



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD AUGUST  
30, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD,  
VERNON BC.

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**PRESENT:**

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
<del>Director Ron Perrie</del>	<del>Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen</del>
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Len Novakowski	Regional District Central Okanagan
<del>Director Robert Hobson</del>	<del>Regional District Central Okanagan</del>
Vice Chair Graham Reid	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Glen Taylor	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of B.C.
<del>Director Tim Manuel</del>	<del>Okanagan Nation Alliance</del>

**STAFF:**

Greg Armour	Program Manager, OBWB
Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Inge van Oostveen	Administration/Communications, OBWB
Genevieve Doyle	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 12:11pm.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- Item 6.5: Purchase of a Truck for Gordon Greer.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by: Director Pike

Seconded by: Director Taylor

*"That, with the addition of Item 6.5, the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on August 30, 2007 be approved."*

**CARRIED.**

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held July 03, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan

Moved by: Director Fairbairn

Seconded by: Vice Chair Reid

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 03, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated."*

**CARRIED.**

5. **DELEGATIONS**

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 6.1 OBWB 2007 Financial Statements

Director Siddon inquired whether the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) has an emergency preparedness plan and funding to address emergencies such as mass water poisoning, fire, water shortages, or other unforeseen events that may arise in the basin.

Chair Slater stated that historically, this Board has retained one year of reserve funds for the Sewage Facilities assistance program, and that last year the amount of this reserve was \$1.1 million.

Mr. Armour explained that the Board at the time agreed it would be beneficial to retain a reserve, rather than increasing the amount of requisitions, and that most of the increase in reserve funds can be attributed to interest earned.

Chair Slater outlined that the Board chose to keep some funds in reserve rather than forcing the requisition of additional funds to support eligible projects.

Vice Chair Reid pointed out that these are financial statements, not budgets, and he inquired whether Director Siddon wished to see emergency preparedness put forward as a budget issue. Vice Chair Reid stated that some unplanned sewage facilities assistance grants were approved this year, and that the reserve allowed the Board to fund these eligible projects without requiring additional requisitions.

Moved by: Vice Chair Reid

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

*"That the 2007 Consolidated Financial Statements for the Okanagan Basin Water Board be adopted."*

**CARRIED.**

- 6.2 Adoption of OWSC Guiding Principles

Dr. Sears presented the final draft of five guiding principles developed by Dr. Bernie Bauer and adopted by the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC). Dr. Sears invited the Board to adopt these principles as-is, or to suggest other wording.

Vice Chair Reid commented that these principles should serve as a starting point for discussions and planning sessions for the future of the Water Board.

Director Siddon stated that he met with Mr. Jatel and Dr. Sears prior to the Board meeting to discuss the need for strategic planning. He reminded the Board that Dr. Sears had initially developed a workplan for the Stewardship Council that was adopted last September, and that Mr. Jatel will bring forward his views on what the Stewardship Council will have accomplished by June 2008. Director Siddon remarked that the plan should have an end-point and an end-product. In addition, he remarked that a special Board meeting or a specific strategic planning session should be scheduled

sometime in October.

Dr. Sears replied that when the idea was first raised in the Spring, the Board had suggested postponing strategic planning sessions until Fall 2007, and that it may be appropriate to engage a facilitator for such a session. The Board is to decide the time, date and length of the planning session.

Chair Slater explained that Vice Chair Reid may have difficulty adopting these principles prior to a strategic planning session.

Vice Chair Reid wished to see OWSC members weigh in a comprehensive strategic planning session, that may take a full day or longer.

Dr. Sears recommended that this session involves Board Directors only, but could take recommendations from the Council.

Director Bennest asked the Board to adopt these principles now, so that the strategic planning session may begin with these principles already adopted.

Director Novakowski preferred to just receive the principles rather than adopt at this time. He agreed that the principles were valuable and should be given due consideration.

Director Pike envisioned no difficulty in adopting these principles now, and recommended a strategic planning session at a later date.

Director Fairbairn agreed that the guiding principles were well thought-out and presented, but expressed concern that the outcome of the strategic planning session could potentially be at odds with one or more principles.

Director Siddon stated that these principles have been adopted by the OWSC for the OWSC, and that these are not five principles for the Water Board.

**Moved by:** Director Novakowski

**Seconded by:** Director Fairbairn

***“That the Guiding Principles for the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be received.”***

**CARRIED.**

### 6.3 Participation in RDNO 2008 Recycling Collection Calendar

Director Hanson inquired whether the OBWB participates in the CORD Calendar, and whether there is a similar calendar for the South Okanagan. Dr. Sears replied that CORD has not approached OBWB. Chair Slater and Director Siddon stated that the South Okanagan does not currently have such a calendar.

**Moved by:** Director Fairbairn

**Seconded by:** Director Hanson

***“That the allocation of \$800 for OBWB participation in the RDNO 2008 Recycling Calendar be authorized.”***

**CARRIED.**

### 6.4 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

The Agenda for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum was included in the Agenda Package. Dr. Sears encouraged all Board directors to register for and participate in the Conference. Director Siddon

concurred, adding that this is a wonderful opportunity to understand both Canadian and US perspectives on Osoyoos Lake.

#### 6.5 Truck for Gordon Greer

Dr. Sears explained that it is fiscally prudent to purchase a low kilometer, relatively new, used truck for a member of the milfoil crew, who is currently driving his own vehicle and incurring costly mileage claims.

Vice Chair Reid did not agree that there was a business case to purchase the truck because the proposed acquisition is estimated to cost \$6,400 plus maintenance per year, while the amount currently paid to the employee for mileage is \$7,000 per year.

Director Fairbairn suggested that the employee be asked whether he prefers to continue using his own truck.

**Moved by:** Director Taylor

**Seconded by:** Vice Chair Reid

***“That the acquisition of a truck be deferred until more information is received.”***

**CARRIED.**

## 7. STAFF REPORTS

### 7.1 Executive Director report

#### 7.1.1 Councillor Barry Beardsell’s inquiries

Dr. Sears explained that Vernon Councillor Barry Beardsell and RDNO Chair Jerry Oglow, on behalf of the City of Vernon and RDNO, are conducting a semi-official review of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, but that Councillor Beardsell has not directed his requests for information directly to the Board or OBWB staff. Dr. Sears requested that the Board send a formal letter to the City of Vernon to inquire about the nature of the review.

**Moved by:** Director Siddon

**Seconded by:** Director Taylor

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board request formal communication from the City of Vernon and Regional District of North Okanagan that a review of OBWB’s mandate and function is underway, that we be given a clear indication of the goals of the process, and that the OBWB be given an opportunity to address any questions and ensure that the information is complete before the review goes to the Board and Council.”***

**CARRIED.**

#### 7.1.2 Staff presentations at Penticton and Summerland Council Meetings

Dr. Sears said that staff presentations to Penticton and Summerland council meetings were well received. A similar presentation was made to the City of Vernon last May, and council presentations are also planned for other Basin communities, including Kelowna, tentatively in October.

#### 7.1.3 Convening Water Conservation Professionals in the Okanagan Valley

The OWSC will partner with JoAnne deVries, organizer of the Sustainable Communities conference, to deliver a day-long water conservation workshop featuring guest speaker Doug Bennett of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Water conservation professionals, OWSC members and OBWB directors will be invited to the one-day workshop, scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2007 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Director Siddon commented that Ms. DeVries' conference is aimed at professionals throughout the province, and Mr. Jatel replied that this workshop will be focused on Okanagan valley conservation professionals only.

#### 7.1.4 Flathead Basin Large Lakes Conference

Dr. Sears explained that she, Lake Country Mayor James Baker and Chief Fabian Alexis have been invited to the Flathead Basin Large lakes conference, and that James Baker has encouraged her to attend, and that the conference organizers may cover some travel costs.

Director Siddon suggested that the unique nature of the OWSC and the OBWB itself would be of interest to the conference organizers and attendees, and that this conference would be an excellent opportunity to share information with others working in similar fields, and to attract media attention.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that Dr. Sears further investigate whether the conference organizers would be willing to pay for travel expenses.

