

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2005, AT THE CITY OF PENTICTON, MAIN 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 Rick Fairbairn	N.O.R.D.
Director Gordon Clark	O.S.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

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

OTHERS:

Joe Cardoso	OSRD Director
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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 August 9th, 2005 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Alliance Professional Services Newsletter

The Board had authorized an expenditure of \$1500 to have Alliance Professional Services include a quarter page article in their upcoming newsletter.

Mr. Armour reported that the minimum purchase was a half page for \$2500. The next newsletter has an April deadline for submission of an article. Mr. Armour also reported that the Ministry of Environment Groundwater Assessment group is interested in using the publication for an update on their project and since the Water Board is a member of the steering committee it might consider combining the information and sharing the cost.

Director Hein asked what message the Water Board wished to convey.

Director Hobson commented that by next April the Board should have numerous items relating to the enhanced mandate.

The Board discussed the advantages of the newsletter versus a press release. It was felt that the press release would be too general and not cover all the information needed.

Mr. Stamhuis noted that the Alliance newsletter reaches the water consumers and it would be valuable to have our message distributed 'door to door.'

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That an article for the spring publication of the Alliance Professional Services newsletter be prepared and that a decision on spending be deferred until a future meeting."

CARRIED.

Director Scheffler entered the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Proposal to Enhance the Effectiveness of the Okanagan Basin Water Board

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the Regional District of North Okanagan had approved the Water Board Proposal with the provision that it be limited to a three year term rather than the five year program.

Mr. Stamhuis pointed out that if the Water Board was in agreement with this change, the Regional districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen should amend their resolutions to reflect the three year term.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the Water Board accept a three year term for the Proposal to Enhance the Effectiveness of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and that the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen be asked to amend their resolutions accordingly."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed staff requirements and a timeline to begin the new initiatives.

Director Hobson commented that a three year budget should be drafted and immediate attention given to what money requested from senior government would be used for. He said the information should be available for UBCM. The qualifications and level of additional staff need to be determined. He added that initial work could be done through a contract person.

Director Hein suggested that Mr. Armour could begin the initial work and engage a consultant who is familiar with our program if extra help is required.

Director Scheffler noted that a small committee could work to define the program and that Tom Siddon would be a good candidate to help with this.

Director Hansma said that we should move quickly so that a program is in place for a new post –election Board will have some consistency.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Water Board approve the hiring of additional clerical help and discuss the provisions of our current administrative contract with the Regional District of North Okanagan and consult on possible additional Water Board requirements that will result from new programs."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed steps to form the stewardship council.

Mr. Stamhuis said that the Council should not be too big so as to become unworkable. He suggested that all First Nations should be invited to participate and that other stakeholders could refine their representation to one person.

Director Hobson said that the Fraser basin Council is currently chaired by a First Nations Chief. He added that prior to an initial stewardship council meeting we need to define the resources available to the Council and that contact should be made with Nelson Jatel at the Okanagan Partnership about Federal Green Fund money as a source of support.

It was agreed that water stakeholders be notified of the current status of the Water Board initiative; that representatives be invited to a plenary meeting; and that a budget be prepared after this consultation.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Water Board convenes a plenary session of potential Stewardship Council members on October 18th at 12:00 p.m."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

City of Vernon and North Okanagan Regional District – OBWB Enhancement Proposal

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That correspondence from the City of Vernon and NORD is received."

CARRIED.

Mayor Rolly Hein, District of Lake Country – Reservoir Lots

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the correspondence from Mayor Hein be received."

CARRIED.

Director Hein noted that the Provincial Government mandate to sell lots on reservoirs is still in place despite the organizational changes involving Land and Water BC.

Mr. Stamhuis said this issue would be an important item to be addressed by the Stewardship Council.

Vaseux Lake Resident's Petition Concerning Aquatic Weed Control

Mr. Armour reported on the concern expressed by residents living around Vaseux Lake about increased Eurasian watermilfoil growth. He advised that there was significantly more weed growth this summer than in the past six or eight years. Before that the milfoil cover was similar to or greater than that observed this year. The only control method which can be used in the lake is summer harvesting of the plants. Rototilling was tried many years ago but Fisheries authorities were concerned about the silt created damaging the downstream salmon spawning areas.

Mr. Armour advised that the Water Board currently has two weed harvesters instead of the four used in the 1990's. He said he will arrange to meet with the residents to discuss their expectations and explain our options. These might include an earlier start to harvesting as Vaseux Lake warms sooner due to the shallow water depth and borrowing a harvester from Columbia Shuswap Regional District since their summer cutting season begins several weeks after the Okanagan.

Problems for weed control in Vaseux Lake include the lack of a launch ramp and a readily accessible weed disposal site.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the report on Vaseux Lake weed control is received and that Mr. Armour meets with the residents."

CARRIED.

SEWAGE GRANTS

City of Kelowna – Brandt's Creek Tradewaste Plant

The City of Kelowna Engineering Department Informed the Board that as part of a rebuild of the Tradewaste plant, addition of a septage treatment facility is contemplated. In view of the Board's new policy to make septage facilities eligible for sewage Facilities grants, the City asked if the septage portion of the Brandt's Creek rebuild would be eligible. Engineering work has not progressed far enough to determine the fraction of the total cost for the septage facility.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That a letter be sent to the City of Kelowna outlining the Water Board policy for grants toward construction of septage facilities and stating that the Board will assess the eligibility of the project on receiving an application containing project details."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING

The October 11th meeting will be cancelled and replaced by the plenary session of the Stewardship Council. Regular Board Business will be conducted from 10:00 a.m. until noon at which time the plenary will begin.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY