



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD  
JANUARY 8, 2008 AT THE OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND HALL 118 HEAD OF THE LAKE  
ROAD, VERNON, BC**

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**PRESENT:**

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Perrie	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lorraine Bennest	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Patty Hanson	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
Alternate Director Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Indian Band

**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:**

Keith Louis	Head of Fisheries and Watershed Unit, OIB
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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Director Reid                      **Seconded by** Director Hobson

*“That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on January 8, 2008 be approved with the addition of the letter from the Water Supply Association to Integrated Land Management Bureau as item 8.3”.*

**CARRIED.**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 4, 2007.

Moved by Director Baumbrough Seconded by Director Taylor

*"That the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 4, 2007 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved."*

**CARRIED.**

#### 5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Water Supply and Demand Project Status Report – Dr. Brian Guy, Project Mgr.

Dr. Guy presented the Board with an update of the key highlights of what has been accomplished over the past year in the Water Supply and Demand Project and what is expected in the coming months. He explained that the project was scheduled for completion by April, 2009 but that it is now expected to be completed by August - September, 2009.

Dr. Guy explained the data bases being developed. The first one is a reference library of information that is used to analyze water supply and demand in the Okanagan Valley. The second data base is being developed to house data that is required to perform a water balance model. He stated that it will allow us to run scenarios and develop a comprehensive data base for 81 tributaries in the basin and 73 groundwater aquifers. He also stated that it will be complete later this month and ready to accept data. A third GIS-based database is being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to evaluate water demand from agriculture and landscaping.

He continued to say that there will be a series of technical reports available for each technical study and when completed they will be combined to provide a final report. The first report, a state of the basin report on Groundwater resources, has just been completed.

**Director Bennest arrived at 10:55am.**

Directors asked Dr. Guy questions regarding the reliability of the data collected for the database, the mapping of the aquifers in the basin and if these maps would demonstrate where the groundwater is coming from. They also asked related questions regarding whether the model will take into account the history of drought and supply and whether the model will be a supply and demand model for the basin or sub sets of it.

Dr. Guy explained that throughout the Okanagan Basin aquifers have been formally identified and although many are not mapped as of yet they still provides a good summary of what we know and the contract issued for phase 2 and 3 will identify each recharge and discharge area. He stated that the model will give a sub basin

wide view but in the future it will be possible to go to a finer level all the while providing us with red flags where more analysis is required. This model will be able to be applied to other large basins or small scale basins. It is suitable to work in the Okanagan with 81 sub basins and can also be used in the Mission Creek area and simulate reservoirs. Essentially it can be adapted to any scale.

Director Alexis inquired whether this study will include water quality issues surrounding hydroelectric projects.

Dr. Guy responded that quality is outside our scope and that once the model is being utilized hydroelectric project questions may be answered.

Director Alexis further inquired whether this data will help provide information to assist with watershed protection in the valley especially in regards to the sale of reservoir lots.

Dr. Guy explained that it will indicate where we are short on water and there is not enough to meet the needs of existing users. It will also indicate if and when we require more storage.

Director Siddon requested that an interim report be produced by fall that will begin to fill in the variables of the water balance equation. He would like to see some policy suggestions and conclusions coming from the data.

## 6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 6.1 Water Supply and Demand Project

#### 6.1.1 Resolution of Support for CBCWSEP Grant Application

**Moved by** Director Reid

**Seconded by** Director Hobson

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward a funding application to the Canada-BC Water Supply Expansion Program to support essential components of the Okanagan Basin Water Supply & Demand Project.”***

**CARRIED.**

#### 6.1.2 Provincial End-of-Fiscal Funding/OBWB Match

Staff from the Water Stewardship Division of the Ministry of Environment have indicated that they will likely be able to obtain \$150,000 in Provincial end-of-year funds to support the Water Supply & Demand Project. These funds are contingent on the OBWB providing a matching grant.

**Moved by** Director Reid

**Seconded by** Director Fairbairn

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves funding for a \$60,000.00 matching grant from the regional projects fund.”***

**CARRIED.**

#### 6.1.3 Extension of Agricultural Demand Model – Funds for Co-Op Student

The Okanagan Basin Water Supply & Demand Project includes a detailed GIS-based model for calculating agricultural water demand. This model uses cadastre data of every agricultural property in the basin, along with information on crops, soil and irrigation types. The Water Supply & Demand Technical Working Group has recommended that a summer student be hired to enter BC Assessment data, so that the model can be extended to include potential urban outdoor water demand.

**Moved by** Director Taylor

**Seconded by** Director Fairbairn

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves funding to hire a GIS co-op student to work for four months to expand the platform for the agricultural water demand model to include outdoor water demand in non-agricultural areas”.***

**CARRIED.**

#### 6.2 Hydrometric Monitoring Working Group Update

The BC Ministry of Environment has offered to provide funding in support of a baseline analysis of hydrometric monitoring needs in the Okanagan by the Hydrometric Monitoring Working Group. The Ministry has committed \$15,000.00 and has asked the OBWB to contribute \$8,000.00 in matching funds to enable the project to move forward.

**Moved by** Director Hobson

**Seconded by** Director Bennest

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves funding for an \$8,000.00 matching grant from the regional projects fund to support an analysis of the Okanagan hydrometric monitoring network by the Technical Water Monitoring Working Group”.***

**CARRIED.**

**DIRECTOR FAIRBAIRN LEFT THE MEETING AT 12:05**

**THE MEETING BROKE FOR LUNCH AT 12:05 AND RECONVENED AT 1:05.**

#### 6.3 OBWB Goals and Objectives 2008

Dr. Sears presented the Board the revised version of the OBWB's goals and objectives for 2008. She explained that it endorses what the staff believes is important to the Board and is a communication vehicle to enable the public to better understand our work.

Director Hobson pointed out that Action 1B should be revised to read “municipal council” from “municipal district”.

**Moved by** Director Reid **Seconded by** Director Pike

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s Goals and Objectives be received as amended”.*

**CARRIED.**

6.4 RDOS Board Request for 1-HA Bylaw Deadline Extension

**Moved by** Director Hobson **Seconded by** Director Taylor

*“That the memo from the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen requesting an extension of the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s implementation of the 1 hectare policy be received”.*

**CARRIED.**

## **7. STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears informed the Board that there are two additions to include in her report. One being the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce has invited her to speak at a workshop on Business, Sustainability and Innovation January 9, 2008. This workshop is focused on assisting the Kelowna business community with the ongoing discussions regarding sustainability. Her presentation is titled “Sustainable Water is Essential for a Sustainable Economy”.

The second addition is that she has had an abstract accepted on the Water Supply and Demand Project by the BC Water and Waste Association and will be presenting at their annual meeting in Whistler, BC in April, 2008.

7.1.1 OBWB Yard Lease

Dr. Sears explained that this is a draft of the lease between NORD and the OBWB for the land at 480 McLeish Road, Vernon BC. She requested the Board’s approval of the lease before forwarding it to Greater Vernon Services.

**Moved by** Director Bennest **Seconded by** Director Hobson

*“That the draft lease agreement between the Okanagan Basin Water Board and North Okanagan Regional District for the lands at 480 McLeish Road, Vernon, BC be approved and forwarded to the North Okanagan Regional District”.*

**CARRIED.**

7.1.2 Valley Governance Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Sears stated that she included these documents due to the fact that the OBWB has a high profile in this area and want to ensure all Directors have access to this information.

General discussion ensued on regional governance and clarification of what is expected to take place at the Regional Governance Committee meeting January 11, 2008.

## 7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported that the most recent meeting of the Water Stewardship Council in December 13, 2007 included a presentation from John Wagner, Assistant Professor, UBC-O on Okanagan Water Management. He focuses on how water management has shaped the Okanagan. His notes from the presentation are available on the OBWB website.

Mr Jatel explained to the board that the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy has a committee with seven members led by Bob Hrasko. Also, a technical writer, Kellie Bunting has been hired and will be working 25 hours per week to complete the document. Our goal is to have a pre-draft version for the Board's review at our June OBWB meeting and a draft available by July. He would like to see it launched by October, 2008 at the CWRA/OBWB conference.

### 7.2.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting of December 13, 2007

Director Pike noted that the date was incorrect on the minutes of the Stewardship Council meeting.

**Moved by** Director Reid **Seconded by** Director Pike

*"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held on December 13, 2007 at the ECCO Center in Kelowna BC be received as amended".*

**CARRIED.**

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

### 8.1 George Abbott letter regarding Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee

Director Reid suggested that the Board should deal with the terms of reference at the next Board meeting as the minister wants a final report by February 28<sup>th</sup>. He continued to suggest that we create a sub committee to deal with these terms of reference.

**Moved by** Director Reid **Seconded by** Director Bennest

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board put forward a committee comprised of John Slater, Dr. Anna Warwick Sears and Toby Pike to comment to the Minister of Health, George Abbott, on the terms of reference for the Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee”.*

**CARRIED.**

8.2 District of Lake Country Reservoir Lots Letter

8.3 Letter from the Water Supply Association to Integrated Land Management Bureau Regarding Reservoirs

**Moved by** Director Reid **Seconded by** Director Hobson

*“That the three letters in correspondence 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 be received”.*

**CARRIED.**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The Next Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for February 5, 2008 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

**10. ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING**

**Moved by** Director Baumbrough **Seconded by** Director Taylor

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to in-camera session at 2:36pm.

**CARRIED.**

**11. RESUME REGULAR MEETING**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board resumed the regular meeting at 2:50 to report a new policy on development proposals.

**Moved by** Director Reid **Seconded by** Director Taylor

*“That while the Okanagan Basin Water Board applauds efforts by the development community to engage in water-wise landscaping and other water conservation practices, the OBWB does not at any time endorse or support specific development proposals”.*

**CARRIED.**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned back to the in-camera session at 3:00pm.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

*“That there being no further business, the regular and in camera meetings were adjourned at 3:10pm”.*

Certified Correct:		
<b>Chair</b>		<b>Executive Director</b>