#### 7.2 NOWA Yard Lease

Dr. Sears explained that a lease has been arranged for the NOWA yard, and that the lease terms will be finalized by Greater Vernon Services Water Manager Al Cotsworth and RDNO Chief Financial Officer Alan Harris. There is an established agreement for building cost compensation if RDNO terminates the lease, but we would negotiate a settlement if OBWB terminates the lease.

Vice Chair Reid suggested that negotiation should not be an option, and that compensation for the building should be determined no matter what the outcome. Furthermore, he commented that an inflation target is 2%, not 3%, and that the lease agreement should make use of an inflation indicator such as the BC Consumer Price Index rather than a fixed rate.

Director Siddon inquired why a building was built without a lease in place.

Mr. Armour said that the approvals were given for the building and that RDNO staff were directed to set up a lease agreement with the Water Board.

#### 7.3 New Water Stewardship Director: Nelson Jatel

Mr. Jatel expressed that dysfunction is prevalent in water matters due to multi-jurisdictional issues. He is looking forward to working together with OWSC members. Mr. Jatel presented the concept of viewing OBWB functions as a three-legged stool: milfoil removal, sewage facilities grants, and water management for quantity and quality.

Dr. Sears added that beyond his experience with the business community and the Okanagan Partnership, Mr. Jatel is also a Freshwater Scientist.

Director Siddon commented that Mr. Jatel worked on the first draft of the Okanagan Partnership white paper that led to the formation of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Director Hanson wondered why the Urban Development Institute was an approved organizational member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, pointing out that developers must talk to planners and municipal staff, and that planners and municipal staff are already well-represented on the Council.

Dr. Sears explained that the viewpoint of the developers themselves is important, and that a special session will soon be held to connect with developers.

Director Fairbairn inquired about the Water Stewardship Council's policy on alternate members.

Dr. Sears explained that the current policy is to discourage the use of alternates, to encourage the group to know and understand each other, and to ensure everyone was comfortable to attend and speak their minds. However, this was not a hard and fast rule. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and the Regional District of Central Okanagan have sent alternate representatives who shared the responsibility of attendance from month to month, and that has worked well because they did so regularly and Council members grew to know them.

Director Bennest was pleased to hear that the development community will become engaged in discussions and she anticipates positive outcomes from these meetings.

Director Siddon reminded members that a multi-stakeholder group was intended, and that the involvement of the Okanagan Nation Alliance is critical to the success of the Water Stewardship Council.

**Moved by:** Vice Chair Reid

**Seconded by:** Director Novakowski

***“That the Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association (S.O.F.A.) be instated as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, that Oceola Fish and Game Club will replace the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and that the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) be reinstated as a member of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council”.***

**CARRIED.**

#### 7.4 Okanagan Reservoir Lakes Lots

Staff presented a report on the ramifications of Land Act Reserves, the effect on existing tenures on Okanagan reservoir lakes, and a review of lease conditions from 1979 to present.

Director Pike commented that the majority of the leases would cease to exist if lease conditions were actually enforced.

Director Pike cautioned that Crown Land Act Reserves do not include sub-surface rights. He credits the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) for their willingness to discuss other watershed uses, in particular cattle and recreation, and for providing funding for strategic cattle fencing and cattleguards to protect watersheds, with no strings attached.

Director Pike commented that Summit Environmental's revised report was much improved and now includes tools that local governments can use to mitigate watershed impacts.

Director Pike added that the Sunshine Coast Regional District recently used the Health Act to protect water quality, ordering the stoppage of steep slope logging in its watersheds. Logging is now allowed on slopes less than 60 degrees.

Director Hanson commented that the south side of Mission Creek is very steep and is slated to be logged.

Director Pike explained that the use of the Health Act was unique, and that he had not previously realized that this option was available to regional districts.

Vice Chair Reid stated that expropriation is only an option after leased lots are converted to fee simple, and that expropriation or “compulsory taking” requires a valid reason and a premium to be paid above the assessed value.

Director Pike wondered whether BC Assessment could devalue the land as a reservoir lot, so that the property value and resulting annual lease fees could be reduced.

Vice Chair Reid explained that because the renewal of leases is automatic, the tenure is considered secure, and the leased lot values are very close to fee simple lots. The Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD) is attempting to place a zoning bylaw on these lands so it can enforce its own bylaws.

Director Bennest commented that very little is collected in taxes from these lands, and that no additional services are offered. If zoning bylaws are enforced, every lot will be required to upgrade, adding significant cost with little benefit.

Vice Chair Reid commented that zoning bylaws provide an area of direct control, such as requiring owners to acquire building permits, so that the district may limit the size of dwellings, locations of septic fields, and more.

Director Siddon commented that with an average value of \$100,000 per lot, the total value of all Okanagan reservoir lake lots is approximately \$16 million, or 10 times the annual budget of this Board. Mr. Jatel may choose to discuss a Trust idea. Director Siddon reminded the Board that the question of how many lots are actually impacting the quality of the water still remains.

Director Pike suggested that the Cottage Owners may or may not be amenable to sales of these lots, and stated that he had received a copy of the Oland Engineering report assessing the septic disposal capacity of the lots this morning.

Vice Chair Reid valued the importance of a realistic, lake by lake assessment, including a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether there is economic value in acquiring these properties, compared to the cost of water treatment, so that a case may be made for the immediate expropriation of properties if conversion to fee simple status occurs.

Director Pike recommended that the sale value of these lots be appraised, and that expropriation could potentially be suggested as a consequence of conversion to fee simple. He further reminded the Board that the Drinking Water Protection Act legally requires a water supplier or local government to inform the Drinking Water Officer of any impacts to water quality resulting from recreation in the watersheds.

Director Pike, Director Siddon and Vice Chair Reid expressed interest in receiving further information about other tools available to regional districts to protect watersheds, in particular, how the Sunshine Coast Regional District was able to designate a Health board to enact watershed protection under the Health Act.

## 7.5 Master Wastewater Management Plan

**Moved by:** Vice Chair Reid

**Seconded by:** Director Taylor

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board resolves to forward a funding application for \$10,000 to the Ministry of Community Services – Infrastructure Planning Grant Program in support of Phase***

***1 of a Master Wastewater Management Plan for the Okanagan***

**CARRIED.**

**Moved by:** Director Novakowski

**Seconded by:** Director Hanson

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water board seeks approval from the three regional districts to authorize the expenditure of up to \$35,000 to match the Ministry of Community Services grant monies.”***

**CARRIED.**

**LUNCH**

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:00pm and reconvened at 12:11pm.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 8.1 Letter from Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services dated July 3, 2007 regarding the 1 Hectare Policy
- 8.2 Letter from Dan Jepsen, President of Water Highway BC dated July 27, 2007 to Jim Mattison, MoE Water Stewardship Division, regarding BC Water Monitoring Network

**Moved by:** Director Taylor

**Seconded by:** Director Pike

***“That a letter from Minister Ida Chong dated July 3, 2007 be received.”***

**CARRIED.**

Dr. Sears explained that a Hydromonitoring workshop was held in June, and that a pilot project for the province will soon be initiated. This letter constitutes initial lobbying from Water Highway BC for the coordination of a Hydromonitoring network for BC, and does not require any action on the part of the Board.

Director Pike commented that some form of partnership with the OBWB may be required in the future.

**Moved by:** Director Fairbairn

**Seconded by:** Director Baumbrough

***“That a letter from Dan Jepsen dated July 27, 2007 be received.”***

**CARRIED.**

**9. IN-CAMERA**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 3:30pm.

**Moved by:** Vice Chair Reid

**Seconded by:** Director Novakowski

***“That the OBWB adjourn to In-Camera session.”***

**CARRIED.**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for October 2nd, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Vice Chair Reid

**Seconded by:** Director Hanson

***“There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 3:58pm.”***

**CARRIED.**

Certified Correct:



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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**