

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON MAY 10 AT THE PACIFIC AGRI-FOOD RESEARCH CENTRE IN SUMMERLAND, BC.

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon, 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~~
~~Deana Machin, Manager, Fisheries Program, Okanagan Nation Alliance~~
~~Rob Smiles, Director, Development Services, Regional District North Okanagan~~
Jillian Tamblyn, Environmental Coordinator, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
~~Brian Symonds, A/Director, Regional Operations, Ministry of Environment~~
Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan
Dr. Brian Guy, Director, BC Branch, Canadian Water Resource Association
Mike Adams, Drinking Water Protection Officer, Interior Health Authority
Gord Shandler, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association
Hans Buchler, Chair, Water Committee, BC Agriculture Council
~~Doug Geller, BC Ground Water Association~~
~~Lee Hesketh, BC Cattlemen's Association~~
~~Grant Maddock, Protech Engineering, Urban Development Institute~~
~~Allison MacMillan, Okanagan College~~
~~Michelle Boshard, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society~~
Rick McKelvey, Member at Large
Drew Kaiser, CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
~~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:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director, OBWB
Genevieve Doyle, Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen, Administration & Communications, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Barry Grace, PARC A/Director,
Dr. Norman Looney, PARC Research Scientist
Toby Pike, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Lorraine Bennest, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Ken Cunningham, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment (Penticton)
Judie Steeves, Kelowna Capital News
Stephanie Tam, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Pascal Delaquis, PARC Research Scientist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Siddon called the meeting to order at 10:13am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Ted van der Gulik

"That the agenda of the May 10, 2007 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Ted van der Gulik

"That an update from Stu Wells on the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum be added as Item 6.5."

CARRIED.

Bob Hrasko entered the meeting at 10:18am

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Drew Kaiser

Seconded by Jill Tamblyn

"That the minutes of a meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held April 12, 2007 at the Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna, BC be adopted."

CARRIED.

Bernie Bauer entered the meeting at 10:22am

Peter Dill entered the meeting at 10:28am

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Stewardship Council Membership renewals reminder

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) members were reminded that their 18-month terms end in September 2007. Current members should approach their respective organizations to renew their appointments or recommend a successor. All nominations will be subject to ratification by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB).

Dr. Sears will provide a review of Water Stewardship Council activities to the OBWB Board at the July meeting.

5.2 Adoption of January and February meeting summaries

Moved by Hans Buchler

Seconded by Tricia Brett

"That the Source Water Protection Session Summary arising from the January 11, 2007 OWSC meeting be adopted and posted on the OBWB website."

CARRIED.

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Stu Wells

"That the Priority Planning Session Summary arising from the February 8, 2007 OWSC meeting be adopted and posted on the OBWB website."

CARRIED.

5.3 Presentations and Discussion on Agricultural Water Concerns in the Okanagan

5.3.1 Dr. Norman Looney, Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre: *An Overview of the World Food Supply*

5.3.2 Gord Shandler, BC Fruit Growers Association: *How Changes in Agricultural Technology can Support Food Security*

Valerie Cameron entered the meeting at 11:25am

5.3.3 Denise Neilsen, Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre: *Climate Change Influence in the Okanagan*

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:27pm and reconvened at 1:10pm.

Mike Adams entered the meeting at 12:45pm

5.3.4 Ted van der Gulik, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands: *Linking Land and Water Needs for Agriculture*

5.3.5 Question and Answer and Discussion

6. **REPORTS FROM STAFF and/or COMMITTEE GROUPS**

6.1 **Matters arising from May 1, 2007 OBWB Meeting**

Chair Siddon reported that Dr. Sears is replacing the retiring Mr. Greg Armour as the lead staff of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. She will take on the new title of Executive Director. Dr. Sears indicated that a new Water Stewardship Director may be hired as early as August 2007, and that the job posting will be circulated to all directors in early June.

Valerie Cameron has accepted a position as the new Regional Water Manager for the Ministry of Environment Water Stewardship division in Kamloops. Ken Cunningham will be her replacement on the Water Stewardship Council.

6.1.1 2007 Water Management Grant Awards

Ms. Doyle reported on the second year of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Awards. Seventeen grants totaling \$300,000 have been awarded to municipalities and community groups throughout the Okanagan Valley to conduct water conservation and quality improvement projects. A detailed list of grant recipients can be found on the OBWB website at www.obwb.ca.

Bernie Bauer exited the meeting at 3:05pm

6.2 **Effluent studies**

6.2.1 Monitoring project

Dr. Sears explained that pharmaceutical and personal care product residues in wastewater are of great concern and that Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is considering an application to the First Nation Environmental Toxicity Fund to further explore this issue in partnership with the Water Stewardship Council. It was confirmed that a sub-committee chaired by Mike Adams with members Bernie Bauer, Denise Neilsen, Jeff Curtis and Fabian Alexis will report back at the next OWSC meeting. Genevieve Doyle will represent the Okanagan Basin Water Board on this committee.

6.2.2 PARC proposal

Dr. Pascal Delaquis presented a proposal on the use of wastewater from the District of Summerland wastewater treatment plant as a source of irrigation water in orchards and to monitor the effects on fruit, soil and irrigation water quality. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Matching Investment Initiative program will provide a matching contribution of cash and in-kind contributions received from industry. A cash contribution from the Okanagan Basin Water Board of \$10,000 per year for the duration of the project's three year term is sought.

Moved by Brian Guy

Seconded by Hans Buchler

"That the Water Stewardship Council recommend full funding for the PARC research proposal on the agricultural re-use of wastewater from the Summerland waste water plant to the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

6.3 **Our Okanagan (QUEST) activities**

Dr. Sears encouraged all members of the Water Stewardship Council to attend Quest workshops scheduled throughout the Okanagan valley during "Okanagan Sustainability Week" May 14 - May 20, 2007.

6.4 **CWRA conference proposal for February, 2008**

The Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) approached the OBWB to explore the possibility of co-hosting a Water Stewardship conference in February 2008.

Brian Guy pointed out that the timing of this conference is well-suited to public promotion of both the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and the Water Supply and Demand Study (WS&D): two years into the OWSC's three-year mandate, and the half-way point for the WS&D Study. The CWRA has considerable conference planning expertise and will offset conference costs through admissions fees and sponsorships.

Moved by Jill Tamblyn

Seconded by Brian Guy

"Motion to recommend that the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council work together with the CWRA to develop a February 2008 conference for the Okanagan Water Stewardship project."

CARRIED.

6.5 **Stu Wells – Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum update**

Stu Wells provided an update on the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum (OLWSF) September 18-19, 2007 at the Sonora Community Centre in Osoyoos. Conference registration fee of \$30 includes breakfast and lunch both days and a tour of the Spirit Ridge Cultural Centre. Early registration was strongly advised. Dr. Denise Neilsen, Dr. Sears and OBWB Chair John Slater are scheduled to make presentations at this conference. Mr. Wells encouraged all Council members to promote this event to their respective organizations. More information will be posted online as it becomes available.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence received.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

- 8.1 June 14th Meeting: Coordinated Water Conservation
- 8.2 July and August meetings: Summer recess

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Stu Wells

Seconded by Gord Shandler

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m."

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Program Manager