



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 2, 2017, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alt. Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Alyssa Bougie	Communications & Outreach Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 2, 2017 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

Wayne Wilson – Central Okanagan Land Trust (COLT) on restoration of Mission Creek & Munson Pond, the role of the land trust

Mr. Wilson provided a history of COLT, and its unique ability to apply for funding that local governments cannot, and provided an update on some of the trust’s most recent projects including Munson Pond and Mission Creek.

The City of Kelowna bought Munson Pond and adjacent properties about three years ago, and approached COLT about applying for funds to register a covenant on a nearby house. The trust received federal and OBWB grant funding as well as private donations. Funds helped rehabilitate the pond and make it more accessible with a walking trail. Today there are three fish

species and several other aquatic species at the pond. It has also become popular for bird watching.

Several partnerships have been developed to ensure the project's success, including with a nearby school, service clubs, and local businesses helping with planting and weeding.

Additional funding will go to continued work to naturalize the pond, as well as installing interpretive signs about area flora and fauna.

Mission Creek is considered a very important creek in the Okanagan, representing 25% of the inflow into Okanagan Lake, Mr. Wilson noted. Back in the 1950s, the creek was channelized to address flooding, but this also led to 75% of fish habitat being lost, both in length and riparian habitat. The goal of the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative was to move the dykes between Gordon Drive and Casorso Road to assist with new and increased risks of flooding, and to rehabilitate the area's riparian habitat.

Work was done with support from the OBWB as well as Westbank First Nations, Okanagan Nation Alliance, B.C.'s Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Trout Unlimited, Peachland Fish and Game, and many others.

Dir. Fortin entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Wilson explained that additional grant applications have been submitted to expand monitoring and rehabilitation.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 4, 2017 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 4, 2017 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be approved."

CARRIED

5. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Gray noted that she would be attending the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Ottawa with Dirs. Findlater and Cunningham and, together, they would be meeting with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding invasive mussel response.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted the June 6 joint board-council meeting will include a presentation by Renata Claudi. Ms. Claudi, who is based in Ontario, has become internationally known for her expertise on invasive mussels, their economic impact, and protection of assets. Okanagan aquatic biologist Heather Larratt will also be presenting. Ms. Larratt produced a 2012 report for the OBWB on the impact of invasive mussels to the Okanagan and has been working with local utilities.

The Water Board's annual financial audit is underway and should be ready for review by directors in June.

In response to a request from the board last month, staff requested a letter outlining the goals and process of the upcoming RDCO service review in order to facilitate the process, but have not heard back.

Dr. Sears noted that staff are waiting for RDCO staff to complete their review of the milfoil equipment transfer process from OBWB to RDOS. Once done, the proposal will go to RDNO for approval.

UBC Okanagan's Water Research Chair Community Advisory Committee meets about three times a year. The committee is now working to develop a new workshop-like format to engage the community more and staff will be assisting/providing input.

Looking at the Okanagan water supply, snow packs are now above normal. All indications suggest an average water year unless there is a sudden warming and rapid melt. Provincial water managers are ramping up the water release from the Penticton dam. There is some concern that the current rate of inflow is greater than what is being released. Caution is required to protect juvenile fish and ensure appropriate levels in the south.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated April 26, 2017, be received."

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the April council meeting and a presentation on biosolids by City of Kelowna's Andrew Reeder and consultants. There was some discussion about the use of biosolids on agricultural lands and issues around the ability to market product when biosolids are used, he added.

May's council meeting will hear a draft report on a boat traffic survey done on Kalamalka and Wood Lake, funded by the OBWB.

It was noted that biosolids are used on some international food products coming into Canada. Also, B.C.'s Environment Min. Mary Polak at last September's Union of BC Municipalities conference said an announcement on organic matter recycling would be coming soon. It was also suggested that local governments should be including the use of biosolids when reviewing applications for topsoil amendments or soil bylaws.

The board was updated on ground-surface water research on Mission Creek, including that there has been a fair amount of groundwater well drilling which can impact surface flows on the creek and impact fish. This study, in part, comes out of a need by Black Mountain and South East Kelowna Irrigation Districts, Rutland Waterworks and City of Kelowna requiring information on surface and groundwater availability.

There was some question about the province's new groundwater licencing system. Dr. Sears reminded the board that the province has welcomed feedback on the licencing process.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's report, dated April 26, 2017, be received."

CARRIED

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on a Request for Proposals for a new milfoil rototiller and purchase of new harvester engines. Rototilling is continuing for a few more weeks and maintenance to prepare for the summer harvesting season is underway.

The board was provided with a one-page backgrounder on the milfoil program. It was noted that current control efforts are provided for under \$6 per year for homeowners.

A draft briefing note was provided in preparation for OBWB directors meeting with federal officials re: invasive mussels. The board provided feedback, including the need for a more effective inspection regime at the borders, and tying requests back to ministry mandate letters.

Ms. Jackson noted that Montana's invasive species coordinator, Stephanie Hester, has offered support at the provincial and federal level, noting that they can now speak from first-hand experience as they battle the mussels. Ms. Hester also suggested asking the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region to advocate on the OBWB and B.C.'s behalf for improved federal response, adding that PNWER did this for Montana which was then provided additional U.S. federal dollars to combat the mussels.

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager's Report, dated April 25, 2017, be received."

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

The board was updated on this year's Okanagan WaterWise Challenge for youth, launched during Canada Water Week in March. Youth were invited to participate in up to three water-related challenges, including creek clean-ups, fixing leaks, and more. Winners will be announced soon and winning entries will be posted to www.OkWaterWise.ca.

Ms. Jackson reported on "Don't Move A Mussel" (DMM) presentations in Penticton, organized by DMM partners Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society and RDOS. The presentations featured Stephanie Hester with Montana's Invasive Species Council and Alberta's Cindy Sawchuk, along with her mussel sniffing dog. There was a public event and a separate event for elected officials and local government staff.

Make Water Work (MWW), the valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign, is set to launch on May 10. Mayors from throughout the valley will be attending. The event will be held at the home of the 2015 MWW contest winner.

The board was updated on a project to provide up-to-date, Okanagan-specific water curriculum resources to teachers in the valley. The Okanagan WaterWise curriculum will be introduced and tested at a Professional Development Day in Vernon on May 19.

Staff have also been providing communications support to groups, including the ONA Okanagan Water Forum on May 30. Dir. Wilson spoke to the forum, adding it will look at indigenous water rights, cultural mapping in watershed planning, and salmon restoration.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated April 26, 2017, be received."

CARRIED

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia told the board that work to update the Sustainable Water Strategy is underway and is expected to take about a year, taking into account several new issues that have come to light in the last 10 years. A meeting was held with Dir. Wilson to discuss greater ONA involvement in the process, she added.

A test pilot of the Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project will begin soon, helping water utilities message out to the ag community on water conditions using text and e-mail messages. The pilot project is being conducted with Greater Vernon Water and Penticton.

The board was also told of two recent presentations given, one being lessons learned during the 2015 drought. This was presented with Greater Vernon Water as part of a Fraser Basin Council webinar. The other was on drought planning and the mainstem drought triggers project at the Water Supply Association's spring workshop.

"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated April 25, 2017, be received."
CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Statement of values – promoting wetland protection and conservation

Mr. Jatel introduced the statement, noting it originated with the Water Stewardship Council and acknowledges the importance of wetlands in their various forms and the need to protect them.

"THAT the OBWB adopt the Okanagan Wetland Statement of Values."
CARRIED

7.2 Environmental Flow Needs – ONA contract

Mr. Jatel introduced the Environmental Flow Needs project and contract.

"THAT the OBWB enter into a service agreement with the Okanagan Nation Alliance for the provision of work related to the Environmental Flow Needs project for the 2017-18 project year."

CARRIED

7.3 Make Water Work-Don't Move A Mussel – Pulse contract

Ms. Jackson introduced the Make Water Work-Don't Move A Mussel project and contract.

"THAT the OBWB enter into a contract with the Csek Creative – Pulse Group for the Make Water Work 2017 and Don't Move A Mussel 2017 campaign management and delivery."

CARRIED

8. IN-CAMERA

8.1 In-camera session

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 1:10 p.m.

"THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (2) (b) of the Community Charter."
CARRIED

Moved to come out of in-camera at 1:28 p.m.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be an abbreviated session on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at the Summerland Lakefront Resort at 10 a.m., followed immediately by the joint Board-Water Stewardship Council meeting until 3 p.m.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 2, 2017 be adjourned at 1:29 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director