

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

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<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	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.
	Alternate Director Gus Boersma	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.
<b><u>OTHERS:</u></b>	Joanne deVries	Alliance Professional Services
	Gundy Volk	Interior Health Authority
<b><u>STAFF:</u></b>	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 November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003 be adopted as circulated."*

***CARRIED.***

### **DELEGATIONS:**

**Joanne de Vries - Alliance Professional Services and Gundy Volk Interior Health Authority – Collaborative Communication Strategy**

Mrs. de Vries presented information on a proposed collaborative newsletter project that would take the place of individual publications from water utilities. She indicated that this approach would be economically more affordable to the utilities and would provide a more uniform educational message to users.

The newsletter will cost about \$30,000 per issue to produce with two issues per year anticipated. About 72,00 households will be reached. Sponsorship has already been received from the Interior health Authority, the Ministry of Health, fifteen utilities, Irrigation Industry Association of BC, and the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection.

Mrs. de Vries asked the Water Board to sponsor the first two issues at \$5,000 per issue.

Director Hansma asked the minimum size of utility that would be reached.

Mrs. de Vries replied that the minimum would be 300 connections initially and then later introduce something for smaller utilities.

Director Hansma noted that Spallumcheem has 15 small utilities.

Mrs. de Vries said that these could be grouped together.

Director Hobson said the Valley has already agreed on the benefits of coordination of snow removal information. He confirmed that all major utilities would be covered and asked what OBWB would contribute to the newsletter that would be different from other sponsors.

Director Boersma indicated that he supported the newsletter and asked who would vet the Water Board contribution. He also said the Province should bear the greatest proportion of the newsletter cost and their contribution should be long term.

Mrs. de Vries said that Alliance Professional Services would review the editorial content and the Interior Health Authority will advise on what information has to be provided by utilities.

Director Hein agreed that the Province should commit long term funding and said that they are looking for ways of passing along the cost of implementation of new legislation to local government. He said he was not prepared to support a Water Board contribution of \$5,000 to the first issue.

Ms. Volk noted that the cost of individual publication from each utility is greater.

Chair Slater suggested that the individual utilities do not need a six page newsletter.

Mrs. de Vries said that a smaller format would not provide enough space for most utilities.

Director Hein asked again who would edit the Water Board message.

Mrs. de Vries said that it might be a committee.

Director Hein said that he would oppose Water Board participation as the message the Board wants to present could be edited out.

Director Novakowski asked what legislation currently requires utilities to report? He also noted that any expansion of the Water Board mandate is not currently accepted by the Regional Districts.

Ms. Volk commented that the Interior Health Authority is developing a strategy for reporting of utility information. She noted that a drinking water officer is now in place.

Director Hansma said that he thought this was a good initiative but asked if inclusion of contentious issues was not appropriate. He suggested that we might sponsor the first issues and use it to promote what we think the Water Boards mandate should be.

Director Hein said there needed to be education about source water protection which is our most important concern and which is not included in legislation.

Ms. Volk responded that source water is in legislation including both groundwater and surface water.

Mrs. de Vries noted that the brochure would not contain advertising from companies such as those producing bottled water.

Director Hobson commented that part of the Water Board mandate is to advise people on protection of quality and quantity of water, in an educational, not political way. Educational policy can be framed in an appropriate way to explain why an initiative is beneficial. Any editing would be for the tone of the article and not the content.

Alternate Director Boersma agreed and said it is the responsibility of the Water Board to put forward policy. He thought that all water users should get the newsletter and not just utility ratepayers. He asked if a contribution from the Water Board could go toward the rest of the water users.

Director Hobson said that 72,000 households must be close to all the residents.

Director Novakowski stated that the contribution of the Water Board would be education and policy on a broad basis, while the utilities would deal with their own assessments.

Director Hackman advised that if the Board were not allowed to comment on the residential lots on reservoir lakes issue, he could not support sponsoring the brochure.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that the Greater Vernon Water Utility has sponsored this project.

Director Field advised that he would not support Water Board sponsorship since he felt the newsletter was a duplication of local and utility efforts. He was not convinced that this was part of the current Water Board mandate.

Director Hein noted that a newspaper is provided four times per year to water users in Lake Country.

Mrs. de Vries said that the newsletter would replace a number of individual newsletters put out by utilities. She advised that any writing on OBWB issues would be done in consultation with Water Board staff.

Mr. Stamhuis suggested a number of topics that might be suitable for OBWB comment, among them:

- Reservoir lakes lots
- Success of milfoil control and the sewer grant programs
- Water management and climate change information
- Groundwater issues
- Water use conflicts with agriculture
- Water balance in the Okanagan Basin

Director Hein disagreed and said the average citizen is not concerned with these issues. We should however be trying to educate people on how they value their water. People do not understand the economic value of water.

Mrs. de Vries said an education approach should be integrated which gives what people need to know and what they should know.

Ms. Volk commented that the cost and value of water is one thing people need to be informed about.

Chair Slater asked if the newsletter would be site specific or generic.

Mrs. de Vries replied that only the utility reports would be site specific.

Director Hobson commented on Mr. Stamhuis's approach saying that most citizens and Councils do not know what the Water Board does or where their tax dollars go. It would be a valuable first step to be actively involved in promotion of policies and the betterment of water management.

Mr. Armour asked if the Regional Boards had been approached to contribute since the Water Board funding comes from regional taxation.

Mrs. de Vries said the regional boards had not been asked for funds.

Director Novakowski noted that education is a primary goal of the Water Board. The exact issue to be advanced in the newsletter could be determined later. He asked if the Board had funds available to sponsor the newsletter.

Mr. Armour said that there was sufficient funds remaining from monies already authorized by the regional districts for water management actions.

Director Hackman asked how Alliance Professional Services would deal with conflict between the message put forward by sponsoring agencies.

Mrs. de Vries said as long as the tone invites input rather than confrontation, this would not be a problem.

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

***"That the Water Board contribute \$10,000 to the first two issues of the water newsletter proposed by Alliance Professional Services."***

***DEFEATED.***

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

***"That the Water Board contribute \$5,000 to the first issue of the water newsletter proposed by Alliance Professional Services."***

***DEFEATED.***

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

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Report on Request for Proposals

Mr. Armour reported that 10 expressions of interest were received in response to our newspaper advertising for expressions of interest. Of these, 7 were deemed acceptable Okanagan Valley manufacturers with the facilities and expertise to construct the machine; 2 were out of town (Kamloops and Lower Mainland); and one Okanagan firm did not meet our standards.

We are asking for RFPs from the 7 acceptable local firms.

He noted that details and technical specifications for the RFP were attached to the agenda. We are asking for completed tender submissions at our office by February 12th and completed machine delivery by June 30th.

The Firms selected are:

- A-1 Machine (Vernon)
- Donalds Machine Works (Vernon)
- Interior Machine (Vernon)
- Allcat Services (Kelowna)
- Multipower Products (Kelowna)
- Westway Machine (Summerland)
- Armstrong Machine (Armstrong)

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

***"That the report on the construction of the new rototiller be received for information."***

***CARRIED.***

### **Hourly Charge out Rate for Aquatic Weed Rototiller**

Mr. Armour reported that he had calculated a rough hourly charge out rate for contract work done by the rototiller.

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Total Actual Rototilling Cost for 2001 –2002:	\$215,000
(Includes supervisor allocation)	
Total Operating Hours 2001 – 2002	1600
Cost per Hour	\$130.00

He stated that this indicates that last season we charged areas done on a fee for service basis about half of the \$130 rate. He charged 'out of pocket' costs – wages, fuel, vehicle mileage, but not portions of supervisor's cost, maintenance and repair, machine transport, truck driver wages etc. There were no expenses for the latter two items as contract areas were only done when the machine was in the vicinity.

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

***"That the charge out rate for the rototiller be \$150.00 per hour to include a contribution to the equipment reserve fund."***

**CARRIED.**

#### **Provisional Schedule of 2004 OBWB Meetings**

A provisional schedule of Water Board meeting dates and locations for 2004 was discussed.

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

***"That 2004 meeting schedule be adopted as presented."***

**CARRIED.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

##### **Regional District of Central Okanagan - Appointments to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Regional District of North Okanagan - Appointments to the Okanagan Basin Water Board**

The appointments were received and it was agreed to wait for the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen appointments prior to electing Water Board officers for 2004.

##### **Water Supply Association of BC – Crown Land Sales on Drinking Water Reservoirs**

A letter from the Water Supply Association of BC was received commenting on the proposed sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs. The letter asked the assistance of the Water Board in encouraging local government to express their concerns regarding this action to the BC Premier and Minister Stan Hagen.

Director Hein provided background information on this issue. He reported that a meeting with BC Lands and Water was held at CORD to discuss a consultant's report on this issue, commissioned by BC Land and Water. A letter from NOD Manager of Infrastructure Service, Mike Stamhuis was discussed in which he pointed out many discrepancies in the consultant's report. He also stated that although the deadline for local government input is February 15<sup>th</sup>, the sales will not proceed until First Nation negotiations are complete.

Director Hobson commented that the report might not be the main issue but the fact that the province framed the terms of reference incorrectly to get the answer they wanted. We need to get information out to the public in a short time.

Chair Slater suggested that a letter be sent to Councils and Regional Boards with the letter from Mr. Stamhuis attached.

Director Novakowski asked if a legal challenge would be possible.

Director Hein noted that this would require our own consultant's report.

Mr. Stamhuis added that his letter was to discredit the report and did not include all the issues pertaining to the sale of reservoir lots.

Director Field left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Chair Slater asked if the Regional Districts could prohibit development on reservoir lakes through bylaws.

Director Hobson said that bylaws would only have an effect on crown land after sales had taken place. Leased lots have no property rights. He indicated that some research needs to be done in this area.

Alternate Director Boersma added that Bill 75 says the province can over-rule such action if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the whole.

Director Hobson suggested we might utilize Regional District zoning as a means to protect water quality as such land use authority is usually with the regional districts.

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

***"That the Water Board express concern to the regional districts about the effect of sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs and the failure of BC Lands and Water to provide a satisfactory response to these issues; and that the Water Board recommend that the Regional Districts, in conjunction with water supply utilities, look into a zoning approach to protect water quality in these lakes. Also that the details of Mr. Stamhuis' analysis of the consultants report be included and the need for timely action be stressed."***

***CARRIED.***

## **Other Correspondence**

### **Groundwater Assessment**

Mr. Armour advised that the joint Federal and Provincial Okanagan groundwater assessment was forming a steering committee and asked that the Water Board appoint a representative.

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

***"That Mr. Armour represent the Water Board on the Groundwater Assessment steering committee."***

***CARRIED.***

Director Hein noted that Lake Country would also be represented.

## **Workshop**

Mr. Armour reported that the workshop date had been delayed due to difficulties in getting speakers to attend the proposed January 16<sup>th</sup> date.

The proposed dates were now March 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Board agreed that March 19<sup>th</sup> was the more suitable date.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY