

# ***Okanagan Water Stewardship Council***

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2007 AT THE ECCO CENTRE IN KELOWNA, BC.**

---

### **PRESENT:**

Chair Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
<del>Dr. Allison MacMillan</del>	<del>Okanagan College</del>
Dr. Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
_____	
Bryn White	SOSCP
Dr. Denise Neilsen	Agriculture Canada
Doug Geller	BC Ground Water Association
Drew Kaiser	CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
Gord Shandler	BC Fruit Growers Association
Grant Maddock	Urban Development Institute
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Hillary Hettinga	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Howie Wright,	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional Dist of Okanagan Similkameen
Ken Cunningham	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship
Kendall Woo	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Kerry Rouck	Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen's Association
Lorne Davies	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Mike Adams	Interior Health Authority
Dr. Peter Dill	Friends of Mission Creek
Rob Smailes	Regional District of North Okanagan
Tricia Brett	Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee
Stu Wells	Community Futures

### **STAFF:**

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator, OBWB
Monique Stone	Admin. & Communication, OBWB

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dr. John Janmaat	UBC Okanagan
Stephanie Tam	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News
Dave Swansea (Alt. for Peter Dill)	Friends of Mission Creek
Des Anderson (Alt. for K.Cunningham)	Ministry of Environment
Denise McDonald (Alt. for G. Shandler)	Fruit Grower's Association
Lorraine Bennest	OBWB Director

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Siddon Called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

**2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Chair Siddon introduced council member Howie Wright from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Stephanie Tam from the Ministry of Agriculture in Abbotsford, Dr. John Janmaat from UBC-O, Des Anderson from the Ministry of Environment, Denise McDonald from the Fruit Grower's Association and Lorraine Bennest a director from the OBWB.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by: Bernie Bauer

Seconded by: Stu Wells

***"That the Agenda of the November 8, 2007 meeting of the Water Stewardship Council be approved".***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by: Grant Maddock

Seconded by: Stu Wells

The minutes of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 should be corrected to read that Brian Guy is the Chair of the CWRA conference planning committee.

***"That the agenda of the October 18, 2007 Water Stewardship Council meeting be approved as amended."***

**CARRIED**

**5. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

**5.1 OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD – BOARD REPORT**

Dr. Sears reported that the OBWB had another session regarding strategic planning. The strengths of the Water Board were discussed and it was agreed that the Water Stewardship Council gives great value to the OBWB. She also noted that the Budget for 2007 – 2008 was passed and that there is an additional \$200,000.00 that will be added to the small grants program which will bring total monies available to the program to \$500,000.00.

Mr. Jatel reported that he and Dr. Sears had a tour of UBC Okanagan with professors and students who are currently involved in the areas of water research. Included in the tour was the opportunity to visit the labs and discuss current issues in detail afterwards. He feels very positive about the relationship between the OBWB and the colleges and hopes to continue this tour on an annual basis.

## **6. PRESENTATION(S)**

### **6.1 WATER ECONOMICS**

PRESENTED BY DR. JOHN JANMAAT, UBC OKANAGAN

*Reference Material: [Water Resource Economics and Policy: An Introduction](#).  
[W. Douglass Shaw, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2005](#)*

Dr. Janmaat explained the definition of economics as the study of how people react when there isn't enough of one thing to "go around" - how decisions are made in the face of scarcity. He further explained how water economics affects the population as a whole in terms of valuation and incentives including the willingness to pay for protecting or increasing flow in streams, maintaining the water level in the lakes and maintaining surface and drinking water quality. He went on to say that water provides a wide range of services, that these services have measurable economic value and that people will pay money to protect or enhance these services.

#### **Questions and Discussion**

Mr. Hrasko stated that B.C. is not in a position to buy or sell water and that water is not a commodity according to the water utilities of the province. It is considered an essential service.

Dr. Janmaat replied that while he understands that, the issues surrounding water value should be researched now, before there is a crisis. He went on to say this doesn't mean we have to go directly to privatization of water or treat it like a commodity.

Dr. Sears stated that in regards to agriculture water should be valued in a different way than an urban user as agriculture provides many things other than an economic product.

Dr. Janmaat replied that studies have been conducted in regards to what the population is willing to pay to have their home and property border farmland and it showed that there is much value to be gained from this, including orchards and vineyards along our roads, beautifying the landscape surrounding us. He explained that the value is more than just the crop itself.

Ms. MacDonald explained that she is a farmer in Summerland. In reference to agricultural issues we are not supposed to discuss economics as we are preserving the land to feed people. Water is a social benefit, we should move away from the idea that water has a dollar value and focus on food availability and the health and well being of society.

Dr. Janmaat explained that we have a common resource and the question is how we get the greatest value from it to society.

**The meeting broke for a coffee break at 3:10pm and reconvened at 3:25pm.**

## **7. ACTION ITEMS – PREVIOUS MEETING**

### 7.1 Groundwater Policy Recommendations

Mr. Jatel stated that he and Mr. Geller had met to discuss groundwater legislation and develop a document to present to the Board for its review and adoption. It includes three policies which are:

1. Harmonization of Regional District and municipal groundwater bylaws
2. Integrated Water Management – Support for Provincial Groundwater Legislation
3. Increasing our Knowledge of Okanagan Groundwater to Sustain our Water Resource

General discussion ensued on the most effective way to present these policies to the OBWB for approval.

**Moved By: Bob Hrasko**

**Seconded By: Jillian Tamblyn**

***“That we adopt the Groundwater Policies in principle but re-ordered as policy 1, policy 3 and policy 2.***

***CARRIED***

## **8. WORKING GROUPS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

### 8.1 Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy:

- 8.1.1 Integrated Land Use and their impacts on water
- 8.1.2 Groundwater

Stewardship Council members, staff and guests had an opportunity to explore and provide input on the identified chapter topics.

## **9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### 9.1 Discussion of Notes from the Previous Meeting

- 9.1.1 Endocrine Disruptor Project – UBC Okanagan/Interior Health

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Bob Hrasko

Seconded by Jillian Tamblyn

***“That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.***

***CARRIED***

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PROGRAM MANAGER**