

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2007 AT THE KELOWNA REGIONAL LIBRARY, KELOWNA, BC.

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon, Co-Chair of Water Flagship Group, Okanagan Partnership
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
~~Rob Smailes, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan (absent)~~
~~Marty Willfong, Development Services, Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (absent)~~
Jillian Tamblyn, Environmental Coordinator, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment (absent)~~
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 (absent)~~
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)~~
Lee Hesketh, BC Cattleman's Association
Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute
~~Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College (absent)~~
~~Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society (absent)~~
~~Rick McKelvey, Member at Large (absent)~~
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
~~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 (absent)~~
Tricia Brett, Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee

STAFF:

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

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Sigalet, Interior Health Authority
John Slater, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Toby Pike, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Lorraine Bennest, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

Peter Waterman, Councillor, District of Summerland
Greg Mealing, Water Operations Superintendent, District of Summerland
Pete Spencer, BC Cattlemen's Association
Judie Steeves, Kelowna Capital News

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by Bernie Bauer

"That the agenda of the January 11, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

None

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Grant Maddock

Seconded by Stu Wells

"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on December 14, 2006 at the Manteo Resort, Kelowna, BC be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1 **Presentations on Source Area Protection**

5.1.1 **Valerie Cameron, Ministry of Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for Source Protection**

Presentation commenced at 2:10 p.m. and concluded at 3:20 p.m.

Jillian Tamblyn entered the meeting at 11:58 a.m. and Drew Kaiser entered the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The OWSC broke for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

5.1.2 Elizabeth Sigalet, Interior Health Authority: Source Protection and the IHA: Context, Expectations, and Opportunities

Presentation commenced at 11:22 a.m. and concluded at 12:15 p.m.

Valerie Cameron entered the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

The meeting broke for a recess at 2:05 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

5.1.3 Lee Hesketh, BC Cattleman's Association, Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program: Finding Common Ground

Presentation commenced at 1:00 p.m. and concluded at 2:04 p.m.

5.1.4 Question and Answer, and Discussion

Water Source Protection refers to the management of land based activities that will impact all sources of water at any point in the watershed.

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

Discussion ensued regarding potential threats including cattle, pathogens, and arsenic to drinking water quality. Lee Hesketh invited all members to a presentation regarding ecoli to be held at the Vernon Lodge on March 07, 2007.

Studies have confirmed that wildlife, septic fields and cattle were significant contributors threatening the quality of drinking water.

Ranchers are frustrated with the lack of funding and are requesting additional communication, education and technical support to deal with the matter.

Members expressed concern that Water Suppliers are responsible

for funding of assessments on multi-use crown lands but have no power over controlling activities on those lands. Suggestions included supporting water suppliers in assessments and / or looking at water management plans with a portion of OWSC funds.

Smaller creeks need to be monitored along with the rest of the watershed to ensure protection of source water.

Chair Siddon stressed the importance of changing political attitudes and urging the provincial politicians to address the concern of source water protection.

Members agreed to follow-up on the matter at the February 08, 2007 OWSC meeting.

5.2 Matters Arising from January 09, 2007 OBWB Meeting

John Slater, Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board stated that the OBWB recognized the value of the Council and that they looked forward to the Council taking their position to the politicians and the public.

The OBWB agreed to the recommendations from the Council regarding Hydrometric Monitoring however requested that recommendations regarding Water Use Monitoring and Metering be revised.

Valerie Cameron exited the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF and/or COMMITTEE GROUPS

6.1 Contracts for Sustainable Water Strategy

The Water Stewardship Coordinator is currently coalescing bylaw information from the Regional Districts and Municipalities.

Peter Dill exited the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and Tricia Brett exited the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Bernie Bauer stated that the Okanagan Sustainability Institute was in the process of forming a Steering Committee and a Faculty Committee. Council Members were invited to provide feedback regarding partnering, research endeavors, etc., particularly at the regional level.

8. NEXT MEETING**8.1 Session Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

Topic suggestions for the February 08, 2007 meeting included discussions of what the Council had accomplished and how it is evolving.

Dr. Sears advised that the summary of the presentations of the December 14, 2007 meeting was completed and would seek to complete the summary of today's meeting by the week before the February 08, 2007 meeting.

8.2 Venue for February 08, 2007 OWSC Meeting

Staff requested suggestions of venues from the members.

Vice Chair van der Gulik will Chair the February 08, 2007 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager