

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON January 24, 2006 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.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Graham Reid	C.O.R.D.
Director Lorraine Bennest	O.S.R.D.
Director Rick Fairbairn	N.O.R.D.
Director Pat Cochrane	City of Vernon
Director Bill Firman	N.O.R.D. (absent)
Alternate Director Jerry Oglow	N.O.R.D.
Director Ron Perrie	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Project	Manager
(OBWB)		
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.	
Deb Taylor	Recording Secretary	

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD FOR 2006

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

Director Rick Fairbairn (Area Director RDNO)
Director Pat Cochrane (City of Vernon)
Director Bill Firman (District of Coldstream)

Alternates: Wayne Lippert, Jerry Oglow, Stan Field

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN

Director Robert Hobson (City of Kelowna, Chair RDCO)
Director Len Novakowski (Westbank Director)
Director Graham Reid (Mayor of Peachland)

Alternates: Patty Hanson, Colin Day

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

Director John Slater (Mayor of Osoyoos)
Director Lorraine Bennest (O.S.R.D.)

Director Ron Perrie (O.S.R.D.)

Alternates: no alternates determined at meeting date

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR PERSON

Mr. Armour called for nominations for the office of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Alternate Director Oglow nominated Director Slater for the office of Chair.

There being no further nominations, Director Slater was declared elected, by acclamation, as Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2006.

Chair Slater assumed the Chair.

Mr. Armour thanked Chair Slater for his work and dedication over the past three years in getting the new Water Management function of the Board implemented.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR PERSON

Chair Slater called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Oglow nominated Director Cochrane for the office of Vice Chair. There being no further nominations, Director Cochrane was declared elected, by acclamation, as Vice Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Alternate Director Oglow

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 08, 2005 at the Regional District of North Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

Mr. Armour provided a copy of the Regional District Budget Requisition to the Directors and offered to provide a complete budget summary at their request.

Chair Slater noted that meetings will be kept informal unless media or the public is in attendance.

6. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved by Director Hobson
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That Item 7.9 being Recommendation to Revise Supplementary Letter Patents be added to the Agenda."

CARRIED.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 TD-1 Information from Directors

Mr. Armour requested that Directors provide updated TD-1 information as required along with a completed Direct Deposit form if direct deposit payment is desired.

7.2 Introduction to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

Mr. Armour provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board to familiarize newly appointed Directors with the history and current role taken by the Board.

Page 2 of the presentation should read 'Directors receive \$100 per meeting and 46¢ per kilometer' (rather than per mile).

It was agreed that the Board should lever senior government to enter into partnerships to gain more funding. Funding would be used for subsidizing regional projects along with other programs.

An overview of the Water Stewardship Council was presented.

7.3 Provisional Schedule of Meetings

The Board agreed to change the regular monthly meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board to the first Tuesday of each month commencing March 07, 2006. The meeting scheduled for February 14, 2006 was cancelled. The Board will review scheduling at their meeting on July 12, 2006. Mr. Armour will forward the amended Schedule of Meetings for 2006 to all members of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Armour to forward the amended Schedule of Meetings for 2006 to all members of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

7.4 Appointments to Stewardship Council

The list of members of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council was received by the Board and the following confirmed members were ratified by the Board:

Bob Hrasko, Water Supply Association
Tom Siddon, Okanagan Partnership
Valerie Cameron, Ministry of Environment
Paul Kluckner, Ministry of Environment
Rob Smailes, Regional District of North Okanagan
Ken Arcuri, Regional District of Central Okanagan
Marty Willfong, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Brian Symonds, Ministry of Environment
Bernie Bauer, UBC Okanagan
Brian Guy, Canadian Water Resource Association
Mike Adams, North Okanagan Interior Health
Gord Shandler, BC Fruit Growers Association
Hans Buchler, BC Agriculture Council
Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Environment
Scott Schillereff, BC Groundwater Association

Mr. Armour is awaiting reply from other proposed members.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Oglow

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the list of Okanagan Water Stewardship Council members as presented."

CARRIED.

Chair Slater suggested that members of the OBWB have observer status with the Stewardship Council rather than be official members of the Council. Director Reid suggested that the Chair position be ex-officio. (Council Member but does not vote)

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Ogilow

"That the position of Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be designated as ex-officio."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson suggested scheduling a yearly joint workshop of the OBWB and the Stewardship Council.

Discussed possible ineffectiveness of having a Council consisting of thirty members. Solutions may include producing a core group or forming task committees.

Mr. Armour noted that the Council will evolve adding members or deleting members as required. The Council will make a decision regarding the length of term of appointment to the Council at their initial meeting.

Discussion regarding length of term of Council members. Director Reid noted that it is difficult for a new group to get established in one year and that 18 months might be more reasonable.

The Board agreed that the Council members would hold a term until June 20, 2007 being renewable for 18 months.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Ogilow

"That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council members hold a term until June 20, 2007 being renewable for 18 months."

CARRIED.

7.5 Non-Government Appointments to Stewardship Council

The Board reviewed and discussed the memo from Mr. Armour dated January 24, 2006 introducing Non-Government Organization Applicants for 3 Stewardship Council Appointments.

Director Hobson stressed that it is important to maintain three positions on the Stewardship Council that are held by citizens associated with the Non-Government sector. Director Bennest added that it would be beneficial to have a balance of members having an instinctive approach as well as those members having a technical background. Chair Slater noted every attempt was being made to have the NGO group as diversified as possible.

Board agreed that Rick McKelvey would be a valuable addition to the Council however because Mr. McKelvey is associated with the Ministry of Environment that he not be categorized as a NGO member.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Rick McKelvey as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by The South Okanagan Environmental Coalition.”

CARRIED.

Community Futures is not considered a Non-Government Organization but may be able to participate as an economic member. Stu Wells, Chair of Okanagan-Similkameen would represent all three Community Future groups in the Okanagan.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Community Futures as an economic participant rather than a Non-Government Organization on the Stewardship Council.”

CARRIED.

Bob Whitehead, Drew Kaiser, and Neal Klassen were selected in as Non-Government Organization appointees for the three Stewardship Council positions.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Ogilow

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the appointment of Bob Whitehead, Drew Kaiser, and Neal Klassen as Non-Government Organization members to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.”

CARRIED.

7.6 Water Quantity and Quality Initiatives Grants – Package for Regional Districts

Mr. Armour requested the Board’s approval of the attached Water Quantity and Quality Initiative Grants package for forwarding to the Regional Districts and Municipalities. The covering letter to the Regional Districts and Municipalities will describe the methods and plan of the Grants.

Director Hobson was concerned that applicants would ask for an increase on the \$30,000 limit. Mr. Armour replied that there would be a possibility of ‘stacking’ the grants however a multi-year application would not be approved. If a region did not receive applications for the allotted funding the surplus funding would then be transferred towards other regions’ applications.

Director Novakowski expressed concern that yearly applications would result in an abundance of paperwork as most programs are scheduled for longer than a year. Mr. Armour pointed out that the amount of funding received by the Board varies each year with annual assessments.

Director Bennest suggested that ground water conservation and drought management plans be added to the grant application form as eligible projects. She added that users must have an understanding of conserving ground water first rather than dealing with a drought.

Mr. Stamhuis noted that a drought management plan and a ground water plan are all consistent with the intention of providing a plan for more efficient use of water in the valley. If a community wishes to conduct a study it will benefit a larger region than that community alone and should be looked at for funding. It is difficult to look at a multi-year project as we are unable to project income for following years. Projects will be reviewed for funding each year. There will be projects that are not completed precisely at the end of the year and will be rolled over into the following year.

Director Hobson inquired what role the new Project Coordinator would have in the selection of project grants. Mr. Stamhuis answered that the new Project Coordinator would review the applications then forward to the Board for prioritizing. The values of the Board will be reflected rather than those of the separate Regional Districts.

Chair Slater noted that each region would receive a level of available funds in accordance with assessments however not be limited to the number of projects forwarded to the Board. He added that a valley-wide drought management plan may be considered a regional project.

Chair Slater suggested that applications be accepted for 2006 grants until funds run out however a cut-off date will be determined for next year in order that applications can be evaluated before the summer.

Discussion regarding surplus funds generated from sewage facility. Director Hobson suggested that new directors would benefit by meeting with Jim Mattison, Assistant Deputy, Minister of Environment before allocating surplus funds. Matter will be brought forward to next meeting.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

“That the Water Quantity and Quality Initiative Grants package be forwarded to the Regional Districts and Municipalities as amended.”

CARRIED.

7.7 Hiring of Technical Staff Member

Discussion regarding job description and salary/benefit package requiring more definition before advertising for the Project Coordinator position. It was agreed that the successful applicant should have both talent and energy with good presentation/communication skills, good organizational skills, and an excellent understanding of budgets. Responsibilities would include working with water issues and grants for the Board and acting as a resource person including administration backup for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. The position would offer a salary of \$50,000 to \$60,000 per annum and have a three year term.

The Board agreed the position should be filled as soon as possible as grant applications will soon be coming in. Director Hobson noted that it would be beneficial to have a representative of the Stewardship Council take part in the hiring.

Director Hobson suggested advertising the position with Professional Groups. Director Reid added that advertising in the Okanagan on Sundays may be worthwhile as they deliver valley-wide that day.

Moved by Director Novakowski
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses advertising for the position of Water Management Project Coordinator upon defining the responsibilities and salary/benefit package associated with the position.”

CARRIED.

7.8 New Okanagan Water Projects – Memo From G. Armour

The Board reviewed and discussed the memo dated January 24, 2006 received from Mr. Armour regarding Water Stewardship Projects. Mr. Armour noted that there are approximately sixty-eight water and land projects in place. The Board will confirm link between projects.

Mr. Armour reviewed the following with the Board and noted that because of the volume of projects there must be care taken not to have overlapping projects:

- Water Sustainability Committee Information
- Environment Canada Land and Water use Project
- Agriculture Environment Standards (Environment Canada) – Agricultural Water Use and Conversation.

Mr. Armour noted that the current website of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is part of the NORD site and is difficult to find. It is not linked to the other participating Regional Districts.

Chair Slater added that communication is vital and should include a website and press releases.

7.9 Recommendation to Revise Supplementary Letter Patents

Mr. Stamhuis requested a letter be forwarded to the Ministry of Community Services requesting expedition of revising the Supplementary Letters Patent and that the letter be copied to local MLA's.

Moved by Director Oglow
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses a letter being forwarded to the Ministry of Community Services confirming the need to revise the Supplementary Letter Patents."

CARRIED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Environment Canada, Shannon Denny - Integration of Land and Water Information for Decision Makers

8.2 Okanagan Indian Band, Chief Fabian Alexis – Designate to Stewardship Council

8.3 Oceola Fish and Game Club – Assistance with Water Resource Management in Middle Vernon Creek

8.4 BC Ministry of Environment – Water Stewardship Division – Spallumcheen Groundwater Assessment

8.5 Assistant Deputy Minister, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment, Jim Mattison – Water Stewardship Council

8.6 Alliance Professional Services – Joanne DeVries – Purchase of Space in Newsletter

Moved by Director Novakowski
Hobson

Seconded by Director

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses spending \$5,000.00 on a full page

advertisement in the Alliance Professional Services newsletter."

CARRIED.

8.7 T. van der Gulik – Funding Request – Water for Growth in the Okanagan – Video Production

8.8 Tom Siddon – United Nations Convention on Climate Change

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive Agenda Items 8.1 through 8.8."

CARRIED.

9. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Director Reid requested confirmation in the budget that the application was received. Mr. Armour confirmed the application was received and in the budget.

10. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 07, 2006 at 10:00 to be held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m."

CARRIED.

CHAIR

SECRETARY