

## *Okanagan Water Stewardship Council*

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON MAY 11, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANGAN, 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 (absent)~~  
~~Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)~~  
Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan  
Leah Hartley, Planner, Regional District Central Okanagan  
~~Marty Willfong, Development Services, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)~~  
~~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 (absent)~~  
~~Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, North Okanagan Interior Health (absent)~~  
Gord Shandler, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association  
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council  
Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Ground Water Association  
~~Dave Casorso, BC Cattleman's Association (absent)~~  
~~Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute (absent)~~  
~~Tom Roemer, Okanagan College (absent)~~  
Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society  
Rick McKelvey, Director, South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program  
~~Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee (absent)~~  
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City of Kelowna Water Conservation Program  
Stu Wells, Community Futures  
Peter Dill, Director, Friends of Mission Creek  
Denise Neilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture Canada

#### **STAFF:**

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

#### **OTHERS**

#### **PRESENT:**

John Slater, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Toby Pike, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Two others in gallery

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Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator, Water Sustainability Committee of the BC Water and Waste Association gave a presentation from 12:18 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The Water Sustainability Action Plan for British Columbia provides a partnership umbrella for an array of on-the-ground initiatives that promote a 'water-centric' approach to

community planning. (Water-centric means planning with a view to water – whether for a single site or the entire province.)

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

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

## 2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 5.4 Presentation by Joanne DeVries of Alliance Professional Services be moved to after Item 5.1 and before Item 5.2.

**Moved by** Stu Wells

**Seconded by** Rob Smailes

*“That the agenda of the May 11, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”*

**CARRIED.**

## 3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

None.

## 4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by** Bernie Bauer

**Seconded by** Scott Schillereff

*“That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on April 13, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Woodhaven Board Room be adopted as circulated.”*

**CARRIED.**

## 5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### 5.1 **Agenda Procedure**

The Council agreed to form a sub-committee, consisting of the following members, to prepare the agenda for each meeting:

- Chair Tom Siddon;
- Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik;

- Bob Hrasko; and
- Greg Armour.

The group would consult prior to each meeting. The agenda would consist of action items from the previous meeting, items suggested to committee members, and a 'to-do' list which would carry over to the subsequent meeting if insufficient time was available. There would be provision at the meetings for late additions to the agenda.

The Council agreed that the Agenda is being received by all members in a timely manner via email.

Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested that items for future meetings be noted in the Minutes of each meeting.

**Moved by** Hans Buchler

**Seconded by** Stu Wells

***"That a committee to the Water Stewardship Council consisting of Chair Tom Siddon, Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik, Bob Hrasko and Greg Armour be struck to prepare the agenda for each meeting."***

***CARRIED.***

#### **5.4 Communication Plan**

Chair Siddon introduced Joanne DeVries of Alliance Professional Services at 1:15 p.m. who presented a proposal to facilitate a one day Strategic Planning session and develop a Community of Interest site for the Okanagan Basin Water Board on the waterbucket.ca website

The Strategic Planning session would cost \$5,000 with a complete Strategic Plan being provided to the Council one week after the session.

Development of the Waterbucket site would cost \$40,000 with \$10,000 of that cost being contributed by Environment Canada. Yearly strategic planning sessions and future content of the website would be reflected in added costs. Chair Siddon requested that Ms. DeVries provide the Council with a schedule of fees.

The Okanagan Waterscape poster being developed by Environment Canada was reviewed and discussed. The poster is intended as an educational tool and will also be displayed on waterbucket.ca and would be available in hard copy after its third and final draft in the Fall. Staff will obtain copies of the poster in the Fall.

Ms. DeVries concluded her proposal at 1:58 p.m.

Ms. DeVries exited the meeting shortly after her presentation.

Chair Siddon commented that it was his understanding that Ms. DeVries was presenting a general communication strategy rather than a tight link to waterbucket.ca. Mr. Slater preferred to develop the Okanagan Basin Water Board website as he was concerned that the OBWB would be lost on waterbucket.ca. Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested a link be made from the OBWB website to the waterbucket website. Mr. Hrasko noted that the OBWB might lose its individuality on waterbucket.ca. He added that the newsletter distributed by Alliance, for Okanagan Water Purveyors reaches more homes than a website. Mr. Pike suggested sponsoring the back page of the newsletter.

**Moved by** Vice Chair van der Gulik

**Seconded by** Bob Hrasko

***“That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council endorses Joanne DeVries of Alliance Professional Services providing a proposal to facilitate a Strategic Plan for Communications Strategy.”***

***Defeated  
5 opposed***

## **5.2 Presentation from Committee Groups**

### **a. Vision and Mission**

The Vision, Mission and Goals Committee requested that they be expanded to become the Terms of Reference Committee. The Committee advised that a single more formalized document was necessary. Discussions ensued regarding whether principles would be inserted in the Terms of Reference.

Chair Siddon suggested that Ms. Cameron meet with Mr. Guy and Ms. Boshard and draft Terms of Reference for the Council.

Mr. Armour advised that Reg Crane had resigned from the Stewardship Council.

The Council further discussed scheduling a facilitated session regarding a mandate for the Council. There was concern that too much time was being spent on defining the goals and operating principles of the Council rather than taking action.

### **b. Terms of Reference**

Copy of the Summary Report of the Okanagan Basin Study would be

circulated to Council Members by Staff.

Some Council Members felt the Sustainable Water Strategy plan would be more valuable than reviewing the Okanagan Basin Plan. Discussions ensued regarding a Regulatory Plan versus a Voluntary Plan.

Mr. Armour noted that Anna Warwick Sears would commence employment on June 12, 2006 and be available to assist with some of this work.

Mr. Hrasko presented a 10 Point Proposal for Council terms of reference. He indicated he would distribute this for feedback at the next meeting of the Council.

Chair Siddon suggested that Ms. Boshard and Ms. Cameron work on the Terms of Reference for the Council as well.

c. Principles

Ms. Boshard offered information on the development of principles for the Council. She distributed questionnaires to gather input of the Members for the development of principles and asked that these be completed for the next Council meeting.

The Council recessed at 3:00 p.m. and reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

### 5.3 Funding and Grants

a. Water Board Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

The Water Stewardship Council received the following for review and discussion:

- Okanagan Basin Water Board Provisional Budget for Water Management;
- memo from Mr. Armour along with Water Conservation and Quality Initiative Program Grants Terms of Reference; and
- memo from Mr. Armour outlining the grant applications received to date.

i. Involvement of Stewardship Council

Any projects put forward by Non-government Organizations and Improvement Districts must be approved as a priority by the

appropriate regional district before forwarding to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. Grants would be assessed and approved by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mr. Armour suggested forming a technical committee to make recommendations on the assessment of grants. Chair Siddon said that contacting the appropriate member of the Water Stewardship with technical knowledge of a specific grant application would be sufficient.

Chair Siddon requested that the Water Stewardship Council receive a report of grants awarded.

ii. Water Stewardship Council Funds

Mr. Armour briefed the Council on the Water Quantity and Quality Initiatives Grant applications. He advised that the OBWB had allocated \$300,000 towards supporting local government projects that demonstrated better use and management of water. Grants would range from \$3,000 to \$30,000.

Approximately \$155,000 had been allocated for broader regional initiatives proposed by the Stewardship Council.

Mr. Armour corrected his statement from the April meeting and advised that the Westbank First Nation was eligible for Water Initiative Grants since they paid a sum of money through a contractual service agreement with the Regional District of Central Okanagan for all Regional District services including OBWB grants.

Due to a number of grant applications having a timeline urgency the Okanagan Basin Water Board, at their May 02, 2006 meeting, determined that funds not disbursed in each regional district by Tuesday, August 01, 2006 may be made available to other regional districts.

iii. Procedure and Rules for Council Members Proposing a Project and also Bidding a Project

Employers of Council Members should be permitted to submit a project proposal to the Stewardship Council. The proposal should not be brought forward by the council member nor would lobbying of other council members be acceptable.

Any project recommended would be subject to Water Board

approval and the normal bidding process would apply.

Neal Klassen exited the meeting at 3:43 p.m.

Mr. Bauer outlined a Chair in Reservoir Management position being considered at UBC-O. He emphasized that he was not approaching the Council for funding but providing information.

**Moved by** Vice Chair van der Gulik

**Seconded by** Rick McKelvey

***"That Water Initiative Grant Applications submitted to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be reviewed by appropriate technical Members of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council."***

***CARRIED.***

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 08, 2006 at 12:00 noon to be held at the Woodhaven Board Room at the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Members of the Council discussed the possibility of rescheduling the next meeting to June 22, 2006. Members would be notified of any change.

Chair Siddon offered to schedule a lunch presentation regarding the historical aspect of the Okanagan Basin. Members agreed.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Rob Smailes

***"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."***

***CARRIED.***

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Certified Correct:

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Chair

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Program Manager