

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 08, 2007 AT THE RAMADA LODGE HOTEL, KELOWNA, BC.

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon, 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 (absent)~~
~~Paul Kluckner, Regional Director, Environment Canada (absent)~~
Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance (absent)
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. Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association (absent)~~
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, Interior Health Authority (absent)
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)~~
Doug Geller, BC Ground Water Association
~~Lee Hesketh, BC Cattleman's Association (absent)~~
Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute (absent)
Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College (absent)
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
Neal Klassen, Contractor/Operator, City/Kelowna Water Conservation Program
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
Genevieve Doyle, Water Stewardship Coordinator
Debbie Taylor, Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT:

John Slater, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Toby Pike, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Lorraine Bennest, Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair van der Gulik called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Items 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 will be discussed as one Item.

Moved by Gord Shandler

Seconded by Hans Buchler

"That the agenda of the February 08, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Item 5.7 being Mission Creek Storage would be added to the Agenda as a Late Item.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Gord Shandler

Seconded by Hans Buchler

"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on January 11, 2007 at the Kelowna Regional Library, Kelowna, BC be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Framework for Policy Delivery – Proposal for Coordinated Conservation

5.2 Bylaw Review Update

5.3 Policy Priorities

The Council discussed how to make continued progress on Coordinated Water Conservation and Source Area Protection. Staff presented a draft proposal for developing a coordinated water conservation or drought plan that would take in the entire basin, as well as a draft survey, summarizing the demand management policies now in place in the different local governments in the Okanagan.

Neal Klassen exited the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Toby Pike exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

The Water Stewardship Coordinator gave an update on the review of local municipality water conservation bylaws.

Toby Pike reentered the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Council Members were asked to provide input regarding the policy objectives they would like to pursue regarding water sustainability. The proposed objectives would be brought back to the next scheduled meeting.

Discussions ensued regarding the use of effluent irrigation. Vice Chair van der Gulik advised that the Ministry of Agriculture would be conducting soil testing and Members should forward any suggested survey sites to himself.

The meeting of the OWSC broke for a recess at 2:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

The Council agreed that the Province had strong policies regarding Source Area Protection that were not necessarily being implemented. They also agreed that the definition of Source Area Protection was ambiguous.

Michelle Boshard exited the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Dr. Sears would forward a recent news article on concerns about endocrine disrupters and pharmaceutical residues in effluent discharges to the lakes written by Judie Steeves to the Council.

Discussions ensued regarding actions the Council would be considering to undertake on effluent issues. Bernie Bauer would arrange some expert advice for the next OWSC meeting.

Groundwater is often left out of source protection considerations, and needs more regional coordination. The Council discussed ways to increase funding for the project to provide regional scope and increase the pace of the project. The Council observed that local governments should be encouraged to collect data on wells and groundwater use.

5.4 RDOS Regional Growth Strategies Water Policy

The Council received the RDOS Regional Growth Strategy Water Policy for their review. Members were asked to forward comments to Dr. Sears or to Vice Chair van der Gulik.

5.5 Consolidated Messages

The discussions with Valerie Cameron and Paul Kluckner would be rescheduled as they were unable to attend the meeting.

5.6 Letterhead

OWSC letterhead would be presented at a future meeting.

5.7 Mission Creek Storage

Bob Hrasko advised the Council of a pending agreement between the Ministry of Environment and Black Mountain Irrigation District allowing more water to be released out of Belgo Reservoir into Mission Creek to support fish habitat.

The Council requested additional information before recommending that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Environment supporting the release of more water out of Belgo Reservoir into Mission Creek to support fish habitat.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF and/or COMMITTEE GROUPS**6.1 Update on OBWB February Meeting**

Staff summarized the outcome of the OBWB February Board meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

8. NEXT MEETING**8.1 March 08, 2007 Meeting**

The meeting on March 08 will be an all day session and will include a morning presentation from Hans Schreier entitled Virtual Water in the Okanagan and a panel from the Okanagan Nation Alliance regarding water management issues / concerns and First Nation cultural history in the afternoon.

8.2 April 12, 2007 Meeting

At the April 12 meeting the Water Supply & Demand Study will conduct a

facilitated session with the OWSC members, as a representative water stakeholder group, to determine user needs for the information which will be generated from the Study.

8.3 May 10, 2007 Meeting

The May meeting of the Council will be focused on agricultural water use, and will likely be held at the Summerland Research Station.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gord Shandler

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager