the questions to be addressed by the IHA.

Dr. Sears will provide a draft for circulation to directors.

Director Pike suggested that IHA requires the highest standards to assure public protection, and cautioned that policy development should be valley-wide, encompassing source water protection, funding of capital projects, infrastructure standards and measurable outcomes, while recognizing that the vast majority of water-borne diseases can be attributed to operator error.

6.4 Ministry of Environment Grant for Water Supply and Demand Study – OBWB Press Release

Mr. Armour confirmed that the Board has received \$250,000 in funding for the Water Supply and Demand Study from the Provincial Government, matched by \$100,000 from the Board. Additionally, Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin will receive \$5,000 in funding.

6.5 Planning Institute of BC Conference – OBWB Presentation

Dr. Sears was invited to make a presentation to 25 planners attending the Planning Institute of BC Conference in Kelowna on April 25, 2007. Response to this outreach effort was very positive, many questions were asked, and agricultural usage was identified as a main topic of interest.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Minister of Environment, Barry Penner – Copy of Letter to NORD concerning Sewage Discharge into Sugar Lake

Director Fairbairn advised that concerns from residents have not been addressed and that the matter remains in the hands of solicitors.

Director Hobson stated that municipal sewage regulations have been discussed at many meetings, including the Union of BC Municipalities, and that it remains unclear what the effect of any outcome-based regulations will be. He also observed that the overall effect on whole stream management is no longer being monitored by the Ministry and is now left up to developers.

7.2 Paul Bailey, Executive Director, Health Protection, Ministry of Health – Response to Okanagan Basin Water Board Letter to Minister George Abbott

Mr. Armour informed the Board that a letter was sent to Minister Abbott to inquire how the Board can foster a better working relationship with the Interior Health Authority. Mr. Bailey's response was received.

7.3 Rick Fairbairn, Director, Electoral Area D, NORD – OBWB Service Review

Mr. Armour advised that the City of Vernon has dropped the Okanagan Basin Water Board from its regional district service review and has referred the matter directly to the province. Councillor Barry Beardsell of Vernon has requested financial information including amounts paid and requisitioned through the Sewage Facilities Assistance fund from 1975 through to 2006, and any revenues derived from the Aquatic Weed Control program.

Director Baumbrough clarified that Councillor Beardsell wished to review the costs and benefits to each jurisdiction, and that he intends to pursue financial support from Province should the Water Board's mandate be significantly expanded. Further clarification will be obtained at the next City of Vernon council meeting.

7.4 Morning Star Paper – NORD Service Review of OBWB

The article was received by the Board.

7.5 Okanagan Partnership – Request for Sponsorship for 'Our Okanagan and Okanagan Sustainability Week' (Quest Workshops)

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board declines a request from the Okanagan Partnership for sponsorship of 'Our Okanagan and Okanagan Sustainability Week' (Quest Workshops)"
CARRIED.

Dr. Sears informed the Board that the Okanagan Partnership is promoting the Quest model throughout the Okanagan, and that she will make herself available to participate in Quest workshops in Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon to answer any questions. Dr. Sears strongly supports participating in the workshops, but does not recommend sponsorship until the suitability of the Quest model for local planning purposes has been demonstrated.

Director Reid commented that elected officials already recognize these important issues and are working towards collaborative solutions, and recommended declining the request for sponsorship.

Director Novakowski recognized the importance of OkanaganQuest and recommended that the Board support its activities, but advised a wait-and-see attitude prior to further participation.

Director Bennest expressed concerns about the use of the model as a statement of fact rather than as a theoretical model.

Director Hobson echoed Director Bennest's concerns about the use of a theoretical model and suggested that the model is incomplete without an ecological layer containing sensitive habitat data and on the ground information.

Dr. Sears stated that there is interest in the scientific community to further develop and integrate other models to extend and enrich the Quest model.

Director Siddon suggested the model will be useful in engaging the public in a sustainability debate, with long-range implications for the next set of elected politicians.

Director Reid expressed concern that the model does not include enough detail for each community to draw accurate, small-scale conclusions. For example, Peachland's GPS data and the master water plan are not incorporated. A model that uses insufficient data may affect the political process inadvertently and does not recognize how communities are working to address the issues locally.

Dr. Sears suggested that participation at workshops is vital to ensuring these comments are brought forward. Dates for upcoming workshops are published in local papers.

7.6 Letter from Fern Schultz, Director of the Science and Information Branch of the Ministry of Environment dated April 30, 2007

Mr. Armour explained that the letter confirms that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Board and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Water Stewardship Council have agreed to participate in a workshop.

Director Siddon commented that other questions arising from Ms. Schultz's presentation were not addressed by this letter, and that links to websites should not be considered sufficient.

Director Siddon encouraged staff to forward dates for workshops to the Board to encourage participation.

Mr. Armour added that the Ministry will provide a white paper prior to the workshop.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 11:58am and reconvened at 12:30pm.

8. IN-CAMERA

Motion to Allow Guest to Attend the In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That Mr. David Alexander, Mayor of Summerland be welcomed to the in-camera meeting as a guest."

CARRIED.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 12:33pm.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for June 05, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

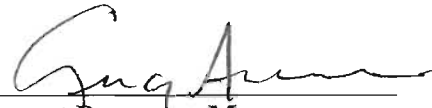
10. ADJOURNMENT

The in-camera and regular meetings adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Program Manager

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD JUNE 5, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA BC.

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Program Manager, OBWB
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen	Admin Assistant/Communications Coordinator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Paul Hasselback	Senior Medical Officer, Interior Health
Dale Thomas	Interior Health
Gundie Volk	PHI, Interior Health
Mike Adams	Drinking Water Officer, Interior Health
Elizabeth Sigalet	Drinking Water Manager, Interior Health
Karen Rothe	Ministry of Environmental Health
Bob Hrasko	Manager, Black Mountain Irrigation District, OBWB Alternate Director
Gord Ivans	Chair, Black Mountain Irrigation District Board
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. DELEGATIONS

2.1 Interior Health Authority (Letter of Invitation From OBWB)

Dr. Paul Hasselback, Senior Medical Officer at Interior Health, presented an overview of the structure and governance of Health Authorities and their functional relationship with the Ministry of Health. A series of PowerPoint slides was presented, and Dr. Hasselback invited the Board to work closely with Interior Health to address shared water concerns.

Ms. Karen Rothe outlined the collaborative approach taken by Ministry and Health Authorities to achieve their common objective, the protection of public health. The Ministry drafts legislation and is responsible for providing advice to the Minister, while the Health Authorities are responsible for the administration and implementation of this legislation. The Drinking Water Officer's guide is an example of this collaboration.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on June 05, 2007 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

4. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Fairbairn Seconded by Director Perrie

"That Signing Authority for Anna Sears be added as Item 6.1 under New and Unfinished Business, and that OBWB staff accommodation at NORD be introduced as Late Item 7.6"

CARRIED.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held May 01, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Moved by Director Bennest Seconded by Director Reid

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 01, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted as circulated, pending the correction of Mr. David Gregory's name."

CARRIED.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Signing authority for Anna Sears replacing Greg Armour

Moved by Director Reid Seconded by Director Taylor

"That Anna Warwick Sears be authorized to sign contracts up to \$25,000 for the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on May 10, 2007

Moved by Director Reid Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on May 10, 2007 at the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Summerland, BC be received."

CARRIED.

Dr. Sears provided a brief summary of discussions and presentations at the last Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

7.2 Sale of Reservoir Lots - Presentation from ILMB at June 14th WSC Meeting

A one-hour presentation on the Sale of Reservoir Lots will take place at the next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council on June 14, 2007 at UBC-Okanagan (L305).

7.3 Gas Tax Agreement Program - Application for Funding

Moved by **Director Novakowski**Seconded by **Director Siddon**

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board resolves to forward a funding application for \$415,890 to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities in support of our Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study through their Capacity Building/ICSP initiative.”

CARRIED.

7.4 OBWB Staff Vehicle

Moved by **Director Reid**Seconded by **Director Bennest**

“That an OBWB Staff Vehicle be acquired, and that staff research cost efficiencies and make recommendations for an OBWB Staff Vehicle.”

CARRIED.

7.5 Joint CWRA/OBWB/OWSC Conference

Moved by **Director Reid**Seconded by **Director Taylor**

“That staff work together with CWRA to present a joint conference on water management in the Okanagan in February 2008, subject to the review of staff time required.”

CARRIED.

7.6 OBWB staff accommodation at NORD

Dr. Sears advised the Board that Brian Reardon, Administrator of the Regional District of North Okanagan, has recently stated that he wishes to relocate OBWB staff currently accommodated at the NORD office at 9848 Aberdeen Road to the downtown office at 3105 33rd Street in Vernon. Dr. Sears commented that this move would not be in the best interests of the Water Board, and requested Board support for alternative accommodation solutions that allow OBWB staff to remain at the current location.

Moved by **Director Reid**Seconded by **Director Siddon**

“The Okanagan Basin Water Board request that NORD make every reasonable effort to continue the accommodation of OBWB staff at the NORD offices.”

CARRIED.

Moved by **Director Reid**Seconded by **Director Siddon**

“That staff be authorized to enter into negotiations with NORD for the appropriate accommodation of OBWB staff at the NORD offices, at an additional cost of up to a maximum of \$1000 per month.”

CARRIED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 PARC – Request for Funding

Moved by **Director Hobson**Seconded by **Director Fairbairn**

“That full funding for the PARC research proposal on the agricultural re-use of wastewater from the Summerland waste water plant be approved.”

CARRIED.

- 8.2 RDOS – Policy for Small Lots and OBWB Sewage Grant Eligibility
- 8.3 Letter from Roger Mayer – Local Government Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Moved by **Director Hobson**

Seconded by **Director Taylor**

“That these letters (Items 8.2 and 8.3) be received”

CARRIED.

- 8.4 MoE/OBWB Workshop - Future of Water Quantity Information in the Okanagan Basin
(Date changed to June 28th)

The Chair and Co-Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council were invited to attend the Future of Water Quantity Information workshop, rescheduled to June 28, 2007. Director Reid is not able to attend this workshop and requested that staff schedule an alternate OBWB director to attend. Director Siddon requested a hydrometric primer for all attendees prior to the workshop.

9. **SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS**

- 9.1 City of Vernon

Moved by **Director Hobson**

Seconded by **Director Fairbairn**

“That the City of Vernon’s late application for Sewage Grant funding for debt costs retroactive to 2002 for upgrade and replacement of the City of Vernon Reclamation Plant not be approved.”

CARRIED.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:38pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

10. **IN-CAMERA**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 2:25pm.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

- 11.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for July 3rd, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

- 11.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for July 3rd, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 2:50pm.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Executive Director



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD JULY 03, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON BC.

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Greg Armour	Program Manager, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen	Admin Assistant/Communications Coordinator, OBWB
Genevieve Doyle	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael A. Stamhuis	Regional District of North Okanagan
Lloyd Manchester	Okanagan Cottage Owners Association

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- Item 6.5: A report from Director Siddon on development at Sickle Point in Kaleden, BC
- Item 7.6: A report on the Hydromonitoring workshop held June 28, 2007.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Director Baumbrough

Seconded by: Director Novakowksi

"That, with the addition of Items 6.5 and 7.6, the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on June 05, 2007 be approved."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held June 05, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

Moved by: Director Fairbairn

Seconded by: Director Taylor

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 05, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Okanagan Cottage Owners Association

Lloyd Manchester, president of Okanagan Cottage Owners Association, delivered a PowerPoint presentation in response to news that the Board may be passing resolutions against the sale of leased lots. Mr. Manchester sought to outline activities currently being undertaken by his association to further source water protection at Okanagan reservoir lakes.

- [Link to Mr. Manchester's PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Link to Appendix A: Notes from Mr. Manchester's Presentation](#)

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 6.1 Sale of Reservoir Lots – Memo from OWSC, Judie Steeves article

Director Siddon explained that the Province of BC faces unique challenges in water quality due to factors such as steep slopes, rocky surfaces and fast run-off conditions. Enteric disease levels are higher in BC than anywhere in Canada, and higher in the Okanagan than anywhere else in BC. Hundreds of millions of dollars will be required for capital investment into costly filtration systems for 300,000 Okanagan valley residents. The valley's population is projected to increase to 500,000 in the foreseeable future, and a two-pipe system to separate residential and agricultural water will cost another \$100 million.

Director Siddon said that the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) have fenced and protected watersheds that serve agricultural and residential demand. The Okanagan is unique, and its situation is not similar to Ontario's Cottage Country, nor Alberta's Sylvan Lake. Okanagan reservoir lakes should not be developed for long-term recreational use. District (GVRD) have fenced and protected watersheds that serve agricultural and residential demand. The Okanagan is unique, and its situation is not similar to Ontario's Cottage Country, nor Alberta's Sylvan Lake. Okanagan reservoir lakes should not be developed for long-term recreational use. Cooperation by leasehold tenants should be considered as part of the solution. The 27-member Okanagan Water Stewardship Council recently passed a resolution to send a memo to the OBWB, to support the notion that the health and well-being of 300,000 residents cannot be jeopardized for 140 leaseholders on Okanagan reservoir lakes.

Director Fairbairn inquired as to the nature of reservoir lakes, what makes a lake a reservoir lake, and which lakes are crucial to achieving the objectives of the OBWB.

Director Bennest pointed out that OBWB directors represent local governments, who are all facing complicated water quality issues at horrendous costs. Water treatment facilities or twin pipe systems are complex and costly. Headwaters is Summerland's reservoir lake for irrigation and for drinking water. Seasonally, reservoir lakes may be emptied to maintain fish flow requirements according to the

master water use plan for Trout Creek, the second largest inflow into Okanagan Lake. Reservoir lakes were built for a reason. Local governments are allowed to use these lakes as reservoirs and human cohabitation on these reservoir lakes may not be viable.

Director Bennest commented that the current lease process is not working, and that there has been a weakening of lease conditions over the years, including a removal of restrictions on the number of days of occupancy. There is also a lack of governance of these leases. Leases are automatically renewed and there is only one inspector for all leases in the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) program. Director Bennest inquired if there is currently an 1100 sq ft restriction on buildings on Headwaters because she has observed much larger cabins, and there are now 40 dwellings around the lake. Fee simple ownership will encourage much larger houses with people settling in for the year. The Provincial Government derives revenue from these leases and should enforce lease conditions.

Vice Chair Reid explained that Glen Lake and Silver Lake are the two main reservoir lakes in Peachland. Glen Lake was Peachland's water source until the Brenda Mine licence on Peachland Lake was obtained. Silver Lake has been used mainly to support fisheries flows. The District of Peachland has applied for tenure at both lakes. There are currently two cabins on Glen Lake, located high above the lake. Silver Lake is the site of the Silver Lake Forestry Camp, and the District of Peachland intends to work together with the Camp to keep this lake as clean as possible.

Vice Chair Reid stated that if we cannot achieve cooperation on a provincial government level, it may be necessary for a local municipality or regional district to expropriate the lands as required.

Director Siddon stated that ILMB is taking the revenue from these leases without enforcing lease conditions, and wondered whether the fee-simple option would bring the task of enforcement under local government control.

Dr. Sears explained that one rationale for selling the lots was that ILMB does not have the capacity to enforce the lease agreements, so that if the ILMB sells the lots, it will be the Regional District's responsibility to enforce development and building bylaws.

Vice Chair Reid commented that a draft bylaw has been recommended but not yet implemented by the Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD), and that CORD will have to consider whether it has the financial ability to enforce these leases. A copy of the draft bylaw should be obtained by staff.

Mr. Stamhuis stated that the fundamental difference between a lease and a freehold is the complexity it adds for governments to enforce the rules. If there are conditions in leases, leaseholders will comply as long as there is potential for the lease to be renewed, but if there is no compliance, the lease should not be renewed. The Province may not be enforcing the requirements of the leases, but it could do so under the current system.

Vice Chair Reid requested that staff prepare a report on the ramifications of Land Act Reserves before the Board considers its official position.

Director Pike pointed out that these lakes are considered to be reservoir lakes because they have capacity for storage for waterworks purposes, and that the discussion is focused solely on cabins built on leased lots on reservoir lakes. There are streams where water is diverted to other reservoirs, but there are no cabins on these streams so these were not considered.

Director Pike commented that a Crown Land Reserve is an exclusive right under the Land Act, but that this only prevents other Land Act tenures from being issued, it may not prevent other uses such as resource extraction. Other issues in watershed protection were pointed out by Mr. Manchester. There may not be a large number of recreational leases, but there is not a zero-balance impact. The recreational leases are part of the problem, not the solution. If a person has a pecuniary interest, he will be interested in protecting the water, but it is naïve to suggest there is no impact from recreational leases on Okanagan reservoir lakes. It is the ILMB's mandate to manage Crown land for the benefit of all British Columbians. Director Pike suggested that the Board should focus on what is in the interest of all British Columbians.

Director Pike further commented that one outcome of the Water Supply & Demand study is the realization that the extraction of water from mainstem lakes may have to be supported with upland storage capacity. Considering population growth and scenarios 20-50 years from now, the economic argument diminishes. We may choose to either close the doors to future development or we must find some solutions.

Director Siddon put forward Source Area Protection in New York and the CRD as an example of precedence for placing reserves around the reservoir lakes.

Vice Chair Reid cautioned that there may be financial ramifications, and that staff should prepare a report for the Board to consider, adding that perhaps a Map Reserve may be an option.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that both he and Director Pike are members of a technical committee for Land Act Reserves, where Mr. Stamhuis is the representative for the Regional District of North Okanagan. The exchange of a land act reserve has been proposed by ILMB as a carrot to agree to the sale of leased lots on Okanagan reservoir lakes.

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Perrie

"That staff prepare a report on the various Land Act Reserve tenures, the ramifications of such Reserves, and their effect on existing tenures."

CARRIED.

Moved by: Director Bennest

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

"That the OBWB re-affirms its previous position on the non-sale of reservoir lots."

CARRIED.

6.2 Dr. Hasselback's Presentation at June 5th Board Meeting

Vice Chair Reid clarified his comment on parcel taxes, noting that Peachland residents pay the equivalent of a parcel tax and DCCs (development cost charges), and commended staff on the thorough preparation of notes from Dr. Hasselback's presentation at the June 05, 2007 meeting.

Director Pike attended a BC Water and Waste Association (BCWWA) - Boil Water Conference in Richmond, BC on June 15th, 2007 where Dr. Patricia Daly, Medical Health Officer (MHO) for Vancouver Coastal Health referred to a Health Canada report where drinking water accounted for approximately a 1% increase in enteric disease levels as turbidity levels rose.

Director Siddon inquired about the other causes of enteric disease.

Director Pike stated that Vancouver Coastal Health believes the majority of gastro-intestinal illness in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) comes from food sources.

Director Bennest asked Director Pike to provide the Board with a memo detailing the outcomes from the conference, specifically the other Senior Medical Health Officer's report, and suggested that perhaps Interior Health may not be addressing the true causes of enteric disease, adding that a hand-washing notification campaign may be equally effective.

Director Pike distributed copies of a Memorandum to the Water Supply Association membership about the Conference to the Board.

Dr. Sears stated that Interior Health expressed an interest in local governments becoming more involved in drinking water policies, and that the OBWB should be represented on drinking water teams in an advisory capacity.

Moved by: Director Novakowski

Seconded by: Director Pike

"That the report on Dr. Hasselback's presentation to the Board at the June 5, 2007 meeting be received."

CARRIED.

6.3 Water Supply Association – Letter to Minister of Health June 25, 2007

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Taylor

"That a letter from the Water Supply Association to the Minister of Health dated June 25, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

6.4 Water Supply & Demand Study – Update

Dr. Sears presented a flowchart and spreadsheet developed by Dr. Brian Guy, Project Manager of the Water Supply & Demand Study, to outline time frames for the study's components and awarding of contracts. The Water Management and Use Request for Proposals received three proposals from environmental consulting firms ranging from \$200,000 to \$238,000. A technical committee has been struck by the Ministry of Environment to review these proposals.

Vice Chair Reid outlined the necessity for adequate reporting to ensure the project is on track. He requested that the Board would prefer to see, at minimum, a quarterly report detailing contract issue dates, time frames for all study components, including exactly which study components are to be undertaken at what time, with completion dates for all components.

6.5 Sickle Point

Director Siddon requested Board support regarding the illegal trespass and destruction of riparian habitat at Sickle Point in Kaleden BC on June 20-21, 2007. Director Siddon circulated a copy of an article in the Penticton Western News regarding this issue, and a copy of an e-mail sent to Ministers Pat Bell (Agriculture and Lands), Barry Penner (Environment), Kevin Falcon (Transportation) and Premier Gordon Campbell. As a resident of the area, Director Siddon circulated a petition signed by more than

100 local residents opposing the destruction of riparian and wetland habitat on Skaha Lake.

Chair Slater asked whether the Board should send a letter to all three regional districts.

Director Bennest stated that riparian legislation is developed by the province, and that local governments are expected to enforce these regulations without applying any penalties.

Director Siddon further explained that outside of municipalities, regional districts have the responsibility but lack enforcement tools.

Chair Slater stated that the Board's concern is water quality.

Director Perrie asked whether the developer violated local regulations and/or provincial riparian regulations.

Director Siddon provided a copy of a letter from the BC Assets and Land Corporation to Reum Holdings of Kaleden dated July 12, 1999 that states the agency is unable to approve an application for tenure over the existing road along the lakeshore of Skaha Lake, as this would infringe upon the riparian right of the private land owner (CP Rail).

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 City of Vernon – Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant 2007 onward

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Fairbairn

“That a decision regarding the City of Vernon’s application for Sewage Grant funding for debt costs from 2007 onward be held over until more information is obtained from the City of Vernon.”

CARRIED.

7.2 OBWB Staff Vehicle Update

Mr. Armour presented a chart of options for the finance, purchase or lease of a suitable staff vehicle. The comparison chart included compact cars ranging in price from \$22,000 to \$25,000, mid-size vehicles, and mid-size hybrid vehicles ranging in price from \$32,888 to \$38,600. The hybrid Toyota Prius qualifies for a \$2000 PST rebate and a \$2000 Eco-Auto rebate from the federal government, bringing the total cost of this vehicle to \$32,888. In comparison, a Toyota Corolla costs approximately \$22,800 and does not qualify for any rebates as its combined fuel rating is greater than 6.5 litres per 100km. The average monthly fuel cost savings for a Toyota Prius compared to similarly equipped vehicles was calculated to be \$90 per month based on 2000km of travel per month.

Moved by: Director Taylor

Seconded by: Vice Chair Reid

“That a Corolla be acquired as a staff vehicle.”

CARRIED.

7.3 OBWB Office Space at NORD Update

Mr. Brian Reardon, Chief Administrative Officer for the Regional District of North Okanagan, advised Dr. Sears that he will make every effort to continue to accommodate OBWB staff in the existing building.

7.4 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on June 14, 2007

Director Siddon noted that the Council thoroughly enjoyed a presentation by Mr. Doug Bennett. Other discussions focused on current conservation efforts throughout the valley, the renewal of Council memberships, and a presentation by the Integrated Land Management Bureau on the Okanagan Reservoir Lakes project.

Dr. Sears explained that the meeting theme was Coordinated Water Conservation. Doug Bennett, Conservation Manager for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, participated via conference call and outlined the need for a collaborative approach, focusing mainly on consumptive water use. Mr. Bennett explained that harmonized policies based on equity, financial incentives for developers and homeowners, reasonable enforcement, and an emphasis on regionality are key ingredients for a successful collaborative approach.

A panel presentation on conservation efforts throughout the valley demonstrated that conservation staff are currently coordinating efforts within their municipalities and regional districts, and that there is a desire for further coordination of efforts between Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon on a basin-wide scale. The Council wishes to encourage further coordination by convening staff throughout the valley.

Moved by: Director Pike

Seconded by: Director Novakowksi

"That the Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of June 14, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

7.5 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Progress Report

Dr. Sears presented a progress report on the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC). The Council has been very rewarding experience as many different groups are coming to the table to share their perspectives and build relationships. Over the coming year, there is keen interest in moving towards greater implementation, building on the information that has been brought forward to date.

Director Siddon commented that the meetings are currently all day sessions, but that holding only 6-8 meetings per year was not the consensus.

Director Bennest commended Dr. Sears on her report, and agreed that the networking and relationship-building opportunities afforded through membership on the Council were extremely valuable. She stated that any issues with Council membership should be discussed, as the main value to the Council is the representation of a wide variety of stakeholder interests.

Dr. Sears suggested that a letter be sent to those organizations with historically poor attendance to appoint a representative who is able to attend the meetings more regularly.

Mr. Armour pointed out that the OBWB initially invited representatives to the Council.

Dr. Sears commented that no Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) staff currently attend the meetings, nor is anyone living in the North Okanagan region represented on the Council, and that attendance by RDNO's Planning staff is important.

Director Fairbairn commented that Rob Smailes has been busy and does not have the time required to attending meetings.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that a first approach for delinquent memberships should be a phone call from Dr. Sears, then a follow-up by the OWSC Chair, then the OBWB Chair, and if all else fails, members of parliament.

Dr. Sears referred to the "Five Guiding Principles for Water Management in the Okanagan Basin" as adopted by the OWSC, and inquired whether the Board wished to adopt these "motherhood" statements.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that all principles other than "everyone speaks, everyone listens" would be appropriate.

Director Bennest recommended that the Board adopt these motherhood statements.

Chair Slater suggested that the OBWB's adoption of the OWSC Five Guiding Principles for Water Management in the Okanagan Basin should be brought forward for the next Agenda

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Siddon

"That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Progress Report be received."

CARRIED.

7.6 Future of Water Quantity in the Okanagan Basin – Hydromonitoring Workshop

Dr. Sears reported on the recent "Future of Water Quantity in the Okanagan Basin" hydromonitoring workshop held on June 28, 2007 in Kelowna, BC. The amount of hydrometric (stream-flow) monitoring performed in BC has greatly diminished over the past 15 years. This information is vital for water suppliers, forestry, and other stakeholders. There is general consensus on rejuvenating the network and discussion has focused on the best way to achieve this rejuvenation and bring all data into common use, accessible for all. A gap analysis is required to assess the number and locations of required stations and associated costs.

The Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada intend to initiate a local pilot project to invite local data users, such as BC Hydro and water suppliers, to set up and monitor stream-flow monitoring stations. A working group was nominated, and Dr. Sears will contact this group to discuss the scope of the project. Dr. Sears will report back at the September meeting.

Director Pike indicated the workshop was productive, and that Ms. Fern Schultz and Mr. Tony Cheong gave the impression that funding for the project may not be secure, that we need to consider reinforcing the existing program and examine how we may fund new programs.

Dr. Sears commented that local involvement is very important to the success of any hydromonitoring project, and that the OBWB is the vehicle for local government involvement.

Director Siddon inquired how supplementary monies could be found for these projects, pointing out that the Province is not going to shoulder the whole burden, and that users must provide some funding.

Director Pike commented that funding will be a contentious issue, adding that the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID) is already funding four of these stations.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:20pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Chair Slater exited the meeting at 1:45pm.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Minister George Abbott, Response to Okanagan Basin Water Board Letter to IHA regarding Turbidity Notification program

8.2 Murray Ramsden, CEO IHA, Copy of Letter to Minister George Abbott

Moved by: Director Hanson

Seconded by: Director Perrie

"That a letter from Minister George Abbott dated June 7, 2007 and a letter from Murray Ramsden dated June 19, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

8.3 Fresh Outlook Foundation – Sponsorship Request

Moved by: Director Taylor

Seconded by: Director Hanson

"That the letter from the Fresh Outlook Foundation dated June 5, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

Director Hanson said that the Fresh Outlook Foundation sponsorship request should be referred back to the regional districts.

Vice Chair Reid commented that some concerns have been raised about the Foundation, its events and how it is funded, suggesting further research is necessary prior to staff making any recommendations.

9. IN-CAMERA

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 1:23pm.

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for August 7th, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Taylor

Seconded by: Director Perrie

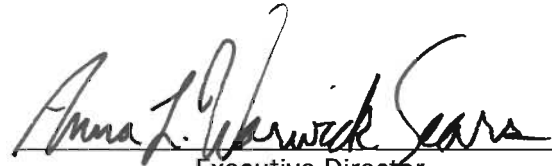
"There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 3:05pm."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Executive Director

APPENDIX A:

Notes from a presentation delivered by Mr. Lloyd Manchester, President of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association, to the Okanagan Basin Water Board at its regular meeting of July 3, 2007.

- [Link to Mr. Manchester's PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Mr. Manchester:

The Okanagan Cottage Owners Association supports a number of initiatives to increase awareness and accountability of activities in the watershed, including the use of composting toilets, aerated grey water systems, and water quality monitoring projects.

Mr. Manchester states that the number of cabins is presently 140, with 50 at Swallowwell or Beaver Lake, 50 at Headwaters, and 9 at Silver Lake. Ninety percent of the cabins are situated one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet from the lakeshore, with riparian areas intact.

Watersheds are home to many activities including logging and forestry recreation sites with composting toilets. Litter left behind from these activities is cleaned up by the Association

Mr. Manchester explained that the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association seeks to convert leases to freehold, and states that the Okanagan is the only area where leaseholders do not have the ability to buy their leased lots from the province. Mr. Manchester added that for the past 50 years, people have been allowed to buy their recreational lots.

Often compared to recreational lots in the Kamloops region, the Okanagan Cottage Owners pay lease fees based on assessed value (3%) of property assessments, which have increased 30% or more over the past few years. Mr. Manchester stated that he also pays taxes on these properties, and wishes to get rid of this inequity.

Mr. Manchester said that the cabin in his family has been in place for 45 years, while some have been in place for 65+ years, starting out as early 1920's resort leases. Most leased lots have been held in families for many years. Mr. Manchester states there is about a 10% turnover rate, with most leases being transferred to family members.

The Okanagan Cottage Owners Association shares the OBWB's goals of ensuring good water quality and promoting good water stewardship practices.

The Association has developed its own watershed education program in conjunction with Shell, the Regional District of Central Okanagan (CORD), and the Province. A conservation service phone number is listed on "Community Watershed" signage to assist in reporting offences.

Mr. Manchester argues that environmental integrity within watersheds will only increase should the Cottage Owners be allowed to purchase their properties. Furthermore, he added that the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) has offered to place Land Act reserves on the remaining property surrounding reservoir lakes, so that no further development or sale of these lands will be allowed.

The Okanagan Cottage Owners Association has participated in a stakeholder process with the Regional District of the Central Okanagan (CORD). CORD has drafted a bylaw to limit the size of

cottages, and the Association is willing to support this bylaw.

The Regional District is considering placing a "Conservation Land Zone" over the Land Act Reserves.

Director Perrie:

What is the average size of a lot and cabin?

Mr. Manchester:

The average lot size is 1/3 acre, the average size of a cabin is 700 sq. ft. and the largest is 1100 sq. ft.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester stated that far greater watershed impacts occur due to forestry, cattle, and recreation, and that management strategies should be employed to mitigate these effects. Furthermore, a Land Act Reserve around the lakes does not include the lease lots and only serves to protect future development. From his perspective as a cottage owner, forestry, ranching and recreation are perceived as the problem.

The Association has undertaken research to assess the quality of water leaving the lake and entering the water purveyor's intake. Cattle, wildlife, and streambed erosion appear to affect water quality prior to intake, and nothing is being done to mitigate these impacts. A big storm event will severely impact water balance.

Recreational use will continue as these lakes have been open for 100 years, unlike Vancouver where lakes in the watershed have been closed for 50 years or more. However, unlike reported at this meeting, supervised tours of the watershed are available, it's not as if these areas are closed off and people cannot touch the water.

Cattle causes a great deal of concern, and Association members are often shooing cattle out of the lake. The Association is working with ranchers to stop this from happening.

A clearcut near Crooked Lake will cause much erosion and affect water quality. Tolko doesn't care, perhaps the formerly Riverside employees will change how Tolko does its business.

Lakeshore Environmental performed a study, led by Holmes who has over 30 years experience as a biologist, with the following key recommendations: leased properties have little to no impact, and that most lots are serviced by outhouses, not septic systems. There may not be sufficient area to install septic fields on some lots.

According to Mr. Manchester, Headwaters is the only lake with decent quality drinking water.

Mr. Manchester feels there has been much hullabaloo about these reservoir lakes as drinking water. He points out that 80% of the water is directed to irrigation, and at SEKID, 85% goes to irrigation and 15% is used for drinking water. These lakes were dammed for irrigation use, not for domestic use, and it does not make sense to treat that 85% to the same standard as drinking water for agricultural demands. There should be a two-pipe system as suggested by Director Hobson (who was not present at this meeting).

The majority of Okanagan residents obtain drinking water from Okanagan Lake, and very little is being done to protect the water quality of Okanagan Lake. Mr. Manchester noted that untreated storm water, lake shore erosion, intakes near discharges, marinas, and uncontrolled foreshore development all affect Okanagan Lake water quality.

QUESTION PERIOD:

Director Siddon:

Director Siddon thanked Mr. Manchester for his presentation, and wondered why our shared objectives cannot be met with the lots that Mr. Manchester and 139 other owners have leases on, while retaining them under lease arrangements versus fee-simple ownership.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester stated that as far as his organization is concerned, lease or freehold is an inequitable position. They have not seen any activity from other (governmental) bodies, adding that if other areas in BC are allowed to go freehold, why aren't the Okanagan Cottage Owners? He commented that conversion to freehold will not have the impacts that some people have suggested, and that the Okanagan Cottage Owners should be allowed to go freehold because other people have been allowed to.

Director Siddon:

Director Siddon commented on the rapid escalation of land-prices, stating that people want to sell their properties.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester responded that his organization has been treated unfairly, admitting that there will be some sales but stating unequivocally that the situation is unfair. Mr. Manchester noted that he'd rather just pay taxes, and that he doesn't believe it's fair, that the Cottage Owners are paying excessive taxes, adding that there are no other bodies taking care of this watershed.

Chair Slater:

Chair Slater reminded Mr. Manchester that leased lots generally do not see the same level of improvements or development as a freehold system. If an additional 20' of storage capacity is required and there are fee-simple lots around the lake, taxpayers will be forced to pay to have these cabins moved. Many cabins are close to the lake, with some only four to five feet above the high water level.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester responded that most cabins are located well above the lake. He inquired what the capacity is for these lakes to be raised, and what other factors are coming into play. For example, a 25-year plan from water purveyors to raise the level of Crooked Lake by three feet was estimated to cost \$30 million seven years ago, versus placing a reservoir at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Manchester suggested that raising Beaver Lake four to six feet would not be such a concern, and expressed interest in acquiring further hydrological opinions about the plateau, suggesting that perhaps the Water Supply and Demand study would provide some answers.

Chair Slater:

Chair Slater commented that climate change, the pine beetle epidemic, and earlier spring run-off conditions will greatly affect conditions 20 years down the road.

Director Perrie:

Director Perrie affirmed his compassion for the families who currently have these cabins. He inquired what would be a reasonable solution, so that if these lakes need to be raised, the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association could work together with the OBWB.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester explained that the framework agreement reached with the Province includes a provision to relocate any cottage unable to maintain a septic system. He pointed out that this is a unique opportunity to bring all stakeholders together, that the timeline is now, that the government is serious about moving forward, and that the Association is awaiting an engineering study to be completed by Oland Engineering on behalf of the ILMB.

Director Novakowski:

Director Novakowski inquired about the types of covenants available on fee simple lots.

Director Hanson:

Director Hanson inquired about the number of cabins.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester responded that there are 140 cabins on 16 lakes. On Brown Lake, the cabins sit on the other side of the road and the forest recreation site has more access to the lake than the cabins.

Mr. Armour:

Mr. Armour inquired whether all cabin owners are members of the Okanagan Cottage Owners association.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester responded that 120 out of the 140 cabin owners are members of the Association.

Mr. Armour:

Mr. Armour inquired about the yearly lease amount.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester responded that the average cabin owner pays \$3200 in leases and taxes per year.

Mr. Armour:

Mr. Armour explained that his family has owned a cottage at Alison Lake for over 50 years. Speaking from personal experience, Mr. Armour stated that these properties have mushroomed in price in recent years, and that a large number of properties have been sold or are in the process of being sold. The original size of cabins allowed on these properties was increased from 1100 sq. ft. to 3500 sq. ft., and now these properties are accompanied by landscaping, garages, and docks for jetskis and ski boats. Mr. Armour argued that there is certainly a possibility for this same scenario to occur at Okanagan reservoir lakes should these leased lots be sold, that the bylaws can change, and that Mr. Manchester and his Association may acquire some new neighbours who may not share his conservation ethic.

Mr. Manchester:

Mr. Manchester stated that his organization is interested in protecting the rustic nature of these properties.

Comment from the audience:

There is a proposed zoning bylaw for Central Okanagan with a 1400 sq. ft. maximum.

Mr. Armour:

Mr. Armour commented that such a bylaw had been in place around Alison Lake, but somehow it had been changed.

OBWB Presentation

July 3, 2007

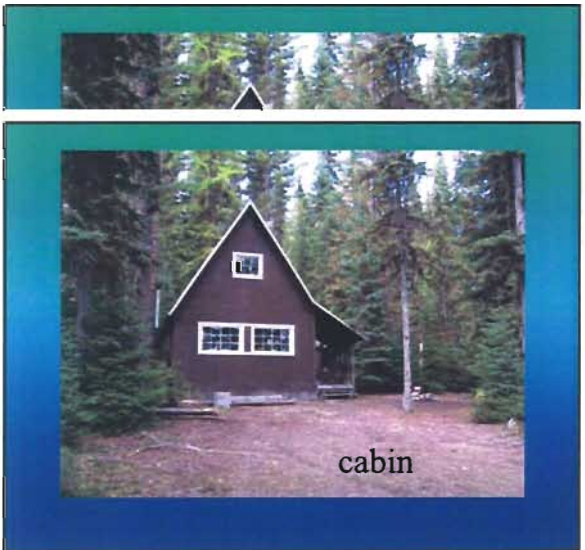
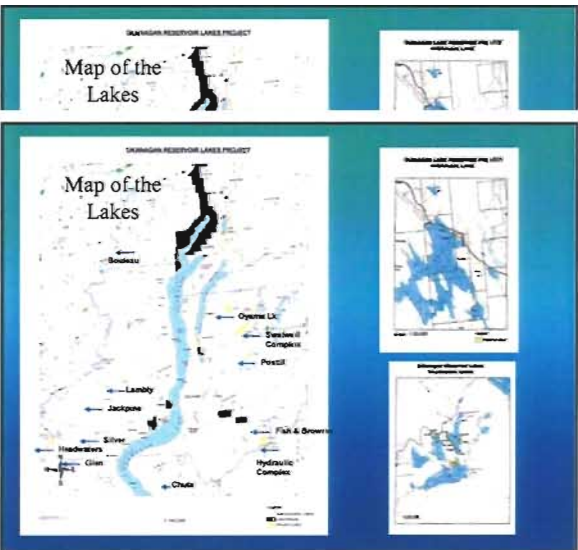


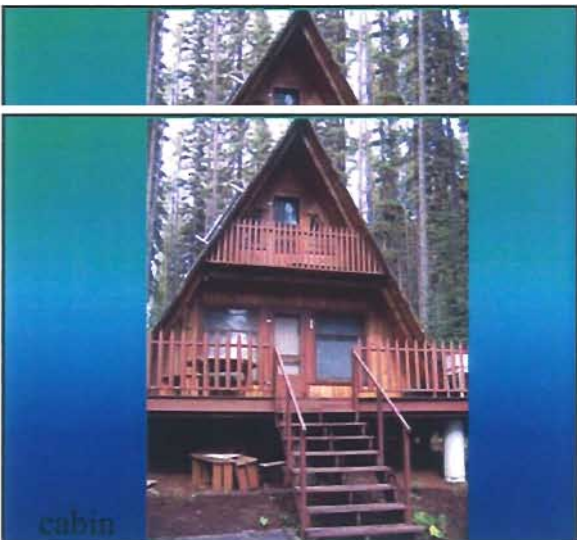
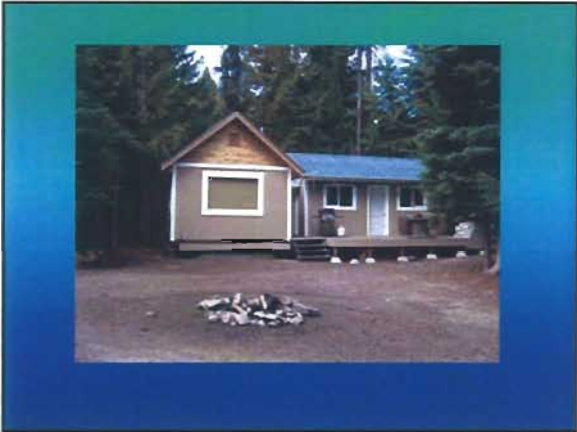
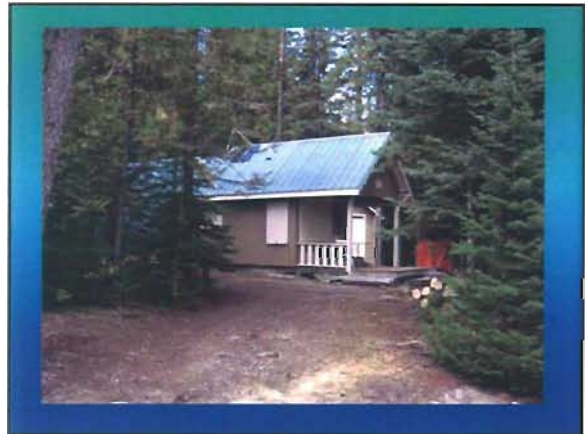
Mission and Goals of the OCOA

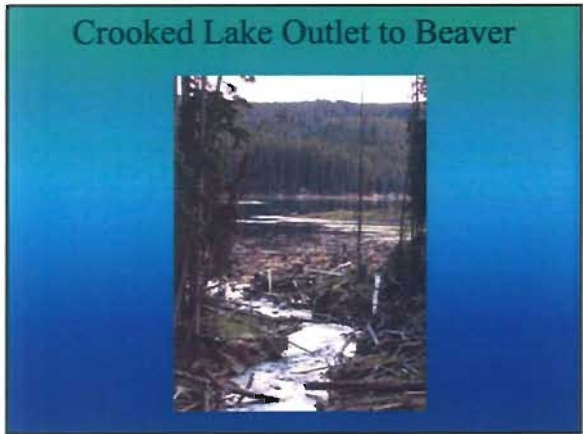
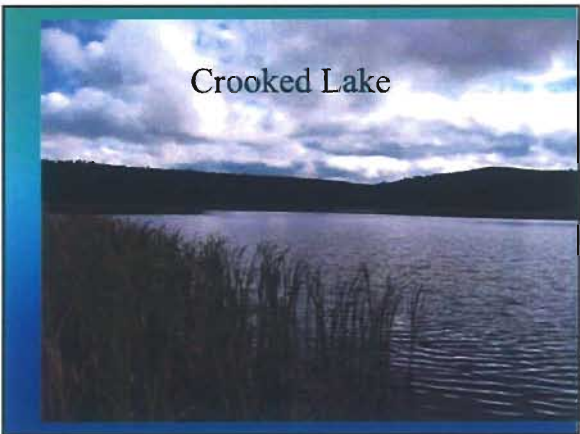
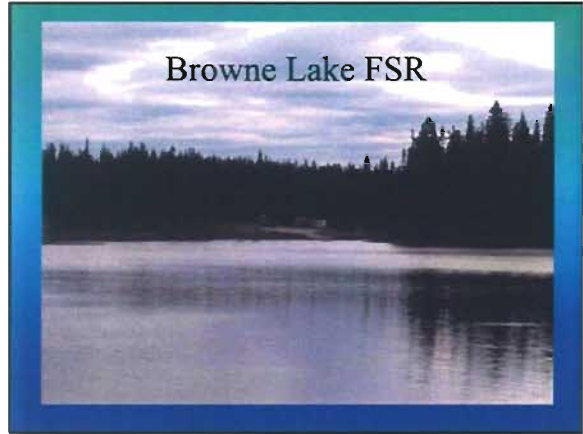
The main mission of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association is to:

- To promote sustainable environmental stewardship for cottage owners in the Okanagan.
- To assist members in research, education and information sharing on relevant issues.
- To work proactively with other stakeholders in the watershed to ensure water quality and sustainability.

- As an association we support a number of progressive initiatives:
- We support working with government and other organizations to promote sustainable use in community watersheds.
- ◆ We support increased awareness and accountability within the watersheds we represent
 - ◆ We support the use of composting toilets that reduce the need for black water systems
 - ◆ We support filtered grey water systems which will not impact the lake environment
 - ◆ We support water quality monitoring programs and are willing to assist in their implementation
 - ◆ We support education in community watersheds through groups and educational materials







Chute Lake



Leases and Taxes

The Okanagan region is the only area in the Province where cottage owners do not have the ability to buy their leased recreational lots from government.

Property assessments are based on freehold lake properties from other regions. Cottage owners pay lease fees based on these property assessments. Over the last few years, property assessments have increased by over thirty percent per year.

Cottage owners also pay taxes on their properties. This is creating financial hardship and uncertainty for all cottage owners. This inequity needs to be resolved.

Common Goals

Common Goals

The OCOA shares a common interest with local and regional governments, water purveyors, Interior Health Authority, in that we want to ensure the lakes have good water quality and we want to promote good stewardship practices to sustain the environment.

Strong educational programs are needed to help develop environmental awareness in the watersheds including the ability to report offences.

The OCOA Educational Program

The OCOA Educational Program

- The OCOA has implemented a community watershed signage program in conjunction with the Province, Regional District of Central Okanagan, and Shell Canada
- The OCOA is producing a pamphlet for distribution in the watersheds and at retail outlets

Watershed Educational Signage



Environmental Integrity

Our association believes that environmental integrity within watersheds will only increase should we be allowed to purchase our properties.

It is important to note that no further development or sale of land is allowed in the lakes system.

We are prepared to work with regional government to ensure that proper development guidelines are in place to guide this process.

Framework Process with Province & Stakeholders

For the last few years we have participated in a stakeholder process to develop a framework agreement that shares common interests in community watersheds.

Key Points of draft Framework Agreement:

Cottage Zoning Bylaw that will restrict the size and scope of development (RDOC) and put a Conservation Land Zone over the Land Act Reserves

Forestry, Cattle and Recreation Management Strategies. In part these strategies include strategic logging and input into logging plans in the watershed
Water Quality Management & Protection Strategies

Framework Process with Province & Stakeholders

Studies currently in Progress include:

Summit Environmental is assessing risks/hazards to water quality and recommending **implementable & enforceable** preventative mechanisms

Clund Engineering assessing lot capacity to support a sustainable septic disposal system

Land Act Reserve

Land Act Reserve

PREVENTING NEW DEVELOPMENT BY PLACING A LAND ACT RESERVES AROUND ALL THE LAKES.



Strategic Fencing

Strategic Fencing



Watershed Impacts

The majority of impacts to watersheds comes from land use activities such as forestry, ranching and recreation

Watershed Impacts

- In most cases, the addition of nutrients and silt have the most impact on water quality
- Water quality data in the watersheds indicates that water quality degrades after leaving the lake
- This is due to uncontrolled inputs into the system such as stream in-stability, cattle, and storm events
- Un-regulated camping areas with no services

Recreational Impacts

Recreational uses of the lakes system will continue to increase as urban populations expand. There will continue to be increases on the demand on our water resources.



Recreational Impacts



Cattle in the Watersheds

Cattle in the Watersheds

Uncontrolled access of cattle to streams, lakes and riparian buffers can seriously impact water systems. Downstream impacts from the outlet to the intake of water systems need to be reduced.



Forestry Impacts

Forestry Impacts



Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study

The Okanagan Reservoir Lake Project Study (July 4, 2004) stated:

"it appears, based on observation and published reports, that other activities in the watershed have a much greater chance of impacting water quality in the watersheds".

Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study Recommendations

The following are some of the key recommendations of the report.

- On-site inspections of all lease properties has shown that the properties are presently having little or no discernable impact on water quality in the reservoir lakes;
- The lack of impact is mainly associated with the fact that the lots are serviced by outhouses and not septic systems, and therefore, have little effluent discharge;
- The majority of lots have good riparian buffers which are a major factor in protecting lake's general environmental quality.

Okanagan Reservoir Lake Study Recommendations

- The majority of these properties have sufficient area to site conventional and or upgraded septic systems if required in the future;
- It appears, based on observation and published reports, that other activities in the watershed have a much greater chance of impacting water quality in the watersheds;
- One of the biggest factors affecting the water quality of these reservoirs is their short water residence times; this factor also supports the theory the water quality of these lakes are very dependent on the activities in the upper watersheds.

Domestic and Irrigation Use

Treated or disinfected water is being used for irrigation!

For example:

District of Summerland chlorinates all its water:

- 80% goes toward irrigation
- 20% goes toward domestic

District of Lake Country disinfects all its water w/5th chlorine gas and/or hydrochloric:

2 distribution systems for domestic:

3 domestic systems for both domestic and irrigation with 80-90% going toward irrigation.

Domestic and Irrigation Use

Domestic and Irrigation Use

South East Kelowna Irrigation District chlorinates all its water:

- 85% goes towards irrigation
- 15% goes toward domestic

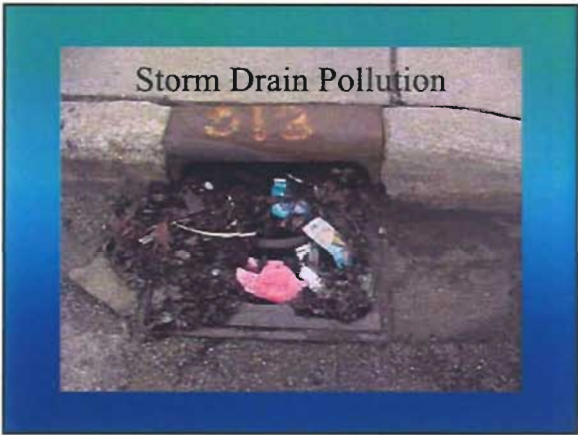
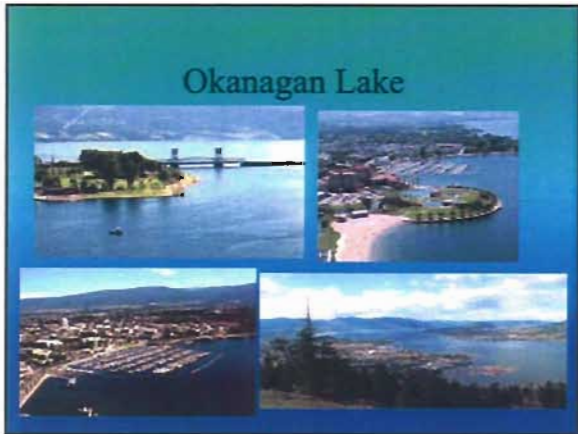
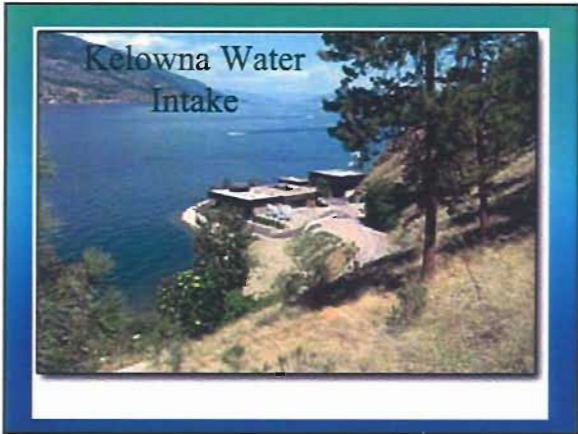
Okanagan Lake Water Quality

Okanagan Lake Water Quality

The majority of citizens in the Okanagan Valley get their water from Okanagan Lake.

When we look at protecting water quality we have to decrease the pollution going into the lake.

Many activities contribute to the decline in water quality such as uncontrolled development, untreated storm drain inputs, lakeshore erosion, motor boats, waste water treatment discharge to the lake and people dumping garbage into the lake.



Concluding Remarks

Concluding Remarks

As citizens living in the Okanagan basin we all have an impact on the environment in which we live. We all have to take responsibility to ensure the protection and enhancement of our environment.

It is clear that British Columbians believe that access to the backcountry is important to them. Multiple uses whether recreational or industrial within all the watersheds in the Okanagan will continue to increase.

Concluding Remarks Cont'd

Concluding Remarks Cont'd

We need to be proactive and creative in the solutions we employ to protect our watersheds. Ownership of our properties will not be detrimental to this goal.

Working together with our association will assist us all in ensuring that environmental degradation does not occur. Working together, we can achieve the goals we have in common.

On behalf of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association, I thank you for your time today.



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD AUGUST 30, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON BC.

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Program Manager, OBWB
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen	Administration/Communications, OBWB
Genevieve Doyle	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 12:11pm.

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 12:11pm.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- Item 6.5: Purchase of a Truck for Gordon Greer.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Director Pike

Seconded by: Director Taylor

"That, with the addition of Item 6.5, the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on August 30, 2007 be approved."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held July 03, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan

Moved by: Director Fairbairn

Seconded by: Vice Chair Reid

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 03, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 6.1 OBWB 2007 Financial Statements

Director Siddon inquired whether the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) has an emergency preparedness plan and funding to address emergencies such as mass water poisoning, fire, water shortages, or other unforeseen events that may arise in the basin.

Chair Slater stated that historically, this Board has retained one year of reserve funds for the Sewage Facilities assistance program, and that last year the amount of this reserve was \$1.1 million.

Mr. Armour explained that the Board at the time agreed it would be beneficial to retain a reserve, rather than increasing the amount of requisitions, and that most of the increase in reserve funds can be attributed to interest earned.

Chair Slater outlined that the Board chose to keep some funds in reserve rather than forcing the requisition of additional funds to support eligible projects.

Vice Chair Reid pointed out that these are financial statements, not budgets, and he inquired whether Director Siddon wished to see emergency preparedness put forward as a budget issue. Vice Chair Reid stated that some unplanned sewage facilities assistance grants were approved this year, and that the reserve allowed the Board to fund these eligible projects without requiring additional requisitions.

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

"That the 2007 Consolidated Financial Statements for the Okanagan Basin Water Board be adopted."

CARRIED.

- 6.2 Adoption of OWSC Guiding Principles

Dr. Sears presented the final draft of five guiding principles developed by Dr. Bernie Bauer and adopted by the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC). Dr. Sears invited the Board to adopt these principles as-is, or to suggest other wording.

Vice Chair Reid commented that these principles should serve as a starting point for discussions and planning sessions for the future of the Water Board.

Director Siddon stated that he met with Mr. Jatel and Dr. Sears prior to the Board meeting to discuss

the need for strategic planning. He reminded the Board that Dr. Sears had initially developed a workplan for the Stewardship Council that was adopted last September, and that Mr. Jatel will bring forward his views on what the Stewardship Council will have accomplished by June 2008. Director Siddon remarked that the plan should have an end-point and an end-product. In addition, he remarked that a special Board meeting or a specific strategic planning session should be scheduled sometime in October.

Dr. Sears replied that when the idea was first raised in the Spring, the Board had suggested postponing strategic planning sessions until Fall 2007, and that it may be appropriate to engage a facilitator for such a session. The Board is to decide the time, date and length of the planning session.

Chair Slater explained that Vice Chair Reid may have difficulty adopting these principles prior to a strategic planning session.

Vice Chair Reid wished to see OWSC members weigh in a comprehensive strategic planning session, that may take a full day or longer.

Dr. Sears recommended that this session involves Board Directors only, but could take recommendations from the Council.

Director Bennest asked the Board to adopt these principles now, so that the strategic planning session may begin with these principles already adopted.

Director Novakowski preferred to just receive the principles rather than adopt at this time. He agreed that the principles were valuable and should be given due consideration.

Director Pike envisioned no difficulty in adopting these principles now, and recommended a strategic planning session at a later date.

Director Fairbairn agreed that the guiding principles were well thought-out and presented, but expressed concern that the outcome of the strategic planning session could potentially be at odds with one or more principles.

Director Siddon stated that these principles have been adopted by the OWSC for the OWSC, and that these are not five principles for the Water Board.

Moved by: Director Novakowski

Seconded by: Director Fairbairn

“That the Guiding Principles for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be received.”

CARRIED.

6.3 Participation in RDNO 2008 Recycling Collection Calendar

Director Hanson inquired whether the OBWB participates in the CORD Calendar, and whether there is a similar calendar for the South Okanagan. Dr. Sears replied that CORD has not approached OBWB. Chair Slater and Director Siddon stated that the South Okanagan does not currently have such a calendar.

Moved by: Director Fairbairn

Seconded by: Director Hanson

"That the allocation of \$800 for OBWB participation in the RDNO 2008 Recycling Calendar be authorized."

CARRIED.

6.4 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

The Agenda for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum was included in the Agenda Package. Dr. Sears encouraged all Board directors to register for and participate in the Conference. Director Siddon concurred, adding that this is a wonderful opportunity to understand both Canadian and US perspectives on Osoyoos Lake.

6.5 Truck for Gordon Greer

Dr. Sears explained that it is fiscally prudent to purchase a low kilometer, relatively new, used truck for a member of the milfoil crew, who is currently driving his own vehicle and incurring costly mileage claims.

Vice Chair Reid did not agree that there was a business case to purchase the truck because the proposed acquisition is estimated to cost \$6,400 plus maintenance per year, while the amount currently paid to the employee for mileage is \$7,000 per year.

Director Fairbairn suggested that the employee be asked whether he prefers to continue using his own truck.

Moved by: Director Taylor

Seconded by: Vice Chair Reid

"That the acquisition of a truck be deferred until more information is received."

CARRIED.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director report

7.1.1 Councilor Barry Beardsell's inquiries

Dr. Sears explained that Vernon Councilor Barry Beardsell and RDNO Chair Jerry Oglow, on behalf of the City of Vernon and RDNO, are conducting a semi-official review of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, but that Councilor Beardsell has not directed his requests for information directly to the Board or OBWB staff. Dr. Sears requested that the Board send a formal letter to the City of Vernon to inquire about the nature of the review.

Moved by: Director Siddon

Seconded by: Director Taylor

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board request formal communication from the City of Vernon and Regional District of North Okanagan that a review of OBWB's mandate and function is underway, that we be given a clear indication of the goals of the process, and that the OBWB be given an opportunity to address any questions and ensure that the information is complete before the review goes to the Board and Council."

