



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 3, 2011, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Melissa Tesche	Interim Office and Grants Administrator
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator

GUESTS

Allan Neilson-Welch	Neilson-Welch Consulting
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 5, 2011 be approved."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 5, 2011 at Okanagan Indian Band's Head of the Lake Hall in Vernon.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 5, 2011 at Okanagan Indian Band's Head of the Lake Hall in Vernon be adopted."

CARRIED

4. STAFF REPORTS

4.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the rototilling season for watermilfoil control is almost finished. The milfoil control crew is doing maintenance on their machines and office staff are working to get harvesting permits in place for the summer.

A financial review of the sewage grant program has been completed. As a result of talks with various local governments, the program's Terms of Reference will be updated.

B.C. Ministry of Environment's Vic Jensen will be at the next board meeting to talk about liquid waste management plans. This should be timely information to directors, especially for those who are currently facing issues with treated waste water entering local waters, noted Dr. Warwick Sears.

Staff are looking for direction from the board regarding the Water Management Plan for the next three years. Based on the feedback at the Strategic Planning Session, a report will be prepared and provided to the three Okanagan regional districts.

There was some discussion about the timing of the Water Board's next Annual General Meeting. Board directors agreed to cancel the Sept. 6 regular board meeting and hold the AGM on Friday, Sept. 9. Any regular board business will be conducted before the AGM.

"THAT the September 6 regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be cancelled and that staff make arrangements for an Annual General Meeting on September 9, 2011."

CARRIED

The board was provided with an article that appeared in the Kelowna Capital News and other valley newspapers, the first in what will be a series of Okanagan WaterWise pieces between April and October. The story topics will also form the basis of a radio series on AM1150's The Early Edition. The series is intended to inform the public on Okanagan water issues. There was a suggestion that staff look into having the series expand onto CBC Radio and elsewhere. Ms. Jackson noted that she will look into CBC. However, there has been some understandable resistance by media to allow the series to appear with their competition, she explained.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated April 26, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Director and staff updates

Dir. Pike reported that Interior Health (IH) is conducting an internal audit. An outside auditor has been contracted to tour the service area and speak to water purveyors to determine IH's performance.

Directors noted a policy developed by the Thompson Nicola Regional District addressing small water systems and IH's requirement that they comply and have the same standard as large systems. Dir. Fairbairn added that this issue is set to be discussed at the upcoming Southern Interior Local Government Association conference.

In response to questions, Dr. Warwick Sears reported that the South Interior Drinking Water Team is still functioning and will be meeting in June. Also, the Water Board sent a letter to the

province requesting that water issues be recognized as a priority.

Dir. Bauer noted that well-known hydrologist Dr. Jeffrey J. McDonnell will be speaking at UBC Okanagan 10:30 a.m., May 17, in Science 333. Dr. McDonnell will be speaking on “Where does water go when it rains? Conceptualizing runoff processes in headwaters.”

Mr. Jatel invited board directors to next week’s Water Stewardship Council meeting. Alberta’s Lorne Fitch is the guest speaker, representing Cows and Fish. A special dinner will follow and directors are invited to attend.

Ms. Jackson reminded the board that it is Drinking Water Week. Directors were told about advertorials running in local newspapers throughout the province to draw people’s attention to our water and the need to care for it. The board was directed to the Okanagan WaterWise website for more information (www.okwaterwise.ca) and DWW materials were distributed.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

7.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held June 7, 2011 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 3, 2011 be adjourned at 10:34 a.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director