



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD JUNE 5, 2012, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN  
101 MARTIN ST., PENTICTON, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director Dan Ashton	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Office and Project Manager
Kyla Lavalee	First Nations Liaison

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

5.2 - Report from Dir. Siddon on proposed changes to federal Fisheries Act.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2012 be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2012 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna, B.C.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2012 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna be adopted.”***

**CARRIED**

**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS****5.1 Gas Tax Application Memo**

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that, with the approval of the Chair, staff have submitted an application for Gas Tax funding for hydrometric monitoring streamflow database project. Part of the application requires a board resolution of support for the application.

There are about 50 streamflow hydrometric stations in the Okanagan. Some 25 of these are run by Water Survey of Canada based on national significance, but they're not necessarily meeting Okanagan needs. There are another 25 owned by forestry companies and others which are not being used or effectively monitored. The OBWB is proposing to use the stations that already exist to collect data, conduct quality control on the information and make it available to scientists, consultants, contractors and others who require it to better understand water availability.

Dir. Bauer moved the motion to provide a resolution of support for the grant application, noting that improving hydrometric station monitoring was a priority of the board three years ago.

There was a question about an earlier project the OBWB was partnering on with some U.S. agencies, being a co-applicant to NASA for funding to use satellites to conduct water supply research. Dr. Warwick Sears said NASA funding was cut shortly after the proposal was submitted. However, this project is still a possibility in the future and having this streamflow data in good order will be a prerequisite to doing satellite data down the road.

Dir. Pike, in response to questions, said that utilities have their own hydrometric stations but not the expertise to interpret it. Dr. Warwick Sears said that this proposal would include a hydrologist looking at the data for quality control.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board submit a Gas Tax Funding application to build an integrated hydrometric data system for sustainable planning and climate change adaptation in the Okanagan."***

**CARRIED**

**Dirs. Pike and Bauer abstained.**

**5.2 Dir. Siddon re: Proposed Changes to Federal Fisheries Act**

Dir. Siddon told board directors about an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper that he co-wrote with two other former federal fisheries ministers, stating their concern with the quick passage being proposed for Bill C-38 as it relates to the Fisheries Act. He also appeared at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention, bringing forward a resolution from the RDOS suggesting the federal government address the various portions of the bill carefully. The FCM accepted the resolution with some minor amendments, and forwarded it on to Ottawa as an emergency resolution.

Dir. Siddon added that he was also invited and attended a parliamentary budget committee session in Ottawa to discuss his concerns. However, he said, voting on Bill C-38 is set to begin on Thursday. If the Water Board wants to provide a submission on the matter it needs to be done quickly, he added.

Chair Wells thanked Siddon for his work, adding that there may be issues with the existing legislation but there are better ways to address them. The Town of Osoyoos also forwarded a letter to Ottawa opposed to the way the issue was being addressed, he said.

There was some discussion about the direction the board should take in a letter to the federal government regarding Bill C-38, including support for the FCM resolution. The board asked staff to draft a letter and allow directors to provide final input and approval before sending it.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

6.1.1 The date for the next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is July 3, 2012 in the North Okanagan. It will be a joint meeting with the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. Location to be determined.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2012 be adjourned at 10:50 a.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director