

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2003, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.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. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director E. Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Oglow	N.O.R.D.
	Director S. Field	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
<u>STAFF:</u>	B. Gagnon	CAO N.O.R.D.
	G. Armour	Field Supervisor

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

The meeting was called to order and Mr. Armour asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2003.

Director Hein nominated John Slater.

Director Oglow nominated Will Hansma

Directors voted by secret ballot, Mr. Armour tallied the vote with B. Gagnon acting as scrutineer and declared John Slater the Chair for 2003.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Chair Slater called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Board.

Director Hackman nominated Director Hansma.

There were no other nominations and Chair Slater declared Will Hansma Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2003

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Alternate Director Oglow:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 1st, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

Director Gullen asked that a letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen to the Chief Hydrogeologist for Natural Resources Canada be added to the agenda.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Letter from RDOS be added to the agenda and the item be dealt with now."

CARRIED.

Director Gullen explained that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen had asked for information on funding available from the Federal Government for groundwater mapping in the Okanagan.

Director Hobson suggested a copy of this correspondence go to Paul Kluckner of Environment Canada as this is an example of work that would help fill scientific gaps which are a significant concern to EC.

Director Hein expressed concern that there may be an expectation of commitment of local money and that we should indicate only our interest in looking at the proposal.

Director Hobson commented that British Columbia has no groundwater legislation and present aquifer mapping in the Okanagan is not nearly comprehensive enough.

Director Gullen said that there is no indication of a partnership requirement from the Federal Government and that this was a response to the issues raised by Director Hobson concerning the lack of groundwater information in the Okanagan. She suggested that the letter be copied to the Green Sustainable Economic Development group.

Director Hobson agreed that forwarding the letter would be a good step.

BOARD OVERVIEW:

Mr. Armour presented a review of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. This covered:

Structure

History and Mandate

What assets does the Board have?

Where does Board get its funding and how much?

What does the Water Board Do?

- **Sewage Grants**
- **Aquatic Weed Control** – weeds have a good side and a bad side in natural systems

What is an ecosystem? And why do we spend so much time talking about them

There was discussion about the need for the Water Board to obtain approval from the Regional Districts for budget requisitions that are within the statutory limits set for aquatic weed control and sewer grants.

Mr. Gagnon agreed to look into this and bring clarification back to the Board.

DELEGATION:

Jillian Tamblyn: Okanagan-Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership: Water Conservation and Consumption Study and Ecosystem Conference

Ms. Tamblyn reviewed the two areas in which the Okanagan-Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership had received agreement for Water Board assistance.

The first was for a late spring conference on water quality and quantity issues and the interaction of human, urban and fisheries interests. The conference is a transboundary event as the group works in close conjunction with U.S. counterparts

Ms. Tamblyn noted that the Water Board had been approached last fall and agreed to having a Board member help to organize the water section of the conference. Unfortunately, Director Coady who was assisting in this regard was not re-elected. She noted that while still in the planning stages, the conference organizers will soon be issuing a call for papers.

The second item related to OSBFP work in the Okanagan and the need to obtain accurate water information for fisheries interests. The Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations groups that make up the Partnership wish to inventory water consumption data as well as conservation program information from Okanagan communities. At its October 2002 meeting the Okanagan Basin Water Board agreed that this would be valuable information for use beyond fisheries alone and committed \$15,000 to the project. Ms. Tamblyn reported that while the Regional Districts had committed some staff time or were considering doing so, a matching amount of funding to the water Board contribution had not been found. This is necessary to conduct the project.

Director Hackman asked what happens to the Water Board funding should matching funds not be available.

Ms. Tamblyn indicated that the Water Board money would be returned.

Director Hobson commented that should the funding needed to perform the project not be found the Water Board would likely reconsider its commitment.

Alternate Director Scheffler volunteered to assist with conference organizing and chairing of the water section.

The Board had a discussion about the mixed support among local government for any actions beyond weed cutting and sewer grants.

Director Hein commented that the board cannot accomplish anything without the agreement of all partners and that one partner is opposed to any new initiatives. He said that he is relying on the Chair to bring all parties to consensus on the role of the Water Board in new initiatives.

Chair Slater noted that he is concerned over the lack of support or agreement evident in Vernon and wondered if asking Vernon Council to attend a meeting would help.

Director Hackman stated that we need to indicate positive results of our proposed actions to help bring Vernon on side.

Mr. Gagnon said that a presentation to Vernon Council would be a good start.

Director Gullen remarked that the role of the OBWB is seen, by some, as one of coordination of efforts in water related issues in the whole of the Okanagan. She said that we need to convince the North that a return to this original purpose of the Board is needed. She noted that the information that the OBSFP wishes to collect is needed to make sure we are all on the same path and is also the type of information that is critical if Regional Districts and Municipalities are being asked to take on water supply systems.

Director Hobson added that Vernon, for a number of years, has said that all their resources are committed to their master water plan and they will not support Water Board initiatives that they feel duplicate their own efforts. They want to see bottom line benefits to the City of any Water Board efforts but will not contribute to any analysis that might reveal those benefits. He asked if the Water Board could state its case directly to the regional Board.

Director Field said that the City representatives will take the information back to their Council and a presentation directly to the City would be the best route.

