

## *Okanagan Water Stewardship Council*

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

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#### **PRESENT:**

Chair Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of Water Flagship Group, Okanagan Partnership (absent)  
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Bob Hrasko, Director, Water Supply Association  
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 Smiles, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan (absent)  
Marty Willfong, Development Services, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)  
David Arsenault, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator, Okanagan-Similkameen  
Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment  
Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan  
~~Dr. Jeff Curtis, UBC Okanagan (absent)~~  
Dr. 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  
~~Dr. Scott Schillereff, Vice President, BC Ground Water Association (absent)~~  
~~Dave Casorso, BC Cattleman's Association (absent)~~  
Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute  
Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College  
Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society  
Rick McKelvey, Member at Large  
~~Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee (absent)~~  
~~Ken Arcuri, Planning Services, Regional District Central Okanagan (absent)~~  
Leah Hartley, Planner, Regional District of Central Okanagan  
~~Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City/Kelowna Water Conservation Program (absent)~~  
Stu Wells, Community Futures  
Dr. Peter Dill, Director, Friends of Mission Creek  
Dr. Denise Neilsen, Research Scientist, Agriculture Canada  
Tricia Brett, Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee

#### **STAFF:**

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

#### **OTHERS**

#### **PRESENT:**

John Slater, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Rick Fairbairn, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Graham Reid, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Lorraine Bennest, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

Dean Watts, Senior Water Use Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Michael Crowe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Ken Cunningham, Regional Manager, Southern Interior Region, Ministry of Environment  
Judie Steeves, Kelowna Capital News

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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice Chair van der Gulik called the meeting to order at 11:07 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Valerie Cameron

**Seconded by** Bernie Bauer

*"That the agenda of the October 12, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."*

**CARRIED.**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

That Item 5.3 being Kokanee and Development on Lakeshore be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by** Stu Wells

**Seconded by** David Arsenault

*"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on September 07, 2006 at the Ramada Lodge Hotel in Kelowna be adopted."*

**CARRIED.**

**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Water Law and Governance Presentations**

Dr. Sears introduced Brian Symonds (Ministry of Environment), Dean Watts (Department of Fisheries and Oceans), and Mike Adams (Interior Health Authority) to the Council. She noted that the presenters were asked to deliver information on specific bodies of water law that have major significance to water management in the Okanagan Basin: The

Water Act, the Fisheries Act, the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Council members' conclusions about the strengths and weaknesses of the current system would be recorded and organized, and potential recommendations for action by the Council and/or the OBWB would be outlined. This material would then be used in developing the Sustainable Water Strategy.

Dr. Sears added that the Council will likely require information from future workplan sessions prior to forming recommendations regarding water law.

#### **5.1.1 Presentation by Brian Symonds, Ministry of Environment**

The Council broke for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

#### **5.1.2 Presentation by Dean Watts, Department of Fisheries and Oceans**

#### **5.1.3 Presentation by Mike Adams, Interior Health Authority**

#### **5.1.4 Panel, Question and Answer Period and Discussion**

Council members debated the ability of current laws to protect water resources. Some members commented that additional regulations from the Province were not required but existing regulations needed to be implemented and enforced. They agreed on the need for local policies and bylaws to support water conservation.

Brian Symonds suggested that Water Allocation legislation required modification.

Michael Crowe added that the Fisheries Act was currently being revised and that suggestions from the Council were welcome.

The Council agreed that long-term water planning would require more information on water use.

John Slater commented that the OBWB was relying on the Council for technical advice to improve the way water was used in the valley. The Board would like clear policy recommendations on water metering for homes and agriculture.

Michael Crowe noted that implementing province wide metering would be relevant in acquiring information regarding the water budget for the Valley. Denise Nielsen commented that the

benefits of metering depend on how the information is used. The big challenge would be predicting the effects of climate change and variability, and that gathering data would not be enough.

The Council discussed the allocation and priority of licencing during times of drought.

Ken Cunningham suggested identifying the issues and then identifying the greatest risks.

Members commented that wise use of water should be part of community planning. Every time a development is approved there is a commitment to a water demand for years to come.

#### **5.1.5 Actions Recommended by the OWSC**

The Council's goal is to achieve coordinated water management through out the Okanagan Basin.

Dr. Sears proposed that a committee to the Council be struck to assess possible bylaws, policies and actions which the Council may recommend to the Water Board as measures that should be standards throughout the Valley. Ms. Brett, Ms. Hartley, Ms. Boshard, Dr. Sears and Dr. Guy volunteered to form the committee.

Dr. Sears requested that members email her with suggestions.

### **5.2 Matters Arising from the Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting of October 03, 2006**

#### **5.2.1 OWSC Terms of Reference Update**

Mr. Armour advised the Council that the OBWB had approved the updated Terms of Reference.

The provisional budget for fiscal year 2007 - 2008 would be reviewed at the November 07, 2006 meeting of the OBWB.

#### **5.2.2 Projects of Current Interest to the OBWB**

As an informational item, Dr. Sears related a list of projects and issues in which the OBWB had expressed an interest at their recent Board meeting. There was no action requested by the Council.

### **5.3 Kokanee and Development on Lakeshore**

Drew Kaiser had added the item to the Agenda as a Late Item however was absent from the meeting. The matter was tabled to the November 09, 2006 meeting.

## **6. REPORTS FROM STAFF and/or COMMITTEE GROUPS**

### **6.1 Waterbucket Update**

Staff will attempt to post presentations on to the website within one week of the meeting. Presenters will be advised the presentations would be posted on the website.

Staff has scheduled a meeting for November 10, 2006 with Waterbucket representatives to commence setting up a format for the site. Council members along with others interested in participating are invited to attend. Details of the meeting will be forwarded to the members.

### **6.2 Principles Committee Update**

The Principles Committee will combine draft principles from Michelle Boshard and amendments from Bernie Bauer then present to the Council for comments.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 What's Happening to Wild Salmon in Your Community? meeting co-hosted by the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department**

Information regarding upcoming opportunity to share current information on natural and human influences on wild salmon, such as the effects of climate warming, and changes in water use, land and resource use and salmon habitat.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

**8.1** The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council was scheduled for Thursday, November 09, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. Details regarding venue and presenters would follow.

**8.2** The Council discussed suggestions for speakers along with discussion priorities. Members were requested to email suggestion to Dr. Sears.

**Action Item:** Staff to draft media release and circulate to Council members.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Gord Shandler

*"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m."*

***CARRIED.***

Certified Correct:

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Chair

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Program Manager