

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 11, 2004,  
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C.  
AT 10:00 A.M.**

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### PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Mr. Allan Gatzke	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.

### OTHERS:

Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
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### STAFF:

Greg Armour (OBWB)	Project	Manager
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.	

### MINUTES:

**Moved by Director Field and seconded by Director Novakowski:**

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004 be adopted as circulated."*

***CARRIED.***

### NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### **Water Management Subcommittee Meeting May 10:**

Mr. Tonn and Mr. Armour reviewed the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Workshop Subcommittee and the preparation of a draft proposal to enhance effectiveness of Okanagan Water Management.

Several members of the Okanagan Partnership Sub-Group developing a business plan for regional water management attended the latter part of the session. The group included John Byland, Nick Arkle, Vern Neilson, Tom Siddon, and Nelson Jatel.

#### **2004 Okanagan Partnership Business Plan for Regional Water Management:**

Mr. Armour said that the Partnership water management group had very similar goals to those expressed by the OBWB for better management of Okanagan water supplies. The inclusion of economic and business sectors might serve to bolster our efforts.

The Board discussed the advantages and drawbacks of an association with the Okanagan Partnership. On the positive side it was seen as a way to take a step beyond what we have achieved in the past. There were questions about the longevity of the Partnership and how a new water management group would survive after this support ended.

Links to UBC – Okanagan were stressed, and the advantages of leaders in many areas with potential

senior government connections were noted.

The idea of the Partnership taking the lead in promoting a regional management structure was discussed, as was the need for strong leadership.

Mr. Tonn advised that he had approached Tom Siddon about leading the effort and he indicated interest if he were asked. He also said that the Partnership will go ahead with presentation of their plan for some sort of regional water management process whether we merge with them or not. The Workshop Subcommittee needs direction on the next step and leadership is required to move ahead.

Director Hobson suggested that we ask the Partnership to endorse and use our proposal in their presentation.

Mr. Gatzke commented that the Partnership has the grassroots level relationship with agriculture, forestry, etc. that is needed for success.

### **Draft Proposal from Subcommittee – Water Management Structure**

Mr. Tonn summarized the proposal for the Board.

Director Hansma stated that updated water related data was the first thing needed to begin to manage water more effectively.

Director Clark posed concerns about the functioning of a new Board or Council. If it is incorporated under the Societies Act, which version would be used? Would mediation powers be binding or non-binding? He pointed out that consensus based decision making may not work for many real world issues.

Director Novakowski suggested that the organization would define itself and that the complete mandate need not be established immediately.

Director Hobson commented that less future regulation will be done by government but by a comprehensive group of stakeholders.

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

***"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorse the subcommittee proposal for a framework water management structure and forward it to the Okanagan Partnership for inclusion in their recommendations."***

***CARRIED.***

Director Hobson left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Tonn left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

**Kelowna Daily Courier Column regarding Water in the Okanagan**

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

***"That The Board send a letter to the Kelowna Daily Courier, pointing out the inaccuracies in the news column and describing the reason for current water management initiatives."***

***CARRIED.***

**Correspondence:**

**Honourable George Abbott – Letter to Board and Response (G. Armour)**

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

*"That the letter from Minister Abbott be received and his offer to attend a Water Board meeting be pursued."*

***CARRIED.***

**Copy of letter to Mayor T. Johnson, Summerland, from G. Abbott concerning Upper Elevation Lakes**

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

*"That a letter be sent to Minister Abbott thanking him for reconsidering the sale of lease lots on reservoirs and stating that we look forward to discussing the new studies to be undertaken and providing our input into decision making."*

***CARRIED.***

**Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Update to Master Liquid Waste Plan**

Mr. Armour was instructed to gather information on the nature of the proposed study and report back to the Board.

**GeoSyntec Consultants – Request for OBWB Participation in Milfoil Study**

Mr. Armour reported that a Boston based consultant had requested Water Board consent to be named in a proposal for work on aquatic weed growth and effects on water supplies. If the proposal is accepted the consultant anticipated approximately 50 hour of work from the Board staff and would compensate for this at the rate of \$65 per hour.

The Board agreed to this request.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

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SECRETARY

