

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2005, AT THE RAMADA INN, 2170 HARVEY AVENUE, KELOWNA, BC, 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. (AFTERNOON SESSION)
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.	

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on September 13th, 2005 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Administration Contract with NORD

Mr. Armour reviewed the breakdown of the \$25,000 administration contract with NORD.

Director Hobson felt that no changes need be proposed at this time.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That report on the Administration contract be received."

CARRIED.

The Board agreed that Chair Slater would meet with NORD CAO Barry Gagnon to discuss changes required to accommodate the enhanced version of the Water Board.

Staffing Requirements

Mr. Armour reviewed a memorandum outlining initial changes in staffing requirements for the Water Board. He indicated he would be hiring a half time clerical person with the time to be shared with NORD. The posting would be made in the next week or so. In the longer range a technical person would be needed but not until the new program was underway in the next fiscal year.

Director Hobson asked if the clerical position would be permanent in view of the three year term to the Water Board enhancement. He felt that a corporate or executive secretary position would be required.

Mr. Stamhuis indicated that the shared arrangement with the clerical staff member was not locked in with NORD and the higher level staff could be added later.

Director Clark noted that the salary for the new position was not an all in cost with benefits and so on. He commented that the higher level position would likely have responsibility for dealing with the needs of the Stewardship Council, perhaps in a facilitation role.

Director Hobson suggested that the Board look at a Federal or Provincial Government secondment of a senior staff member to fill this role.

Vaseux Lake Residents Meeting

Mr. Armour review a memorandum on a meeting he held with Vaseux Lake residents who had expressed their concern about increased milfoil growth. The Board had received a petition at its last meeting.

Mr. Armour indicated that the residents had agreed with the weed control he had proposed at the meeting and the work would be done in June of 2005.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the report on the Vaseux Lake residents meeting be received."

CARRIED.

Discussion of the Stewardship Council Session

Director Hein stressed the importance of involving First Nations in the Stewardship Council as the Fraser Basin Council has successfully done. He advised that a press release on the formation of the Council should be circulated prior to local elections to ensure continuity of our objectives with the new Board

Director Clark asked what hard decisions we wanted out of the session today. Would we be looking to establish terms of reference? He also suggested that the Board examine the effective connection that UBC Okanagan has made with First Nations.

Mr. Stamhuis said that we should have the afternoon participants leave with an understanding of the possible role of the Council.

Director Scheffler said that the International Joint Commission has a major role in Okanagan water management and Chris Bull who is doing contract work on negotiations should be contacted.

Director Hobson noted that the session in the afternoon would involve a mixed group of participants and defining a role would be a good objective. He was concerned that no Water Board Directors were on the proposed Council. He said that this is very different than the manner in which the Fraser Basin Council works. He asked about the role of the Council in dealing with Water Initiative Grants Applications.

Mr. Stamhuis replied that he did not see the Council sifting through the details of each application, but that a role would be in assessing the overall scope and direction of the projects. Periodic sessions with the Water Board might take place to review the program.

Director Hein indicated that the preliminary group of the Stewardship Council should say what they envisioned doing to make improvements to water quality and quantity.

The Board discussed a stipend and travel expenses for Stewardship Council members. There was no consensus on this.

Director Clark stated that the Water Board should be involved in furthering groundwater assessment. This resource will increase in importance and there is still little know about it or regulation of its use.

Director Novakowski said that there should be a clear chain of command between the Water Board and the Stewardship Council. The Board should have the ability to direct Council actions when necessary.

Director Hobson said that the Council may take an interest in an issue and pursue it outside the OBWB – Council structure but the Council should not speak directly for the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Hackman commented that the Council should form their own idea of what they want to do without too much initial direction from the Water Board.

Director Hansma said that issues of water quality and quantity are the current mandate of the Council.

Amendment of Supplementary Letters Patent

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he had discussed the amendment of the Okanagan Basin Water Board Supplementary Letters Patent with the Director of the Local Government Structure Branch. The proposal for enhancement of the Water Board and the resolutions from the three regional district boards had been forwarded.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board ask that the Local Government Structure Branch of the Ministry of Community Services proceed with changes to the Supplementary Letters Patent consistent with the resolutions of the three regional districts."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING

The next Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting will be held November 8th, at NORD.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY