



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 3, 2015, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN,
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Mike Macnabb	Regional District North Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Andre Martin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director	Okanagan Nation Alliance
----------	--------------------------

GUESTS

Alt. Director Catherine Lord	Regional District North Okanagan
------------------------------	----------------------------------

OBWB STAFF

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Sears called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Board Appointments and Elections for 2015

Regional District of North Okanagan

Director Juliette Cunningham
Director Doug Dirk
Director Bob Fleming
Alternates – Catherine Lord, Rick Fairbairn, Mike Macnabb

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Director James Baker
Director Doug Findlater
Director Tracy Gray
Alternates – Patty Hanson, Cindy Fortin, Wayne Carson

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Director Andre Martin

Director Sue McKortoff
Director Peter Waterman
Alternates – Mark Pendergraft, Tom Siddon, Toni Boot

Okanagan Nation Alliance

Director – TBD
Alternate – TBD

Water Supply Association of BC

Director Toby Pike
Alternate – Bob Hrasko

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Director Don Dobson
Alternate – Robert Birtles

Dir. Pike nominated Dir. Findlater as Chair. Seconded by Dir. Baker.
There being no other nominations, Dir. Findlater was declared Chair by acclamation.

Alt. Dir. Macnabb nominated Dir. Cunningham for Vice-Chair. Seconded by Dir. Findlater.
There being no other nominations, Dir. Cunningham was declared Vice-Chair by acclamation.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

7.4 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Update memo

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3, 2015 be approved.”

CARRIED

Dir. Gray entered the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 4, 2014 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 4, 2014 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted.”

CARRIED

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Executive Director Report

Changes to Board, Election and Meetings

Dr. Sears presented a copy of RDOS' protocol agreement with area bands as an example of how the OBWB could improve the process of engaging the ONA.

The board asked staff to review other possible protocol agreements between RDNO, RDCO and possibly local governments with local bands.

It was noted that the April board meeting has been cancelled.

Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum (OLWSF)

The OBWB is working with the International Joint Commission (IJC) on presenting the OSWSF Oct. 7-9. Previous forums were held in 2008 and 2011 and are collaborative workshops concerning water issues that affect the entire Okanagan watershed, from Armstrong and south across the U.S. border. Directors were encouraged to attend.

Osoyoos Lake Water Movie

The Washington Dept. of Ecology has received an IJC grant to do a film on Osoyoos Lake and the Okanagan/Okanogan River. The OBWB has agreed to help with coordinating filming on the Canadian side of the border.

Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDC) Research at OK Falls Treatment Plant

It was noted UBC Okanagan has a lab in place for testing EDCs and are now applying for funding to do the research.

Water Allocation Tool Update

Dr. Sears provided an update on the Water Board's involvement in assisting the province with the development of a tool to help with water licence allocation decisions. For eight years, the OBWB has been modeling the Okanagan's water supply and demand to help ensure proper water management and licencing. Discussions regarding a tool began after concerns were raised in the Okanagan regarding licencing decisions that resulted in over-allocating certain water supplies and the problems this could cause in a drought year.

After months of working with the OBWB on the process, it appeared the province was going to sole-source the project without Okanagan input. Several Okanagan agencies sent letters of concern to the province and it appears the B.C. government is looking to review its decision. The board encouraged staff to continue to work with the province to ensure the Okanagan's voice is heard.

Stormwater Infiltration Bylaw

The OBWB was invited and has submitted a funding application to B.C. Ministry of Environment to develop a stormwater infiltration bylaw, similar to the Water Board's Groundwater and Topsoil Bylaw Toolkits. Mr. Jatel added that the province is interested in developing Best Management Practices and piloting local government bylaws as part of its new groundwater legislation, especially in sensitive areas where water quality or quantity are an issue.

Funding, added Dr. Sears, would also allow for direct outreach and consultation with Okanagan local governments.

Floodplain Mapping Funds

Directors were told of a cost-sharing program with the federal government for projects that focus primarily on flood mitigation and begin on April 1, 2015.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Jan. 27, 2015, be received."
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel provided an overview of the council, noting its current term ends in April. A list of recommended organizations will be presented to the board next month. Staff will then invite each agency to appoint a representative and an alternate.

The council is looking at various emerging water-related issues (e.g. EDCs, wetlands) and committees have been created to address them, added Mr. Jatel.

In response to some questions about the wetland strategy, it was noted that it may include potential bylaws that local governments can consider for adoption, or other tools to help address protection and promotion of these spaces.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Jan. 28, 2015, be received.”
CARRIED

Dir. Birtles exited the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

6.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Aquatic Herbicide Report

Mr. Littley presented an update to the board on findings regarding the use of herbicides in the U.S. to address milfoil, noting that based on the information available it is unlikely the application of the chemicals in permitted quantities are having any effect north of the border.

Dir. Birtles back 11:25 a.m.

SFA Grants

The board was provided with a resolution for support regarding an application from District of Lake Country for the third and final phase of its Waste Water Treatment Plant.

“THAT the SFA application for the District of Lake Country STP Phase 3 be approved.”
CARRIED
Dirs. Birtles and Pike abstained

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

The board was told that the deadline for WCQI grant application is Feb. 6. Directors will be presented with funding recommendations at the next board meeting.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated Jan. 22, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Joint Chamber, TOTA, OBWB-OkWW – Don’t Move a Mussel event

Ms. Jackson provided an update on discussions with the Kelowna Chamber and Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association regarding a joint DMM event. Work is underway to find an appropriate speaker and funding to assist with costs.

There was some discussion about potential speakers and other events the OBWB may want to be involved in.

Don’t Move a Mussel 2014 Overview, 2015 Plans

A final report on the 2014 DMM initiative was presented, noting that the OBWB’s \$44,300 was leveraged with in-kind support from media partners to deliver a campaign worth more than \$189,000.

Results from a telephone survey were also noted showing the impact the initiative is having in raising awareness.

Plans for 2015 are getting underway. To begin, Okanagan's SunCruiser Magazine and Campion Boats volunteered to take DMM materials down to the recent Vancouver and Seattle boat shows.

Make Water Work 2014 Overview, 2015 Plans

Directors were provided with a final report on the 2014 MWW initiative. Highlights included \$48,000 in funding (a \$2-3,000 investment from local governments/utilities, matched by OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise) leveraged to deliver a campaign worth \$168,450.

Again, telephone survey results were presented showing that residents appear to be hearing the message.

Ms. Jackson provided an update on some of the work underway in 2015 including the development and promotion of "Make Water Work in your yard" – a palette of WaterWise plants that will be available at garden centres in the Okanagan. This is a partnership with Bylands and the Okanagan Xeriscape Assoc.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated Jan. 28, 2015, be received."

CARRIED

7. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 Signing Authority Memo

Dr. Sears presented the memo, naming those directors with signing authority.

"THAT the Signing Authority Resolution be approved as presented."

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Birtles abstained.

7.2 In-camera

Adjourn to in-camera at 11:57 a.m.

Exit in-camera at 12:07 p.m.

7.3 Land Use Inventory MOU for RDOS

Dr. Sears presented her report, noting that an inventory was conducted of RDNO and RDCO in partnership with B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Ag Canada in 2014. The data indicates current water needs and future needs if crops change. This information is available to local governments for OCPs and planning, noted Dr. Sears, adding it is highly-requested data. The OBWB has budgeted additional funds in 2015 to assist the MoAg for RDOS data collection.

"THAT the OBWB renew the MOU with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Partnership for Water Sustainability; contributing funds to survey RDOS in 2015, and to complete the update TO the Okanagan Land Use Inventory for the Okanagan Water Demand Model."

CARRIED

7.4 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Update

Mr. Littley presented a report on recent meetings regarding invasive mussels, including a November and January meeting of the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) Invasive Species Working Group, and a January conference call with the Columbia Basin Trust that included ISCBC and Provincial staff.

Highlights of the PNWER meetings include a call for more inspection stations, the importance of determining where boats are coming from, and the need to ensure coordinated messaging. It was also noted that among the 11 northwest jurisdictions with inspection and decontamination programs in 2014, B.C. had the lowest budget at \$20,000, compared to the next lowest – Washington at \$175,000 and Alberta at \$530,000.

The CBT has adapted a provincial plan from Alberta to help identify the role invasive species committees can play to support and enhance provincial efforts.

Mr. Littley noted that during the CBT call, the province noted that once an invasive species is established and cannot be eradicated, the responsibility for control and containment would fall to regional agencies and local land owners. There was also a call to have a list of shelf-ready products available to deal with an infestation. This is in response to proposed new federal regulations that will allow for the release of deleterious substances to address aquatic invasive species.

There was some discussion by the board. Dir. Baker said he would recommend that Lake Country council submit a resolution to the Southern Interior Local Government Assoc. urging the province to act on invasive mussels and at least match Alberta funding.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be March 3, 2015 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 3, 2015 be adjourned at 1:15 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director