

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 8, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.**

---

### PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	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.

### OTHERS:

Mr. Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
----------------	----------------------

### STAFF:

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

### MINUTES:

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

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 be adopted as circulated."*

***CARRIED.***

### DELEGATIONS:

#### **Jillian Tamblyn – Okanagan Nation Alliance**

Ms. Tamblyn presented an update on the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) project for self sustaining fish populations. This project requires regional water resource management to be effective. Leadership of the project is provided by the ONA with representation on the steering committee from DFO, Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, and The Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

Ms Tamblyn described the issues that need to be addressed to mitigate the decline in various fish species.

The Okanagan-Similkameen Watershed Based Planning Process will include:

- Establishment of priority watersheds
- Development of individual watershed plans
- Implementation and improvement of plans

Director Hobson noted that this regional watershed planning initiative focuses on fish and though fish are an indicator species of problems, it would be better to do watershed planning once with all interests represented. We should integrate the processes and not compete.

Director Field asked if water purveyors would support increased fish stocks in reservoir lakes when the correspondent increase in fishing could cause more pollution.

Ms. Tamblyn commented that although individual impacts have not yet been looked at, there was no

wish to adversely affect other water users.

Director Hein suggested assigning a Water Board liaison to keep the Board informed during planning stages.

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

#### **Okanagan Partnership – Regional Water Management and Schedule for Next Steps**

Mr. Armour explained that Mr. Siddon had agreed to attend the Board meeting representing the Okanagan Partnership's Flagship Group for regional water management. The recommendation of the volunteer subcommittee formed from the March 19<sup>th</sup> workshop was that we combine our efforts with those of the Partnership. The Subcommittee recommendation of a draft framework a structure for regional water management was endorsed by the Water Board at its May meeting and forwarded to the partnership. The purpose of this session was to make sure the ideas of both groups meshed.

Mr. Siddon reviewed the Partnership origin and process. He said each group had prepared business plans and that each had identified water as a common issue. The aim of the Partnership is not to lead to new Government, but to stimulate cooperation to use water more responsibly and effectively.

Director Novakowski stated that leadership was essential in taking regional water management forward. He asked if Mr. Siddon would consider this position.

Me. Siddon said that he would.

The Board discussed the options available to a regional management structure such as proceeding without total participation, the inclusion of taxation powers, the need for the body to be able to initiate action, and the need to have economic support to drive participation.

Director Hein asked Mr. Siddon to review the proposal the Subcommittee of the workshop has forwarded and advise the Water Board of his thoughts and recommendations.

Mr. Siddon agreed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **Alliance Professional Services – Results of First Newsletter**

The Board received a letter and sample newsletters that were distributed to 100,000 water users in Alliance's first printing.

Mrs. de Vries asked the Board to consider either a half page or a full page sponsorship of the fall newsletter.

Director Hobson and Chair Slater said that the Board is not now in a position to say anything and suggested that money be set aside until we have made some progress.

It was the consensus of the Board to allocate money for sponsorship of a future Alliance newsletter but that it not be spent until we are in a position to make a report. The sponsorship would then be coordinated with the timing of a newsletter issue.

#### **Honourable George Abbott**

Mr. Armour reported that Minister Abbott will attend the July 13<sup>th</sup> Water Board Meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Phone Confirmation Received)

Director Hobson suggested that we should discuss funding for our Okanagan Partnership joint initiative.

He also informed the Board that Deputy Minister Jon O'Riordan would be retiring soon and was keen to use his expertise in the Okanagan.

**Senator R. Fitzpatrick - Okanagan Partnership Implementation Launch**

The Board received the letter announcing the Partnership Implementation Launch.

**C.A. Dillabough – Water Supply Concerns**

Mr. Armour advised that he had replied to the letter.

The Board received the letter on water supply concerns

**RDOS – Forward Letter on Water Quality Concerns**

Mr. Armour advised that he had replied to the letter.

The Board received the letter on water supply concerns

**OBWB Endorsement of UBC--Okanagan Application for Research Funding**

The Board noted the letter supporting research funding from the Chairman.

**Environment Canada – 'Threats to Water Availability in Canada'**

Mr. Armour advised that the Environment Canada document was accessible on the WEB at the address noted on the covering letter. He said the report covered many of the concerns for Okanagan water supplies.

**SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

**City of Penticton - Industrial Area Project**

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

*"That the sewage grant application for the Penticton Industrial area project be approved."*

**CARRIED.**

**Town of Osoyoos – South East Sewer Extension**

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

*"That the sewage grant application for the Town of Osoyoos South East Sewer Extension project be approved."*

**CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

