

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2002, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 12:00 P.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	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 June 11th, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Environment Canada Presentation from June 11th Meeting and Possible Action

Chairman Hobson said he had talked with E. Karlsen and P. Kluckner about the possibility of a follow up discussion with the Water Board at the October meeting. This would center around Environment Canada's desire to better coordinate their efforts with work being undertaken by local government, and in the areas of climate change and predictive ecology.

Director Novakowski asked if EC was still considering an annual investment of \$200,000.

The Chairman confirmed this and stated that the valley needs to put forward what we see our needs as.

Director Hackman asked if this was a one-year investment.

Director Hein recalled from the June presentation that a five-year time frame was discussed at which time there was a possibility of renewal. He noted that we need to get all three Regional Districts to agree on issues of water quality and quantity, beyond weeds and sewage grants, which the Board can become involved in. He asked again for clarification on whether two of the partners in the Water Board can proceed with a project should the third not wish to go ahead. He introduced a letter he had submitted to Lake Country Council. (attached)

Director Novakowski agreed that our Supplementary Letters Patent allow flexibility in taking on a broader water management role and those that wish to pursue this should be allowed to move ahead.

Director Hansma referred to the senior government funding of green infrastructure and suggested the Water Board restructure its grant funding to include some innovative systems for providing safe water supply and disposing of wastewater.

Director Hackman noted that NORD is not against a changed mandate but has not seen any plan, which they might consider.

Director Hein commented that NORD had rejected the plan for a water management partnership.

Director Klim said that the City of Vernon does not want the Water Board to pursue anything more than milfoil control and sewer grants. She noted that the North Okanagan is in the process of trying to put into place infrastructure to provide safe drinking water and to effectively dispose of liquid waste without the benefit of senior government grants.

Chairman Hobson added that the Province's plan for implementation of Drinking Water Legislation will be a key for local government actions. It may be a problem to find the resources needed to meet the requirements of the legislation.

Director Hein said that each community must do what is required to supply the necessary quality and quantity of water. Water, he noted, that is needed not only by the citizens but also by all parts of the ecosystem. He felt that in some cases source protection would be cheaper and more effective than end of pipe treatments.

Chairman Hobson commented that riparian protection is separate from the Drinking Water Legislation and we do not yet know if source protection is part of the Province's plan. He felt that the OBWB may prove to be a useful structure to help implement the legislation.

Director Coady said that this discussion of water goes around in circles at each Board meeting. She felt we need to move forward in areas where we can make things happen and accept those areas that our customers, local government, do not wish us to be involved in.

Director Novakowski agreed that we should move in a direction where we have a reasonable chance of success. He wondered if we could get the authority to become a watershed protection agency.

Chairman Hobson noted that the legislation will require purveyors to do assessments of risks in their watersheds, but the purveyors do not have the authority to protect these watersheds.

Director Klim said that the Province does have this authority but now lacks the resources to implement it.

Director Novakowski reiterated that perhaps local government should consider taking on the responsibility.

Director Klim stated that this would not be supported by NORD. The North Okanagan Water Authority is already performing some of the protection measures and they would not consider paying for similar measures in other parts of the valley.

Director Cardoso noted that the resources available to local government are limited to property taxes and this revenue is very small compared to the array of financial sources the Province has. The level with the revenue and resources should take on the responsibility.

Director Hackman disputed Director Hein's claim that source protection is cheaper and more effective than end of pipe treatments.

Chairman Hobson asked if NOWA looks at areas other than safe drinking water supply, such as riparian

and aquatic ecosystem integrity.

Director Klim said they do, to varying degrees.

Director Hein described the situation at Duck Lake where since Hiram Walker ceased operations part of Vernon Creek now runs dry in the summer. He stated that the Province cannot be relied upon to do the right thing for the environment and the integrity of resources and it is up to local government to push these important issues.

Director Hansma noted that watershed source protection tend to follow discovery of how polluted our supplies have become, and how expensive it is to purify them at the end of the pipe. He commented that the Okanagan Basin Water Board is looked at as a funding agency rather than the protection agency we might wish to be. He suggested that the only way for us to be more effective is to look at a funding role in other areas where projects proposed by local government that meet specific criteria become eligible for assistance.

Director Cardoso agreed but added that the larger responsibility would be in setting criteria that are leading edge and produce the best results. Monitoring of the projects would also be required.

Director Coady said that the criteria would require that certain structures and standards be in place in order to receive money.

Chairman Hobson noted that this type of advocacy role and financial grant process was part of the original mandate of the Water Board.

Alternate Director Gullen responded that in looking at an advocacy role we are missing an opportunity to put forward a united front to senior funding agencies.

She said we will face serious problems if we fail to work in a united fashion and while each area wants the autonomy to pursue its own initiatives, this does not present the proper perspective to the Federal Government.

The Board discussed the proposal to take on an advocacy role with financial assistance for new technology, and how this might fit with Environment Canada's interest in the region as well as green sustainable economic development. It was suggested that a sub-committee work on the requirements of such a role and incorporate the actions already authorized by the three regional boards. Information of Drinking Water Legislation and money available from the Province would be needed.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That Directors Novakowski and Hansma participate in a Water Board subcommittee led by Alternate Director Gullen to investigate an advocacy and funding role for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in areas of water management beyond liquid waste treatment. The Committee would report to the October regular Board meeting with some recommendations of time frame for preparing a report."

CARRIED.

It was agreed that directors participating on the sub committee receive half of the regular meeting pay plus any travel and other expenses.

It was also agreed that Environment Canada would be invited to make a presentation to the October meeting.

Provisional Budget Fiscal Year 2003 – 2004

Mr. Armour presented a draft provisional budget for Aquatic Weed Control and Sewage Facilities Grants for consideration by the Board.

He noted the following under the weed control section:

The budget represented the same total figure as last year with some adjustment between line items to better reflect actual expenses:

The Equipment Reserve allocation will be reduced by \$9,000 as recommended in the attached memo from NORD to fund half of the total unaccrued Sick Pay over a 2-year period.

Harvester repairs – some refitting needed to machines originally purchased in late 1970's. Mr. Armour indicated that the lifespan of this equipment can be extended indefinitely and recommended this as the best option until some better design comes along. Harvesting currently makes up only 20 percent of the control program.

Derooting repairs – slight decrease to reflect actual expenses over past seasons.

Adjustment of insurance for loss and damage of equipment as the previous policy did not cover equipment used on water.

Interest charges reduced to reflect actual charges

Health and Safety Program contact terminates. A letter from McMullen and Assoc. offering ongoing program support was received and Mr. Armour will discuss the cost and benefit with Denis McMullen and report to the Board on the usefulness of continuing this service. He advised that crew and supervisors have received training in:

- Role and responsibilities of supervisor and employee in H&S
- Incident Investigation and Reporting
- Workplace Inspections, Crew Talk Program
- Ergonomics, Cold and Heat Stress, Working Alone,
- WHIMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods,

There have also been crew consultation sessions to identify critical tasks and safe procedures and written safe work procedures for equipment operation, moving, and repairs.

For the Sewage Facilities Requisition, Mr. Armour advised that a surplus of about \$750K will exist by March 2003. Lake Country will be eligible for payments on phases of LWMP following phase I. The requisition could be reduced for 2003 – 04 to use up some of the surplus.

Director Coady commented that it is not advisable to bounce the requisition up and down annually as this creates confusion for local government.

Director Cardoso said that the surplus should be retained.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the recommendations for the provisional budget for aquatic weed control presented by Mr. Armour and outlined in the memorandum from NORD be accepted and that the Sewage facilities Grant requisition for 2003 – 2004 be reduced to \$1,900,000. A completed Provisional Budget will be presented at the October regular meeting."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour presented a draft Capital Equipment Reserve plan with projection of capital requirements for equipment upgrades, refits etc. He noted that it does not include the cost of adding to or replacing complete piece(s) of equipment except for truck and trailers but shows how fund will accrue if the annual \$ 50,000 allocation is maintained. The key point is that at any time we will have the resources to add to our equipment or replace units.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BDO Dunwoodie – Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended March 31, 2002

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended March 31, 2002 be accepted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

Green Sustainable Economic Development

The letter and survey received by local government from the consultant were received for information. Mr. Armour noted attachments to the agenda including literature on 'Green' and 'Sustainable' communities.

Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had met with members of the sub-committee of the OSBFP to discuss mutual interests prior to a meeting between the Water Board and the Fisheries Partnership Board. One area that came up was the area of water licensing inventory and status and water conservation program coordination. The Water Board asked that information be obtained on retaining OUC to perform an inventory etc. to give baseline information on the amount of water available and being used in the valley, as well as the types and effectiveness of water conservation programs now in place. The OSBFP requires the same information as a basis for ensuring fish flows and screening of intakes in tributary streams and is also concerned that licensing information is unavailable, outdated or inaccurate. This led to the draft proposal submitted by the OBSFP.

The Water Board agreed to defer consideration of the proposal until they meet with the Fisheries Partnership.

The Board asked that Mr. Armour report at the next meeting on the conference proposed by the Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group, which the Board had agreed to support.

District of Lake Country – Official Community Plan

The Plan was received for information.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held October 1st in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY