

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2003, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
	Beverly McNaughton	Environment Canada
	Rob Richardson	Westbank First Nation
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

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 14th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Gerry Tonn, Urban Systems – Water Management Workshop

The Board discussed finalizing a structure for a local government water management workshop.

Mr. Tonn outlined two possible approaches to the workshop:

Option 1 provides for a less focused exploration of water management issues in the Okanagan with flexibility provided to allow each participant to bring their issues to the table. In this option the OBWB acts as a sponsor for Valley wide discussion of water management issues which may require a basin wide perspective and agency cooperation. It does not focus the workshop on the key issues of the OBWB such as the water quantity issue. The focus is also not on whether the OBWB could be restructured as a basis for basin wide activities.

At the request of staff a second option was prepared:

Option 2 provides for a more focused workshop. In this option the OBWB seeks to obtain the buy-in of other agencies to the issue(s) which it believes to be the most important - namely the water quantity issue. There is also a focus on how the OBWB may provide the basis for any future institutional arrangements for basin wide activities.

Director Hein said that water quality needs to be a part of the workshop discussion since this is the primary issue for many communities.

Mr. Tonn noted that option one leaves the opportunity for raising other issues at the workshop.

Chair Slater commented that introducing water quality would bring in many more attendees.

Director Novakowski noted that water quality is a complex issue and will somewhat be taken care of if we can deal regionally with the quantity issues and protection of watersheds. It may detract from our ability to deal with a single issue.

Director Hansma said that he would prefer that the workshop deals with a single issue rather than is watered down by inclusion of too many considerations. He added that other issues will naturally follow and we can set up an ability to deal with these later. Quantity is foremost in the public mind after this past summer and may be better supported by senior government resources.

Director Hein wondered about the meaning of water quantity management and how much control we actually have over quantity.

Director Hobson informed the Board that a recent meeting of the UBCM Environmental Protection Committee dealt with ways in which we can work effectively on integrated environmental issues. This approach is supported by Federal and Provincial agencies. He recalled that at the 2000 workshop sponsored by the Board, participants were invited to bring issues to the table rather than follow a pre-determined agenda. Agencies should include those representing quantity and quality as well as Forestry, Agriculture, and Tourism. The objective of the meeting should be to develop consensus on issues where it is more beneficial to work outside jurisdictional boundaries as in the Fraser Basin where members discuss issues and how to respond. An open agenda will help to limit a protective response for individual local governments.

Chair Slater reminded the Board that the purpose of the funding for the workshop was to further the implementation of the Green Sustainable Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Stamhuis advised that the staff suggestion to pursue option 2 for the workshop set-up was based on water quantity being a more serious long-term issue. Quality problems can be addressed through treatment and tend to have specific concerns and localized effects. He recommended a clear agenda outlining where we want to go.

Director Novakowski agreed and said that too broad a focus will result in no consensus.

Director Hein stated that water quality legislation in BC over the past three years has resulted in less staff and effort provincially. We have an average of three hundred boil water advisories each day and no single agency addressing these problems. He said that a broad workshop discussion will bring the issues to the table.

Director Hansma replied that we cannot afford to be unfocused at the meeting but we can certainly open the end of the session to discussion of other issues of importance to local government. This may lead to another workshop session. The first session should be a single issue but this is not necessarily more important than other issues.

Mr. Tonn commented that as a facilitator for the workshop he was sure that issues other than quantity would come out regardless of how we tried to structure the session. He said these could be summarized on the agenda with the suggestion that we deal with one issue. This may offend some who see their prime issue is not being discussed and we must keep in mind that a consensus on basin wide action is the desired outcome of the meeting.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 10:50.

Director Field noted that quality was the most important issue from the perception of residents of the North Okanagan. Even though a quantity shortage occurred in Vernon this past summer the public, generally, does not believe there is a water shortage.

There was a discussion on potential speakers to cover the range of topics.

Director Hackman added that additional speakers from the range of users – agriculture, forestry, purveyors - should be included.

Mr. Tonn said that speakers should be high level representatives and noted that perhaps Health should be included.

The possible changes in Federal political structure were raised.

Mr. Stamhuis stated that we should formulate our issues rather than tailor them to Federal funding.

Director Hackman asked if the Water Board was contributing anything to the cost of the workshop.

He was informed that Community Futures had put forward funding to cover all costs.

Mr. Tonn advised that we should send out letters of invitation as soon as possible and suggested dates of January 16th or 23rd as possibilities for the event.

