



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2017, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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**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 Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Kathy Holland	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**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

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Chair Gray respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of Okanagan Nation and welcomed Kathy Holland, attending on behalf of Dir. Lisa Wilson.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS OF LATE ITEMS**

7.3.3 B.C. Invasive Mussel Defence Program Fall 2017 Status Report

7.3.4 Letter sent from OBWB to Province with ranked recommendations for mussel program

**3. DELEGATIONS**

3.1 River Film screening – short documentary on the complexities of water management in the Okanagan. Funded by International Joint Commission, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the OBWB

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 7, 2017 be approved as amended.”*

**CARRIED**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 3, 2017 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

A few changes in attendance noted.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 3, 2017 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**6. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Gray noted that in reviewing the Province’s Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for mussels, that it was vague with response details. It was noted that the report was unveiled in February 2015 and perhaps it’s time to review and update it.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**7.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears provided an update on the 2018 board meeting schedule. There was some discussion about the rotation of the meetings between RDNO, RDCO and RDOS and the driving distance and carbon footprint for North and South Okanagan directors. Dr. Sears agreed to provide an updated schedule at the next board meeting with five meetings in the Central Okanagan, and two each in the North and South.

***“THAT the meeting schedule be updated to include five meetings at Central Okanagan Regional District, two at North Okanagan Regional District and two at Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District.”***

**CARRIED**

The board was provided an update on local applications to the Union of BC Municipalities for Floodplain Mapping Grants, including the shortlisting of applications for RDCO and RDOS.

Dr. Sears noted a bathymetry study (looking at the topography of the bottom of a water body) done by the Washington State Dept. of Ecology on at the mouth of Osoyoos Lake and Okanagan River channel, and its use in milfoil control and other water management efforts. She added there is discussion about the Dept. of Ecology conducting a similar study on Osoyoos Lake as a whole.

The OBWB is a partner with UBC Okanagan on a Community Water Forum set for Nov. 14. This is part of the work being done through the Water Research Chair, trying to engage the wider community on water conversations.

The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association recently received international “Biosphere Certification,” a commitment to environmental sustainability with its members. The OBWB was invited to participate and advise on these efforts, offering an opportunity to promote protection of upland watersheds and other sensitive areas. Directors were interested in how this designation and OBWB’s input could help mitigate impacts on water.

Dr. Sears updated the board on water conditions in the Okanagan, noting that the valley was still in nominal drought as of the previous week.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report**

Mr. Jatel reported on the October council meeting and presentations by Michael Rusello on

UBCO water fishery research and Brian Symonds and Shaun Reimer on the 2017 flood year.

The Nov. 9 council meeting will include a presentation from RDNO's Renee Clark on efforts to address backcountry recreation in the Duteau Creek watershed, Denise Nielsen with Ag Canada on climate change-related agriculture initiatives in the Okanagan, Okanagan and Collaborative Conservation Program's Scott Boswell on projects including foreshore inventory mapping, and OBWB's James Littlely with an update on the Water Board's policy initiatives to address invasive mussels.

The OBWB and Canadian Water Resources Association is co-hosting an Environmental Flow Needs national conference October 17-19, 2018 in Kelowna. Preparation is now underway.

The BC Water Use Reporting Centre allows utilities to report their water use to the province online. An interface was added for ag water users which is being piloted in B.C. for the next three months. The BC Oil and Gas Commission is also considering it for licencees in this sector.

***"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received."***  
**CARRIED**

### 7.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littlely provided an update on milfoil operations, explaining that rototilling has started and Zosel Dam operators are keeping Osoyoos Lake water levels high enough to allow the milfoil crew to continue to work. It was noted that the south end of Kelowna's Rotary Beach has changed from hard-packed sand to silty and muddy conditions, possibly from increased dock building in past years, which could create problems with the shallow water tiller getting stuck.

Work is continuing to find a solution for rototilling on Vaseux Lake.

The board was reminded of its meeting with federal officials in June regarding invasive mussels and that there has still been no formal response. It was suggested that the board follow-up with a letter. Dir. Findlater suggested the letter be cc'ed to Okanagan MLAs and MPs, as well as those who attended the Ottawa meeting, including Terry Beech.

Dir. Pike referenced the Communications Director's report, noting a conference call with the province and B.C. invasive species groups, regarding aquatic invasive outreach efforts, during which it was said that invasive mussels have not been a priority in the Lower Mainland or Northeast B.C. Staff noted efforts to bring this to the attention of the Fraser Basin Council.

***"THAT staff prepare a follow-up letter to federal ministers regarding the urgent need for more federal action, and a news release referencing both provincial and federal actions over the last summer."***

**CARRIED**

The board reviewed the latest provincial inspection stats.

Mr. Littlely presented the board with the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement 2018-19 Grant Program's call for applications. Applications are due Friday, February 16th at 4 p.m.

There was discussion about annual themes as funding priorities. Dir. Dirk asked that recommendations be provided with supporting documentation.

***“THAT for the 2018-19 WCQI grant competition annual theme, the OBWB seeks projects focused on drought and flood preparedness, mapping, water quality and source water protection; THAT applications in these categories are prioritized for funding during staff review with the awarding of up to 10 extra points toward the total score; and THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated Oct. 31, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the release of “The River Film,” adding she is compiling requests from those interested in additional screenings and/or a DVD copy for follow-up.

The board was briefed on the WaterSmart Innovations conference put on by the Southern Nevada Water Authority in October.

Following up on the earlier discussion regarding the Province’s Invasive Mussel Outreach and Inspection 2107 Wrap-up with local invasive species groups, Ms. Jackson reported that the province is working with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund on logistics to award funds to groups to conduct invasive mussel water monitoring. This is part of the \$450,000 over three years, announced by the province in March 2017.

Directors were told about a letter that has now gone out to environmental professional groups (e.g. Engineers and Geoscientists of BC), regarding best practices to prevent the spread of the mussels. An article is also being drafted to appear in their magazines and newsletters.

The board was told that the OBWB and its Okanagan WaterWise program was named a finalist and presented with a plaque at the Kelowna Chamber Business Excellence Awards for the ‘Don’t Move A Mussel’ marketing campaign.

Ms. Jackson noted that the OBWB is a sponsor of the Building Sustainable Communities Conference, Nov. 21-24, 2017. She has been helping with promotion of the conference and staff will also be presenting on a number of water topics.

Staff have also re-applied to the UN Association of Canada – Green Corps Program to assist with the hiring of another placement to provide additional communications and outreach support.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia updated the board on the development of a database of approximately 60 bylaw toolkits and planning guides, including a number developed by the OBWB (e.g. Soil Bylaws Toolkit), which will be available on the CivicInfo BC website. The site will include a searchable database and more guides will be added as they are published. This effort is an attempt to raise awareness of these guides and increase their use.

The board was provided a final update on the province's Drought Response Team for 2017. The OBWB, along Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and others, were included on weekly calls with B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD) to review current water conditions, The last call for 2017, in October,

allowed for a review of the past season and potential communication improvements for 2018, between the province, local utilities, ag users, and the public.

Ms. Garcia attended the Water Supply Association of BC (WSABC)'s Annual Conference and presented on current OBWB drought preparedness and response initiatives.

Also, a workshop was held Nov. 6 with water suppliers to discuss proposed Mainstem Drought Triggers Guidelines. About 20 large water suppliers attended, The general consensus was that the guidelines have improved. The next step is to look at ways to support water suppliers in putting triggers into their drought plans. The guidelines are intended to help these suppliers determine when lake levels reach a certain level what water restrictions are needed.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated Oct. 31, 2017, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8.1 Proposed OBWB budget for 2018-19 - Budget Features Memo**

Dr. Sears presented the draft 2018-19 budget with an overall requisition at \$3,450,733 million, a small decrease from the previous year. There has not been a requisition increase since fiscal year 2011/12.

A four-year review of the Water Management Program will be undertaken in 2018 with a reauthorization request to the three Okanagan regional districts, she added.

There was some question as to whether a reduction in requisition was prudent due to potential increase in service costs (e.g. with climate change and invasive mussels). Dr. Sears noted that there needs to be a compelling reason to build the reserves. It is possible that recommendations in the updated Sustainable Water Strategy will require increased funding, but not at this time.

***“THAT the Proposed OBWB budget for 2018-19 - Budget Features Memo, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

***Dirs. Pike and Guy and Alt. Dir Holland abstained.***

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

**9.1 Letter from Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson re: Kelowna Chamber nomination for “Don’t Move a Mussel” campaign**

***“THAT the correspondence from Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson to the OBWB re: Kelowna Chamber nomination for ‘Don’t Move a Mussel’ campaign be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 7, 2017 be adjourned at 1:33 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director