

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON May 02, 2006
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET,
PENTICTON, BC, AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Pat Cochrane	City of Vernon (regrets)
Director Bill Firman	Regional District North Okanagan (absent)
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Toby Pike	Water Supply Association
Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Program Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Mike Stamhuis	Regional District North Okanagan
Deb Taylor	Recording Secretary

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for May 02, 2006 be approved."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Reid

"That Item 5.7 being Water Quantity and Quality Initiatives Grant Applications be added to the Agenda."

"That Item 5.8 being Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study be added to the Agenda."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Location of the meeting to be changed to Regional District of North Okanagan rather than the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Moved by Director Reid
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 04, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as amended."

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Okanagan Stewardship Council from April 13, 2006

The Board received the minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Stewardship Council.

The Board agreed that they would receive the draft minutes from the Stewardship Council and then the action items once the minutes were adopted by the Stewardship Council.

Mr. Armour reported that at the April 13, 2006 Stewardship Council meeting Mr. Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and a member of the Council gave a presentation on water use in agriculture.

Kim Stephens, Director of the Water Sustainability Committee BCWWA was invited to make a presentation to Council at the May 11, 2006 meeting.

Joanne DeVries of Alliance Professional Services was invited to speak at the May 11, 2006 meeting and outline her work on the waterbucket.ca website. Mr. van der Gulik suggested that \$20,000 be set aside to develop a plan for the Okanagan and set up a link with the waterbucket.ca website. Information would be constantly updated.

Mr. Siddon noted the abundance of knowledge and expertise of the members of the Council. Members of the Council represented a vast cross-section of interests and concerns of water issues and it would be a challenge for members to step away from their background. He added that the Stewardship Council was large and would likely need to break into sub-committees to deal with projects.

Mr. Pike added that ideally the Council would buy into projects that were truly the identity of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. He stated that he had recently attended a BC Water Resources congress which brought studies together collectively. He suggested that the Board organize a similar type of congress yearly for the three regional districts to communicate on completed projects and current and future studies.

At the Water Stewardship Council meeting of April 13, 2006 Minister of Environment, Barry Penner presented Okanagan Basin Water Board Chair Slater with a grant in the amount of \$350,000 toward the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study to be administered in collaboration between the Water Board and the Ministry. Chair Slater stated that the Board would be administering the program and be a part of the Steering Committee. The Water Board

would have input into Ministry Terms of Reference for the study. Mr. Pike added that the program was a great opportunity and the Board should participate with enthusiasm.

5.2 Schedule Meetings August 2006 Through To and Including December 2006

The Board agreed to the following schedule and locations of meetings for August 2006 through to and including December 2006:

August 02, 2006	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
August 29, 2006	Regional District of Central Okanagan
October 03, 2006	Regional District of North Okanagan
November 07, 2006	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
December 05, 2006	Regional District of Central Okanagan

5.3 Policies and Tactical Projects from Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Armour reported on the compilation of policies and projects identified by Council members as their priorities. The policy items (with associated projects in parentheses) named by the greatest number of Council members were:

1. Core Philosophical Approach (develop guiding principles for adoption by OBWB)
2. Water Management Plan (understanding of basin wide water usage, water basin plan, supply and demand supply)
3. Water Conservation (variety of measures)
4. Water Education (communication and education through pilot projects with a measurable output)

Many of the projects identified could also be considered policy issues. Core policies should be broad based and aimed at the whole basin.

The Stewardship Council formed a sub-committee to expand on a basin water management plan for presentation at the May 11, 2006 meeting.

5.4 First Nation Applications for Water Quality and Quantity Initiative Grants

Director Hobson noted that Item 5.3 stated that "since First Nations did not pay into the OBWB, they were not eligible" for grants. He pointed out that Westbank First Nations paid a sum of money to a contractual service agreement with the Regional District of Central Okanagan for all Regional District services including OBWB grants. Director Bennest suggested the Board forward the Stewardship Council a letter requesting the statement be clarified and that a policy be established for funding projects that were valuable to water issues regardless of payment into the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the Westbank First Nation being eligible under the grant program."

CARRIED.

5.5 Summary of Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006 Expenditures

The Board reviewed and discussed the Budget Variance Report for the 2005 – 2006 Fiscal Year.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives for information the unaudited version of the Budget Variance Report for the 2005 – 2006 Fiscal Year."

CARRIED.

5.6 Changes to Supplementary Letters Patent – Information to be presented at meeting.

Mr. Armour advised that Rob Brown of the Ministry of Community Services had advised him that changes to Supplementary Letters Patent to allow new Board members to have full voting privileges were being processed. Mr. Brown had not provided a timeline for the changes.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Armour to forward original Supplementary Letters Patent to Director Reid.

5.7 Water Quantity and Quality Initiatives Grant Applications

Some members of the Water Stewardship Council had proposed that a small sub-committee review grant applications to direct funds toward projects that fit the watershed management goals that would be recommended to the Water Board. The Water Board anticipated that the Council would not become involved in the consideration of small grant applications.

Mr. Stamhuis agreed that evaluating grant applications was not the role of the Council. The Council should be focusing on valley-wide projects along with possibly coming up with their own projects. The Board should look at the initiatives they want to pursue and assess how the projects work into that. Initiative grants (\$300,000) that have valley-wide value could be given high priority.

Chair Slater stated that the Board had previously agreed that the Council would focus on regional projects and the Regional Districts would focus on local projects.

Regional Districts would assess projects then forward to the Water Board for approval. Municipalities could apply directly to the Board rather than through a Regional District. Some grant applications have a timeline urgency. Discussion ensued regarding establishing a date that unspent funds from one Regional District could be allocated to other areas.

The Board agreed that in the future a deadline for receipt of all applications would be set.

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the August 01 deadline for receipt of grant applications."

CARRIED.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened at 12:38.

5.8 Supply and Demand Study

Mr. Armour pointed out that a large part of the program would be the updating of data which is twenty years out of date. Director Hobson added that one of the Board's recommendations would be ongoing monitoring. Mr. Pike added that reconciling the water balance should be ongoing rather than a snapshot.

Chair Slater would be relaying the Board's terms at the first meeting of the Steering Committee. Mr. Armour noted that the Steering Committee was targeting the next two weeks for completion of the draft Terms of Reference and Terms would be forwarded to the Okanagan Basin Water Board for recommendations.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Chair Slater attending the meetings of the Steering Committee of the Ministry of Environment Water Supply and Demand Study."
CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Water Quality and Quantity Initiative Grant Applications

The Board received Water Quality and Grant Applications for review and consideration.

- a. Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Osoyoos sewer extension – feasibility and pre-design study. Amount Requested - \$25,000.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board not approve the grant for the Okanagan-Similkameen – Osoyoos sewer extension – feasibility and pre-design study."
CARRIED.

- b. Greater Vernon Services – Project #1 – Assessment of potential for increased storage capacity on Duteau Creek reservoir system and evaluation of associated environmental impacts. Study to determine hydraulic restrictions in Vernon Creek Channel and improvements which could be made to allow increased storage in Kalamalka Lake. Amount Requested - \$30,000.

Moved by Director Hobson
Fairbairn

Seconded by Director

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses funding in the amount of \$30,000 for Greater Vernon Services – Project #1 – Assessment of potential for increased storage capacity on Duteau Creek reservoir system and evaluation of associated environmental impacts. Study to determine hydraulic restrictions in Vernon Creek Channel and improvements which could be made to allow increased storage in Kalamalka Lake subject to approval by the Regional District of North Okanagan."

CARRIED.

- c. Greater Vernon Services – Project #2 – Drought management plan. Amount Requested - \$20,000.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board agreed that a decision on funding for Greater Vernon Services – Project #2 – Drought management plan be deferred pending receipt of additional project information."

CARRIED.

- d. City of Armstrong – Part salary for student (OUC Water Quality Tech) to assist City Water Technician to undertake a xeriscape demonstration garden and educational workshops in conjunction with a local nursery. Subsidized rain barrel program. Amount Requested - \$10,000.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses funding for the City of Armstrong in the amount of \$10,000. Part for salary for student (OUC Water Quality Tech) to assist City Water Technician to undertake a xeriscape demonstration garden and educational workshops in conjunction with a local nursery. Subsidized rain barrel program."

CARRIED.

- e. City of Penticton – Flow measurement engineering study an installation of measuring devices to determine stream flow in Penticton and Ellis Creeks. Evaluate storage, need for water conservation measures and maintain fish flows. Amount Requested - \$10,000.

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses funding in the amount of \$10,000 for the City of Penticton Flow measurement engineering study and installation of measuring devices to determine stream flow in Penticton and Ellis Creek pending City of Penticton resolution to support."

CARRIED.

- f. Oceola Fish and Game Club – Mr. Armour has informed the applicant that the grant application must go to the Board of the Regional District of Central Okanagan for endorsement.

6.2 Okanagan Nation Alliance – Sockeye Fry Release Ceremony

The Board received information regarding the Okanagan Nation Alliance – Sockeye Fry Release Ceremony taking place on Friday, May 19, 2006 in Penticton.

7. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

8. IN CAMERA

- a. Motion to convene In-Camera Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Reid

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

CARRIED.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to meet "In-Camera" at 1:10 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

9. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 06, 2006 at 10:00 to be held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

"There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

CHAIR

Program Manager