

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JULY 5, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
 <u>STAFF:</u>	 G. Armour	 Field Supervisor
 <u>OTHERS:</u>	 Dave Whiting	 Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP
	Steve Carr	Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP
	Doug Macfarlane	Ministry of Municipal Affairs
	Ken Arcuri	Director of Planning (CORD)
	Leah Hartley	CORD
	Steve Gormley	CORD
	Ron Smith	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Klim :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 30th , 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Dave Whiting and Steve Carr - Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP Process

Mr. Whiting gave some background on the Land and Resource Management Planning process for Crown Land which has been on-going in the Okanagan Shuswap area since 1995. He described the area covered in the plan, the participants and some specifics of the plan recommendations.

Mr. Whiting noted that new protected areas totaling 120,000 ha are to be added to parks in the Plan area, bringing the total parkland to 4.9% of the land base. He described the Resource Management Zones (RMZ's) outside the Protected Areas where more stringent regulations will apply. He noted that this LRMP differed from others in BC in the complexity of issues involved, the extensive tourism industry, that fully 255 of the area is community watershed, that the economy is diversified and not just forest based, that there is significant overlap of resource values, and in the detailed objectives and strategies proposed.

Director Klim asked if individual regional districts would be receiving presentations on the draft LRMP document.

Mr. Whiting said the Regional Boards would receive presentations.

Director Coady asked if analysis of the plan data was complete.

Mr. Whiting answered that most of it had been done.

Director Novakowski asked when the document would go to Cabinet and received final approval.

Mr. Whiting said he expected ratification by the LRMP Table by the end of September and approval by government by the end of the calendar year.

Director Klim repeated her concern that the report be reviewed by the Regional Boards at a time when their input could be included.

Mr. Carr stated that the LRMP must be ratified by the Regional Boards and that input should be received as soon as possible.

Director Klim left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Director Hein noted that the Crown interagency and community consultation process was similar to the role being discussed for the Water Board.

Director Hansma asked if water purveyors had been included in the stakeholders at the table.

Mr. Whiting said that representation included some purveyors but not all. He added that water is a difficult resource to deal with as it flows across boundaries between Crown and private lands. Some of the issues are outside the jurisdiction of the LRMP and in these cases 'advice' has been provided to government. Various water objectives and strategies have been identified; the objectives refer to where we want to go and the strategies propose how to get there.

Director Hein asked if the document focussed on surface water as well as groundwater

Mr. Carr replied that most of the LRMP document dealt with surface water, as groundwater information is scarce and the resource is, at present, unregulated.

Mr. Whiting commented that the objectives and strategies for the agriculture and fishery sections of the report impact on water management. He described the Resource Management Zones where enhanced regulations are proposed: Riparian areas, community watersheds, the community-Crown interface, and a special RMZ for Mission Creek.

Chairman Hobson asked if there would be enhanced riparian reserves.

Mr. Carr explained that there would be a 10,000 ha 'budget' of additional riparian area which could be applied to timber harvesting areas to increase or implement riparian reserves.

Director Coady asked why Mission Creek was singled out.

Mr. Whiting answered that this is the single largest tributary entering the Okanagan system. He added that in total, there are 332,500 ha of Crown land in community watersheds.

Director Hein asked about water storage and dams and whether there was some flexibility for future needs.

Mr. Whiting responded that those needs helped to determine the Protected Area boundaries. He described the proposed commitment of government to work more closely with local government in the community-Crown interface areas in order to address such issues as recreation, aesthetics, and water issues.

Chairman Hobson asked if the Water Board would have a potential role in discussions regarding water licensing.

Ron Smith commented that this might occur in larger allocations.

Director Hein noted the lack of communication between Provincial and local government in the areas of licensing and competing uses of water.

Mr. Whiting said that the LRMP proposed water planning in the smaller watersheds to bring together local and senior government interests. Mr. Smith added that the challenge will be to prioritize watersheds that receive this type of more intensive planning process.

Director Hein wondered how the Community – Crown interface boundary was established.

Mr. Whiting said that the representatives at the table from the regional districts located the boundary and that the regional districts could amend the boundary if they wished. He went on to outline the Mission Creek Enhanced Watershed Advisory Committee, which would add another level of consultation for this specific area. The group membership would be broad based from the community.

Director Cardoso pointed out that interest in Mission Creek extends well beyond the immediate area as the largest tributary entering the lake affects downstream conditions.

Director Hein wondered if this could be a potential role for the Water Board.

Director Coady asked if other watersheds would receive this enhanced treatment.

Mr. Whiting said that they could if a need was perceived.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Mission Creek Advisory Committee includes areas of the watershed outside the bounds of the LRMP.

Mark Watt commented that the focus of the Mill Creek Water Stewardship Committee placed more emphasis on private land areas.

There was some discussion on the authority of the LRMP Committee and whether their advice to government will be heeded.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Growth Management Strategy provides that the Province must follow the strategy agreed to in the process. He wondered if the same level of authority would apply with the Mission Creek Committee.

Ken Arcuri stated that this would likely form part of the negotiations for a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province.

Director Coady commented that the number of committees and consultation groups seemed to threaten to create greater bureaucracy.

Mr. Whiting added that the LRMP is asking for funding to do a business case analysis to determine what requirements will be for local government upon implementation of the LRMP recommendations.

Chairman Hobson observed that everyone wants a say in the use of Crown resources and more consultation leads to increased costs and time.

Director Hansma wondered if there was sufficient time to review of the LRMP by the regional districts

Director Novakowski noted that at the local level, greater detail may be required than that provided by a strategic plan. He asked if the province was looking for ratification of the LRMP or approval in principle.

Chairman Hobson observed that there might be a range of responses from the different regional districts. He asked if the LRMP required ratification by 100% of the regional boards.

Mr. Whiting explained that the LRMP provides advice to government which they may choose to accept or disregard. The fact that the LRMP process is based on consensus from the table makes it more likely that the advice will be taken.

Director Cardoso commented that if the plan is similar to an OCP, it will be amended and changed over time.

Mr. Whiting added that there will be an implementation and monitoring committee with local government involvement to oversee the plan.

Director Coady said that many local politicians have not been directly involved in the LRMP process but must rely on the staff that has been involved. The Boards should be reminded of their staff involvement and input when discussing ratification or approval.

Alternate Director Slater noted that there may be ignorance among local councils, which have changed over the 4 or 5 year time span of the LRMP, and perhaps a presentation is needed for municipal councils as well as regional boards.

Director Hansma asked for a copy of Mr. Whiting's presentation.

Leah Hartley - CORD Review of Water Management in the Central Okanagan

Ms. Hartley updated the Board on the report prepared for CORD by Dobson and Associates on Water Management in the Central Okanagan. She noted that the report parallels the analysis done by Summit Environmental for the Okanagan Basin Water Board, with a focus on the central Okanagan.

Ms. Hartley explained that the recommendations of the report were that CORD consider involvement in community watershed issues, consistent riparian management standards, and water allocation coordination with land use planning. There was an analysis of staffing requirements and costs to undertake these activities. The regional board has received the report but not decided to pursue a particular objective as yet. The board wants input from other regional districts in the province who have undertaken similar involvements, and further information on what role the Okanagan Basin Water Board decides to take on. She noted that copies of the report will be made available to the directors.

Chairman Hobson thanked Ms. Hartley for her report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Authority to Proceed With Water Management Proposal

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen authorizing the Board to proceed with a proposal to Environment Canada for broader based water management be received."

CARRIED.

District of Lake Country – Copy of Letter to Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding Minimum Lot Size

The Board received the letter from the District of Lake Country.

Eric Bonham, Manager of Financial Services, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Board received Mr. Bonham's letter summarizing his presentation at the May 30th meeting.

Director Coady wondered when these regulations take effect.

Chairman Hobson noted that Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage Facilities Grants are contingent upon eligibility for Provincial funding, thus the Board will follow the Ministry policy contained in the letter.

There was discussion regarding the intent of the letter in specific situations.

Dr. Stewart Cohen, Environment Canada, UBC – Effect of Global Climate Change on the Okanagan

Mr. Armour provided the Board with a short message from Dr. Cohen of the Adaptation and Impacts Research Group of Environment Canada outlining a project to be conducted over the next ten months in the Okanagan Valley. Dr. Cohen offered to attend a future Board meeting to provide additional information on the scope and nature of the project.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Grant Applications: None at this Time

OTHER BUSINESS:

Request for Proposals to Prepare Water Management Submission to Environment Canada

The Board directed the Field Supervisor to make some wording changes in the RFP and authorized Mr. Armour to approach consultants with the altered document.

Mr. Armour asked about firms not based in the Okanagan.

After some discussion the Board agreed to approach Okanagan Valley and 'outside' consulting firms to ensure that a sufficiently broad range of expertise was brought in.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the request for proposals to prepare a water management submission to Environment Canada be sent to at least three consultants as determined by the Field Supervisor."

CARRIED.

The Board agreed that a subcommittee consisting of Chairman Hobson, Director Hackman, and Director Coady would meet at the Regional District of Central Okanagan at 10:00 a.m. on August 15th to review the proposals and select a consultant.

Community Futures Development Corporation of the Okanagan Similkameen

Director Coady informed the Board that as a director of the Community Futures Development Corporation, she had updated the group on the Water Board progress with a new water management approach.

The group was supportive of the actions of the Water Board and would be pleased to assist in furthering this action where possible. The idea of setting up open houses at a later time was briefly discussed.

Okanagan Watershed Water Quality Management Plan

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the final report of the Okanagan Watershed Water Quality Management Plan had been forwarded by the regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. This report dealt with the U.S. portion of the Okanagan system and contained a large amount of information characterizing the watershed. It recommends actions to improve water quality as a local benefit and also as required under State and Federal law. The report listed water quality objectives and standards and those stream not meeting the objectives. Mr. Armour noted that the focus was more on specific pollutants than is the case with many water quality objectives established by the province for the Okanagan Valley.

The Board asked that a delegation from this group be invited to a future meeting, perhaps in Penticton to save travel from the U.S.

Next Meeting:

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Board would be September 5th in Penticton.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY