



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD JUNE 3, 2014, AT PENTICTON LAKESIDE RESORT
21 LAKESHORE DR. W., PENTICTON, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Mike Macnabb	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Wes Hopkin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Office and Projects Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 3, 2014 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 6, 2014 at Powers Creek Water Treatment Plant in West Kelowna.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 6, 2014 at Powers Creek Water Treatment Plant in West Kelowna be adopted."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Water Management Review

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that a review of the WMP is underway. A report will be provided to the three Okanagan regional districts by early September to assist discussion around renewal of the program.

Blue Green Algae Response Protocols

A request from OBWB to Interior Health for a Blue Green Algae Response Protocol, to be used by local governments, has been forwarded for a provincial response. Dr. Warwick Sears noted this could result in uniform protocols in B.C. but it may also delay response.

Dir. Wells voiced concern about possible delay and the potential liability facing local governments with a BG algae outbreak. It was suggested that staff consider developing a local government response for the interim and forward it to the province as an example of potential policy.

Environment Canada Funding

The board was asked to accept a resolution to accept Environment Canada funding for Phase 2 of the Okanagan Wetland Strategy.

“That the OBWB enter into a funding agreement with Environment Canada, accepting \$50,000 to complete Phase 2 of the Okanagan Wetland Strategy.”

CARRIED

Water Sustainability Act (WSA) Update

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on a recent provincial meeting on the WSA, explaining that provincial staff are currently developing pricing for water licences and fees, and regulations around groundwater use.

Mr. Mike Wei with B.C. Ministry of Environment attended the meeting and provided additional clarification.

Dir. Dirk entered the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

An increase to water rental fees are being considered to meet groundwater issues in the new act but also other items noted in the WSA. Currently, all rentals go into general revenue and a portion of this goes to water management, added Mr. Wei.

OBWB August Meeting/September AGM

Directors were reminded that the July 1 board meeting was cancelled and the next meeting would be Aug. 5. The September AGM will include presentations by lawyer Deborah Curran on the implications of the WSA to local government and ONA's James Pepper on the Sylix water strategy.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated May 28, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Communications Director Report

Don't Move a Mussel

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Don't Move a Mussel campaign, including an effort to

help citizens engage on the issue and send letters to their MLAs and MPs and urge action through the website www.DontMoveAMussel.ca. An update was also provided on the development of DMM boat launch signs for local governments and utilities.

Make Water Work

Directors were provided a report on MWW (www.MakeWaterWork.ca) and the re-launch of the valley-wide summer water conservation initiative.

Other communication initiatives

The board was updated on other projects including results of the OkWaterWise contest for youth as part of Drinking Water Week in May, a \$90,000 grant from RBC Blue Water to extend the work of Make Water Work, and the hiring of Mya Brewis for the summer to assist with communication and outreach efforts.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated May 27, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

5.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Decontamination Options for Milfoil Vessels & Other Watercraft

Mr. Littley presented options for mussel decontamination in the Okanagan, noting that the province has some portable equipment in Kamloops and the Kootenays and only a few conservation officers trained to use it. Staff have talked with the province about possibly offering training.

“THAT OBWB agrees to host one or more decontamination trainings (provided free by the province) for our milfoil operators, provincial employees, and Okanagan local government employees, as soon as possible.”
CARRIED

There was further discussion about requesting the province relocate equipment to the Okanagan.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated May 27, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Adoption of 2014 Audited Financials

The 2014 audited financials were presented to the board for discussion and adoption.

“THAT the OBWB adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the 2013-14 fiscal year as presented.”

CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter from Interior Health Authority to the Urban Development Institute regarding the health authority’s plan to publicize large water system assessment results

There was some discussion regarding a letter from IHA to the UDI. The board asked staff to check with IHA regarding its consultation process in implementing the new system.

“THAT the letter from IHA to UDI be received.”

CARRIED

- 7.2 Letter from MP Alex Atamanenko to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea and Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Steven Blaney re: invasive mussels.

“THAT the letter from MP Alex Atamanenko to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Gail Shea and Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Steven Blaney be received.”

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

- 8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be August 5, 2014 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 3, 2014 be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director