7.1.2 Staff presentations at Penticton and Summerland Council Meetings

Dr. Sears said that staff presentations to Penticton and Summerland council meetings were well received. A similar presentation was made to the City of Vernon last May, and council presentations are also planned for other Basin communities, including Kelowna, tentatively in October.

7.1.3 Convening Water Conservation Professionals in the Okanagan Valley

The OWSC will partner with JoAnne deVries, organizer of the Sustainable Communities conference, to deliver a day-long water conservation workshop featuring guest speaker Doug Bennett of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Water conservation professionals, OWSC members and OBWB directors will be invited to the one-day workshop, scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2007 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Director Siddon commented that Ms. DeVries' conference is aimed at professionals throughout the province, and Mr. Jatel replied that this workshop will be focused on Okanagan valley conservation professionals only.

7.1.4 Flathead Basin Large Lakes Conference

Dr. Sears explained that she, Lake Country Mayor James Baker and Chief Fabian Alexis have been invited to the Flathead Basin Large lakes conference, and that James Baker has encouraged her to attend, and that the conference organizers may cover some travel costs.

Director Siddon suggested that the unique nature of the OWSC and the OBWB itself would be of interest to the conference organizers and attendees, and that this conference would be an excellent opportunity to share information with others working in similar fields, and to attract media attention.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that Dr. Sears further investigate whether the conference organizers would be willing to pay for travel expenses.

7.2 NOWA Yard Lease

Dr. Sears explained that a lease has been arranged for the NOWA yard, and that the lease terms will be finalized by Greater Vernon Services Water Manager Al Cotsworth and RDNO Chief Financial Officer Alan Harris. There is an established agreement for building cost compensation if RDNO terminates the lease, but we would negotiate a settlement if OBWB terminates the lease.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that negotiation should not be an option, and that compensation for the building should be determined no matter what the outcome. Furthermore, he commented that an inflation target is 2%, not 3%, and that the lease agreement should make use of an inflation indicator such as the BC Consumer Price Index rather than a fixed rate.

Director Siddon inquired why a building was built without a lease in place.

Mr. Armour said that the approvals were given for the building and that RDNO staff were directed to set up a lease agreement with the Water Board.

7.3 New Water Stewardship Director: Nelson Jatel

Mr. Jatel expressed that dysfunction is prevalent in water matters due to multi-jurisdictional issues. He is looking forward to working together with OWSC members. Mr. Jatel presented the concept of viewing OBWB functions as a three-legged stool: milfoil removal, sewage facilities grants, and water management for quantity and quality.

Dr. Sears added that beyond his experience with the business community and the Okanagan Partnership, Mr. Jatel is also a Freshwater Scientist.

Director Siddon commented that Mr. Jatel worked on the first draft of the Okanagan Partnership white paper that led to the formation of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Director Hanson wondered why the Urban Development Institute was an approved organizational member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, pointing out that developers must talk to planners and municipal staff, and that planners and municipal staff are already well-represented on the Council.

Dr. Sears explained that the viewpoint of the developers themselves is important, and that a special session will soon be held to connect with developers.

Director Fairbairn inquired about the Water Stewardship Council's policy on alternate members.

Dr. Sears explained that the current policy is to discourage the use of alternates, to encourage the group to know and understand each other, and to ensure everyone was comfortable to attend and speak their minds. However, this was not a hard and fast rule. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and the Regional District of Central Okanagan have sent alternate representatives who shared the responsibility of attendance from month to month, and that has worked well because they did so regularly and Council members grew to know them.

Director Bennest was pleased to hear that the development community will become engaged in discussions and she anticipates positive outcomes from these meetings.

Director Siddon reminded members that a multi-stakeholder group was intended, and that the involvement of the Okanagan Nation Alliance is critical to the success of the Water Stewardship Council.

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

"That the Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association (S.O.F.A.) be instated as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, that Oceola Fish and Game Club will replace the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and that the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) be reinstated as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council".

CARRIED.

7.4 Okanagan Reservoir Lakes Lots

Staff presented a report on the ramifications of Land Act Reserves, the effect on existing tenures on Okanagan reservoir lakes, and a review of lease conditions from 1979 to present.

Director Pike commented that the majority of the leases would cease to exist if lease conditions were actually enforced.

Director Pike cautioned that Crown Land Act Reserves do not include sub-surface rights. He credits the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) for their willingness to discuss other watershed uses, in particular cattle and recreation, and for providing funding for strategic cattle fencing and cattleguards to protect watersheds, with no strings attached.

Director Pike commented that Summit Environmental's revised report was much improved and now includes tools that local governments can use to mitigate watershed impacts.

Director Pike added that the Sunshine Coast Regional District recently used the Health Act to protect water quality, ordering the stoppage of steep slope logging in its watersheds. Logging is now allowed on slopes less than 60 degrees.

Director Hanson commented that the south side of Mission Creek is very steep and is slated to be logged.

Director Pike explained that the use of the Health Act was unique, and that he had not previously realized that this option was available to regional districts.

Vice Chair Reid stated that expropriation is only an option after leased lots are converted to fee simple, and that expropriation or "compulsory taking" requires a valid reason and a premium to be paid above the assessed value.

Director Pike wondered whether BC Assessment could devalue the land as a reservoir lot, so that the property value and resulting annual lease fees could be reduced.

Vice Chair Reid explained that because the renewal of leases is automatic, the tenure is considered secure, and the leased lot values are very close to fee simple lots. The Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD) is attempting to place a zoning bylaw on these lands so it can enforce its own bylaws.

Director Bennest commented that very little is collected in taxes from these lands, and that no additional services are offered. If zoning bylaws are enforced, every lot will be required to upgrade, adding significant cost with little benefit.

Vice Chair Reid commented that zoning bylaws provide an area of direct control, such as requiring owners to acquire building permits, so that the district may limit the size of dwellings, locations of septic fields, and more.

Director Siddon commented that with an average value of \$100,000 per lot, the total value of all Okanagan reservoir lake lots is approximately \$16 million, or 10 times the annual budget of this Board.

Mr. Jatel may choose to discuss a Trust idea. Director Siddon reminded the Board that the question of how many lots are actually impacting the quality of the water still remains.

Director Pike suggested that the Cottage Owners may or may not be amenable to sales of these lots, and stated that he had received a copy of the Oland Engineering report assessing the septic disposal capacity of the lots this morning.

Vice Chair Reid valued the importance of a realistic, lake by lake assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether there is economic value in acquiring these properties, compared to the cost of water treatment, so that a case may be made for the immediate expropriation of properties if conversion to fee simple status occurs.

Director Pike recommended that the sale value of these lots be appraised, and that expropriation could potentially be suggested as a consequence of conversion to fee simple. He further reminded the Board that the Drinking Water Protection Act legally requires a water supplier or local government to inform the Drinking Water Officer of any impacts to water quality resulting from recreation in the watersheds.

Director Pike, Director Siddon and Vice Chair Reid expressed interest in receiving further information about other tools available to regional districts to protect watersheds, in particular, how the Sunshine Coast Regional District was able to designate a Health board to enact watershed protection under the Health Act.

7.5 Master Wastewater Management Plan

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Taylor

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board resolves to forward a funding application for \$10,000 to the Ministry of Community Services – Infrastructure Planning Grant Program in support of Phase 1 of a Master Wastewater Management Plan for the Okanagan”

CARRIED.

Moved by: Director Novakowski

Seconded by: Director Hanson

“That the Okanagan Basin Water board seeks approval from the three regional districts to authorize the expenditure of up to \$35,000 to match the Ministry of Community Services grant monies.”

CARRIED.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:00pm and reconvened at 12:11pm.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 Letter from Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services dated July 3, 2007 regarding the 1 Hectare Policy
- 8.2 Letter from Dan Jepsen, President of Water Highway BC dated July 27, 2007 to Jim Mattison, MoE Water Stewardship Division, regarding BC Water Monitoring Network

Moved by: Director Taylor

Seconded by: Director Pike

“That a letter from Minister Ida Chong dated July 3, 2007 be received.”

CARRIED.

Dr. Sears explained that a Hydromonitoring workshop was held in June, and that a pilot project for the province will soon be initiated. This letter constitutes initial lobbying from Water Highway BC for the coordination of a Hydromonitoring network for BC, and does not require any action on the part of the Board.

Director Pike commented that some form of partnership with the OBWB may be required in the future.

Moved by: Director Fairbairn Seconded by: Director Baumbrough
"That a letter from Dan Jepsen dated July 27, 2007 be received."

CARRIED.

9. IN-CAMERA

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 3:30pm.

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid Seconded by: Director Novakowski
"That the OBWB adjourn to In-Camera session."

CARRIED.

10. NEXT MEETING


- 10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for October 2nd, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid Seconded by: Director Hanson
"There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 3:58pm."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Executive Director

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on August 30, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Strategic Planning Session – Brad Clements

Brad Clements discussed the documents and questionnaires provided for the Strategic Planning Session of October 16, 2007, stressing the importance of preparation.

The OBWB will complete the Strategic Planning Preparation Question Set ahead and Mr. Clements will collate the information and provide it back to the OBWB prior to the Strategic Planning Session.

Staff were directed to make a special effort to ask First Nations OBWB reps to attend.

Director Hobson reminded the OBWB that the Provincial government has asked the three Okanagan regional districts to enter into consultations on sharing services and governance, preference being for one regional district. The timeframe for these consultations is very tight, with recommendations requested by March. He suggested that this should be an important element in the Strategy Planning Session.

6.2 Vernon, Penticton and Osoyoos sewer grants

Dr. Sears referred to her memo and recommendations which address three active submissions to the Sewerage Facilities Grant applications from October. The document highlights grey areas in the Terms of Reference for the grants, and Dr. Sears requested a discussion on these.

Dr. Sears requested that the TOR be amended to allow infrastructure replacements due to age or outmoded technology since plants that were state of the art in 1977 are no longer new and the TOR currently prohibits the OBWB from helping communities to improve those infrastructures.

Chair Slater responded that the intention of the original TOR was to ensure improvements in the Red Zone and the change in the TOR was from .8 to 1 hectare.

Director Hobson asked if the OBWB should not define a standard or goal that all plants should reach. He asked, as an example that a goal may be to have all plants use UV treatment on effluent as a criteria. He stated that the overall objective of the grants is the quality of water in the basin and to reach for the best new technology to get to this standard.

Dr. Sears suggested that a survey of all waste water facilities in the Basin through the process of developing the Master Wastewater Management Plan will help understand what goal to strive to.

Director Bennest expressed that it would be necessary to survey the financial arrangements and the planned improvements of the waste water facilities in this review.

Director Fairbairn noted that there are many levels of treatment facilities in the Valley and that the OBWB should support those programs that improve the Red Zones.

Dr. Sears advised the OBWB that she will get additional details for the funding requests.

Director Perrie stated that testing the effluent should be the standard in determining how well the systems are working, emphasizing that it would be irresponsible not to help with upgrades. His position is that new growth should pay for effluent treatment through DCCs.

Dr. Sears referred to the third recommendation, in which she seeks clarification of the Sewerage Facilities Grant with respect to expanding wastewater irrigation/reuse with treated effluent. Pointing out that this is not technically an upgrade, Dr. Sears pointed out that Penticton wants to extend spray irrigation for parks and more distant areas.

Director Bennest suggested that the expansion of treated effluent reuse creates more users on the system that are not accounted for. She stated that an examination of the ramifications of such an expansion is needed before the OBWB provides grants.

Director Hobson stated that he is in favour of an expansion of this kind, but that it is strictly speaking a water conservation project. He pointed out that there may be other activities that the OBWB might consider funding, such as more capacity for reservoirs.

Chair Slater said that the applications for twinning of effluent discharge does not fit under the OBWB's current criteria.

Dr. Sears stated tertiary treated water is not same as clean drinking water and that if Penticton discharged effluent water onto the land, that it would provide less polluted water into the lake. She commented that the OBWB needs to revisit the OBWB's standards for communities.

Director Perrie stated that the Penticton Golf and Country Club uses effluent water, and that it is a very involved process, requiring changing the irrigation system and timing of irrigation. He also indicated that the water is saturated with sodium, which is killing trees. Director Perrie said that Penticton's effluent water is chlorinated and de-chlorinated.

Director Novakowski stated that in light of the Strategic Planning Session, that the Board is open to broadening its mandate. Since the Board's goal is the protection of the Okanagan's water resource, he asked if staff could identify additional areas that the Board could undertake in achieving these goals.

Chair Slater reiterated Director Bennest's point that if the OBWB gives grants towards sewerage effluent that this might expand capacity for urban growth or agriculture.

Director Bennest suggested that once the Sustainable Water Strategy has been completed, then the Board would be in a better position to make decisions related to questions like a sewerage effluent policy.

Dr. Sears stated that she will respond to the request from Penticton by outlining to them that the OBWB is in a review process and that the Board will continue to fund those requests that are traditionally funded. She next stated that she will communicate to them that they could reapply once the review has been completed.

Dr. Sears' last item on the memo concerned the application for sewage grant for Osoyoos Lake. Dr. Sears spoke about the recent Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum which indicates that that non point

source pollution is negatively impacting water quality in the lake and that this request would be important to fund. A recent discussion with Glen Brown indicates that the RDOS will qualify for funding for their grant but funds will not be released until a 1 hectare by-law is in place or a liquid waste management plan has been developed. There is no requirement for blanket 1 hectare bylaw, and it would be easier to administrate if a blanket bylaw is in place with waivers given and LWMPs are developed on a neighborhood basis.

Director Bennest suggested that a logical approach to solving the problem would be that a municipality or district adopt a 1 hectare policy and then develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan.

6.3 Draft Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral

Director Pike stated that the IHA is drafting deferral criteria for the Water Suppliers for all water systems using surface or groundwater (under the direct influence of surface water). He strongly recommended that the document be reviewed and comments and discussions be made in consideration of the amount of money that will need to be spent across the Okanagan to meet new standards.

He then explained that over the last half year, a subcommittee of the Water Supply Association of BC and the IHA have come close to agreeing on a draft discussion paper entitled "A Recommended Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region". He read from Section 3.4 which addresses when unfiltered water systems may be viable:

"It is our responsibility to manage our watersheds for the present and future generations. Providing water in its natural state with minimal chemical conditioning is a desired state that is not possible for most of North America. It is possible for some of the water suppliers in the Okanagan. Where possible, the primary health objective should be to access the purest, most natural source of water available and then to make it microbiologically safe and deliver it to the public with minimal chemical addition.

Further discussion is required to develop this approach. In addition to defining what a "source protection strategy" consists of per the GCDWQ, work is necessary to establish the criteria for deferring filtration, and the types of enhanced disinfection that may be necessary to accompany filtration deferral. Water suppliers who may meet the exclusion criteria in the GCDWQ should be collecting the background data to validate their claim"

The release of the Filtration Deferral paper has been delayed until their respective organizations have concluded their discussions on the recommended approach. Director Pike presented a number of options in which the Board would react to the document: participate in a technical review process, receive the document, defer it to the Water Stewardship Council, or appoint a member to the committee if allowed, strike a committee of the OBWB and Water Stewardship Council.

Board members reiterated that they strongly support efforts at watershed protection ahead of water filtration.

Director Bennest suggested writing a letter to the IHA and the Water Suppliers Association stating that the OBWB is encouraged by the results of their collaborative discussions and draft recommended approach and requesting that the same process be followed for establishing the filtration deferral criteria.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the document "Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral" be received and that a letter be sent to the Water Suppliers Association and the IHA thanking them for the work in drafting the discussion paper entitled "A Recommended Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region". The letter should also request that a similar consultative process be followed for a review of the document "Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral". The letter should also state that the OBWB strongly endorses watershed protection."

CARRIED.

The OBWB agreed that they would like to receive regular updates from Director Pike on further developments.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director report

7.1.1 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

Dr. Sears reported that the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum was extremely successful. Approximately 200 people attended, all with differing agendas: stewardship groups, three levels of government including the International Joint Commission.

7.1.2 Water Supply and Demand Study

The Water Supply and Demand study is progressing well: Don Dobson and his team are collecting are water use information from utilities throughout the Okanagan, the database that Clint Alexander is building is making headway and there will be a Steering Committee meeting next week. A perpetual problem is that although Environment Canada staff is very interested in helping and there is no official approval. Dr. Sears explained that senior bureaucracy does not understand the significance of the Study. Dr. Sears requested a resolution for a letter to Environment Canada inviting senior staff to release technical staff who can work on the project or to meet with the OBWB's representatives.

7.1.3 Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin

Dr. Sears reported on the recent Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin round table discussions: modeling ground and surface water interactions for the North Okanagan, surficial sediments mapping in the Central Okanagan, a proposal for a seismic reflective analysis of deep bedrock aquifers by Geological Survey of Canada and the integration of the Groundwater Assessment with the Water Supply and Demand Study. She commented that the most interesting was a presentation on aquifer vulnerability mapping and septic failure analysis through the collection of all cadastre mapping of the three regional districts and taking into account the age of neighbourhoods. This information is used in a model that predicts where septic failure is likely to occur and the vulnerability of aquifers. Dr. Sears would like to integrate the information from this model into the Master Water Plan to give communities information on where to concentrate upgrading sewer infrastructure.

7.1.4 Master Wastewater Management Plan

Dr. Sears proposed that Phase 1 of the Master Wastewater Management Plan be completed by a PhD. and Master's students through UBC Okanagan, providing valuable access to UBC resources instead of contracting through a RFP. The budget for this work is \$45,000.

The Board directed staff to partnership and grant opportunities with the University, but stressed the

importance of maintaining a fair process for awarding contract funding.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:20pm and reconvened at 12:37pm.

7.2 Minutes of the Water Stewardship Council meeting of September 13, 2007

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Minutes of the Water Stewardship Council meeting of September 13, 2007 be accepted as circulated.”

CARRIED.

7.3 Water Stewardship Director report

The Water Stewardship Council met September 13th. Director Siddon and Mr. van der Gulik were acclaimed as Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. Howie Wright has been appointed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance to be their representative at the Stewardship Council.

The Stewardship Council approved in principal a proposal to conduct research on endocrine disruptors in the Okanagan Basin, to be conducted by Dr. Curtis of the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The contract is contingent on receiving information on budget line items and a list of analytes.

The Stewardship Council will be reviewing the ramifications of the Land Reserve Act and the potential sale of reservoir lakes and leased lots in the Okanagan Basin – following the OBWB staff memo.

The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program review is in process, with staff evaluating the progress of projects.

The Council will be sponsoring a workshop for water conservation professionals of the Okanagan for November 19.

Mr. Jatel reported that the Council is moving forward with a process in drafting the Sustainable Water Strategy and that this should be completed by June of 2008.

Director Siddon, Chair of Water Stewardship Council commented that over 22 members turned out for the meeting and acknowledged that the Council had had life of a little more than a year. Director Siddon added that the Sustainable Water Strategy for the Okanagan Basin will really be an update of the 1974 Basin Study enriched by additional issues. This will form the basis for ensuring enough water and preserve the environmental amenities of the Basin. He added that the chapters would be worked on by sub-groups, and signed off by the entire Council. He envisioned that the 10 chapters would be written like a book, which would have appeal to the general public and form a vision for the Okanagan Basin.

Mr. Jatel responded that the work will be completed by the Council as a whole so that the Water Strategy is as comprehensive as possible in terms of topics and subtopics, and that these modules would be written and brought back to the Council.

Director Pike indicated that he would like to see the outline of the document and recommended that the original study be used as a reference guide, because of its ongoing relevance.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Water Highways BC Brochure

Dr. Sears reported that the OBWB is a partner of the Water Highways BC and that a goal is continued monitoring of flow rates of streams in BC. The brochure is informational only.

Director Pike reported that that John Azar from Water Highway BC will be presenting on at the Water Supply Association of BC's Conference on October 25 and 26 in Penticton. There will also be a presentation by Bob Patrick professor at University of Alberta on Factors Facilitating & Constraining Source Water Protection in the Okanagan Valley: a Perspective from Political Ecology.

9. IN-CAMERA

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 1:05pm.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the OBWB adjourn to In-Camera session."

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for November 6th, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

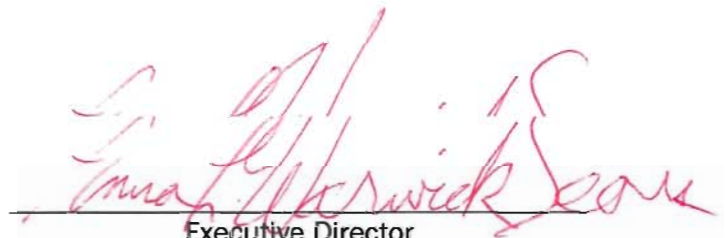
11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular and in camera meetings were adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Executive Director



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD NOVEMBER 6, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, BC

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson R. Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator
Monique Stone	Administrator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Ashton	Chair, RDOS
Brad Clements	Performance Decisions

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on November 6, 2007 be approved."

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

CARRIED

"That the Discussion Paper: A Common Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region be introduced as item 6.3"

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

Director Hobson noted a typing error on page 5 to be amended.

"That the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 2nd, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved as amended."

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 **OBWB Strategic Planning Session** – Brad Clements facilitating

Brad Clements asked how the Board felt about being an independent entity, given discussions with the Ministry of Community Services on Okanagan regional governance.

Director Reid stated that the one Regional District will incorporate areas that are not a part of the Okanagan Basin. The OBWB is a model with independence and own organization.

Director Hobson expressed that we should weigh the benefits of independence with financial benefits. Being independent means we may not acquire as many resources and partnerships. There is a potential for the structure of Okanagan Regional Governments to change in the next year and it may end up that there will be other bodies with valley wide taxing authority.

Dr. Sears mentioned that all other organizations in the valley see us as an independent entity. We are more flexible than other local governments. One advantage for the OBWB is that we are an incentive based organization and not regulatory, although we have had requests to become more regulatory.

Director Siddon replied that the OBWB isn't only an "incentive based" organization with a "focused mandate". It is semi autonomous with authority for how water is managed, to exercise decisions, the policies we adopt and the linking together of other agencies. It is not merely an advocacy group.

Director Hobson suggested that we look at roles that are more than incentive based. There are many gaps in provincial regulation for water management that the OBWB should consider taking on.

Director Reid stated that currently the three regional districts don't have authority outside the areas they administer. With changing governance the new questions might expand the legislation and mandate on some environmental issues, especially water issues, and the OBWB might be positioned for regulatory authority.

Director Hobson stated that the provincial government wants to look at governance and how to share services. We need a focused approach. How you deal with urban and electoral areas is a real challenge. We may not have a broad singular body but rather sub-committees to manage larger regional issues

such as air quality and water.

General discussion continued on the topic of governance.

Director Siddon suggested we leave here today with a resolution on a recommendation to the governance committee on how we feel regarding the structure of the OBWB. We should relate how effective the OBWB has been on issues such as leased lots, turbidity notice, filtration etc. We should make it clear that this board will take initiative on issues.

Director Reid suggested that possibly this is more detail than we currently require. Much of this debate relies on information from the Water Supply and Demand Study. When we know more on that we will know where to move forward and how to more effectively manage those resources.

Dr Sears stated that beyond gaps with the provincial government water management, there are a number of areas where local government can work more effectively – disconnects between regional and local government policies; for example, in lower watershed areas, harmonizing water-related bylaws and policies.

Dan Ashton left the meeting.

