

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON June 22, 2006 AT THE GRAY MONK WINERY, 1055 CAMP ROAD, OKANAGAN CENTRE, BC AT 12:00 NOON.

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 (absent)~~
~~Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada (absent)~~
Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance
~~Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan (absent)~~
~~Marty Willfong, Development Services, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)~~
David Arsenaault, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator, Okanagan-Similkameen
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment (absent)~~
~~Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan (absent)~~
Dr. Jeff Curtis, UBC Okanagan
~~Dr. Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association (absent)~~
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, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Dr. Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Ground Water 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, Member at Large (absent)
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
~~Ken Arcuri, Planning Services, Regional District Central Okanagan (absent)~~
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City/Kelowna Water Conservation Program
Stu Wells, Community Futures
~~Peter Dill, Director, Friends of Mission Creek (absent)~~
Dr. Denise Neilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture Canada
Mary Bowcock, Greater Vernon Water Conservation

STAFF:

Greg Armour, Project Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Water Stewardship Project Director
Debbie Taylor, Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT: Tricia Brett, Greater Vernon Services

Ben Kangasniemi, representing the Pacific Climate Impact Consortium (PCIC) gave a presentation during lunch. The PCIC is a university based collaborative applied research group working to provide policy-relevant tools and information about impacts of climate

change.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Chair Siddon introduced Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Water Stewardship Project Director to members of the Council. Dr. Sears described her experience in watershed management in California noting that many of the projects in the Okanagan were very similar to projects in northern California and she looked forward to furthering a regional approach to water management in the valley.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by David Arsenault

"That the agenda of the June 22, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Mr. Arsenault proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding be implemented between the Water Stewardship Council and the three Regional Districts. He introduced a draft document.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Armour distributed questionnaires requesting that each member provide information on their respective areas of expertise.

Item 5.4 of the minutes being Assessment of Water Initiative Grant Applications noted that the matter would be tabled to the next scheduled meeting. The OBWB had tabled the review of grant applications to their next meeting in order that all applications received by the Regional Districts would be included in the review process. The Water Stewardship Council agreed that Assessment of Water Initiative Grant Applications would be tabled to their next scheduled meeting.

Item 6.2 being Terms of Reference was amended to include Regulatory Structures and Mandates as one of the seven Plan Modules.

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Hans Buchler

“That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on June 08, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan Woodhaven Board Room be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Sale of Reservoir Lots Proposed by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Council discussed 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 and potential impacts of climate change.

The Province is committed to proceeding with the sale of lease lots.

Moved by David Arsenault

Seconded by Michelle Boshard

“That Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Jeff Curtis and Bob Hrasko prepare a statement to the three Regional Districts expressing the Water Stewardship Council’s concern of the sale of lease lots on water reservoir lakes. The statement is to be reviewed by the Water Stewardship Council and approved by the Okanagan Basin Water Board before being delivered to the Regional Districts.”

CARRIED.

5.2 Interior Health Authority – Water Quality Standards for Beach Closures

Memo from Tourism Kelowna regarding Interior Health Beach Water Quality Notification Campaign was received by the Water Stewardship Council for information and discussion.

Mr. Adams pointed out that sampling and guidelines for recreational water is comparing with health authorities in other jurisdictions where there is already some form of notice to users when the level of bacteria in the water is over limit. Mr. Wells added that he along with John Slater attended the public meeting in Kelowna on June 16 and he considered

the Campaign to be worthwhile. Notices are not posted permanently but can be changed according to the needs of the municipalities.

Members of the Water Stewardship Council agreed that public relations may not have been hindered to the same degree had notification of the Campaign been released last Fall. Vice Chair van der Gulik was cautious with forwarding a response to Interior Health as the public may perceive the Water Stewardship Council to have been included in the planning of the Campaign. Members agreed partnering with Interior Health in the fall or winter of this year would be considered.

Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested declaring this matter as an Action Item and having it brought forward on a future Agenda.

Action Item: Partnering with Interior Health to be brought forward on Fall Agenda.

Neal Klassen exited the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

5.3 Lake Water Level Constraints of New Kelowna Bridge

Discussion ensued regarding lake water level constraints of the new Kelowna bridge. Mr. Armour referred to correspondence from Brian Symonds following talks with Ministry of Transportation engineers. Mr. Symonds felt the lake level range permitted by the new bridge was adequate. Vice Chair van der Gulik will forward correspondence from Jim Mattison to Mr. Armour upon receipt.

5.4 Water Bucket Website

The Water Stewardship Council received for discussion and approval a letter from Kim Stephens, Program Coordinator of the Water Sustainability Action Plan for BC. An accompanying Letter of Invitation to partner and lead an Okanagan section of the Water Bucket website signed by various provincial staff was included.

Vice Chair van der Gulik stressed that the Water Bucket website was an opportunity for the Okanagan Basin Water Board to be the lead agency in developing the Okanagan Community-of-Interest on waterbucket.ca.

OBWB would be on the website this Fall. The Water Bucket Partnership would appreciate confirmation that the OBWB will be the lead agency for the Okanagan Community-of-Interest by July 31, 2006. Upon acceptance, the Stewardship Council would become the Editorial Board for the Okanagan Community-of-Interest. Mr. Armour noted that there

would be an opportunity to partner at a later date if the OBWB wished to do so. Some members commented that if the OBWB was going to partner in then the OBWB would benefit by being in control of the site. Cost and loss of identity were a consideration for various members.

Vice Chair van der Gulik indicated that the Community of Interest cost could be reduced to \$20,000 if the editorial content was maintained by the OBWB.

The Water Bucket Website Partnership is sponsored by four provincial ministries, (Environment, Agriculture & Lands, Community Services and Health), the province's two largest water utilities (i.e. Greater Vancouver and Capital Regional Districts), the stewardship Centre for British Columbia, BC Water & Waste Association (BCWWA), BC Hydro, the Irrigation Industry Association of BC, Terasen, and three federal agencies (Environment Canada, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, and Natural Resources Canada).

The Water Stewardship Council directed Staff to determine the OBWB website needs.

The Council recessed at 2:51 p.m. and reconvened at 3:14 p.m.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE GROUPS

6.1 Principles

Draft Principles were received by the Water Stewardship Council for discussion. Ms. Boshard thanked members for their submissions and requested that any additional submissions be forwarded to her.

Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested that one-line bullets be listed under each of the 5 principles for clarification. He added that a one page document may catch people's attention rather than a longer document.

Dr. Sears noted that having clear lists of principles, prioritizations, and objectives would be helpful.

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by Gord Shandler

"That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council adopted on the interim the five draft Principles received at the June 22, 2006 meeting."

CARRIED.

6.2 Terms of Reference

A list of Plan Modules along with a list of the probable common structure/format for the modules was received by the Water Stewardship Council for discussion. Mr. Hrasko requested that members provide written feedback regarding the Modules to the Terms of Reference Committee. He added that a workshop scheduled during the summer would enable the Committee to develop Terms of Reference that could be issued for one or two of the modules in September. Dr. Sears commented that it would be helpful to have the Action Plan and Recommendations in hand to assist in reviewing future applications received. Chair Siddon confirmed that an application review committee had been formed at the June 08, 2006 Water Stewardship meeting consisting of Stu Wells, Deana Machin, Dr. Guy, Dr. Neilsen, Greg Armour and Dr. Sears.

Mr. Hrasko said that a state of the watershed annual report should be done. Members agreed that the group did not have the resources nor the capacity to complete the project themselves. Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested that funding from the Federal Geo Connections program could possibly assist the Water Stewardship Council. Chair Siddon suggested that one to two members take editorship of each chapter. Dr. Sears said that the collective knowledge of the Water Stewardship Council should be used now so that OBWB has information to use in the shorter term.

Discussion ensued regarding scheduling of facilitated workshop. The next Water Stewardship Council meeting was scheduled for September 07, 2006 and the workshop scheduled tentatively for September 22, 2006.

Action Item: Staff to forward Principles and Terms of Reference wording to facilitator.

7. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Vice Chair van der Gulik requested a motion to be made regarding the Water Stewardship Committee becoming the lead agency in developing the Okanagan Community-of-Interest on waterbucket.ca.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost and the potential for the Water Stewardship Council to produce and maintain their own website. Vice Chair van der Gulik suggested that Lanert Consultants meet with the Water Stewardship Council and possibly the OBWB and discuss the options for an output of \$20,000. He added that it was well worthwhile

for professional writers to write for the site at least initially.

Staff will look into website options and recommend a course of action to the Water Board.

8. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 07, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Deana Machin is scheduled to make a presentation regarding First Nations perspectives and fisheries.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Stu Wells

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

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager