



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 5, 2014, AT ROTARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
421 CAWSTON AVE., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

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| Chair Doug Findlater | Regional District Central Okanagan |
| Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham | Regional District North Okanagan |
| Director Doug Dirk | Regional District North Okanagan |
| Director Bob Fleming | Regional District North Okanagan |
| Director Keith Fielding | Regional District Central Okanagan |
| Director Patty Hanson | Regional District Central Okanagan |
| Alt. director Tom Siddon | Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Director Allan Patton | Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Alt. director Mark Pendergraft | Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Director Toby Pike | Water Supply Association of BC |

REGRETS

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| Director James Pepper | Okanagan Nation Alliance |
| Director Don Dobson | Okanagan Water Stewardship Council |

OBWB STAFF

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| 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 12:33 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

6.1 Update on Industry Approaches to Invasive Mussels

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 5, 2014 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Aug. 5, 2014 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Aug. 5, 2014 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna be adopted."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Water Management Program Renewal

Dr. Sears noted that she has met with the RDNO and RDOS boards and presented a review of the Water Management Program. Both regional districts subsequently approved renewal of the program. She will be providing a review to RDCO next week, again seeking approval.

Water and Biodiversity Forum

OBWB is co-presenting a forum Sept. 16 -17 with UBC-O's Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (**BRAES**). Robert Sandford is providing a keynote address on Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at Rotary Centre for the Arts. He will be presenting on climate change impacts to water.

ONA Fish Hatchery Opening

The ONA has its formal fish hatchery opening on Sept. 20 which is open to the public. The annual salmon feast is on Sept. 21 on the banks of Okanagan River at the campground at Ok Falls.

Grace Fan Research Extended

UBCO's Grace Fan has received funding to look at the development of B.C.'s Water Sustainability Act. As part of this she may be interviewing board members.

FCM Funding

FCM has released a call for proposals for funding through their Community Infrastructure Partnership Program. More information is at: <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/community-infrastructure-partnership-program.htm>

Following the presentation of the ED report, there was a request for an update on the Ok Falls treatment plant and research regarding a wetland in the area. Following discussion, Alt. Dir. Siddon asked for an update in writing.

There was also a question regarding OBWB-initiated groundwater monitoring wells. Mr. Jatel responded that it's too early to see trends but possibly in Year Three next year. He also noted a recent report from the province indicating concern and downward trends in supply in some areas, including about six in the Okanagan. That information is available on the province's website, he added.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Aug. 29, 2014, be received."

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel noted the next council meeting is Sept. 12 and will include discussion on various priority areas for the coming year including groundwater, water pricing and stream flows. The council will also discuss moving forward on certain projects (e.g. source water protection). Once a work plan is agreed on it will be brought to the board for input.

Wetland Project

Phase 1 is completed and included an inventory of existing wetlands. Phase 2 includes the hiring of a project manager to oversee three wetland projects each year over two years. Phase 3 will include writing of an Okanagan wetland strategy to assist additional efforts.

BCWURC

The BC Water Use Reporting Centre, web-based reporting program, is currently being updated and piloted to allow use by agricultural water users.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Aug. 26, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

5.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Milfoil Operations

Mr. Littley provided an update on milfoil harvesting operations and talks with FLNRO to improve efforts noting that there should be improvements in next year’s harvesting efforts.

Mussels Communication from MP Alex Atamanenko

MP Alex Atamanenko’s office contacted the OBWB for an update on the invasive mussel issue, requesting further information to assist in talks with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans or take to the Federal Environment Critic. He also offered to write a letter to the province supporting the Water Board’s call for action.

The board was pleased to see the interest shown and discussed at length other potential efforts.

“THAT the OBWB provide the information requested by MP Atamanenko and cc the letter to other Okanagan MPs.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated July 29, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

5.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson gave a preliminary update on the Don’t Move a Mussel campaign, noting that it runs until Sept. 28. As requested by the board, a Speak Out initiative was launched in the summer to assist residents in contacting their MLA and MP with their concerns. Also, there were requests from nine Okanagan communities for a total of 48 boat launch signs, instructing boaters to “Clean, Drain, Dry” their equipment and find more info at www.DontMoveAMussel.ca.

A preliminary update was also given on the Make Water Work initiative, which also runs until mid-September. As part of the initiative, residents were asked to go to www.MakeWaterWork.ca and pledge to adopt various actions to save water outdoors. It was noted that there was a 60% increase in pledge participation this year. As an incentive, people who took the pledge were entered to win a \$5000 WaterWise yard upgrade, thanks to KelownaGardens.com, Bylands and Pro-Source Irrigation. Ms. Jackson noted that on Aug. 18, Sarah Moorhouse of Vernon was selected at random as the winner. Also, based on the number of pledges made per capita, the Town of Oliver was named “Make Water Work Champion 2014.”

Ms. Jackson reported that the OBWB received word over the summer that Make Water Work funding (\$119,000 between OBWB and its many partners) was successfully leveraged to bring another \$90,000 into the Okanagan from RBC Blue Water, to help extend the efforts of the program.

There was discussion about the two campaigns. Chair Findlater noted the support from Dockside Marine with the DMM muscle shirts.

In extending the efforts on the mussel awareness, it was suggested there be an effort to involve the business community.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated August 28, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Update on Industry Approaches to Invasive Mussels

Dr. Sears provided a report on industry approaches to the mussels, having spoken with David Derosa, the Superintendent for Ecosystems Projects for Teck Metals in Trail (and who previously worked on invasive species issues for BC Hydro). It was noted there is frustration at the lack of action from the province. In requesting a letter of support from industry asking for a stronger provincial response, Mr. Derosa suggested the request go to the Columbia and Kootenay Invasive Plant Council’s Aquatic Working Group of which he is a member.

“THAT the OBWB send a letter to Columbia and Kootenay Invasive Plant Council’s Aquatic Working Group requesting a letter be sent to the province requesting stronger action to address invasive mussels.”
CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be October 7, 2014 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

8. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 5, 2014 be adjourned at 1:53 p.m.”
CARRIED

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| Certified Correct: | | |
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| Chair | | Executive Director |