

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011, AT
BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, Chair
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Enviro. Branch	Doug Edwards
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Denise Neilsen
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
BC Fruit Growers Association	Lorraine Bennest
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch	Steve Matthews
B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Ops.	Ken Cunningham
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
City of Kelowna	Mark Watt
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Dan Millar
Kelowna Fish and Game Club	Doug Flintoft
Oceola Fish and Game Club	Lorne Davies
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Eleanor McGrath (alternate)
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Margaret Bakelaar
Regional District North Okanagan	Anna Page
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasko

Regrets

BC Ground Water Association	Remi Allard
City of Vernon	Rob Dickinson
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Okanagan College	Douglas MacLeod
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	Howard Neufeld
Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society	Mark McKenney
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck
South Okanagan Real Estate Board	Kevin Kole
Urban Development Institute	Robert Evans

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications and Research Coordinator	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Intern	Michelle Cook

GUESTS:

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Ehren Lee
B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Ops.	Solvej Patschke
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Ruta Fluxgold
Forrex	Suzan Iapp
UBC Okanagan	John Janmaat

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bernie Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Dan Millar

Seconded by Ken Cunningham

“That the agenda for the Sept. 8, 2011 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held July 14, 2011, at the Oliver Recreation Centre, Oliver.

A small amendment was noted.

Moved by Dan Millar

Seconded by Doug Edwards

“That the minutes from the July 14, 2011 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears entered the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

4. BOARD REPORT

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears reported on the re-endorsement of the Water Management Program by the three Okanagan regional districts.

Council members were reminded of the OBWB Annual General Meeting on Sept. 9 at the Laurel Packinghouse in Kelowna.

Ms. Bakelaar entered the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Warwick Sears told council that she has started a blog as a way to raise awareness on the various issues being tackled at the Water Board, including water supply and demand, but also water governance issues.

Ms. Jackson entered the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

5. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Millar: Council members are encouraged to go to the International Joint Commission website (www.ijc.org) and review the eight scientific studies conducted to help inform the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. Comments regarding the renewal should be submitted to the IJC.
- Ms. Fluxgold: Environment Canada has launched three evaporation buoys on Okanagan Lake. A fourth buoy is to be set up in Osoyoos which will be connected to Agriculture Canada.
- Dr. Janmaat: The province and UBCO are continuing to work toward the establishment of the Water Research Chair.
- Ms. Bakelaar: The RDCO is working to establish two groundwater monitoring wells and is continuing work on a silvopasture project. The Okanagan Foreshore Inventory Mapping project has been completed.

- Mr. Buchler: The agricultural community is dealing with excess water this year and the wine industry is two to three weeks behind.
- Dr. Neilsen: Additional water demand scenarios are almost complete.
- Dr. Warwick Sears: The OBWB is helping organize the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum, Sept. 18 to 20. Work is underway to create a UBCO advisory committee for the Water Resources Chair. Staff will be participating in a Watershed Governance Workshop in Vancouver in October.
- Mr. Dobson: There is great interest in the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake and the studies conducted for the IJC. There is talk about ensuring appropriate flows into the U.S. for fish. There is concern for what this means if the Okanagan should face drought. I will be presenting at the OLWSF. Sept. 25 is B.C. River's Day. A graduate conference is being organized in the Okanagan by the Canadian Water Network for mid-October.
- Dr. Guy: The Canadian Water Resources Association has its annual conference June 27-30 in St. John's, Nfld.
- Ms. Jackson: The OBWB has been piloting a water conservation ad campaign in Vernon and will be looking to build it out as a valley-wide campaign in the spring. Information on the Water Board AGM and Osoyoos Water Forum can be found on the OBWB website (www.obwb.ca)

6. COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION

6.1 Agriculture Water Reserve Committee

Mr. Buchler provided an update on the Agriculture Water Reserve (AWR) Committee. He spoke on the elimination of "beneficial use." The purpose is to protect water and keep it in the reserve so that water doesn't transfer from agriculture to other uses (i.e. residential development). Ideally, it would cover all arable land and take into consideration available supply. It was emphasized that the AWR is not intended to be a drought tool – drought management plans will need to be developed concurrently.

The BC Agriculture Council will be presenting its concept for an AgWater Reserve in a month.

6.2 Source Water Protection Committee

Ms. Patschke reported that a Discussion Paper is being drafted to address Source Water Protection in the Okanagan. The committee is also organizing a workshop on how to put source protection assessments into action.

The committee, she added, is looking at how to evaluate the economic value of water. Council members noted that the answer will depend on what factors are considered in the valuation and the priorities that are set for water.

A discussion paper is also being drafted to address Okanagan Shoreline Management. Chair Bauer added that the OBWB can perhaps provide a leadership or coordination role, supporting local governments through the development of Shoreline Management Guidelines.

It was noted that the graphs in discussion paper are somewhat misleading and are comparing apples and oranges. They will not be used in the final document.

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by Brian Guy

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board take a coordinating role in the development of Okanagan Shoreline Management Guidelines. And, that the Water Board provide outreach, education and information on shoreline management."

CARRIED

6.3 Okanagan Groundwater

Mr. Jatel reported that work to establish additional groundwater monitoring wells is continuing. The program is a partnership between the OBWB, the provincial and federal governments and local governments in the Okanagan, establishing wells in previously identified sensitive aquifers.

Plans to create three additional observation wells are underway and include: the Hullcar aquifer in Spallumcheen, RDCO's Joe Rich aquifer, and an upper plateau aquifer west of Summerland. Additional wells are being considered in West Kelowna and Penticton.

6.4 Hydrometric Monitoring

Mr. Dobson reported on the proposed hydrometric monitoring stations. The Hydrometric Monitoring Committee is reviewing priority hydrometric monitoring stations for the Okanagan basin. The committee is looking at developing a collaborative funding model, similar to the framework developed for the groundwater monitoring project.

A hydrometric report provided to the OBWB a few years ago suggested that 15 hydrometric stations be added to the network. The current goal of the committee is to get three of those stations installed and operational in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Federal Infrastructure Funding – OBWB support for new water infrastructure

Staff reported that RAC funding proposals have been submitted.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held October 13, 2011 at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Moved by Ken Cunningham

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of Sept. 8, 2011 be adjourned.”

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director