

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON February 23, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, BC AT 12:00 NOON.

PRESENT:

Bob Hrasko, Director, Water Supply Association
Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of Water Flagship Group, Okanagan Partnership
Valerie Cameron, Watershed Protection and Planning, Ministry of Environment
Paul Kluckner, Director, Environmental Conversation, Environment Canada
Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance
~~Clarence Louie, Chief, Osoyoos Indian Band (absent)~~
~~Robert Louie, Chief, Westbank First Nation (absent)~~
~~Stuart Phillip, Chief, Penticton Indian Band (absent)~~
~~Fabian Alexis, Chief, Okanagan Indian Band (absent)~~
Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan
Ken Arcuri, Director, Planning Services, Regional District Central Okanagan
~~Marty Willfong, Development Services, RD Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)~~
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment (absent)~~
Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan
Brian Guy, President, Okanagan Chapter, Canadian Water Resource Association
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, North Okanagan Interior Health
Gord Shandler, Chair, BC Fruit Growers Association
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council
~~Ted van der Gulik, Senior Engineer, Resource Management (absent)~~
Scott Schillereff, Director, Okanagan Region, BC Groundwater Services
Dave Casorso, BC Cattleman's Association
~~Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute (absent)~~
~~Tom Roemer, Okanagan College (absent)~~
~~Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society (absent)~~
Rick McKelvey, Director, South Okanagan Environmental
Bob Whitehead, Kelowna Water Task Force
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City of Kelowna Water Conservation Program
Stu Wells, Community Futures

STAFF:

Greg Armour, Project Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Debbie Taylor, Recording Secretary

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Armour noted that Stu Wells, representing Community Futures, had been

appointed to the Council. List of Council Members will be amended and disbursed by email to members.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Round the table introduction of Council Members. Mr. Armour added that three Council Members were unable to attend this meeting however would be attending subsequent meetings.

Chair Slater stated that he would be attending as Chair at this meeting only. The Council would be electing a Chair.

3. BACKGROUND

Mr. Armour noted the abundance of knowledge and expertise of the members of the Council. Members of the Council represent a vast cross-section of interests and concerns of water issues and will evolve as required.

It may be a challenge for members to step away from their background and need a consensus on recommendations. Project should be looked at regionally rather than locally.

Mr. Siddon stated that he sees this body not as a discussion session or debating club but offering information for decision makers. He added that we are not here to lobby for our personal agendas.

Mr. Siddon suggested that with consensus process and a facilitator, the Council formalize a plan of action at the next meeting. Mr. Siddon suggested that members bring to the next meeting matters of concern. These matters would be prioritized by the Council and possibly three focused on as strategic projects.

Ms. Cameron noted that the Council should have a Terms of Reference before setting its mandate.

There is scope for the Council to develop their own mandate.

Mr. Armour reviewed the changes to the Water Board and the resources allocated to this Council (Agenda Items 3.1 through 3.7):

- 3.1** Three year term after which there will be a review by the 3 Regional Boards;

- 3.2 Three new members added to the nine member political Board including a representative of the Stewardship Council;
- 3.3 New Board Members will vote except on financial matters;
- 3.4 New taxation of 2 cents per \$1000 assessment for water quality and quantity improvements;
- 3.5 \$610,000 this year – \$300,000 to grant program for local initiatives - \$3000 to \$30,000;
- 3.6 \$160,000 for projects more regional in scope identified by this Council and approved by the Water Board;
- 3.7 Staff member to support Council (as required);

4. **COUNCIL - ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

4.1 **Schedule of Meetings**

Council agreed that meetings would be scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd, 2006, then for the second Thursday of each month, being:

*Thursday, April 13, 2006;
Thursday, May 11, 2006; and
Thursday, June 08, 2006.*

Subsequent scheduling will be discussed at the June 08, 2006 meeting.

4.2 **Location of Meetings**

Council agreed that meetings would be held at:

*Regional District of Central Okanagan
Woodhaven Board Room
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna, B.C.*

until such time the Council determines a rotating schedule of the three Regional Districts.

4.3 Length of Meetings

Council agreed that meetings will be scheduled for a maximum of two and a half hours.

4.4 Time of Day

Council agreed that meetings will be brought to order at 1:00 p.m. and conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m.

A light lunch will be provided at 12:00 noon.

4.5 Protocol for Meetings – Rules of Order

Council agreed that the Chair will direct discussion but meetings will be generally kept informal.

4.6 Alternate Council Members

Commitment needed by all members to attend meetings regularly. Mr. Smailes noted that it would be challenging to make progress without having alternate members.

It would be the members responsibility to keep alternates informed of current matters. Alternates would be asked for input however they would not be able to vote.

Names of alternates do not need to be formalized however members should notify Mr. Armour if they are unable to attend and relay the name of the alternate attending the meeting.

Suggestions included tracking attendance of members for the first few months then discussing matter of replacement if the designate is unable to attend regularly.

Chair Slater stated that the Council must come up with Terms of Reference then forward to OBWB for signing off. Greg agreed that Terms of Reference regarding administrative matters, expected commitment of members, and operating principles would be valuable. The minutes of this meeting will reflect the Terms of Reference.

4.7 Quorum for Meetings

Council agreed that two-thirds of the Member List will be required for a quorum. Full disclosure will be included in minutes of those opposed to recommendations.

Mr. Siddon suggested that Council Members unable to attend a meeting be able to vote via email.

4.8 Agenda Preparation and Distribution

Mr. Armour advised that he would email members before each Council meeting regarding proposed Agenda Items.

Discussion regarding transparency of meetings. The Council would feel freer to discuss matters if there were no gallery. Members want to keep the Council as an informational support source for the OBWB rather than a Council to be lobbied.

Although the Council has certain expertise the Council may benefit by public input. This could possibly be accomplished by scheduling a public meeting. Lack of transparency could result in the Council having a negative secrecy impact. The Council is a committee of the three Regional Districts with some accountability to the public. Discussion regarding responsibility of Council to report to OBWB rather than the public. Delegations should take matters to OBWB.

Suggestion that the Council is advisory to OBWB and should be consistent with OBWB as to transparency. Mr. Smailes noted the difference with this Council and the OBWB is that the OBWB is elected and this Council has been asked to attend.

Chair Slater added that he was the only elected member today and will not be attending all meetings. Council appointments have been ratified by the O.B.W.B.

The Council agreed that Minutes need not be verbatim.

Suggestion to offer meeting minutes on the website. The Council would then be able to receive email input from the public.

Mr. Armour will post Minutes rather than the Agenda on the website. Suggestions to produce monthly newsletter rather than posting minutes on website.

The position of Project Coordinator will be an evolving position. The Project Coordinator will be available to the Council as required including working on grants, reviewing applications, and presentations. The Council agreed that the choosing of the successful applicant will be at the discretion of the OBWB.

4.9 Minutes Preparation and Distribution

Council agreed that Minutes with pertinent text or resolutions highlighted will be distributed and ratified before posting on website.

Minutes will be emailed to Council Members.

4.10 OBWB Website

Council agreed that Minutes will be posted on a revised OBWB website and information will be added to the waterbucket.ca website of the Water Sustainability Committee;

4.11 Expenses

Council agreed that Mr. Armour will recommend to OBWB that mileage be compensated for Council Members who are not reimbursed by their employers.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIR

5.1 Election of Chair

Mr. Armour will email Members individually requesting volunteers to be nominated as Chair.

5.2 Co-Chairs

Discussion regarding the election of one Chair or Co-Chairs to the Council. Consensus to elect Co-Chairs.

5.3 Chair Position Ex-officio?

Should the Chair position(s) be ex-officio? (Council Member but does not vote);

5.4 Voting Member of the Okanagan Basin Water Board

A delegate of the Stewardship Council will become a voting member of the Okanagan Basin Water Board;

6. VISION AND GOALS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Develop a Vision and Goals

Matter to be brought forward to next meeting.

Council may invite David Marshall to address the group.

7. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Siddon and Mr. Whitehead to facilitate next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Chair

Program Manager