



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2015, AT ROTARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS,  
421 CAWSTON AVE., 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 Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Andre Martin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waardenburg	Okanagan Nation Alliance

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- 5.1.1 Memo Compensation Review
- 5.2.1 Correspondence to province re: Water Sustainability Act
- 5.4.1 News release from FLNRO re: invasive mussel efforts

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 8, 2015 be approved."***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2015 at Regional District of North Okanagan

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2015 at Regional District of North Okanagan be approved."***

**CARRIED**

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

## 5.1 Executive Director Report

### 5.1.1 OBWB Compensation Review

Dr. Sears provided an overview of the interim report provided by Tim Dillon and Associates. A full review will be brought to the board in October to be adopted by November.

There was some discussion around market comparisons and a request that the consultant provide information as to why Vernon and Penticton were not included.

### 5.1.2 Drought update

The board was told that an apparent gap in information regarding this summer's drought led to the OBWB drafting updates as the drought worsened. The updates were originally intended for OBWB directors, water utility staff, and Okanagan regional district board chairs, but as the need for information grew so did the list of those who requested and received the updates, including CAOs, municipal councilors and staff, and more. No other organization was in the same type of position to provide a valley-wide perspective and share what other communities were doing.

The board noted its support for the initiative, adding it is a good role for the OBWB and was beneficial to local governments and utilities to see what others were doing to address the drought. It was also suggested that irrigation board trustees and private licence holders would also benefit.

### 5.1.3 National Park – opportunity to comment

The OBWB provided comment on the proposed South Okanagan National Park in 2013 and then the project was dropped. With talks now being renewed a comment period has re-opened.

There was some discussion about the role of the Water Board and its response. Dr. Sears offered to draft a letter and forward to the board for feedback.

Dir. Baker entered the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

***“THAT the OBWB write a letter to the Minister of Environment, indicating continued support for the park and cautioning the need to protect and maintain drinking water sources.”***

**CARRIED**

### 5.1.4 BC Climate Leadership Plan – opportunity to comment

The Province is getting ready for the upcoming climate summit in Paris this November-December and has produced a plan and invited comment. Given the OBWB's concerns regarding climate-driven extreme weather events and its impact on the Okanagan, it was recommended that feedback be provided.

***“THAT the OBWB write a letter to the Minister of Environment, commenting on the urgency for the province to become more active in drought preparedness, floodplain mapping, infrastructure risk assessments, hydrologic monitoring of all types, and water use reporting in the Okanagan.”***

**CARRIED**

### 5.1.5 Proposed letter to Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness

The board was updated on a B.C. cabinet shuffle, moving emergency preparedness to its own ministry. Letters are being sent, advocating for an emphasis on prevention and proactive

planning, including floodplain mapping. It was recommended a similar letter be sent by the OBWB also noting wildfire risks to water supplies and infrastructure risk assessments.

***“THAT the OBWB write a letter to the Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, commenting on the need for preventative measures and funding for communities to do proactive planning to avoid damage to infrastructure, water sources, and communities.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated August 26, 2015, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 Water Stewardship Director’s Report

### 5.2.1 Province request for feedback on Water Sustainability Act

Dr. Sears noted the province has requested feedback on policy and regulation for the Water Sustainability Act, regarding groundwater licencing and protection, dam safety and strengthening compliance.

A letter highlighting the Board’s previous submissions and requesting an opportunity to review draft groundwater regulations before implementation was presented for review.

### Active OBWB Water Projects

The board was provided an update on other Water Stewardship Council projects, including the expansion of the BC Water Use Reporting Centre tool for agricultural users, the wetland strategy, drought workshop in July, and a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant for instream flow modeling.

***“THAT the Drought Workshop notes be received.”***

**CARRIED**

The notes will be posted to the OBWB website.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated August 26, 2015, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley gave an update on the milfoil program, including the possible expansion of work hours in winter. Kelowna was the biggest problem this summer, he noted, adding nutrient loading and sedimentation was an issue.

However, he added, there are many who also do not know the difference between native weeds (which cannot be pulled) and milfoil. Native weeds were also thicker this summer in some areas.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated August 26, 2015, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5.4 Communications Director Report

### 5.4.1 Make Water Work (MWW) and Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM)

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the outdoor water conservation (MWW) campaign noting a record number of participants (almost 1,000) who took the pledge and the efforts by local government partners to get the word out, including additional signage created and posted in

Armstrong, and RDOS partnering with a MWW plant collection partner – Penticton GardenWorks – to talk with residents and distribute information.

Gena Sherwood of Kelowna took the pledge and is the winner of a \$6,000 WaterWise yard upgrade thanks to KelownaGardens.com, Bylands, ProSource Irrigation and Eco-Turf. Another \$2,000 in prize is still to be awarded. And the Town of Armstrong was awarded the title Make Water Work Champion for gathering the greatest number of pledges per capita in the Okanagan.

Once again, several reports suggest strong recognition for the Don't Move A Mussel campaign. New this summer was a partnership with Formula 1 race boat driver Mike McLellan who is helping spread the message – not the mussel. He has DMM logos on his boat and trailer and has been provided with DMM information and resin-encased mussel samples as outreach tools.

There was lengthy discussion about recognition of the mussel issue outside the Okanagan. Dir. Findlater and staff provided a number of examples showing the work of the OBWB is being seen and heard outside the valley, including letters to the province being cc'ed to the Water Board.

That said, there was recognition that more can be done and the issue doesn't seem to have as much uptake in the Lower Mainland as other parts of B.C.

It was noted a resolution will be debated at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities convention, calling for permanent inspection stations at major entry points into B.C. from Alberta. The resolution already has the support of the Southern Interior Local Government Assoc. A delegation of OBWB directors is also set to meet the Premier on the issue.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated August 26, 2015, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 5.4.2 B.C. Government new release re: mussel efforts

A news release from the province, dated Sept. 3, regarding the government's invasive mussel control efforts was provided as information.

### **6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **6.1 Osoyoos Workshops Memo**

Dr. Sears provided an overview of the upcoming Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum and invited the board to attend.

Directors were also told that the Columbia River Treaty team will also hold its first workshop in the Okanagan and talk about how the Okanagan waters figure into the Columbia Basin and treaty.

***“THAT the Osoyoos Workshop memo, dated August 26, 2015, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### **6.2 ONA forum**

The board was reminded of the upcoming Okanagan Water Forum presented by Okanagan Nation Alliance on Oct. 14 at 4 Points Sheraton in Kelowna.

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be October 6, 2015 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

9. ADJOURNMENT

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 4, 2015 be adjourned at 1:48 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director