

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, BC, AT 10:00 A.M.

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.
Alternate Director Gus Boersma	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.	

Vice Chair Hansma called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 18th, 2005 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

The Board received the minutes of the meeting of the Water Stewardship Council session held October 18th.

Mr. Armour noted that the Ministry of Environment had been inadvertently left off the list of suggested members of the stewardship council although the letter inviting an appointment had been sent out. Advertisements for stewardship groups had been made from which the Water Board would fill the three available seats.

The Board recommended that the request for interest would be advertised one more time and that staff would screen the applicants and make a recommendation to the Board.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007 Budget:

Chair Slater entered the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board requisition two cents per thousand dollars assessment for Water Management in Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed the Water Management program.

Mr. Armour explained that due to increased assessments the two cents per thousand dollars assessment would provide \$610,000 rather than the \$450,000 anticipated.

Director Hackman suggested that the Board should raise the full amount and asked if setting up a reserve for future projects could be done.

Mr. Armour said that was possible.

Director Scheffler noted that with the Board taking on a broader role for the next three years a higher profile was important and having the money for regional projects was a good start.

Mr. Stamhuis agreed and said that as the Water Stewardship Council (WSC) identified regional needs, funds to support initiatives beyond the smaller grants allocated from the \$300,000 program would be required.

Director Novakowski expressed concern about raising the extra funds and stated that we needed to be specific in what the money would be allocated for.

Director Hansma commented that there was a need to have a capability to undertake new initiatives that may be identified next fiscal year.

Director Hein said he supported the idea of surpluses and reserves. Our support for the Water Stewardship Council should include the financial capacity to take on projects not yet envisioned.

Director Hackman commented that we must set our budget now and should not limit the scope of our actions in the future.

Mr. Stamhuis agreed that the funds were necessary to support WSC initiatives which are approved by the Water Board.

Mr. Armour questioned what this allocation should appear as in the budget.

It was agreed that it would be 'Water Stewardship Initiatives' (specific initiatives to be identified by the OBWB in 2006)

Alternate Director Hanson asked for information on the Water Supply and Demand Study being undertaken by the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the study was a comprehensive update of the 1994 study on how much water remained to be licensed from sources in the Okanagan. Factors such as actual usage from existing licensed withdrawals, climate change factors, growth demands, and groundwater would be incorporated so that decisions on new allocations could be based on the best current information.

Director Hackman asked if the extra funds generated by the increased assessments would be apportioned by region as agreed to for the \$300,000 program. He said that he felt we were changing the parameters agreed to by the regional boards if we did not adhere to this formula.

Director Hansma said that we are taking the money according to assessment from each regional district as we do with the sewage grants and applying it where it will result in the greatest benefit to the region.

Director Novakowski said that as with sewage grants, allocations tend to even out over time.

Mr. Stamhuis observed that we would not be exceeding the two cents approved by the regional boards and that the grant program was approved at the \$300,000 level. Regional projects identified by the WSC were in addition to this program. He added that it was imperative that seed money be available for valley wide projects that would be of benefit to all regions.

Director Hackman reiterated that his opinion was that the Water Board is changing the rules set out to the regional districts.

Director Scheffler said that a balance would be arrived at over the three year mandate.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007 Provisional Budget be approved as presented."

***CARRIED.
Director Hackman opposed.***

The Board discussed the Aquatic Weed Control Budget.

Mr. Armour summarized the proposed changes outlined in the attached memorandum.

The Board discussed the relocation of the storage facility and possibility of construction of a new shop building. Options included the new NOD septage facility and the old North Okanagan Water Authority yard.

Director Hein asked what would happen if the Board constructed a building and NORD found another use for the site.

Mr. Stamhuis said a long term lease would be worked out with the Water Board.

Director Hein suggested as lease arrangement of site and building owned by NORD.

Chair Slater asked how the fair market value of the septage property would be determined.

Mr. Stamhuis said the entire site was purchased for \$600,000 and the value of one-third, if that is what is required would be proportionate.

The Board discussed the amount of the requisition for Sewage Facilities Grants. It was agreed to maintain the amount at \$1.9 million.

NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting will be set following the November 19th Civic Election.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY

