

## *Okanagan Water Stewardship Council*

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

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#### **PRESENT:**

Bob Hrasko, Director, Water Supply Association  
Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of Water Flagship Group, Okanagan Partnership  
Valerie Cameron, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment  
Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada  
Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance  
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  
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment~~(absent)  
Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan  
Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association  
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, North Okanagan Interior Health  
Gord Shandler, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association  
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council  
Ted van der Gulik, Senior Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Groundwater Association  
~~Dave Casorso, BC Cattleman's Association~~ (absent)  
Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute  
~~Tom Roemer, Okanagan College~~ (absent)  
Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society  
Rick McKelvey, Manager, South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program  
~~Bob Whitehead, Kelowna Water Task Force~~ (absent)  
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee  
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City of Kelowna Water Conservation Program  
Stu Wells, Community Futures  
Reg Crane, Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Council

#### **STAFF:**

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

#### **OTHERS**

#### **PRESENT:**

John Slater, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Four others in gallery

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### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

Paul Kluckner entered the meeting by speaker phone at 1:09 p.m. and advised

the Council that he would be exiting the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and would return later in the meeting.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR (OR VICE-CHAIR)**

The Council agreed to the recommendation from the Okanagan Basin Water Board that the election of a Chair and Vice Chair would be preferable over the election of a Chair and Co-Chair from a point of view of consistency with other local government advisory bodies and functioning of the Stewardship Council.

**Moved by** Ken Arcuri

**Seconded by** Rob Smailes

*“That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council endorses the recommendation from the Okanagan Basin Water Board to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair to the Council.”*

**CARRIED.**

Nominations were called for the office of Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Mr. Hrasko nominated Mr. Siddon for the office of Chair.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Siddon was declared elected, by acclamation, as Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Chair Siddon assumed the Chair.

Members of the Council congratulated Chair Siddon. Mr. Siddon addressed the Council stating that the members had the opportunity to contribute to a sustainable high quality water supply for generations to come.

Chair Siddon called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Mr. Buchler nominated Mr. van der Gulik for the office of Vice-Chair.

There being no further nominations, Mr. van der Gulik was declared elected, by acclamation, as Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on February 23, 2006 be amended to reflect updated Member information as follows:

Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada  
Rick McKelvey, Manager, South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program  
Brian Guy, Director, B.C. Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association  
Valerie Cameron, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment  
Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Groundwater Association  
Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

**Moved by** Stu Wells

**Seconded by** Bob Hrasko

*"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on February 23, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Woodhaven Board Room be adopted as amended."*

**CARRIED.**

**3. APPOINTMENTS TO THE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

Mr. Armour introduced newly appointed Council Members Reg Crane designated by the Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Council and Michelle Boshard designated by Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society.

**Moved by** Michelle Boshard

**Seconded by** Bernie Bauer

*"That the List of Members of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be adopted as amended."*

**CARRIED.**

**4. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL APPOINTEE TO THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD**

**Moved by** Rob Smailes

**Seconded by** Ken Arcuri

*"That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council endorses the Chair as appointee to the Okanagan Basin Water Board and endorses the Vice Chair as alternate appointee to the Okanagan Basin Water Board."*

**CARRIED.**

**5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6.1 Procedural Recommendations from the Okanagan Basin Water Board**

7.1.1 The Council agreed to the recommendation from the

Okanagan Basin Water Board that the election of a Chair and Vice Chair would be preferable over the election of a Chair and Co-Chair from a point of view of consistency with other local government advisory bodies and functioning of the Stewardship Council.

- 7.1.2 The Council agreed with the Okanagan Basin Water Board that alternate members would be permitted to vote otherwise it may prove difficult to get a quorum for meetings. It would be the responsibility of each Council Member to keep his or her alternate apprised of Council business.
- 7.1.3 The Council agreed with the Okanagan Basin Water Board that as a function of the Regional Districts, Council meetings must be open to the public; however, there was no requirement to advertise the meetings.
- 7.1.4 The Council agreed with the Okanagan Basin Water Board that the Chair have an 18 month term commencing April 01, 2006.

## **7. VISION AND GOALS OF COUNCIL**

Chair Siddon and Bob Hrasko led a discussion and brainstorming session on the issues facing regional water management in the Okanagan and what the priority items may be.

Chair Siddon commented that the Council should look at two directions:

1. doable projects that could be accomplished in 18 months; and
2. long term goals and policy to set the direction for regional water management.

Bob Hrasko commented that we should engage public attention by demonstrating the linkage between growth and water depletion including:

1. project to focus on potential crises, when it might occur and what the specific effects might be; and
2. would catch public attention.

Paul Kluckner reentered the meeting by telephone at 3:15 p.m.

A flipchart exercise on projects and policies followed.

### **Policies:**

#### **Long Range Policy and Planning**

Sustainability –

- development
- Watersheds and water quality
- Integrated approach

Public involvement – build stewardship groups

Water management plan

Explore governance issues related to water

Interrelated agencies on water MOE, MOF, OMOhealth,MOAg)

### **Water Quality**

Water Quality issues – habitat and domestic

Water Source Protection

- groundwater
- lakes
- watersheds

Water for habitat –quality and quantity – influence on regulators to ensure adequate share

Long term (> 100 years) source protection

Groundwater regulation and licensing

### **Water Quantity**

Water for habitat –quality and quantity – influence on regulators to ensure adequate

Groundwater regulation and licensing

Research on Demand Side Management – long term changes in public habits

Climate Change – drought potential, drought management plans of all utilities

Basin – wide metering

Value of water and water pricing

### **Conservation**

- Residential Landscaping standards

- Topsoil bylaw

Economic incentives to water use.

Water for agriculture to be maintained

Demand Management

### **Science and Education**

Leveraging of science and technologies

Application of Science and how to relate to the public.

### **Tactical projects:**

#### **Demand Side Management:**

Responsible water consumption – metering

Meters on source locations

Irrigation scheduling – application and scheduling

#### **Education:**

Communication / education – pilot projects public involvement with measurable output

Communication for agricultural water metering

Survey public on water value, pricing and knowledge

Annual State of the Watershed Report

Stewardship groups to involve students and schools

Principles document – social and public

Inventory of all water management projects- tell public what is going on

T.V. story – 1 hour 'water in the Okanagan' – short clips on T.V.

WSC - communication strategy to the public

Public presentations on water issues

#### **Information Gaps:**

Watershed monitoring – long term data on quantity and quality

Needs analysis on water quality and quantity monitoring.

Groundwater withdrawals – measure

Source to tap assessments for drinking water sources

**Science:**

20 min. presentations at WSC Meetings.

Central Website for Engineering studies, groundwater, surface water information

**Engineering and Infrastructure:**

Infrastructure renewal issues for water

**Long Range Initiatives:**

Basin wide management plan

Drought management – common policies or plans

**Best Management:**

Incentive program for free flowing wells

Uniform code of practice for installing and approving wells

Contamination policy to protect aquifers

**Environmental and Ecology:**

Fish sensitive streams

Reg Crane exited the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

The members agreed that a presentation to the Council by the Vice Chair through lunch at the next meeting would be beneficial. The presentation would commence at 12:00 noon.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting had been scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2006 at 12:00 noon to be held at the Woodhaven Board Room at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Chair Siddon

*“There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.”*

***CARRIED.***

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Chair

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Program Manager