Alternate Director Oglow commented that while there is support for the OBWB in other North Okanagan Municipalities, the City of Vernon is also listened to. There has been a lack of promotion of Water Board achievements.

Chair Slater referred to the Green Sustainable Economic Workshop and noted the need to raise the profile of water issues.

Director Hein said that the OBWB mandate is not built on sewer grants and weed control. Those were incidental issues compared to the broad original vision. He stated that the need for cooperation and coordination is vital to preserve our reservoirs of water in the face of human pressures.

Director Hackman suggested that local government technicians should get together to compare what each region is doing.

Alternate Director Scheffler remarked that there is still no data or understanding of the concept of a water basin. There are no resources committed to this and if we fail to move forward in this are all our other programs will do us no good.

Director Novakowski said that the Water Board is limited to a single staff person and in order to do all these things, we must have the personnel and expertise.

Director Gullen left the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Director Hobson asked that a list of priority issues be brought back to the agenda and noted that it involves staff time and money to do analysis and review work. A proposal to do 'anything' requires expertise and professional staff.

Chair Slater advised that the Federal and Provincial governments want regional strategies for growth management, for air quality and now for water quality and quantity.

Director Hobson said that it may be possible to seek funding through the Green Sustainable Environment Fund.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of OBWB Meeting Allowance and Chair Stipend

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That meeting pay for Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors remain at \$100 and that the pay for the Chair be raised to \$150 per meeting and also that the Chair be paid at the same rate for attending other meetings on behalf of the Water Board."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Oglow left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Sale of Lots on Reservoir Lakes

Director Hobson described a meeting he had with Water Supply Association of BC Manager Bruce Wilson and Medical Health Officer Dr. Moorehead concerning the sale of properties on reservoir lakes as a revenue-generating scheme for the Province. He advised that he had also tried to talk to MLA Rick Thorpe and will possibly pursue this with Minister Stan Hagen. Director Hobson indicated that there are two areas of concern in protecting the integrity and quality of the water supplied from these reservoirs:

the sale of existing leased lots and the subdivision and sale of new lots. He said the concerns were magnified by reduced Provincial management in these areas that could lead to rapid degradation of the water supplies.

Director Hein noted that he was meeting with Minister Hagen tomorrow on this topic and intended to bring to the attention of the Minister the difference between recreational and reservoir lakes. He advised that one response to climate change and lower snowpacks recharging these lakes may be a need to raise water storage levels. This would be much more involved if shoreline property was privately owned. He advised that the damming of creeks for water storage purposes created many upper elevation lakes. The sale of lots will spawn many other needs from larger, more permanent dwellings, increased inspection requirements for local government, road improvements, and so on. Director Hein told the Board that analytical work conducted on Lake Country's water supply had shown a substantial component of human coliform contamination. He said he felt that while the Province was promoting source protection of drinking water supplies the reservoir lots sale was counterproductive to this objective. He asked that the Board support his position so that this resolution could be taken to the Minister.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Field:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board is opposed to the sale of lots or recreational leases on reservoir lakes by the Province of BC and further that the Province not renew existing leases on these lakes."

CARRIED.

The Board watched a video prepared by the Ministry of Health on the development around Headwaters Reservoir Lakes in Summerland.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of North Okanagan – Copy of City of Vernon letter regarding OBWB future role

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That letter be received and the Water Board Chair and staff arrange to meet with the City of Vernon."

CARRIED.

Green Sustainable Economic Development Workshop

Director Hobson commented that this is an attempt to get Federal attention focused on Okanagan Regional Initiatives. He asked the Field Supervisor to prepare a brief outline of current and past water Board regional cooperative efforts for this workshop.

Mr. John Huby – Information on Water

Information on local, regional, and global importance of water was received.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the report from Mr. John Huby be received."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:**Regional District of Central Okanagan - West Kelowna Estates**

Mr. Armour advised the Board that OBWB criteria for a qualifying project (eligibility for Provincial grant) had been met. In this case a letter had been forwarded from the Ministry of CAWS stating that the West Kelowna project met their criteria to qualify for an infrastructure grant had funds been available. This is adequate to confirm eligibility for Water Board purposes. Also the project services an area that existed at the time the Water Board grant were instituted and is not a new development that should be paid for through DCCs. He recommended approval of the grant.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Grant for West Kelowna Estates be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

There was discussion regarding the payment of grants to areas that have been built up extensively since the grant program was initiated. It was agreed that the grants should be applied to sewerage in existing areas but expansion into new areas should be covered by DCCs or methods instituted by local government to cover these costs.

District of Peachland – Phase 2 and Phase 1-D Sewer Project

Mr. Armour advised the Board that the Princeton Avenue portion of Peachland's sewer project was approved by the Province in Feb 2000 and he contacted Doug Pryde, the Peachland Treasurer who said that this project did not go ahead until word was received on phase 2 and thus was just completed. This is still within the Ministry approval deadline for the project of Jan 2003. Mr. Armour indicated that the grant amount figures cited are correct and recommended approval.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the grant application for Peachland be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING:

The meeting schedule was extensively revised after Director Field advised the Board that The Regional District of North Okanagan had moved their monthly meetings to Tuesday afternoons. (revised schedule attached)

The next meeting will be held February 4th in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