Bev McNaughton – Environment Canada – EC Database Website

Mr. Armour told the Board that Ms. McNaughton had made a presentation at the Summerland Workshop put on by Environment Canada presentation that was very informative about the EC website and the extent of information available as well as how to use website. He felt this information would be useful to Board Members.

Ms. McNaughton gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered a number of questions on information available on the site and how to access it in a useful form.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

City of Kelowna – Okaview Subdivision

Kelowna has applied for and received a Federal Provincial infrastructure grant for this project that Director Hobson brought to the attention of the Board at the last meeting. The purpose of the project is to sewer an area that was previously on septic systems, about half of which were destroyed by this summer's fire. The grant will make the sewer project more acceptable to residents whose share will not be covered by insurance from the fire.

By receiving the Infrastructure Grant and submitting a project budget the Okaview Sewer project meets Water Board criteria.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Water Board Sewage Grant for the Okaview Subdivision in Kelowna be approved."

CARRIED.

Lakeridge Sewer Project – Westbank First Nation

Lakeridge subdivision, which is on WFN land just above the west side of the Kelowna Bridge, is being sewered. The subdivision has been in existence since the 1970's and WFN has paid into the OBWB since 1992 but at a rate that amounts to 20% of what would have been paid on non-reserve lands due to a flat rate agreement rather than a rate based on assessment. The project did not receive Federal Provincial infrastructure grants but received a Federal First Nation's grant for the project. The purpose of qualifying for the provincial grant is to establish that technical criteria for the project have been met that is, connection to a tertiary treatment process.

Director Hobson advised that the property owners had paid full taxes to the province prior to 1992 and he recommended the project be eligible for full Water Board grants.

Director Hein supported this and said that we should show good faith by accepting the project. The arrangement with Cord stands until the end of 2006 at which time he is hopeful that the full amount will be paid as part of a new servicing agreement.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Water Board Sewage Grant for the Lakeridge Subdivision on Westbank First Nation I.R. 9 be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2004-2005 Aquatic Weed and Sewage Fund Provisional Budgets - Inclusion of Water Management Line Item

Mr. Armour recounted the discussion from the October meeting regarding including a line item in the Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 Provisional budget for Water Management Actions or Projects. The money would come from the Sewage Facilities surplus thus the total requisition would not change.

Director Scheffler commented that the Geological Survey of Canada and Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection joint groundwater project in the Okanagan might require some local funding.

Director Hobson proposed that the funds be left in the reserve until specific action items are identified, possibly at the workshop. The Board agreed.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That amended budget for Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 be accepted."

CARRIED.

Operating costs for Additional Rototiller

Mr. Armour presented an amended 2004 – 2005 weed control budget that included the increased wages and cost for operation of a third rototiller. This amendment depends on approval of construction of the additional machine.

Director Hein said he hoped that some costs might be recovered by doing contract work in the Okanagan if time permits. He asked that Mr. Armour determine an hourly rate for the machine in order to quote on such work.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the amended Provisional Budget be accepted."

CARRIED.

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Capital Cost

Mr. Armour reported that the rough cost from 2 estimates was well within our reserve amount. He said these were ballpark estimates for budgeting purposes only so the final cost will vary but not significantly enough to affect the ability to fund construction from the reserve. He asked the Board for approval to proceed and for instructions of the process to be used.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Water Board obtain expressions of interest from potential builders of a third rototiller in the Okanagan Valley and that Mr. Armour short list these to a minimum of three applicants. The final bids should be through a formal tender process."

CARRIED.

Water Supply Association Presentation Report

Chair Slater, Mr. Armour and Director Hein made presentations to the WSA to inform them of the structure and goals of the Water Board and provide some information on the need to address water concerns. The need to have purveyors involved in the process right from the start was stressed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Groundwater Assessment Workshop – Nov. 7th Kelowna

Mr. Armour reported that he and Director Scheffler had attended a MWLAP and Geological Survey of Canada workshop where planning for groundwater study in the Okanagan to take place over the next few years. Wanted to know issues and concerns in the Valley. Will study specific aquifers and determine extent, contours, flow directions, recharge, and quality.

Similar projects done or underway in other parts of Canada.

Have funding to do scientific work. Need support of local government to get additional funding to relate work to local govt. needs.

Chief hydro-geologist of GSA said they would much rather work through a regional agency that represents the watershed than individual local governments.

Next Meeting:

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting January 13th, 2004 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY