

## OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

### **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 09, 2007 AT THE OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND OFFICE, VERNON, BC.**

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<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	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
	<del>Director Bill Firman</del>	<del>Regional District North Okanagan (absent)</del>
	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	Okanagan Nation Alliance
	Alternate Director Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Indian Band
<b><u>STAFF:</u></b>	Greg Armour	Program Manager, Okanagan Basin Water Board
	Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Water Stewardship Director
	Mike Stamhuis	Regional District North Okanagan
	Genevieve Doyle	Water Stewardship Coordinator
	Debbie Taylor	Recording Secretary
<b><u>OTHERS</u></b>		
<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
	Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan

#### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

Chair Slater welcomed Director Manuel and Alternate Director Alexis to the meeting. He thanked Alternate Director Alexis for hosting the meeting.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Perrie

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

*"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for January 09, 2007 be approved as circulated."*

**CARRIED.**

### **3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Item 5.4 being Academic Research Projects be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

Item 6.5 being Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Drinking Water Protection be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held December 05, 2006**

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Bennest

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on December 05, 2006 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated."*

**CARRIED.**

#### **4.2 Schedule of 2007 Meetings**

Moved by Director Cochrane

Seconded by Director Novakowski

*"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Provisional Meeting Schedule for 2007".*

**CARRIED.**

### **5. STAFF REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Minutes of Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting held on December 14, 2006**

Dr. Sears gave a verbal report of the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

#### **5.2 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting Summaries – Oct/Nov 2006**

Director Bennest commented that the summaries of the Work Plan Presentations were very useful.

Concerns regarding posting the summaries of the Work Plan presentations on the website were discussed. The Board agreed that information should get to the public as soon as possible but were concerned that proposed recommendations would be considered as official if posted. Suggestions included amending terminology in the summary.

**Moved by** Director Reid

**Seconded by** Director Chief Alexis

*"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board instructs Staff to amend terminology in the summary of Work Plan presentations to read Staff Synthesis from Presentations and Discussion and to read Possible Considerations for the OBWB and Other Local Governments".*

**CARRIED.**

The Province is considering re-writing portions of the Water Act, to make it easier to re-allocate water from existing licenses, and may even consider removing the seniority provisions for water rights. The OBWB would request participation in discussions. Alternate Director Alexis noted that the Okanagan Nation Alliance would support the recommendation of the Board.

Chair Slater stated that the matter would be an Agenda Item at the OBWB meeting scheduled for February 06, 2007.

### **5.3 OBWB Goals and Objectives for 2007**

The Board discussed the Goals and Objectives for 2007.

Director Siddon commented that the OBWB Goals and Objectives for 2007 did not include a reference to the Okanagan Nation Alliance nor the First Nations.

Director Manuel stressed the historical significance of water in the culture of First Nations people. He noted that participation of First Nations in the Okanagan Basin Water Board as an equal partner was past due and he was glad to represent the Okanagan Nation Alliance on the Board.

Dr. Sears invited Director Manuel and Alternate Director Alexis to participate in a First Nations Panel at an upcoming Water Stewardship Meeting.

Staff would amend Goals and Objectives for 2007 and bring back to the Board at the February meeting.

### **5.4 Academic Research Projects**

Mr. Armour informed the Board on interest from several University graduate students in conducting research in the Okanagan. He commented that there was value in supporting work relevant to Okanagan Basin Water Board goals and in supporting grant applications put forward to academic funding sources.

The Board authorized Staff to provide support for academic research related to the goals and objectives of the OBWB as time permits.

## **6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Regional District of North Okanagan Administration Charges**

Mr. Armour advised the Board that the hours charged for the Corporate Controller in the provisional North Okanagan Regional District administration contract had been miscalculated. The error did not affect previous administrative charges which were based on a contract price.

**Moved by** Director Reid

**Seconded by** Director Perrie

*“That the December 06, 2007 letter from the North Okanagan Regional District Chief Financial Officer be received by the OBWB and that the OBWB amend the Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 budget using the revised contract amount.”*

***CARRIED.***

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board broke for lunch at 11:49 and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

### **6.2 Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Study Update**

Mr. Armour reported that a Project Manager & Technical Coordinator for the Water Supply and Demand Study would be selected on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Manager would be a consultant who would work on an hourly basis rather than a full time employee. A working group meeting would take place with the Project Manager soon after selection was made.

#### **6.2.1 Water Supply and Demand Working Group December 16, 2006 Meeting Summary**

Summary of the December 16, 2006 meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Working Group was received by the Board for information.

Phase 1 of the Water Supply and Demand Study identified existing data, data gaps and an approach for conducting the supply and demand study.

Phase 2 of the Water Supply and Demand Study would include compilation of existing data, limited new data collection and the supply and demand analysis.

Alternate Director Alexis stated that the report completed in Phase 1 likely was missing a large First Nations component. He commented that water licenses were allocated to First Nation Reserves when they were created. With some bands moving away from agriculture and ranching there is concern that unused water may be re-allocated. He expressed optimism that the new relationship developing with government would help to resolve these issues.

Alternate Director Alexis recommended that Chair Slater, Greg Armour and Dr. Anna Warwick Sears attend the Chief's Executive Council Meeting scheduled for January 25, 2007 at the Okanagan Nation Alliance Office in Westbank.

#### **6.2.2 Correspondence to Jim Mattison Requesting a Meeting of the Water Supply and Demand Study Steering Committee**

Correspondence to Jim Mattison, Ministry of Environment requesting a meeting of the Steering Committee be convened was received by the Board for information.

### **6.3 Groundwater Assessment in the Okanagan Basin Project Update**

A written update provided by Vicki Carmichael, BC Ministry of Environment on the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin Project was received by the OBWB for information.

### **6.4 Symposium on Groundwater in the Okanagan Basin January 23, 2007**

Mr. Armour commented that many of the invitees had confirmed their attendance to the Symposium and extended an invitation to the Board Members.

### **6.5 Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Drinking Water Protection**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Inter-Agency Accountability and Coordination on Drinking Water Protection was received by the OBWB. The MOU is intended to promote sharing of information and reflect a sense of partnership and shared responsibility for drinking water protection and risk management.

Dr. Sears suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board be represented on the drinking water team.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **7.1 Effluent Discharges on Sugar Lake**

Correspondence from a resident of Electoral Area D in the North Okanagan was received by the OBWB for discussion. Director Fairbairn stated that local residents were concerned about a large development having had received approval from the Ministry of Environment to discharge treated effluent in to Sugar Lake.

Alternate Director Alexis noted that the Okanagan Indian Band had a responsibility over the described area and that they had conducted an archeological study on that area last year. The OBWB agreed that the First Nations have more authority than the Board over such matters. Chief Alexis suggested that the Band could have some authority regarding environmental and land issues.

**Moved by** Director Fairbairn

**Seconded by** Director Reid

*"That correspondence regarding effluent discharges on Sugar Lake be forwarded to the Fraser Basin Council noting the matter was not in the jurisdiction of the Okanagan Basin Water Board."*

**CARRIED.**

## **7.2 Water Metering and Monitoring Policy Recommendation of OWSC**

A letter containing recommendations on hydrometric monitoring, water use monitoring and metering was received from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed policies on metering and the Board asked that Staff revise these recommendations.

**Moved by** Director Novakowski

**Seconded by** Director Reid

*"That the OBWB endorses the recommendations received from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council regarding Hydrometric Monitoring and instructs Staff to revise the recommendations regarding Water Use Monitoring and Metering."*

**CARRIED.**

Director Siddon exited the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

## **8. SEWAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence to Dale Wall, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community Services, Requesting Attendance at OBWB Meeting to Clarify Provincial Sewage Infrastructure Grant Eligibility**

Staff advised that a response to the Okanagan Basin Water Board letter has not been received.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was scheduled for Tuesday, February 06, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Alternate Director Alexis

*“There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.”*

***CARRIED.***

Certified Correct:

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**Chair**

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**Program Manager**