



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD NOVEMBER 6, 2007 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, 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
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator
Monique Stone	Administrator, OBWB

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Ashton	Chair, RDOS
Brad Clements	Performance Decisions

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Reid

“That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on November 6, 2007 be approved.”

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved by Director Novakowski

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

CARRIED

“That the Discussion Paper: A Common Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region be introduced as item 6.3”

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

Director Hobson noted a typing error on page 5 to be amended.

“That the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 2nd, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 **OBWB Strategic Planning Session** – Brad Clements facilitating

Brad Clements asked how the Board felt about being an independent entity, given discussions with the Ministry of Community Services on Okanagan regional governance.

Director Reid stated that the one Regional District will incorporate areas that are not a part of the Okanagan Basin. The OBWB is a model with independence and own organization.

Director Hobson expressed that we should weigh the benefits of independence with financial benefits. Being independent means we may not acquire as many resources and partnerships. There is a potential for the structure of Okanagan Regional Governments to change in the next year and it may end up that there will be other bodies with valley wide taxing authority.

Dr. Sears mentioned that all other organizations in the valley see us as an independent entity. We are more flexible than other local governments. One advantage for the OBWB is that we are an incentive based organization and not regulatory, although we have had requests to become more regulatory.

Director Siddon replied that the OBWB isn't only an "incentive based" organization with a "focused mandate". It is semi autonomous with authority for how water is managed, to exercise decisions, the policies we adopt and the linking together of other agencies. It is not merely an advocacy group.

Director Hobson suggested that we look at roles that are more than incentive based. There are many gaps in provincial regulation for water management that the OBWB should consider taking on.

Director Reid stated that currently the three regional districts don't have authority outside the areas they administer. With changing governance the new questions might expand the legislation and mandate on some environmental issues, especially water issues, and the OBWB might be positioned for regulatory authority.

Director Hobson stated that the provincial government wants to look at governance and how to share services. We need a focused approach. How you deal with urban and electoral areas is a real challenge. We may not have a broad singular body but rather sub-committees to manage larger regional issues

such as air quality and water.

General discussion continued on the topic of governance.

Director Siddon suggested we leave here today with a resolution on a recommendation to the governance committee on how we feel regarding the structure of the OBWB. We should relate how effective the OBWB has been on issues such as leased lots, turbidity notice, filtration etc. We should make it clear that this board will take initiative on issues.

Director Reid suggested that possibly this is more detail than we currently require. Much of this debate relies on information from the Water Supply and Demand Study. When we know more on that we will know where to move forward and how to more effectively manage those resources.

Dr Sears stated that beyond gaps with the provincial government water management, there are a number of areas where local government can work more effectively – disconnects between regional and local government policies; for example, in lower watershed areas, harmonizing water-related bylaws and policies.

Dan Ashton left the meeting.

6.2 OBWB Provisional Budget for 2008 – 2009

Dr. Sears presented the Board with the provisional budget for 2008 – 2009

After discussion from the Board it was recommended the \$200,000.00 from increased assessment in the Water Management budget be added to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program to direct the funds back to projects in the districts and allow more funding for community water projects. In addition, it was determined that the requisition for the sewage grant program should increase to \$2,000,000 to reduce the budget deficit given the increase in applications to the program.

Moved by: Director Hobson

Seconded by: Director Fairbairn

“That the 2007 – 2008 Budget be approved as Amended”

CARRIED

Lunch

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:05pm and reconvened at 12:35pm.

6.3 The Water Supply Association of BC and the Interior Health Authority Discussion Paper: A Common Approach to Drinking Water Improvements for the Okanagan Region

Director Pike explained this comment paper originated as a position paper from the Water Supply Association for the best approach to water quality improvements. Interior Health approached the Water Supply Association to produce a collaborative paper.

General discussion concerning the paper and its key points concerning the current state of drinking water supply in the Okanagan, regulatory issues, and a balanced approach to safe drinking water in the Okanagan ensued.

Dan Ashton Returned to the Meeting at 1:05pm

7. STAFF REPORTS**7.1 Executive Director Report**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

"That the Executive Director's Report be received".

Dr. Sears reported that she is proceeding with developing the scope of work for the wastewater plan. She also mentioned the Outreach talk at the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the OBWB and that the Chamber of Commerce may put forward a policy paper on water conservation for endorsement by other chambers in the province.

She continued to say that the gas tax grant was received and its public announcement and press release held at the Manteo Resort October 26 went very well.

Dr. Sears made note that the interview on the David Suzuki Show "Climate Change: An Uncertain Future" will air November 22.

CARRIED**7.2 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of October 18th, 2007**

Moved By: Director Siddon

Seconded by: Director Hobson

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on October 18, 2007 at the ECCO Center in Kelowna BC be received."

CARRIED**7.3 Water Stewardship Director Report**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded By: Director Pike

"That the Water Stewardship Director's Report be received".

CARRIED**8. CORRESPONDENCE****8.1 Gas Tax award letter**

Moved By: Director Reid

Seconded By: Director Baumbrough

"That the Gas Tax award letter be received".

CARRIED**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for December 4th, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

9.2 2008 OBWB meeting schedule

“That the OBWB Meeting Schedule for 2008 be adopted”.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded By: Director Siddon

CARRIED

10. ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES

Moved by: Director Hobson

Seconded by: Director Novakowski

CARRIED

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to In-Camera session at 1:50pm.

11. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the in-camera and regular meetings were adjourned at 2:30pm.

Certified Correct:

Chair

Executive Director

