

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 5TH, 2000, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, 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 (Vice Chair)	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
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<u>OTHERS:</u>	David Harper	Westland Resource Group
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 3rd, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water Management Partnership Proposal:

David Harper of Westland Resource Group led a discussion of the draft proposal for a new water management partnership for the Okanagan. He said that he wished to verify that the proposal is consistent with the Board's view of the potential partnership, determine how much detail should be included or omitted from the proposal, and methods of gaining support for the partnership proposal.

Director Hansma stated that there should be a clearly defined consultation process built into the mandate of the partnership to address feedback, ideas and concerns from outside the group.

Alternate Director Slater noted that additional priorities may be forthcoming from the public.

Chairman Hobson suggested adding to the mandate that the partnership provides the opportunity and mechanism for the public and non-government organizations to directly communicate their concerns to the partnership.

Director Cardoso asked if the watchdog role referred to suggested enforcement.

Chairman Hobson replied that the group would act more as a conscience for water management activities and no enforcement role was envisioned.

Director Hansma referred to the mandate item of collecting water supply and quality data. He asked whether we would actually collect the samples.

Mr. Harper said that the partnership would obtain data collected by partner organizations and distribute it to appropriate agencies.

Director Hackman wondered how this integrated with agencies who are doing and have done work in these areas already.

Chairman Hobson suggested that there may be a role for water purveyors in the partnership.

Director Hein observed that the partnership, when formed would likely fine tune its mandate.

Chairman Hobson said that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has to agree on the proposal that goes forward, regardless of changes that are contemplated later.

There was discussion about inclusion of the Similkameen area. It was noted that this area does not pay into the water Board function at present, but the area does form part of the international watershed of the Okanagan.

Mr. Harper reviewed the Membership And Structure section of the proposal.

Director Cardoso felt there was too much government representation in the partnership and a lack of representation from agriculture and industry.

Director Hein asked what would take place at the proposed twice annual partnership meetings.

Chairman Hobson said the group would develop priorities for the year based on recommendations from the secretariat and the resources available to do the work.

Director Hansma wished to scale down the number on members in the partnership. He proposed that there be one water board director representing each regional district as well as at large representation from business and industry.

Director Klim advised changing the structure to something that was less controlled by the partnership. She suggested that the Advisory Groups, Partnership and General Public all have input to the secretariat.

Director Novakowski commented that if the provincial and federal governments are funding a third of the partnership, they need to be active members. The partnership should act in a capacity of setting direction and goals.

Alternate Director Slater reminded the Board that the original goal of the partnership was coordination of all water management activities in the valley and to do this we must have buy in from all partners.

Chairman Hobson noted that the traditional model of a partnership was that those with regulatory authority and finances formed the lead group. Another model would be an open partnership where anyone with an interest or concern in water management was welcome .

He advised that the Fraser Basin Council had very broad representation as demonstrated at the recent State of the Fraser Basin Conference.

Director Klim wondered if we needed some sort of different representation to attract federal dollars.

Chairman Hobson suggested that an open conference might be a good way to set some priorities and recommendations for the partnership to begin on.

Mr. Harper noted that flexibility is built into the task groups to accommodate specific interests.

Director Cardoso compared the two partnership models to cabinet versus parliament. He felt that many of the secondary groups should not be labeled advisory but that a large group should agree on a course of action.

Director Hein observed that the partnership was a new undertaking of the OBWB and that the Board would continue to perform its regular function for the immediate future. He said a trial of the partnership was a means to achieve our goal of better coordination, better management, and better conservation of water in the Okanagan.

Director Novakowski agreed that the structure as proposed was a good place to begin.

Chairman Hobson commented that the partnership is really the structure as a whole headed by a steering committee.

Mr. Harper outlined the possible staffing of the secretariat and the potential costs involved. He stated that matters such as equal representation would come into play if decisions were made by vote rather than consensus.

Chairman Hobson informed the Board that he had spoken with Deputy Minister of Environment, Jon O'Riordan, at the Fraser Basin Conference. He felt the partnership would require a program manager, perhaps seconded to the Board from senior government, an outreach educator, and administrative support.

Director Hansma suggested that we have an initial partnership meeting and then decide what resources are available to begin with.

Chairman Hobson asked if we required a budget page in the proposal, and if so what should it contain.

Mr. Harper said that a detailed proposal would provide clear direction to potential partners, reduce any uncertainties regarding costs and mandate, and show consideration of the issues.. A general proposal could be as brief as a Memorandum of Understanding. It would give general direction and thus offer fewer targets for criticism. There wuld perhaps be less fear of commitment and flexibility for planning, funding, and seeking support might be enhanced.

Director Cardoso said the Water Board could decide on its own financial commitment but not that of the partners.

Alternate Director Slater noted that by specifying what we will contribute we may limit the contributions of others.

The Board discussed the problems in selling the partnership to the regional districts.

Director Hein said that a report on the successes resulting from Water Board expenditures in the past would help. He singled out the improvements made to water quality throughout the valley as a result of our sewage grants as an example.

Mr. Harper advised that it would be prudent to give an indication of operating and administration costs in the proposal. In relative terms, these are small costs compared to the action items that may be undertaken later. He agreed to take the Board's changes and incorporate them into the final version of the proposal document.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Harper for his assistance.

State of the Fraser Basin Conference:

Chairman Hobson reported on the State of the Fraser Basin Conference which he attended. (attached)

He noted that the Fraser Basin Council gave out awards annually to deserving citizens and businesses. The Chairman thought that this might be a consideration for the future for the partnership.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Water Supply Association of BC – Involvement in Water Partnership

The Board received a letter from Mr. Bruce Wilson, the Chair of the Water Supply Association of BC, asking that the Association be involved in any future water management discussions undertaken by the Water Board.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had spoken to Mr. Wilson and indicated that the focus of our last workshop was on potential funding partners for the new management proposal and the Board had tried to limit the number of participants to this focus group. Although the Water Supply Association had been consulted during the Review of Water Stewardship, it was an oversight not to include them as a major participant in the following workshop.

Glenfir Resources – Okanagan River Channel Restoration

The Board received a letter from Mr. Chris Bull of Glenfir Resources, providing information on work being undertaken to investigate the possibilities of restoring parts of the Okanagan River Channel to a more natural state.

The Board received this for information.

KPMG – Recommendations arising from Audit

The Board received a letter from KPMG Chartered Accountants who performed the audit for the past fiscal year. The company made recommendations which were addressed in a Memorandum from NORD Treasurer, Douglas Holmes. (attached)

Some discussion took place regarding whether the Board wished to be informed of over-expenditures on line items of the budget, or just totals for the major categories.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That any over-expenditure of a budget line item be brought to the Board at the next meeting for approval."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that the policy remains that the Field supervisor shall obtain prior Board approval for any single expenditure of over five thousand dollars.

BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance – Proposal for Workshop

T.W. Van der Gulik – Ministry of Agriculture – Okanagan Water Management Seminar

The Water Stewardship Alliance proposed a workshop on water management for early in 2001 and in addition, Mr. Van der Gulik proposed an agriculture oriented water workshop for late January or early February. The Board agreed that it would be premature to discuss its intentions with regard to the Water Management Partnership at this time.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Board not act as co-sponsors for any water management conferences to be held early in 2001 until our own direction and resources are made more clear. The Board will be happy to have someone attend and make the information available to its members."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES ASSISTANCE GRANTS:

Grant Applications:

District of Lake Country – Clearwater and Woodsdale Phases

Mr. Armour reviewed the application from the District of Lake Country and informed the Board that it met Water Board criteria for funding. Phase 2 and 3 part of the original first phase of the liquid waste plan but were delayed due to Provincial funding constraints.

Director Hansma asked if the Clearwater and Woodsdale areas were new growth.

Director Hein said they were older areas with some lots which were yet to be built on.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the application for a sewer grant for Phase 2 and 3 (Clearwater and Woodsdale areas) of Lake Country's liquid waste plan be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Director Cardoso asked what information was provided to the board on the results of the project.

Mr. Armour noted that only financial information was received although grants were allocated for projects approved by the Province as part of an approved liquid waste management plan for the specific area. As such the permit issued by the Ministry of Environment involved inspection of the works and checks to assure the systems functioned as designed. The Board was not in a position to do this type of assessment.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2001 Meeting Schedule:

The Chair asked Mr. Armour to draft a schedule of meetings for 2001 for consideration at the next meeting.

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting on January 9th, 2001 in Penticton.

Wellhead Protection:

Director Hansma informed the Board that Spallumcheen had initiate work to ensure the quality of groundwater in that area and was making use of the Province's Wellhead Protection Kit. He asked that The Field Supervisor obtain the kit information and review it so that the Water Board could consider endorsing it as a useful tool.

Meeting with Environment Minister at UBCM:

Director Cardoso asked if the Board had met with the Minister of Environment at UBCM.

The Chairman reported that he and Vice Chair Slater had met with the Minister and Assistant Deputy Jon O'Riordon. He said that while the meeting was positive, the cabinet shuffle resulted in Ian Waddell replacing Minister Sawicki shortly after. He suggested that a letter be sent to the new Minister expressing our thanks for the meeting and indicating that with the improved provincial financial picture, perhaps they could resume their support of the Aquatic Weed program.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY