

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2004, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.**

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### PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director Patty Hanson	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 Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.

### OTHERS:

<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Project	Manager
(OBWB)	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.	

### MINUTES:

**Moved by Director Novakowski and Director Hein:**

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 be adopted as circulated."*

***CARRIED.***

### NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

#### **Milfoil 101 – a Refresher Course**

Mr. Armour gave a powerpoint presentation on the Water Board Aquatic weed control program. He provided some of the history of the program as well as an update on methods in use in other parts of the world.

Alternate Director Hanson asked if any of the insect biocontrol agents or the grass carp could be used in smaller sites such as Beaver Lake.

There was discussion of the dangers of importing exotic species into the Okanagan.

Mr. Armour said he would look into the cost and pros and cons of using these control methods.

Director Scheffler commented on the expansion of weed growth in Vaseux Lake.

Mr. Armour noted that rototilling was not permitted in this lake because the silt generated would adversely affect sockeye spawning areas downstream in the Okanagan River.

Director Scheffler suggested that the amount of rototilling done around the Town of Osoyoos be increased and less summer harvesting be done. He explained that the weed growth was restricting water flow and allowing the build up of sediment. Director Scheffler offered to contact community groups about marking obstacles such as water intakes.

Mr. Armour agreed that extra rototilling could be done starting this year.

### **Okanagan Partnership White Paper on Water Management – Next Steps**

Mr. Armour updated the Board on presentations made by the Water Management Flagship Group of the Okanagan Partnership. The three regional boards had received presentations from co-chairs John Byland and Tom Siddon. Okanagan-Similkameen and Central Okanagan has supported the discussion paper in principle while North Okanagan had tabled the proposal until member municipalities and electoral areas were able to comment.

Director Hein advised that generally, the proposal was acceptable, but he would like to see a few changes in wording of the mandate items. He listed them as follows:

Point 1 – The reference to supply management was okay but the Province should be urged to deal with licensing problems

Point 2 – Coordinate and assist management of upper level reservoirs, improved irrigation practices, and aquifers.

Point 8 - . . . to ensure long term economic growth capacity.

The Board discussed a variety of changes that might be made in the Partnership's proposal for a Water Council. It was agreed that greater involvement of First Nations and Water Purveyors was needed to further refine the document.

#### **Moved by Director Hein and Director Scheffler:**

***"That an invitation to an informal discussion about the Partnership discussion paper be sent to First Nations Bands, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Water Supply Association, and to members of the Partnership including Tom Siddon, and that the invitees be advised of the Water Board discussions concerning the document. "***

***CARRIED.***

**Director Novakowski Opposed**

Chair Slater suggested that Provincial and Federal government representative be invited as well. The Board agreed.

Mr. Armour commented that senior levels of government had met a day previous to discuss collaborative actions in the upcoming year. On item was how to further the initiation of regional water management in the Okanagan valley.

The Board discussed initiatives that were underway in the Okanagan such as the groundwater assessment, the water supply update, and climate change research.

Director Clark said that the Partnership discussion paper should be an opportunity for stakeholders to suggest changes and eventually come up with an acceptable way to proceed.

There was discussion of Mr. Stamhuis' memorandum to NORD electoral area directors commenting on the Okanagan Partnership proposal. A number of ideas on long range tasks for a regional management council were discussed.

Director Clark noted that, with the right representation, the Board could take on a first determinant role in managing water supply.

Possible dates for a meeting were discussed. The Board decided that the meeting should be arranged for the date of the regular Board meeting in February. (tentatively February 8<sup>th</sup>).

Alternate Director Hanson suggested that we have a business plan ready for the meeting to show the structure and costs associated with the new Board or Council.

There was consensus that a press release should be issued prior to the meeting.

### **Fraser Basin Council Bi-Annual General Meeting – Report from Chair Slater and G. Armour**

Mr. Armour reported that he, Chair Slater and Director Hobson had attended the Fraser Basin Council Bi-Annual General Meeting, held November 26 and 27, in Vancouver. There were approximately 350 delegates and a wide variety of speakers. Material on the theme of Sustainability Works is available.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Resolution Endorsing Okanagan Partnership Proposal in Principle**

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

*"That the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be received."*

**CARRIED.**

### **SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

#### **District of Lake Country:**

##### **1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion**

Recommend approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility of District of Lake Country BNR treatment plant expansion.

- Stage II increase in plant capacity is needed to meet objectives of 1998 BNR project that was reduced in scale due to lack of funding.
- Federal Provincial Infrastructure Grant received.
- OBWB debt payment **\$49,100 per year**

##### **2. Davidson Road Trunk Extension**

Mr. Armour recommended approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility of District of Lake Country Davidson Road trunk main extension. This project was part of an Infrastructure Grant Application but deferred due to lack of funding. It will serve an existing area of 55 homes (not new development) currently on septic systems.

OBWB debt payment will be approximately \$2,378 per year.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Clark:

*"That the District of Lake Country Davidson Road sewer extension and treatment plant expansion be eligible for Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage facilities grants."*

**CARRIED.**

#### **District of Summerland:**

##### **1. BNR Treatment Plant Upgrade (Centrifuge)**

Mr. Armour recommended approval of OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility for the District of Summerland sewage treatment plant upgrade. (Installation of a centrifuge) The centrifuge was proposed in the

original plant construction but was not feasible within budget at that time. The centrifuge is required to dry BNR sewage plant solids to recycle effluent through plant and reduce infiltration into soil.

Project Cost \$1,000,000 – OBWB **annual grant \$82,740.**

**2. Sewer Collector Extension to Southeast Residential and Industrial Area**

Mr. Armour recommended approval of the District of Summerland southern residential and industrial trunk main extension for OBWB Sewer Grant eligibility. The project was deferred from the original sewer project to lower costs.

Total cost \$1,500,000 – **OBWB Grant – \$124,000**

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

***"That the District Summerland southeast residential and industrial area sewer extension and the treatment grant upgrade be approved for Okanagan Basin Water Board Sewage facilities grants."***

**CARRIED.**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Director Hein commented that senior government had opted out of aquatic plant control many years ago and yet the importance of this service to protect British Columbia tourism, to assist in the fast-tracking of resort development, and to add to the world exposure of the 2010 Olympic games, has increased dramatically. He suggested that we explore any opportunities that may exist for financial help in conducting the weed control program.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The Board agreed that the next meeting be held January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**SECRETARY**