

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON March 07, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, 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. (in part)
Director Ron Perrie	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Board agreed that Item 7.4 of the minutes of the meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 24, 2006 be amended to reflect the names of appointees confirmed and ratified by the Board to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 24, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

Director Bill Firman was introduced and welcomed to the Board.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved by Director Bennest
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That Item 4.11 being Signing Authority on behalf of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be added to the Agenda."

"That Item 4.12 being Ministry of Environment Water Supply and Demand Study be added to the Agenda."

"That Item 4.13 being Sale of Lease Lots be added to the Agenda."

CARRIED.

4. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Approved Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Schedule

The Approved Meeting Schedule for 2006 was received by the Board. The Board agreed that the meeting that was to be held July 12, 2006 be moved to July 11, 2006 to accommodate Directors schedules. The Board will schedule meetings for the remaining months of 2006 at the May 02, 2006 meeting.

Moved by Director Hobson
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the Approved Meeting Schedule for 2006 of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

4.2 Okanagan Basin Water Board of Directors List

Moved by Director Novakowski
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Directors List adding Alternate Directors of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

4.3 Minutes of February 23, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council were received for information.

Item 2. Appointments to the Stewardship Council

First Nations appointed Deana Machin to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council as representative for the Okanagan Nation Alliance. Mr. Armour advised that Deana Machin has confirmed that the Okanagan Nation Alliance had appointed Chief Fabian Alexis as First Nation Director on the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Item 3. Background

Tom Siddon and Bob Hrasco will facilitate the Council meeting scheduled for March 23, 2006 focusing on Vision and Goals of the Council.

Item 4.6 Alternate Council Members

Director Hobson suggested that the agencies represented by the Council Members submit a list of proposed alternate members to the Board to be ratified. Mr. Stamhuis stated that Alternate

Council Members must be appointed and designated by the Okanagan Basin Water Board in order to vote. Director Novakowski noted that having non-voting Alternate Directors would make it more challenging to achieve a quorum. Director Reid and Director Bennest added that having non-voting Alternate Directors stresses the importance of the agencies appointing Members who would attend on a regular basis.

Item 4.7 Quorum for Meetings

The Board agreed that fifty percent plus one rather than two-thirds of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Member List would constitute a quorum.

Item 4.8 Agenda Preparation and Distribution

The Board agreed that the Council is a local government committee and meetings must be open to the public. Director Hobson suggested scheduling occasional strategizing meetings before the scheduled monthly meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding posting of Council meeting minutes or agendas on the website versus producing a newsletter. A newsletter would allow the highlights of the meeting to be accessible to the public more promptly as the Minutes must be approved by the Members at the following meeting. Chair Slater was concerned that the Council may communicate matters to the public that had not yet been put to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for approval.

Item 4.10 OBWB Website

Mr. Armour said that the website was going to become a self-standing site with links to the three Regional Districts. Mr. Armour added that the Okanagan Basin Water Board had been invited to post information on the Waterbucket website.

Item 4.11 Expenses

The Board agreed that mileage would be compensated for Council Members who were not reimbursed by their employers.

Item 5.2 Election of Co-Chairs

Mr. Armour said that the election of Co-Chairs would provide a broader range of knowledge and opinion than the election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair to the Council. Director Hobson noted that the election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair to the Council would offer consistent attendance to the Board meetings.

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

4.4 Background Notes Circulated to Stewardship Council Members for February 23, 2006 Meeting

Background notes circulated to Stewardship Council Members for February 23, 2006 meeting were received by the Board.

4.5 Appointments to Stewardship Council – Revised List

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the removal of Chief Clarence Louie designated by the Osoyoos Indian Band, Chief Robert Louie designated by the Westbank First Nation, Chief Stuart Phillip designated by the Penticton Indian Band and Chief Fabian Alexis designated by the Okanagan Indian Band from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and endorses Deana Machin as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by the Okanagan Nation Alliance."

CARRIED.

Correspondence received from the Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee dated March 01, 2006 requesting membership to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council was received and discussed by the Board.

The Board endorsed the appointment of representation of the Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee on the Stewardship Council.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Michelle Boshard as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society."

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Reg Crane as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee."

CARRIED.

Discussions ensued regarding the initial three seats reserved on the Council for Non-Government Organizations and the concern of accepting new applicants after the initial selection of members was made. The Board agreed to review the number of seats available for Non-Government Organizations in eighteen months.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board review the number of seats available for Non-Government Organizations on the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council in August, 2007."

CARRIED.

Director Hobson stated that the Kelowna Water Task Force had disbanded and that Bob Whitehead would be referred to as an interested citizen on the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council List of Members.

4.6 Hiring of Water Management Coordinator – Memo from G. Armour

Memo from Mr. Armour dated March 07, 2006 regarding Water Management Coordinator Position was received for information.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board convene In Camera to deal with personnel matters deemed closed to the public in accordance with Section 92 of the Community Charter."

CARRIED.

The meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to meet "In Camera" at approximately 11:50 a.m.

The meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board reconvened at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Director Firman left the meeting at approximately 12:40.

4.7 Alliance Professional Services – Water Supply Newsletter

Memo from Mr. Armour dated March 07, 2006 regarding Water Purveyor's Newsletter was received for information.

4.8 Water Supply Newsletter – Groundwater Assessment Project Article

Groundwater Assessment in the Okanagan Basin article was received for information.

4.9 Changes to Supplementary Letters Patent – Information to be Presented at Meeting

Mr. Armour noted that he had not received a response from Ministry of Community Services regarding the amendment of Supplementary Letters Patent therefore the three new directors would attend the next Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting as observers.

4.10 Aquatic Weed Program Equipment Storage Facility – Memo from G. Armour

Memo from Mr. Armour dated March 07, 2006 regarding move of storage yard and shop was received for information.

The lease agreement with Windsor Plywood ends December 31, 2006.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that negotiations are taking place with Windsor Plywood, which if agreeable terms are reached, may make it possible to obtain the metal frame shop building the Okanagan Basin Water Board now uses. The building would be moved to the NOWA property and would require a concrete slab. Mr. Armour has arranged for the NORD Building Inspection Department to assess the building and the new site for any complications. Mr. Armour will present the Board with the full costs of setting up the shop building once costs are determined.

Moved by Director Hobson
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses obtaining the metal frame shop building from Windsor Plywood contingent on negotiations being acceptable."

CARRIED.

4.11 Signing Authority

The Board agreed that Director Fairbairn be appointed as Signing Officer of the Board along with Regional Board Chair Stan Field, who remains an Alternate Director to the Okanagan Basin Water Board and that the dollar amount requiring Officer signature be increased from Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Cochrane

"WHEREAS it is desirable for the Okanagan Basin Water Board (hereinafter called the 'Corporation') to authorize certain of its officers to, inter alia, sign cheques, deposit promissory notes and cheques, receive paid cheques, obtain and deliver from the Corporation's bankers, copies of all or any stocks and bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Corporation hereby enacts as follows:

That all cheques of the Corporation drawn on its current account be signed on its behalf by Stan Field, Alternate Director; Rick Fairbairn, Director; Alan Harris, Chief Financial Officer; and/or Terry Mori, Corporate Controller; (any two to sign);

That Alan Harris, Chief Financial Officer; and/or Terry Mori, Corporate Controller of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the Bank of Montreal (but for the credit of the said Corporation only) all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Cheques and Orders for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse the same or any of them on behalf of the said Corporation, either in writing or by rubber stamp, and further that all cheques under the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) may be mechanically signed by a cheque-signing machine or other electronic or mechanical means, including Laser Technology, by any of the above officers;

That Alan Harris, Chief Financial Officer; and/or Terry Mori, Corporate Controller of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation from time to time to arrange, settle, balance, and certify all books and accounts between vouchers, unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments;

That Alan Harris, Chief Financial Officer; and/or Terry Mori, Corporate Controller of the Corporation, be and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to obtain delivery from the said Bank of all or any stocks, bonds and other securities held by the said Bank in safe-keeping or otherwise for the account of the said Corporation and to give valid and binding receipts therefore; and

That this resolution be communicated to the said Bank and remain in force until written notice to the contrary shall have been given to the Manager for the time being the Branch of the Bank at which the Account of the said Corporation is kept and receipt of such notice duly acknowledged in writing."

CARRIED.

4.12 Ministry of Environment Water Supply and Demand Study

Jim Mattison of the Ministry of Environment had approached the Board requesting that the Board become financial partners in a water supply and demand study.

Director Hobson suggested making a contribution of up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) and having the Stewardship Council research the matter before committing further. Mr. Armour added that the Board's Two Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$200,000) contribution would be contingent on the Ministry implementing the full program and the Board being on a steering committee.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses contributing up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) of surplus Sewage Facilities Grant funds to Ministry of Environment study."

CARRIED.

4.13 Sale of Lease Lots

The Okanagan Basin Water Board has concerns regarding lease lot sales on water reservoir lakes and the impacts on water quality and future storage capabilities. The need to preserve flexibility in our water supplies has been brought to the forefront by drought conditions in the Okanagan during recent summers.

Mr. Stamhuis said that the Province is committed to proceeding with the sale of lease lots. Mr. Stamhuis was scheduled to attend an upcoming meeting at the Regional District of Central Okanagan and suggested that the Board delay any motion until information from the upcoming meeting was received. The Board agreed to receive information from the Regional District of Central Okanagan meeting before proceeding with any further discussions.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Regional District of North Okanagan – Development Variance Permit

Correspondence to the Board from the Development Services Department of the Township of Spallumcheen, dated February 14, 2006, regarding a Development Variance Permit Application was received by the Board. The Development Services Department requested confirmation that they were interpreting the policy correctly regarding creation of a lot of less than 1.0 ha that was proposed to be serviced by a holding tank.

The Board confirmed its policy that "creation of lots less than 1.0 ha not serviced by a community sewer system may jeopardize future funding for infrastructure improvements".

ACTION ITEM: Staff was to draft and forward a letter to Township of Spallumcheen, Development Services Department confirming that their interpretation of the policy was correct.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board confirms the policy that "creation of lots less than 1.0 ha not serviced by a community sewer system may jeopardize future funding for infrastructure improvements".

CARRIED.

Director Perrie asked the Board for clarification of the minimum lot size policy. He explained that as Area Director for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, he was asked about subdivision of property resulting in lots less than one hectare. The lots would be in rural areas which likely would never receive sewer but were surrounded by a large vacant amount of land and would be able to handle on-site treatment. He felt permitting these small subdivisions should not affect the grants to enable provision of sewer to denser development where problems were likely to occur.

It was the opinion of the Board that exceptions would not be made to the interpretation of the

minimum lot size policy.

The Board asked that Mr. Armour consult with the Ministry of Community Services to verify that Federal – Provincial Infrastructure Grant policy had not changed and report back at the next meeting.

6. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

7. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 04, 2006 at 10:00 to be held at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

"There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m."

CARRIED.

CHAIR

Program Manager