



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD May 5, 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 Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	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
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Peter Waardenburg	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 Projects Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 March 3, 2015 be approved.”

CARRIED

There was discussion about the agenda and moving the compensation discussion in-camera. It was explained that a discussion on compensation philosophy should not be taken in-camera, unless the board is discussing specific compensation of staff.

“THAT motions and decisions following from the compensation presentation be moved in-camera.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2015 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2015 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen be adopted.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Julie Case, Tim Dhillon and Associates

Dr. Sears introduced Ms. Case who provided an overview on compensation philosophy.

In establishing job value, one should look at the external market (the market value of the job and an external salary survey) as well as internal considerations (the internal value of the job and job evaluation). noted Ms. Case. It should include a look at the complexity of the position and the level of knowledge needed. Some positions are easier to compare than others.

Key considerations include: appropriate market comparisons and external market comparators, private sector vs public sector, unique vs common skill sets, a look at internal relativity, attraction, retention and engagement, and budget considerations, she added.

The board was encouraged to provide ideas for market comparisons.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Upcoming Board Meetings

Dr. Sears noted the third annual joint board-council meeting will take place June 2 in Penticton, starting with an abbreviated board meeting and then the joint meeting. It is expected that the meeting will end at 3 p.m.

There was discussion about cancelling the August board meeting in consideration of summer holidays and August 4 falling directly after the B.C. Day long weekend, causing a shift in municipal council meeting dates.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s August meeting be cancelled.”

CARRIED

Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

Dr. Sears provided a brief update on the forum, Oct. 7-9, 2015 in Osoyoos and an extra special event on the Columbia Basin Treaty with the Canada Water Resources Association.

Water Licencing Tool Update

The board was updated on a \$52,500 grant application to Environment Canada for a pre-planning grant and to the province for \$397,000 Gas Tax grant over two years. Staff expect to hear back about both grants in June.

Drought Planning

Dr. Sears noted that a recent local government survey on where agencies are at with drought plans suggests more planning is needed. There is budget for a drought planning project, she added, and given the Okanagan’s dry year, the timing is right.

There was significant discussion among board members about the need for planning.

In response to questions, it was noted that the proposal has been revised to include

recommendations on how to coordinate a basin-wide approach to drought planning and response. Dir. Pike responded noting that although drought planning is needed it is a provincial responsibility. He added that a basin-wide approach will be difficult unless it is limited to mainstem lakes users.

Dr. Sears noted that California did not develop drought plans and now they're facing extreme conditions. The OBWB should be encouraging a common goal and ensuring various items are in place, she added. Dir. Pike noted that there are a number of resources available from the province to guide local governments in developing drought plans.

Other board directors voiced concern about waiting for the province to act and the need for local communities to get ready, adding their support for the project.

"THAT the board pass a resolution of support for the Drought Planning project."

CARRIED

Dir. Pike opposed

Update on Snow Water Conditions in B.C.

The board was provided an update on snowpack conditions which show at between 40-60% of normal in the Okanagan. Although the region may be OK for water supplies this year, conservation will be important in case we have a similarly dry year next year.

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

CARRIED

7. Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel reported on the March council meeting and presentations from OBWB technical writer Ted Wannop on co-management of resources between First Nations and senior levels of government, also from Piscine Energetics who is conducting mysis shrimp harvesting in Vernon.

A committee of council also discussed Water Use Plans, and minimum flows for fish and other aquatic habitat.

The May council meeting will include a presentation from the province regarding its policy on environmental flows and its impact with the new Water Sustainability Act.

2015 State of the Okanagan Water Supply

The annual water supply webinar will be held May 15, 11 a.m. to noon. Among those speaking will be Environment Canada. The presentation will include a look at the threat to forest fires and how it can be managed.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated April 29, 2015, be received."

CARRIED

7.1 Office and Project Manager Report

Greater Vernon Water – Kal Lake Intake

Mr. Littley provided an update on efforts to conduct milfoil control work window on Kalamalka Lake that accommodates the Water Board's operational priorities, making sure to meet provincial treatment requirements, while also working around Greater Vernon Water's Water Quality issues.

After some discussion by the board it was suggested the report be provided to GVW for comment. This motion was deferred and Dir. Cunningham invited OBWB staff to the June GVW meeting to explain the constraints of the milfoil control program and discuss possible solutions including a turbidity curtain.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board attend the June Greater Vernon Water meeting to explain the constraints of the milfoil control program and discuss possible solutions.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated April 29, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

7.2 Communications Director Report

Canada Water Week/UN World Water Day

Ms. Jackson updated the board on Canada Water Week events (March 16-22), noting this year’s wetland theme. Events included the Okanagan WaterWise Challenge for youth, screening of several short wetland films at the Laurel Packinghouse on March 18, followed by a guided tour of nearby Rotary Marshes, and a panel discussion on wetlands with MC Chris Walker of CBC Daybreak South.

A number of local non-profits working in wetland restoration and protection were invited to set up information tables as part of the panel event. BC Wildlife Federation, seeing the value in the event, came up from Vancouver to set up a table and later noted they were pleased they made the effort.

Zebra/Quagga Mussels – Communication

Ms. Jackson provided an overview of several items that have occurred around the mussel issue over the last couple months, including the March 31st B.C. government announcement of \$1.3 million to help protect the province from the invasive species. Although it wasn’t clear at the announcement, it was determined later that this is over three years (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2017), with \$149,000 having already been spent, so about \$575,500 in 2015 and the same in 2016.

Given the OBWB’s long-standing request for greater provincial response on the mussels, the Water Board responded to the announcement with its own news release, she added.

On April 15, the Water Board assisted Brynne Morrice, an Okanagan-born actor and filmmaker living in New York, with a news conference regarding the release of his short documentary “Mussel Threat.”

The OBWB’s Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM) campaign is getting started again with an ad already in SunCruiser Magazine, outreach at boat shows by our partner the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, and a funding announcement expected soon from RBC Blue Water to extend DMM efforts.

Other communication initiatives:

Work is underway to re-launch the Make Water Work outdoor water conservation campaign. A news conference is being organized, announcing the launch of a new MWW Plant Collection available at garden centres throughout the valley, as well as the start of our pledge contest with mayors coming to take the pledge to Make Water Work and encouraging residents to do the same.

A job posting has gone out to hire a Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the summer, ensuring that water messages are heard in the Okanagan during our busiest season for water conservation and protection (e.g. from invasive mussels).

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated April 29, 2015, be received.”
CARRIED

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Zebra and Quagga Mussel Update memo

Directors were shown the film “Mussel Threat.” Mr. Littley then delivered a report on the mussels, noting a presentation he gave at the Marine Edge conference in Kelowna and interest from commodores and marina owners in boat inspection training. He is working with the province to help arrange for this training.

Mr. Littley also provided an update on the Lake Roosevelt Forum he attended in Spokane which included information on Aquatic Invasive Species programs in the Pacific Northwest.

He went on to then go through highlights from his memo, including financials for milfoil control – another invasive aquatic species. The milfoil control program has cost over \$10 mill. to Okanagan taxpayers while the province has contributed less than \$8 mill. and none in the last 15 years, he noted. The province’s most recent funding announcement to prevent a mussel infestation is not quite \$600,000 each for two years to help with three roving inspection stations. Considering the province’s most recent estimate of \$43 million annually if an infestation were to occur in B.C. (the OBWB’s estimate suggests the same figure for the Okanagan alone), prevention is key, he added. For a little more funding, the province could put in place the five permanent inspection stations the board has been calling for.

As such, Mr. Littley provided a list of recommendations for consideration. Following some discussion, the board approved an amended list, including additional meetings with B.C. ministers at the 2015 UBCM convention. The board also agreed to adopt the document as a position statement.

THAT the OBWB calls on the federal government to finish the process of empowering the CBSA for mussel prevention, and to require that each boat crossing into B.C. through a federal border crossing be submitted to the Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs for Dreissenid Mussels.

THAT the OBWB calls on the provincial government to increase the number of inspection and decontamination stations to five, and in conjunction with the CBSA, provide permanent, mandatory inspection stations at each border crossing into the province from the south and east.

THAT the OBWB will not accept responsibility for the long-term treatment, mitigation or control of zebra or quagga mussels if the province fails to enact appropriate prevention measures, and consequently the species are introduced.

THAT the OBWB’s WaterWise program will continue to provide public outreach and education through its Don’t Move A Mussel initiative, and will continue to collaborate

with the provincial and regional mussel prevention frameworks to ensure consistent messaging and efficient use of resources.

THAT the OBWB will liaise with the provincial AIS specialist to provide training to local agencies, including the commercial marine industry, towards identifying and decontaminating any suspected infested vessels.

THAT the OBWB will continue to coordinate with the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society to identify gaps for further action.

AND THAT the OBWB will seek meetings with appropriate Ministers through local governments at the 2015 UBCM convention.

CARRIED

There was further discussion about how to get some movement on the issue, with provincial ministers (e.g. tourism), SILGA, UBCM, IHA with water quality concerns, ONA with fisheries, and IJC.

7.2 Policy on small-lot accessory dwellings

Dr. Sears provided an update on the 1 ha. policy for sewage facility grants and an RDOS request for reconsideration. The policy is intended to prevent subdivision of properties less than 1 ha. if they are on septic to address potential problems with septic failure. RDOS has asked for an exemption for carriage houses.

There was some discussion by the board and a motion to send a response to RDOS.

“THAT OBWB send a letter reiterating Board policy and asking RDOS to amend their bylaw.”

CARRIED

Dir. Martin opposed.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Letter from FLNRO to OBWB re: water licence allocation tool.

“THAT the letter from FLNRO to OBWB re: water licence allocation tool be accepted as information.”

CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be June 2, 2015 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

Adjourn to in-camera (2:05 pm). Return to regular meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2015 be adjourned at 2:25 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director