



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
OCTOBER 2ND, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO
ROAD, KELOWNA BC.**

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	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 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.
Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson R. Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Carmen Venturi	Venturi Enterprises, (Minute Recorder)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brad Clements	Performance Decisions
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by **Director Fairbairn** Seconded by **Director Pike**

"That the Draft Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral be introduced as item 6.3 and that the letter from Ida Chong, FCGA Minister be added as item 8.2"

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by **Director Novakowski** Seconded by **Director Baumbrough**

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on October 2,2007 be approved as amended."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held August 30, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan

Moved by **Director Novakowski**

Seconded by **Director Baumbrough**

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on August 30, 2007 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Strategic Planning Session – Brad Clements

Brad Clements discussed the documents and questionnaires provided for the Strategic Planning Session of October 16, 2007, stressing the importance of preparation.

The OBWB will complete the Strategic Planning Preparation Question Set ahead and Mr. Clements will collate the information and provide it back to the OBWB prior to the Strategic Planning Session.

Staff were directed to make a special effort to ask First Nations OBWB reps to attend.

Director Hobson reminded the OBWB that the Provincial government has asked the three Okanagan regional districts to enter into consultations on sharing services and governance, preference being for one regional district. The timeframe for these consultations is very tight, with recommendations requested by March. He suggested that this should be an important element in the Strategy Planning Session.

6.2 Vernon, Penticton and Osoyoos sewer grants

Dr. Sears referred to her memo and recommendations which address three active submissions to the Sewerage Facilities Grant applications from October. The document highlights grey areas in the Terms of Reference for the grants, and Dr. Sears requested a discussion on these.

Dr. Sears requested that the TOR be amended to allow infrastructure replacements due to age or outmoded technology since plants that were state of the art in 1977 are no longer new and the TOR currently prohibits the OBWB from helping communities to improve those infrastructures.

Chair Slater responded that the intention of the original TOR was to ensure improvements in the Red Zone and the change in the TOR was from .8 to 1 hectare.

Director Hobson asked if the OBWB should not define a standard or goal that all plants should reach. He asked, as an example that a goal may be to have all plants use UV treatment on effluent as a criteria. He stated that the overall objective of the grants is the quality of water in the basin and to reach for the best new technology to get to this standard.

Dr. Sears suggested that a survey of all waste water facilities in the Basin through the process of developing the Master Wastewater Management Plan will help understand what goal to strive to.

Director Bennest expressed that it would be necessary to survey the financial arrangements and the planned improvements of the waste water facilities in this review.

Director Fairbairn noted that there are many levels of treatment facilities in the Valley and that the OBWB should support those programs that improve the Red Zones.

Dr. Sears advised the OBWB that she will get additional details for the funding requests.

Director Perrie stated that testing the effluent should be the standard in determining how well the systems are working, emphasizing that it would be irresponsible not to help with upgrades. His position is that new growth should pay for effluent treatment through DCCs.

Dr. Sears referred to the third recommendation, in which she seeks clarification of the Sewerage Facilities Grant with respect to expanding wastewater irrigation/reuse with treated effluent. Pointing out that this is not technically an upgrade, Dr. Sears pointed out that Penticton wants to extend spray irrigation for parks and more distant areas.

Director Bennest suggested that the expansion of treated effluent reuse creates more users on the system that are not accounted for. She stated that an examination of the ramifications of such an expansion is needed before the OBWB provides grants.

Director Hobson stated that he is in favour of an expansion of this kind, but that it is strictly speaking a water conservation project. He pointed out that there may be other activities that the OBWB might consider funding, such as more capacity for reservoirs.

Chair Slater said that the applications for twinning of effluent discharge does not fit under the OBWB's current criteria.

Dr. Sears stated tertiary treated water is not same as clean drinking water and that if Penticton discharged effluent water onto the land, that it would provide less polluted water into the lake. She commented that the OBWB needs to revisit the OBWB's standards for communities.

Director Perrie stated that the Penticton Golf and Country Club uses effluent water, and that it is a very involved process, requiring changing the irrigation system and timing of irrigation. He also indicated that the water is saturated with sodium, which is killing trees. Director Perrie said that Penticton's effluent water is chlorinated and de-chlorinated.

Director Novakowski stated that in light of the Strategic Planning Session, that the Board is open to broadening its mandate. Since the Board's goal is the protection of the Okanagan's water resource, he asked if staff could identify additional areas that the Board could undertake in achieving these goals.

Chair Slater reiterated Director Bennest's point that if the OBWB gives grants towards sewerage effluent that this might expand capacity for urban growth or agriculture.

Director Bennest suggested that once the Sustainable Water Strategy has been completed, then the Board would be in a better position to make decisions related to questions like a sewerage effluent policy.

Dr. Sears stated that she will respond to the request from Penticton by outlining to them that the OBWB is in a review process and that the Board will continue to fund those requests that are traditionally funded. She next stated that she will communicate to them that they could reapply once the review has been completed.

Dr. Sears' last item on the memo concerned the application for sewage grant for Osoyoos Lake. Dr. Sears spoke about the recent Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum which indicates that that non point

source pollution is negatively impacting water quality in the lake and that this request would be important to fund. A recent discussion with Glen Brown indicates that the RDOS will qualify for funding for their grant but funds will not be released until a 1 hectare by-law is in place or a liquid waste management plan has been developed. There is no requirement for blanket 1 hectare bylaw, and it would be easier to administrate if a blanket bylaw is in place with waivers given and LWMPs are developed on a neighborhood basis.

Director Bennest suggested that a logical approach to solving the problem would be that a municipality or district adopt a 1 hectare policy and then develop a Liquid Waste Management Plan.

6.3 Draft Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral

Director Pike stated that the IHA is drafting deferral criteria for the Water Suppliers for all water systems using surface or groundwater (under the direct influence of surface water). He strongly recommended that the document be reviewed and comments and discussions be made in consideration of the amount of money that will need to be spent across the Okanagan to meet new standards.

He then explained that over the last half year, a subcommittee of the Water Supply Association of BC and the IHA have come close to agreeing on a draft discussion paper entitled “*A Recommended Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region*”. He read from Section 3.4 which addresses when unfiltered water systems may be viable:

“It is our responsibility to manage our watersheds for the present and future generations. Providing water in its natural state with minimal chemical conditioning is a desired state that is not possible for most of North America. It is possible for some of the water suppliers in the Okanagan. Where possible, the primary health objective should be to access the purest, most natural source of water available and then to make it microbiologically safe and deliver it to the public with minimal chemical addition.

Further discussion is required to develop this approach. In addition to defining what a “source protection strategy” consists of per the GCDWQ, work is necessary to establish the criteria for deferring filtration, and the types of enhanced disinfection that may be necessary to accompany filtration deferral. Water suppliers who may meet the exclusion criteria in the GCDWQ should be collecting the background data to validate their claim”

The release of the Filtration Deferral paper has been delayed until their respective organizations have concluded their discussions on the recommended approach. Director Pike presented a number of options in which the Board would react to the document: participate in a technical review process, receive the document, defer it to the Water Stewardship Council, or appoint a member to the committee if allowed, strike a committee of the OBWB and Water Stewardship Council.

Board members reiterated that they strongly support efforts at watershed protection ahead of water filtration.

Director Bennest suggested writing a letter to the IHA and the Water Suppliers Association stating that the OBWB is encouraged by the results of their collaborative discussions and draft recommended approach and requesting that the same process be followed for establishing the filtration deferral criteria.

Moved by **Director Bennest**

Seconded by **Director Fairbairn**

"That the document "Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral" be received and that a letter be sent to the Water Suppliers Association and the IHA thanking them for the work in drafting the discussion paper entitled "A Recommended Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region". The letter should also request that a similar consultative process be followed for a review of the document "Issue Paper: Filtration Deferral". The letter should also state that the OBWB strongly endorses watershed protection."

CARRIED.

The OBWB agreed that they would like to receive regular updates from Director Pike on further developments.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director report

7.1.1 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

Dr. Sears reported that the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum was extremely successful. Approximately 200 people attended, all with differing agendas: stewardship groups, three levels of government including the International Joint Commission.

7.1.2 Water Supply and Demand Study

The Water Supply and Demand study is progressing well: Don Dobson and his team are collecting are water use information from utilities throughout the Okanagan, the database that Clint Alexander is building is making headway and there will be a Steering Committee meeting next week. A perpetual problem is that although Environment Canada staff is very interested in helping and there is no official approval. Dr. Sears explained that senior bureaucracy does not understand the significance of the Study. Dr. Sears requested a resolution for a letter to Environment Canada inviting senior staff to release technical staff who can work on the project or to meet with the OBWB's representatives.

7.1.3 Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin

Dr. Sears reported on the recent Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin round table discussions: modeling ground and surface water interactions for the North Okanagan, surficial sediments mapping in the Central Okanagan, a proposal for a seismic reflective analysis of deep bedrock aquifers by Geological Survey of Canada and the integration of the Groundwater Assessment with the Water Supply and Demand Study. She commented that the most interesting was a presentation on aquifer vulnerability mapping and septic failure analysis through the collection of all cadastre mapping of the three regional districts and taking into account the age of neighbourhoods. This information is used in a model that predicts where septic failure is likely to occur and the vulnerability of aquifers. Dr. Sears would like to integrate the information from this model into the Master Waster Water Plan to give communities information on where to concentrate upgrading sewer infrastructure.

7.1.4 Master Wastewater Management Plan

Dr. Sears proposed that Phase 1 of the Master Wastewater Management Plan be completed by a PhD. and Master's students through UBC Okanagan, providing valuable access to UBC resources instead of contracting through a RFP. The budget for this work is \$45,000.

The Board directed staff to partnership and grant opportunities with the University, but stressed the importance of maintaining a fair process for awarding contract funding.

LUNCH

The Meeting broke for Lunch at 12:20pm and reconvened at 12:37pm.

7.2 Minutes of the Water Stewardship Council meeting of September 13, 2007

Moved by **Director Pike**

Seconded by **Director Fairbairn**

“That the Minutes of the Water Stewardship Council meeting of September 13, 2007 be accepted as circulated.”

CARRIED.

7.3 Water Stewardship Director report

The Water Stewardship Council met September 13th. Director Siddon and Mr. van der Gulik were acclaimed as Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. Howie Wright has been appointed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance to be their representative at the Stewardship Council.

The Stewardship Council approved in principal a proposal to conduct research on endocrine disruptors in the Okanagan Basin, to be conducted by Dr. Curtis of the University of British Columbia Okanagan. The contract is contingent on receiving information on budget line items and a list of analytes.

The Stewardship Council will be reviewing the ramifications of the Land Reserve Act and the potential sale of reservoir lakes and leased lots in the Okanagan Basin – following the OBWB staff memo.

The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program review is in process, with staff evaluating the progress of projects.

The Council will be sponsoring a workshop for water conservation professionals of the Okanagan for November 19.

Mr. Jatel reported that the Council is moving forward with a process in drafting the Sustainable Water Strategy and that this should be completed by June of 2008.

Director Siddon, Chair of Water Stewardship Council commented that over 22 members turned out for the meeting and acknowledged that the Council had had life of a little more than a year. Director Siddon added that the Sustainable Water Strategy for the Okanagan Basin will really be an update of the 1974 Basin Study enriched by additional issues. This will form the basis for ensuring enough water and preserve the environmental amenities of the Basin. He added that the chapters would be worked on by sub-groups, and signed off by the entire Council. He envisioned that the 10 chapters would be written like a book, which would have appeal to the general public and form a vision for the Okanagan Basin.

Mr. Jatel responded that the work will completed by the Council as a whole so that the Water Strategy is as comprehensive as possible in terms of topics and subtopics, and that these modules would be written and brought back to the Council.

Director Pike indicated that he would like to see the outline of the document and recommended that the

original study be used as a reference guide, because of its ongoing relevance.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Water Highways BC Brochure

Dr. Sears reported that the OBWB is a partner of the Water Highways BC and that a goal is continued monitoring of flow rates of streams in BC. The brochure is informational only.

Director Pike reported that that John Azar from Water Highway BC will be presenting on at the Water Supply Association of BC's Conference on October 25 and 26 in Penticton. There will also be a presentation by Bob Patrick professor at University of Alberta on Factors Facilitating & Constraining Source Water Protection in the Okanagan Valley: a Perspective from Political Ecology.

9. IN-CAMERA

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 1:05pm.

Moved by **Director Pike**

Seconded by **Director Taylor**

"That the OBWB adjourn to In-Camera session."

10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for November 6th, 2007 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular and in camera meetings were adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Executive Director