

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON DECEMBER 05, 2006 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, BC.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
	Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
	Director Robert Hobson	Regional District Central Okanagan (absent)
	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
	Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
	Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
	Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
	Director Tim Manuel for	
	Director Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Program Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
	Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Water Stewardship Director
	Mike Stamhuis	Regional District North Okanagan
	Debbie Taylor	Recording Secretary
<u>OTHERS</u>		
<u>PRESENT:</u>	Greg Mealing	Water Operations Superintendent, District of Summerland
	Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for December 05, 2006 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Item 6.4 being Proposed Sale of Leased Lots be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 6.5 being Interior Health Authority Treatment Requirements for the Okanagan Valley be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 6.6 being Director and Chair Meeting Rate be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 7.1 being Okanagan Nation Alliance Representative to Okanagan Basin Water Board be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 7.2 being Ratification of Change to BC Cattleman's Association on Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on November 07, 2006 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Minutes of Okanagan Stewardship Council Meeting held on November 09, 2006

The minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on November 09, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan were received by the OBWB for information.

5.2 Water Supply and Demand Study Update

Mr. Armour reported that the Ministry of Environment would be requesting proposals for a Project Manager & Technical Coordinator for the Water Supply and Demand Study within the next week.

The Board agreed that communication with the provincial government and the federal government was essential and that the Board should stress the importance of this work and the need for the product to be easy to comprehend and update.

Action Item: The Board directed staff to prepare a letter to Assistant Deputy Minister Jim Mattison asking that an early meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Study Steering Committee be scheduled to ensure the study proceeds in an expedient manner.

The Board agreed that Director Pike' technical expertise would be valuable to the Steering Committee.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Novakowski

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses Director Toby Pike as the second appointee to the Water Supply and Demand Study Steering Committee and that the Water Supply and Demand Study proceed in a comprehensive and expedient manner.”

CARRIED.

Discussion ensued regarding the preparation of a briefing paper for use by Board Directors to underscore the importance of this study in meeting with MLA's and MP's.

5.3 Media Coverage

Mr. Armour noted that there was value in establishing a close relationship with the media. He noted the value of keeping the media informed of decisions and goals of the OBWB. Judie Steeves had covered the November meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and had written a very positive article in The Capital News – Kelowna.

Dr. Sears noted that the OBWB had made the front cover of the Okanagan Business Journal.

Director Reid commented that the Board should be under-promising and over-delivering rather than over-promising. Mr. Stamhuis added that the Board would be required to deliver at the end of the three year initiative.

5.4 Fraser Basin Conference

Mr. Armour reported on the Fraser Basin Conference he and Dr. Sears attended last month.

Director Fairbairn advised the OBWB that the Regional District of North Okanagan had invited the Fraser Basin Council to make a presentation regarding possible NORD participation on the Council from areas that drain into the Fraser system.

5.5 Building Sustainable Communities Conference

Mr. Armour and Dr. Sears attended the Building Sustainable Communities Conference in Kelowna. Mr. Armour noted that although there was a broad range of presentations there was relatively little focus on the Okanagan. Director Novakowski added that the message from the conference was disquieting and emphasized that the OBWB must continue to maintain public support to address water supply and demand issues.

5.6 OBWB Webpage and Waterbucket Website Update

The official press release of the OBWB Website will be delayed slightly as technical difficulties are sorted out and additional information is posted. Staff indicated that contributions by the Directors to the site would be welcome.

Staff attended a meeting on November 10, 2006 with Waterbucket representatives to set up a format for the Okanagan Community of Interest. Water Stewardship Council members along with others interested in participating were invited to attend.

The Environment Canada is sponsoring SPOKE which is a web portal that will house land and water monitoring and research data and information for integrated watershed planning and decision-making in the Okanagan Basin. The site will be a scientific database that can be updated by contributors.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Regional District of North Okanagan Administration Charges

Mr. Stamhuis advised that the administrative contract between the OBWB and the Regional District provided that the Administrator offer administrative background to the OBWB. Mr. Stamhuis was requested to fill this role in providing local government context.

With the hiring of the Water Stewardship Director the Board reviewed the need for retaining additional administrative and technical expertise from the Regional District of North Okanagan.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2007 NORD administration costs and requested that the Chief Financial Officer provide more detail regarding the hours for the Corporate Controller.

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Reid

“That the hours of the RDNO General Manager of Community and Infrastructure Services would be reduced by half and that the hours of the Corporate Controller be evaluated.”

ALL OPPOSED.

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Provisional Budget as presented.”
Opposed - Director Reid and Director Novakowski.

CARRIED.

Action Item: Staff to further clarify hours of the RDNO Corporate Controller.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Perrie

“That RDNO contract amount be based on staff hours documented from timesheets and that staff assess ways to reduce administrative costs.”

CARRIED.

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board broke for lunch at 12:06 and reconvened at 12:38 p.m.

6.2 Terms of Reference for Sewage Facilities Grants

The OBWB agreed that before adopting Terms of Reference clarification was needed from the Ministry of Community Services whether activities in one electoral area affect the ability of other electoral areas to obtain infrastructure funding assistance.

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Pike

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board invite Ministry of Community Services Deputy Minister Dale Wall to the January 09, 2007 meeting to clarify eligibility requirements for Provincial Sewage Infrastructure Grants and that Staff advise the Deputy Minister of the issues in advance of the meeting.”

CARRIED.

Action Item: The Board directed staff to draft a letter for the Chair’s signature to Deputy Minister Wall requesting his presence at the next OBWB meeting, and clearly outlining issues needing clarification.

6.3 Proposed OBWB Logo and Water Stewardship Logo

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the OBWB endorses the proposed OBWB and Okanagan Water Stewardship logos as presented.”

Opposed - Director Pike and Director Firman

CARRIED.

6.4 Proposed Sale of Leased Lots

The OBWB discussed correspondence to Okanagan Water Users dated December 04, 2006 from David Gregory, Mayor of Summerland.

Chair Slater noted that the matter had been previously addressed.

Director Reid exited the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding wording of the Summerland Municipal Council resolution. Mr. Stamhuis suggested the wording be amended to read “a Source Water Management Plan”.

Director Perrie exited the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the Drinking Water Protection Act.

Director Cochrane exited the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

6.5 Interior Health Authority Treatment Requirements for the Okanagan Valley

Director Pike distributed news article about future high costs of drinking water treatment in the Basin.

Director Siddon advised that the OWSC would be addressing Source Water Protection at their January 11, 2007 meeting; and would seek the Council's advice on this issue.

6.6 Director and Chair Meeting Rate

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Bennest

"That the OBWB endorses that Directors receive One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$130.00) per meeting and that the Chair receive One Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$180.00) per meeting."

CARRIED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Okanagan Nation Alliance Representative to Okanagan Basin Water Board

Action Item: Chair Slater to call Tim Manuel, Chief of the Upper Nicola Indian Band to congratulate him on his appointment as Director to the OBWB.

7.2 Ratification of Change to BC Cattleman's Association Appointment to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Novakowski

"That the OBWB endorses Lee Hesketh to replace Dave Casorso as appointee to the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council designated by the BC Cattleman's Association."

CARRIED.

8. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

8.1 District of Coldstream Sewage Grant Application

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Pike

“That a decision on grant eligibility follow consideration of the Sewage Grant Terms of Reference and clarification of the Okanagan Basin Water Board policy on lots less than one hectare created after 2000.”

CARRIED.

9. WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

9.1 Staff Report

The OBWB received the Staff Report regarding Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program for information.

Director Bennest commented on the thorough follow up on grant expenditures done by staff.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, January 09, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Okanagan Indian Band Meeting Hall in Vernon.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fairbairn

“There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.”

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager