

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, BC, AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Greg Armour	Program Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Dr. Anna Sears	Water Stewardship Project Director
Mike Stamhuis	Regional District North Okanagan (absent)
Debbie Taylor	Recording Secretary

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Oglow

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for August 29, 2006 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

“That Item 5.7 being Approval to Use Up to \$10,000 for Honorariums and \$15,000 for Consultants be added to the Agenda.”

“That Item 5.8 being Hiring of Interim Employee be added to the Agenda.”

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Alternate Director Oglow

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 11, 2006 at the Regional District of North Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Review of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Actions

Director Siddon provided an update of actions taken by the Water Stewardship Council. He advised that recent subcommittee meetings had been productive and that hiring a facilitator for the meeting scheduled for September 22, 2006 would be unnecessary. He had been working with Staff to prepare Agendas for meetings scheduled for September through to June 2007. The next meeting of the Water Stewardship Council was scheduled for Thursday, September 07, 2006.

5.2 Appointment of Tricia Brett to Water Stewardship Council Replacing Mary Bowcock

Mr. Armour advised that Mary Bowcock had resigned from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and the Greater Vernon Water Conservation Committee had designated Tricia Brett as her replacement.

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Tricia Brett as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council representing the Greater Vernon Water Conservation Committee.”

CARRIED.

5.3 Water Stewardship Council Draft Terms of Reference

Dr. Sears advised the Directors that the Draft Terms of Reference would be reviewed by the Water Stewardship Council at their September 07, 2006 meeting. The Draft would then be put forward to the OBWB for final approval.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to forward OBWB Directors with a Word Document version of the Draft Terms of Reference.

Discussion ensued regarding Conflict of Interest provisions in the Terms of Reference.

The OBWB agreed that the Board may remove a Member from the Council if it considers that removal of the Member is in the best interests of the Council.

Staff would provide a protocol outlining the method for the Stewardship Council to communicate advice and comments to the OBWB.

ACTION ITEM: Staff to provide a protocol outlining the method for the Stewardship Council to communicate advice and comments to the OBWB.

The OBWB agreed that the Draft Terms of Reference would be forwarded to a senior municipal clerk for review and opinion.

Director Siddon requested that comments from the OBWB be directed to Staff before the Water Stewardship Council meeting scheduled for September 07, 2006.

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the OBWB accepts the Draft Terms of Reference of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council in principle and subject to review by the Stewardship Council.”

CARRIED.

5.4 Draft Letter to Minister of Agriculture and Lands Regarding the Sale of Leased Lots

The Board discussed the proposed sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs. Dr. Sears noted that cattle, recreation, forestry, wildlife along with human contribution to source water contamination would be addressed in the WSC Work Plan.

Moved by Director Cochrane
Oglow

Seconded by Director

“That the OBWB endorses forwarding the draft letter and attaching the Water Stewardship Council letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands opposing the proposed sale of

leased lots on drinking water reservoirs and copying to the Premier and all Provincial Government Ministers.”

CARRIED.

5.5 OBWB Webpage and Waterbucket Website Recommendation

Dr. Sears reported that staff met with representatives of the Waterbucket Website along with the NORD Computer Systems Manager on July 12, 2006. The website would cost \$16,000 covering the initial design, template development and site customization. Environment Canada and NRCAN would be contributing an additional \$10,000 to adapt the Okanagan Waterscape poster and integrate it with the website.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

“The Okanagan Basin Water Board approves spending \$16,000 to establish an Okanagan Community of Interest on the Waterbucket website.”

CARRIED.

5.6 OBWB Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the Board approves the 2006 Financial Statements for OBWB and that the Board received the 2006 Audit Letter, dated June 15, 2006, for information.”

CARRIED.

Director Reid asked that the complete audited financial statement be provided to Board Members in the future.

The OBWB broke for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:36 p.m.

5.7 Approval To Use Up to \$10,000 for Honorariums and \$15,000 for Consultants

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the Board approves allocation of up to \$10,000 for Honorariums for expert assistance at meetings of the Water Stewardship Council and up to \$15,000 for Consultants to assist with development of a sustainable water management strategy.”

CARRIED.

5.8 Hiring of Interim Employee

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the Board approves allocating up to \$5,000 to hire an interim employee to assess results of the Water Initiatives Grants and to develop material for the websites.”

CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Regional District of North Okanagan Informational Calendar

The OBWB reviewed the letter from the Waste Reduction Coordinator of the Regional District of North Okanagan regarding participation in a custom-built informational calendar for 2007. Staff had forwarded OBWB information to be posted on the month of July page.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Reid

“That the Board receives the North Okanagan Informational Calendar report for information.”

CARRIED.

7. SEWAGE GRANT MATTERS

7.1 Sewer Grant Applications

7.1.1 District of Coldstream Sewage Grant Application

Moved by Director Reid
Oglow

Seconded by Director

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves funding of the grant application of the District of Coldstream as recommended by Staff subject to receiving a letter stating that the District had not created new lots less than 1.0 hectare in size which are not served by community sewer.”

CARRIED.

7.2 Minimum Lot Size Information

Mr. Armour reviewed the terms of the OBWB Sewage Assistance Grants and provided correspondence relating to the minimum lot size policy. Local governments that create new lots less than 1.0 hectare in size which are not served by community sewer will jeopardize their eligibility for Okanagan Basin Water Board capital sewage project funding (18% of total cost).

Grant eligibility will not only be jeopardized for future infrastructure to service non-sewered small lots created but the Water Board will consider rejecting grants for other projects within the local government jurisdiction and review continued eligibility of grants already in place.

Each local government that has subdivision authority is responsible for adopting this policy. For example, if a municipality within a regional district does not comply, this will jeopardize that municipality's status but not the regional district's status.

Mr. Armour advised that Ministry of Community Services Acting Director of Engineering, Glen Brown letter of March 09, 2006 states "In addition to meeting the Liquid Waste Management Plan requirement, applications must include confirmation that a bylaw is in place which requires community sewer service to all new lots of less than one hectare in size within the boundaries under the jurisdiction of the applicant."

The OBWB agreed that existing lots in a subdivision would be eligible for project funding. Chair Slater added that if the province deemed a municipality eligible for sewage infrastructure funding that the OBWB would also deem the municipality eligible.

Discussion ensued.

Director Reid exited the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board directs Staff to survey local government to determine if the minimum lot size policy is in place."

CARRIED.

OPPOSED – Ron Perrie

8. WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

8.1 Progress Report

Item 8.1 was discussed in Item 5.8.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, October 03, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Perrie

"There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager