

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 07, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, BC.

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	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)
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)

STAFF:

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

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Greg Mealing	Water Operations Superintendent, District of Summerland
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for November 07, 2006 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

“That Item 5.7 being Water Supply and Demand Study Authorized Expenditures be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.”

“That Item 5.8 being OBWB Credit Card be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.”

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Cochrane

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 03, 2006 at the Regional District of North Okanagan Boardroom be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Minutes of Okanagan Stewardship Council Meeting held on October 12, 2006

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Perrie

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on October 12, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be received."

CARRIED.

5.2 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Actions and November 09, 2006 Agenda Items

Dr. Sears advised the Board that she and Mr. Armour had attended the Water Supply Association of BC Conference and the Okanagan Partnership Summit in Kelowna.

Mr. Armour and Dr. Sears attended the Water Supply and Demand Study working session on October 30 and 31 hosted by the Ministry of Environment. A meeting of the steering committee would be scheduled and a project manager hired. The OBWB is responsible for disbursing funds as required.

Meteorologists from Environment Canada are attempting to be region specific as they continue to update climate models.

Dr. Sears distributed to the OBWB for review a draft of the November 07, 2006 press release regarding the Water Supply and Demand Study.

Presenters at the October OWSC meeting were Brian Symonds (Ministry of

Environment), Dean Watts (Department of Fisheries and Oceans), and Mike Adams (Interior Health Authority). 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, and the Drinking Water Protection Act. Dr. Sears is working with the governance committee in providing a summary of the presentations.

Presentations scheduled for the November 09 meeting of the OWSC will address Environmental Considerations with Water Management. Presentations scheduled for the December 05 meeting will address Drought Management Plans and presentations scheduled for the January meeting will address Source Area Protection.

Mr. Armour distributed to the Board for their information a copy of a letter dated October 31, 2006 from the Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands replying to an OBWB letter opposing the proposed sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs. The Minister advised that consultations with local government were ongoing to ensure that outstanding issues related to the potential impact of the sale of leased lots were addressed.

The OWSC discussed implementing a basin wide policy for zoning and control of large scale developments on riparian lands. Mr. Armour noted that the Ministry of Environment would not be issuing additional licenses until the Water Supply and Demand Study had been completed. The OBWB agreed that the matter was a legal issue rather than a council issue.

Action Item: Staff to review and report at the next meeting of the OWSC current regional district and municipal policies for zoning and control of large scale developments on riparian lands.

Dr. Sears distributed to the OBWB for their information a copy of the November 01, 2006 Vernon Morning Star Environmental Management Series – Fish and Water Management in the Okanagan Lakes.

Chief Fabian Alexis, Okanagan Indian Band at a recent meeting with Mr. Armour and Dr. Sears suggested holding the December meeting of the OBWB at the Okanagan Indian Band Meeting Hall. Members of the OBWB appreciated the invitation and would advise Staff of their schedule.

Action Item: Staff to contact the Okanagan Indian Band for details and report to members.

5.3 Provisional Budget for 2007 - 2008

The Board reviewed the Provisional Budget for 2007 and 2008.

Discussion ensued regarding the significant increase of Administration Charges for the year.

Action Item: Mr. Armour to clarify increase of Administration charges with the Corporate Controller and report to the Board.

The Board agreed that the Directors Remuneration be consistent with the three Regional Districts and that the Chair of the OBWB receive \$150 per meeting.

Action Item: Mr. Armour to report to the Board the Director Remuneration of the three Regional Districts.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Perrie

“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 11:54 a.m.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board broke for lunch at 12:11 and reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Cochrane

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board agreed to continue the contract with Genevieve Doyle until the end of March using funds from Stewardship Regional Projects.”

CARRIED.

5.4 OBWB Webpage and Waterbucket Website Update

Dr. Sears announced that December 01, 2006 would be the target date for the official press release of the OBWB Website.

Directors of the OBWB were invited to attend a meeting with representatives of the Waterbucket Website scheduled for Friday, November 10, 2006 in Kelowna.

5.5 Water Stewardship Council Logo

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the proposed logo for the Water Stewardship Council be received for discussion.”

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board agrees to table Item 5.5 until more designs are received.”

CARRIED.

Agenda Item 5.5 was lifted from the table.

5.6 Proposed Change to OBWB Logo

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the proposed logo for the Okanagan Basin Water Board be received for discussion.”

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board agrees to table Item 5.6 until more designs are received.”

CARRIED.

Agenda Item 5.6 was lifted from the table.

5.7 Water Supply and Demand Study Authorized Expenditures

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Novakowski

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Program Manager having signing authority up \$25,000 for expenses incurred by the Water Supply and Demand Study.”

CARRIED.

5.8 OBWB Credit Card

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves obtaining a credit card with a credit limit of \$30,000 and authorizes expenditures with that credit card of up \$10,000.”

CARRIED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Resolution

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen resolution regarding sewage grant funding be received for information.”

CARRIED.

7. SEWAGE GRANT MATTERS

7.1 Draft Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference for Sewage Grants was reviewed by the OBWB.

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Siddon

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board table Item 7.1 to the next scheduled meeting.”
CARRIED.

Agenda Item 7.1 was lifted from the table.

Director Cochrane exited the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Director Perrie said the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen expected a letter from the Ministry of Community Services clarifying the province’s current position on the minimum parcel size for sewage grant funding. The information relates to a meeting held at UBCM with Minister Chong.

Action Item: Staff to coalesce information on numbers of small lots on septic systems approved by local government since 2000 and that this information be used for discussion of the 1.0 hectare policy for qualification for sewage grant funding.

7.2 District of Coldstream Sewage Grant Letter and Memo

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

“That the OBWB delay a decision on the sewage grant application from the District of Coldstream until Terms of Reference are adopted.”

CARRIED.

8. WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

8.1 Staff Report

Dr. Sears advised the Board that Genevieve Doyle would be posting the grants awarded in 2006 on to the OBWB Website. She also had recently revised the Grant Application Forms and Terms of Reference.

The deadline for receiving Grant Applications would be March 01, 2007. Recommended grant applications would be presented at the OBWB meeting to be scheduled for April 2007.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, December 05, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. if held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan or 9:00 a.m. if held at the Okanagan Indian Band in Vernon.

Moved by Director Pike

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 1:50 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board reconvened at 1:56 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Hobson

“There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.”

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager