

## **OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA , B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Chair R. Hobson	C.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.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

**STAFF:**

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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### **MINUTES:**

**Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hansma :**

***"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001 be adopted as circulated."***

***CARRIED.***

### **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Health and Safety Program Audit and Proposal – McMullen and Associates**

Mr. Armour reviewed the two day safety audit conducted by D. McMullen in early August. He explained that Mr. McMullen had spent time on harvesting and rototilling machines in operation and observing an equipment move from Wood to Okanagan Lake. He had conducted an inspection of the OBWB storage yard and shop as well.

The proposal addressed two main Health and Safety deficiencies:

- Written safe work procedures to comply with OHSR in 9 areas
- Training of OBWB employees in 7 areas required by OHSR

The cost for the program was \$9940 which Mr. Armour indicated could be divided over 2 fiscal years. He noted that written procedures and documented training courses are the only foolproof way to ensure that an employer has met WCB standards of safety and diligence. Some procedures could be developed by staff after some initial instruction. He said that he anticipated that after this is done in 9 initial areas, he will be able to update, revise and add other written procedures as required.

Director Hein felt that the amount of money was relatively small in comparison to the potential cost of an accident involving an OBWB employee.

Director Hansma said that some of the sections quoted in the proposal from the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations were obsolete.

Director Cardoso asked if alternative means of receiving training had been investigated.

Mr. Armour replied that WCB approved courses were available through community colleges. This would entail costs, scheduling problems and ensuring that the generic course content meets OBWB needs.

**Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hansma :**

***"That the proposal from McMullen and Associates to implement a Health and safety program be accepted."***

***CARRIED.***

Director Klim asked that the City of Vernon be contacted through the Administrator to determine if any cost savings could be made by having some joint training sessions.

Chairman Hobson noted that the cost of staff training should be reflected in the charge out rate for any contract work undertaken by the Water Board and that other jurisdictions with milfoil control programs should be notified of the need to meet new health and safety standards.

### **Proposed Joint Efforts with Okanagan Indian Bands to improve Liquid Waste Disposal in Sensitive Areas**

Mr. Armour advised the Board that responses to our letter to Indian Bands about jointly pursuing solutions to sewage problems on native and non-native lands had been received. Okanagan Band Manager (Phil Beattie) asked for more information on the OBWB and its goals to present to his council. Penticton Band Chief Stuart Phillip expressed interested in meeting with the Board.

Director Hein noted that new leadership in the Indian Bands seemed very interested in partnership that would result in a better quality of life for their people.

Director Cardoso noted that this was an opportunity to work together in areas such as watershed protection and not just sewage treatment.

Director Klim agreed that the Bands wish to make improvements and we should explore partnerships and identify common goals.

There was a discussion about when meetings should take place and if the meetings should be with individual bands or as a collective group.

It was agreed that the best format would be to hold a roundtable discussion with representatives of the individual bands at a regular OBWB meeting held in that area. At that time shared concerns for the lake could be explored as well as a description of the programs undertaken by the Water Board and by the Bands. The goal would be to identify ways to meet mutual objectives.

The Board Agreed to invite the Okanagan Band to the October meeting in Vernon, and the Penticton Band to the November meeting in that locale.

### **OBWB Sponsored Workshop Sessions**

Mr. Armour reported on responses from Local Government regarding representation to a technical committee to set up the workshops. He advised that Vernon had appointed Eric Jackson and Kelowna had appointed John Vos. Also Andrew Swetlishoff from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

had agreed to assist. A letter from Minister Murray offered assistance of regional staff for the sewage treatment option workshop.

Director Klim suggested that Bob Campbell of NOWA be invited to participate. The Board agreed to make the request.

Director Cardoso asked what the committee would do.

Mr. Armour said the planning committee would ensure that the workshops were designed to meet real needs of local government in the Okanagan. They would recommend workshop timing, agendas, invitees, and resource people.

Chairman Hobson advised that government is very busy at the present time, with Provincial review of all budgets and program funding. The probability of assistance and participation would be more likely after this process was complete. He suggested and the Board agreed that planning of the workshop outlines proceed but that the actual events be held later in the fall when government could focus more attention on the issues.

Mr. Armour reported on discussions with Okanagan University College regarding establishment of a water resource database. He noted that Chairman Hobson had met with OUC President, Katy Bindon. As a result Mr. Armour had held discussions with Adam Bielecki, Campus Development And Strategic Planning Director and with Rob Scherer ( SIFERP ) who is working with the college to develop the BC Freshwater Science Institute.

The Board received a copy of the BC Freshwater Institute Business Plan. Mr. Armour explained that this was still in stage of institutional considerations about how BCFI will operate. They are not yet ready to detail requirements for establishing a database although this is intended to be a part of the institute. The proposal is that the database would link not only provincial information but also have Links to NRC and Environment Canada.

### **Audited Financial Statement for year ended March 31, 2001**

**Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :**

***"That the Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2001 be accepted."***

***CARRIED.***

Director Hackman asked that Note Number 6 on page 10, referring to the expiration of the cost sharing agreement with the Province, be amended to reflect that the Province had breached the agreement before the end of the five year term. The Board agreed to ask the Auditors to make this change.

### **Fiscal Year 2001 – 2002 Budget**

Mr. Armour presented some budget information for guidance from the Board in preparing the Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003 Provisional budget and in reference to the Aquatic Weed Control Budget for the current year.

A \$40,650 reduction was made to weed control operations representing savings from not doing work near provincial parks. The money was allocated to water quality and quantity management initiatives. Mr. Armour indicated that we will require most, if not all of this funding to complete current year weed control. (until March 31, 2002) He asked for authorization to shift the money back to the weed control activities.

**Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Klim:**

***"That the \$40,650 put into 'Consulting Fees and New Initiatives' in the 2001 –2002 budget be reallocated to Aquatic weed control programs."***

***CARRIED.***

Director Cardoso Opposed

Director Novakowski asked if weed control work had been done in front of provincial parks.

Mr. Armour said that harvesting had been done in some park areas. He advised that it was difficult to determine what constituted park frontage. Almost all of the lake bottom supporting plant growth is crown land and weed beds offshore of a provincial park may also affect non-provincial recreation areas adjacent to the parks.

Director Cardoso indicated that the decision not to do weed control work in front of Parks was not just a threat, but a necessary action of the Board resulting from the refusal of the Province to share in the cost of the work.

Director Hansma said he was disappointed that any work had been done in front of provincial parks and that we should consider sending a bill to the Province for those services.

There was a discussion about ways to have the new government reconsider support for weed control.

Chairman Hobson suggested that aquatic weed control funding might be added as a topic to the agenda of the September 19 meeting between Okanagan Mayors, Regional Board Chairs and Okanagan MLAs.

**Moved from the floor:**

***"That the subject of aquatic weed control funding be added, with the permission of the Kelowna Mayor, to the agenda of the September 19 meeting between Okanagan Mayors, Regional Board Chairs and Okanagan MLAs; that an information package be provided in advance to participants and that the Province be billed for any work done in front of Provincial Parks this fiscal year and notified that no derooting work will be done unless there is a financial commitment from the Province."***

***CARRIED.***

***Directors Klim and Hackman Opposed***

**Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Hackman:**

***"That the above motion concerning weed control funding be amended to deal with so that the billing of the Province and notification of no derooting work in front of Provincial Parks as a separate item."***

**DEFEATED.**

Director Cardoso asked that the Field Supervisor prepare a report delineating the boundaries of provincial parks fronting the Okanagan mainstem lakes and indicating the areas which will not receive weed control without provincial funding.

**Aquatic Weed Control Budget for F.Y. 2002 – 2003**

Mr. Armour provided information on cost increases which needed to be incorporated into the budget for the next fiscal year. He advised that an increase of 6% from F.Y. 2000 to 2001 (\$415,095 to \$439,626) had mainly covered salary adjustments. He proposed a 7.2% increase (\$31,600) for 2002 to \$471,226. This will go to increased fuel costs for trucks and weed removal equipment (\$4000), increased cost of repairs (\$8000), NORD administration increase (\$13,600) and the implementation of upgraded health and safety practices and training (\$4970). He noted that these figures are approximations.

Director Hansma commented that the NORD administration increase was due to instructions from the regional board to document the time spent on various areas and ascertain accurate costs.

The Board agreed to ask the NORD treasurer to present information on how the administration costs are derived, at its next meeting.

**Sewerage Assistance Fund Requisition for F.Y. 2002 - 2003**

Mr. Armour summarized the status of the Sewage Facilities Assistance Fund. He noted that in F.Y. 2001 – 2002 there was a 21% increase over the 2000 requisition. (\$2.1 million from \$1.76 million) The requisition had been held artificially low over the three preceding years to eliminate a fund surplus which accrued when projects for which funds were requisitioned, were delayed in their commencement.

There remains a surplus of \$351,880 in the Sewage Assistance Fund. He explained that the three years of requisitioning less revenue than the amount of grants to be paid was projected to reduce the surplus by about \$333,000 per year. In reality, the debt was reduced by a lesser amount because:

- Sewer works anticipated to draw on the fund did not do so in the first year that funds were collected
- Interest was earned on the surplus
- Refinancing of MFA issues at lower rates resulted in most grant amounts being lower in 2001 than projected.

Fiscal Year	Revenue (\$)	Estimated Grants(\$)	Actual Grants(\$)	Fund Surplus(\$)
1995 – 96	2,483,886		2,270,170	895,344
1996 – 97	2,175,544		2,090,349	980,539
1997 – 98	1,961,417		2,134,119	807,837
1998 – 99	1,833,656		1,775,634	865,859
99 – 2000	1,842,021		2,063,221	644,659
2000 – 01	1,724,439	2,224,330	2,072,398	351,180
2001 – 02	2,100,000	2,100,000		

Mr. Armour said that projected Grant payments for 2002 – 03 will be approximately \$2.15 million.

Chairman Hobson commented that the Board might use the remaining surplus to adjust the total requisition to keep it at the same level for the next few years.

There was some discussion about the merit of retaining the entire surplus or a portion of it. The Board asked that Mr. Armour prepare an analysis of both options for the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:****Regional District of North Okanagan – Aquatic Weed Control Funding**

The Board received a letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan urging it to continue to pursue weed control funding from the Province and obtain letters of support from other regional districts. A copy of letter of from Minister Murray was attached stating that the Province is unable to provide financial assistance.

**Regional District of North Okanagan - Kalamalka Lake Water Quality**

A letter was received from the Regional District of North Okanagan referring a District of Coldstream report on Kalamalka Lake water quality concerns and a request that the Water Board take a lead role to initiate and coordinate a study of the lake.

**District of Coldstream - Kalamalka Lake Water Quality**

The Board received a letter and report regarding Kalamalka Lake water quality concerns from the District of Coldstream.

Mr. Armour advised that he had asked the Penticton office of the Ministry of Air, Land and Water protection for current information on the condition of the lake but was unable to get a reply in time for the meeting.

Chairman Hobson observed that the Board could support a request from the regional district to the province to conduct a study, but assumption of a lead role by the Water Board would require authorization of the three regional boards to include this in the Water Board mandate. He noted that any deterioration of water quality in Kalamalka Lake represents a serious concern to residents of Vernon, Coldstream and Lake Country.

Director Coady advised that broadening of the mandate of the Board could not be specific to the North Okanagan as similar water quality problems are present in other parts of the valley.

**Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:**

***"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board inform the District of Coldstream and the Regional District of North Okanagan that it would be willing to work with local government in the Okanagan to address serious concerns about water quality, providing all three regional boards agree that this is part of the Water Board mandate."***

***CARRIED.***

**City of Vernon – Participation in Workshop Technical Advisory Committee**

The Board received a letter from the City of Vernon identifying Eric Jackson as the staff member designated to participate in planning the Workshop Sessions.

**City of Kelowna - Participation in Workshop Technical Advisory Committee**

The Board received a letter from the City of Kelowna identifying John Vos as the staff member designated to participate in planning the Workshop Sessions.

**Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection – On-site Sewage Disposal Guidelines**

The Board received a letter from the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection offering to have southern Interior Region staff participate in the workshop session and suggesting inviting other jurisdictions in province.

**C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O Conference Information**

The Board confirmed that Directors Hobson, Cardoso, Coady, Hein, Novakowski, Hansma, and Slater would attend the conference on October 15 and 16, in Kelowna.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**SECRETARY**