6.2 OBWB Provisional Budget for 2008 – 2009

Dr. Sears presented the Board with the provisional budget for 2008 – 2009

After discussion from the Board it was recommended the \$200,000.00 from increased assessment in the Water Management budget be added to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program to direct the funds back to projects in the districts and allow more funding for community water projects. In addition, it was determined that the requisition for the sewage grant program should increase to \$2,000,000 to reduce the budget deficit given the increase in applications to the program.

Moved by: Director Hobson

Seconded by: Director Fairbairn

“That the 2007 – 2008 Budget be approved as Amended”

CARRIED

Lunch

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:05pm and reconvened at 12:35pm.

6.3 The Water Supply Association of BC and the Interior Health Authority Discussion Paper: A Common Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region

Director Pike explained this comment paper originated as a position paper from the Water Supply Association for the best approach to water quality improvements. Interior Health approached the Water Supply Association to produce a collaborative paper.

General discussion concerning the paper and its key points concerning the current state of drinking water supply in the Okanagan, regulatory issues, and a balanced approach to safe drinking water in the Okanagan ensued.

Dan Ashton Returned to the Meeting at 1:05pm

7. STAFF REPORTS**7.1 Executive Director Report**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

"That the Executive Director's Report be received".

Dr. Sears reported that she is proceeding with developing the scope of work for the wastewater plan. She also mentioned the Outreach talk at the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the OBWB and that the Chamber of Commerce may put forward a policy paper on water conservation for endorsement by other chambers in the province.

She continued to say that the gas tax grant was received and its public announcement and press release held at the Manteo Resort October 26 went very well.

Dr. Sears made note that the interview on the David Suzuki Show "Climate Change: An Uncertain Future" will air November 22.

CARRIED**7.2 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of October 18th, 2007**

Moved By: Director Siddon

Seconded by: Director Hobson

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on October 18, 2007 at the ECCO Center in Kelowna BC be received."***CARRIED****7.3 Water Stewardship Director Report**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded By: Director Pike

*"That the Water Stewardship Director's Report be received".***CARRIED****8. CORRESPONDENCE****8.1 Gas Tax award letter**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded By: Director Baumbrough

*"That the Gas Tax award letter be received".***CARRIED****9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for December 4th, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

9.2 2008 OBWB meeting schedule

"That the OBWB Meeting Schedule for 2008 be adopted".

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded By: Director Siddon

CARRIED

10. ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES

Moved by: Director Hobson

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

CARRIED

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 1:50pm.

11. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 2:30pm.

Certified Correct:



Chair



Executive Director



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
DECEMBER 4, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO
ROAD, KELOWNA, BC

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson R. Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator
Monique Stone	Administrator, OBWB

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:02am

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:02am

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Dr. Sears introduced an Interior Health letter dated November 19, 2007 as item 8.4 and as item 6.2.1 historical correspondence with Ministry of Community Services on the One Hectare By-law

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Novakowski

“That the Board approve funding for the eligible costs of grant requests from the City of Vernon for 1) Liquid Waste Treatment Plant upgrade and 2) Septic Removal Program”; and from the City of Penticton for 1) Septic Waste Receiving Facility, 2) Industrial Neighborhood Sewering, and 3) Liquid Waste Treatment Plant upgrade.

CARRIED.

6.2.1 One Hectare By-Law Letters

Dr. Sears explained that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen will not meet the deadline for the Sewage Assistance Grant due to the issue of the One Hectare bylaw policy. She further explained that they are not comfortable with our policy as written and that she has been asked to speak to this Board on our policies. She has suggested RDOS to request a deadline extension which will enable time for a meeting between OBWB staff and the RDOS Board.

Chair Slater affirmed we must have consistency and not allow less than one hectare.

Dr. Sears requested that she and Glen Brown of the Ministry of Community Services give a presentation to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen on this issue of Okanagan Basin Water Board sewage infrastructure grant policies.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board request the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen receive a delegation by Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears jointly with Glen Brown of the Ministry of Community Services to share information on the respective sewage infrastructure grant policies of the OBWB and Province”.

CARRIED.

6.3 Hydrometric Monitoring Working Groups Terms of Reference

Dr. Sears informed the Board that this document is to keep the Board apprised of on-going developments with the Technical Water Monitoring Working Group. This group is moving forward and is no longer considered a pilot but an innovative first trial.

6.4 ILMB Reservoir Lots Report

Dr. Sears presented this report for the information of the Board. It summarizes the results and conclusions of the Okanagan Reservoir Lakes Lease Lots Steering Committee initiative. It includes a brief background on the Committee, including the highlights from its work, and the conditions developed through the committee’s deliberations that the Integrated Land Management Bureau will apply to any future sales of lease lots on the relevant lakes. It also provides an outline of the process that is anticipated to be followed to implement the conditions.

The Board members agreed that they are against the sale of the Reservoir Lots and that the three Regional Districts and municipalities should show solidarity to the

encourage the City to apply for an alternative grant to expand their indoor water conservation program.

Director Baumbrough explained that the City of Vernon has a policy not to use the outfall pipe except in the case of emergencies. In addition, the City has lost property at the Department of Defense Grounds and have been limited to the area they can spray wastewater. The mist evaporator is the option to avoid using the pipe and irrigation spray.

Chair Slater stated that this process does not fit with our policy. We should explain this to the City of Vernon in a formal letter to apply for conservation grants and suggest other options for them.

Moved by Director Fairbairn **Seconded by** Director Pike

"That staff write a letter to the City of Vernon explaining our Sewage Facilities Grant policy and encourage the City to apply for a water conservation grant through our Water Conservation and Quality Improvement program".

CARRIED.

Director Hobson returned to the meeting at 2:15pm

Director Reid left the meeting at 2:15pm

Director Taylor left the meeting at 2:20pm

8.3 Interior Health letter regarding the Water Supply and Demand Project

"That the letter from Interior Health regarding the Water Supply and Demand Project be received".

Moved by Director Bennest **Seconded by** Director Baumbrough

8.4 Interior Health Letter regarding the Filtration Deferral Paper

Dr. Sears introduced a letter from Elizabeth Sigalet, Assistant Director for Health Protection at Interior Health Authority. The letter commends the Okanagan Basin Water Board for recognizing the effort Interior Health Authority has taken with the Filtration Deferral paper.

"That the letter from Interior Health Authority regarding the Filtration Deferral Paper be received".

Moved by Director Pike **Seconded by** Director Hobson

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for January 8th, 2008 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.


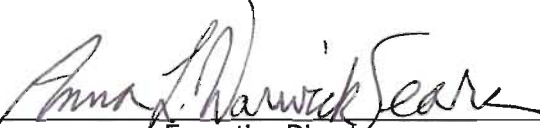
Chair Slater announced that this would be the last meeting attended by Director Novakowski as he is retiring from the Board.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Siddon

"There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is adjourned at 3:25pm"

Certified Correct:		
		
Chair		Executive Director

**OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
GROUNDWATER RECOMMENDATIONS v1.8**

to: Okanagan Basin Water Board
from: Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
subject: Groundwater Policy Recommendations – Integrated water resource management
date: December 04, 2007
CC:

GOAL: DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT PROVIDES FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Introduction

Groundwater is an essential component of the water budget in the Okanagan and its proper use and management is important to a healthy economy and in sustaining the ecology of the region. Groundwater accounts for 30% of the available freshwater--- globally. In contrast, surface water accounts for 0.3% of the available freshwater as illustrated in Appendix A.

Discussions about regulating groundwater in the British Columbia have been taking place for over three decades.

"A regulated system is required to register all wells and their withdrawal rates, be it daily, monthly or annually... A systematic approach can then be taken in allocating groundwater resources by determining maximum permissible well yields. As more data is gathered from various groundwater sources, aquifer properties can be established, including long term yields, allowing the resource to be more predictably forecast and protected."

Groundwater Issues in British Columbia. **October 1989.** Prepared by: BC Water Well Drilling Association, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resources Association, BC Water and Waste Association, Irrigation Industry Association of BC, Association of BC Irrigation Districts, BC Chapter, American Public Works Association, Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

Since 1989, the provincial government has taken the first step toward implementing groundwater regulation by enacting Phase I of the groundwater protection regulation in 2004. This regulation focuses on mandatory well driller registration, minimum well construction standards, and continues the prior system of voluntary well data reporting. The province continues to assess groundwater and promote awareness of the importance of the resource, but little progress has been made in regulating actual groundwater withdrawals since 1989.

The Water Stewardship Council (WSC), a technical advisory committee formed by the Okanagan Basin Water Board has representatives from most of the organizations involved crafting the 1989 document, plus several others. The WSC has had the opportunity to analyze groundwater information and discuss important considerations and actions required in the Okanagan. The discussion and subsequent recommendations are mindful of our need to demonstrate leadership on water resource issues and to support good governance and sustainable water supply in the Okanagan. The following document provides for rational and specific recommendation to the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Okanagan groundwater issues.

General rationale:

- Unregulated capture of licensed surface water, negates 'first in time first in right' doctrine as identified in the BC Water Act (Appendix B).
- More and more demands are being placed on groundwater in the Okanagan.
- Most Okanagan surface water is fully allocated.
- The potential for user conflicts is increasing.
- Protecting vulnerable aquifers supports sustainable water management.
- Groundwater limited areas have not been identified, so there is a knowledge gap for land use decision making.
- In British Columbia there is no licensing required to extract groundwater, even when a well is in a fully allocated watershed.
- There is anticipated urban, suburban growth and expansion.
- Agricultural expansion is anticipated, posing additional demands on water resources.
- There is a need to institute more robust data collection, monitoring and management of Okanagan groundwater.

The following three (3) groundwater policies are recommend from the *Okanagan Stewardship Council* for consideration and adoption by the *Okanagan Basin Water Board*:

1. Harmonization of Regional District and municipal groundwater bylaws

Whereas regulating groundwater extraction and use is important for managing watershed resources.

Whereas inconsistent private water source bylaw requirements exist within and between regional districts.

BIRT that the Okanagan Basin Water Board supports the harmonization of bylaws governing development and standards of 'proof' of adequate groundwater supplies

and furthermore;

BIRT the OBWB supports the standardization of water supply bylaw requirements within and between Okanagan governments; and the implementation of consistent and stringent standards for well quantity & quality testing and reporting.

2. INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OKANAGAN GROUNDWATER TO SUSTAIN OUR WATER RESOURCE

Whereas senior and local governments have not allocated sufficient funding to classify and map groundwater limited areas for use in local land use planning.

Whereas there is no mechanism to capture 'proof of water' reports submitted to local Okanagan government, or a system to track development of geothermal wells.

Whereas groundwater limited (or problem) areas are not mapped, so planners cannot accurately identify areas where development relying on groundwater should be avoided---link groundwater mapping with land use planning.

BIRT the OBWB support and encourage the following three (3) initiatives:

- Mapping of groundwater limited/problem areas; and

- The systematic tracking (and reporting) of geothermal development through building inspectors in each municipality; and
- Modifying subdivision bylaw language (in addition to the resolution in #1 above) requiring submission of proof of water reports to a designated water data base repository.

3. Integrated Water Management--- Support for Provincial Groundwater Legislation

Whereas comprehensive watershed-scale basin plans provide an integrated understanding of surface water/groundwater systems is critical to manage our Okanagan water resource.

Whereas lack of groundwater use regulation allows unmanaged capture of licensed surface water, which negates 'first in time first in right' doctrine as outlined in the BC Water Act.

Whereas except for large projects (>75 L/sec) no environmental assessment is required, meaning most groundwater development projects proceed without due consideration of implications for instream flow needs and ecological values.

BIRT the OBWB supports and encourages Okanagan governments to institute regulated groundwater withdrawal by implementing a phased pilot program within the Okanagan Basin.

BIRT the OBWB supports the implementation by the BC Government of Groundwater Legislation that provides similar treatment for groundwater and surface water for the Okanagan.