



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP
COUNCIL HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2008 AT THE ECCO CENTRE IN
KELOWNA, BC.**

PRESENT:

Chair Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Dr. Allison MacMillan	Okanagan College
Dr. Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
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
Dan Millar	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:

Kellie Bunting	Technical Writer on contract, OBWB
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John Janmaat
Judie Steeves

UBC-O Asst Professor, Economics
Kelowna Capital News

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice Chair van der Gulik called the meeting to order at 1:09pm

2. **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

All members and guests introduced themselves.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Hans Buchler **Seconded by** Bernie Bauer

"That the agenda of the January 10, 2008 meeting be approved".

CARRIED.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Grant Maddock **Seconded by** Gord Shandler

- It was noted that the minutes from the December 13, 2007 had the wrong date.
- Ms. Tamblyn noted that she was incorrectly noted as being present at the December 13, 2007 meeting

"That the minutes of the December 13th, 2007 meeting of the Water Stewardship Council be received as amended".

CARRIED.

5. **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

5.1 Okanagan Basin Water Board – Board Reports

Mr. Jatel reported that the January 8, 2008 meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board was held at the Okanagan Indian Band's Head of the Lake Hall in Vernon and that there was discussion regarding the regional governance models and opportunities.

Mr. Jatel informed council that a worksheet for the council members to provide input to the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy is available. With support from technical writer Kellie Bunting the Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) is moving forward. Five chapters have been outlined and include: Protecting our Lakes, Rivers and Aquifers; Securing Water Supply; Integrated Land-use and Water; Water Governance; and Delivering the Strategy. In addition to the input requested from the worksheet, Mr. Jatel asked the council for recommendation of any relevant documents or materials Council members may have on-hand to support the SWS development.

Executive Director Anna Sears reported that a number of important issues were discussed at January's Board meeting. Dr. Brian Guy presented the board with a

status report on the Water Supply and Demand Project; the Board approved funding for the Water Stewardship's request to support a co-op student to expand Mr. van der Gulik's land-use water demand model; and approved further funding for the Water Supply and Demand project. In addition, approval was received for the submission of the CBCSWEP expansion program grant application.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Okanagan Regional Governance Structure, Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

Dr Sears explained to the council that the Province has asked for a review of governance in the Okanagan Valley, especially in regards to coordinated valley-wide water, air and transportation management. At this point in time there is no clear indication of what the outcome will be. One possible outcome is that water management will be extended to include the Shuswap and Similkameen. Those areas will involve a broader management mandate and will include multiple watersheds. In addition, the OBWB may be able to request additional authority from the Province if the structure changes. This might include watershed protection authority or the ability to develop coordinated drought planning.

She asked the council for their thoughts on this issue.

Mr. Hesketh said that he would like to see changes in regulations. For example, the local community in Sugar Lake realized a wastewater permit had been issued without anyone's knowledge. Local residents were extremely unhappy with the secretive process, creating a lot of turmoil in the community. He mentioned that residents felt this could have been avoided with better regulations. The North Okanagan Regional District doesn't govern a watershed but an area.

Dr Dill explained that many municipalities in BC have an environmental review committee for development proposals etc. that might have an impact on the environment. He suggested we could have an Okanagan environmental review committee at the RD level. In Kelowna there isn't a committee but other communities within the Central Okanagan Regional District have such a review committee. There should be an even platform for environmental review in the entire Okanagan Valley. It would be very beneficial.

Mr. Millar stated that if the area were expanded for governance past the basin boundaries there might be a desire to start inter-basin transfers of water between Shuswap (Fraser River) and Okanagan (Columbia River) basins.

Dr Sears asked for council input on their thoughts of what additional water management in the Okanagan Basin should/could look like? Which management and/or operational components should be taken on?

Dr. Neilson explained that it is problematic when you take part of a watershed in a governance model and not in its entirety.

Dr. Dill stated that governance should be on a watershed basis. We should want to govern and have authority over all the issues that exist within the Okanagan watershed.

Mr. Millar said that regarding the inclusion of the Similkameen there are a whole host of cross boundary issues associated with it and the potential for dams.

Dr. Bauer explained that authority is given when you demonstrate you can manage the resource properly and approach the government with local solutions.

Mr. Rouck asked what are the requests/expectations from the BC government to the Regional Districts?

Dr. Sears replied that that is a key frustration in this process. The Province is not clearly communicating what they want from the region or what they expect the region to take on and manage if the structure were to change.

Mr. Hrasko suggested that the OBWB should set policies and provide guidance to the region. The OBWB should support local areas in taking on policy and better management in each municipality instead of the Water Board doing it all. Local issues should be dealt with locally.

Dr. Guy explained that these committees are also considering air quality and transportation management. Water issues are already addressed in region wide management with the OBWB having a broad mandate except for having to consult the regional districts on all budget issues. The first thing he'd recommend for a change in governance is to ensure the OBWB doesn't need approval for every budget expenditure or program development. The budget could be approved as a whole by the regional districts during each year's budget process, with the OBWB having the authority to make decisions on spending details.

7. ACTION ITEMS – PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 Groundwater Policy Recommendations – Review and Update

Mr. Jatel reported to the council that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has requested staff to develop a groundwater bylaw toolkit which will allow municipalities to focus on successful examples of local government groundwater policies from other jurisdictions and an opportunity for Okanagan local government to adopt new progressive groundwater policies, and become apprised of other jurisdictions groundwater policies. It was recommended that the groundwater toolkit be developed in conjunction with the recently developed Green Bylaws Toolkit (www.greenbylaws.ca) possibly as an appendix. Mr. Jatel said he would follow-up with the recommendation and report back to council.

The meeting broke for coffee at 2:40pm and reconvened at 3:00pm.

8. WORKING GROUPS AND STATUS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy

8.1.1 Policy/Action Wish List (roundtable discussion)

Mr. Jatel facilitated a roundtable discussion on the development of the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy. Discussions were focused on important tools (graphs, tables, information resources) that council members believe should be included and could enhance the final product.

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| Dr. Denise Neilson | Create a link to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. The Okanagan has a page dedicated to it. |
| Dr. Bernie Bauer | Include a hydrologic cycle diagram that links to groundwater. |
| John Janmaat | Include a survey on drought risk management. |
| Hillary Hettinga | Obtain information/policies from Kelowna Joint Water Committee and Westside Joint Water Committee regarding creating standards and expectations on initiatives. |
| Ted van der Gulik | Provide documents regarding agriculture and water from the Province of BC. |
| Dan Millar | Include relevant sections from the International Joint Commission. |
| Lorne Davies | Provide documents regarding the stream flows in the Okanagan area. |
| Lee Hesketh | Provide documents regarding cattle and agricultural issues. |
| Nelson Jatel | Provide a graph from 1977 which demonstrates water volume and flows into Okanagan Lake. |
| Tricia Brett | Include historical snow pack data. |
| Hans Buchler | Address native issues surrounding water. Include policies for water use in agriculture and the establishment of water reserves. |
| Bob Hrasko | Include a graph of a dam at the outlet of Okanagan Lake that dates back to 1919 demonstrating outflows. |
| Gord Shandler | Agreed with Bob Hrasko's inclusion of the graph and suggested it should be on the first page as it reflects the impact of population increase. |
| Dr. Peter Dill | Include a graph that demonstrates the changes in water levels year to year. Also include photos of green grass with irrigation systems being run during the night, a wetland photo and a photo of the Okanagan River. |
| Jillian Tamblyn | Include photos of the Okanagan River that conveys the message of what the outflow is and what a large area it |

services. The temperature-oxygen squeeze graph to show there are temperature and flow issues as well.

- Bryn White** COBTWG have much information that might be valuable and it would be valuable to include photos of species affected that are not fish. Include information and photos that demonstrate there is only 15% of our wetlands left in the Okanagan.
- Dr. Brian Guy** Include a photo of Mission Creek near the discharge with a caption stating that this is 1/5 of flow to the Okanagan Valley. The ONA published State of the Fish and Habitat; it is full of good photos. Also include graphs showing the operating and legal constraints on Okanagan and Osoyoos Lakes.
- Grant Maddock** Demonstrate the huge differences in peak flow between summer and winter months for domestic users. Bring forward the ways we can save and reduce consumption.
- Kerry Rouck** Provide forestry information regarding changes to the forest cover because of the death of the Pine tree.
- Doug Geller** Provide policy ideas with supporting graphs. Specifically graphs that demonstrate a typical stream hydrograph and the same stream today.
- Mike Adams** Provide graphs and photos that show drinking water impacts for the future and the small operating level we have each year.

8.1.2 Water Conservation (break-out)

8.1.3 Agriculture and Water (break-out)

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/Interior Health

Mr. Adams explained that he will follow-up with UBC and have the information regarding the Endocrine Disruptor Project available for the next meeting.

9.2 New Business

9.2.1 World Water Day – Evening with Water Professionals: March 27th, 2008

Mr. Jatel announced that a public roundtable event will be held on the paddlewheel boat The Fintry Queen, docked next to the sails in Kelowna. It will be an opportunity to hear from a panel of water professionals. He is organizing a panel of water experts to support a public discussion on water activities in the

basin. Mr. Jatel encouraged members to mark in their calendar March 27th from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 Thursday, February 14, 2008 (EECO Centre, Kelowna BC)

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Lee Hesketh

Seconded by Gord Shandler

"That there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13pm".

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

PROGRAM MANAGER