



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
February 5, 2008 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN 101
MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, BC**

PRESENT:

Chair John Slater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Dan Ashton	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

STAFF:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson R. Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Water Stewardship Coordinator
Monique Stone	Administration, OBWB

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:14am.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

Chair Slater, Directors and staff welcomed newly appointed Director Dan Ashton to the Board.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Executive Director, Anna Warwick Sears called for nominations for the office of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Slater was nominated for the office of Chair.

There being no further nominations, Director Slater was elected by acclamation, as Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2008, and assumed the Chair .

Chair Slater called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Reid was nominated for the office of Vice Chair.

Director Reid was declared elected, by acclamation, as Vice Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2008.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Director Fairbairn **Seconded By** Director Baumbrough

"That the Agenda for a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for February 05, 2008 be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

5. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Moved By Director Fairbairn **Seconded By** Director Baumbrough

"Item 8.2 being a memo from Executive Director, Anna Warwick Sears, to OBWB Directors regarding the Osoyoos Rural Sewer Extension and 1 HA Bylaws be added as a late item".

"Item 9.3.1 being a summary from the Water Stewardship Coordinator, Genevieve Dunbar, on the 2008 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Applications be added as a late item".

"Item 12 being an In-Camera session be added as a late item".

CARRIED

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of January 8th, 2008 at the Okanagan Indian Band Hall.

Moved By Director Taylor **Seconded By** Director Reid

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 08, 2008 at the Okanagan Indian Band Meeting Hall be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

7.1 Tony Cheong – Ministry of Environment: Update on the Okanagan and Provincial Sustainable Hydrometric Network Projects

Mr. Cheong provided an update to the Directors and staff of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on the status of the Hydrometric Network Projects.

He explained that the project began in October, 2007 and there has been an inventory and review of all existing and discontinued Federal/Provincial monitoring stations as well as an inventory of locally operated stations. There have been a certain needs criteria developed along with proposals for sites for future operations.

The anticipated next steps in the project is a review by the Technical Working Group; a workshop in February with invited stakeholders; a review of the draft report by the Water Stewardship Council; an anticipated completion of needs assessment by April; and Phase 3 (implementation, governance, funding related) to begin in May.

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Environmental Mind Grind Grant Request

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Taylor

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve \$900.00 (nine hundred dollars) to sponsor the Environmental Mind Grind competition in April, 2008”.

CARRIED

8.2 Osoyoos Rural Sewer Extension and 1HA Bylaws

Dr. Sears explained to the directors that Mr. Mark Pendegraft, RDOS Electoral Area A Director has requested that the Board consider an application for the Osoyoos Rural sewer extension.

The design and budget for this project have not been finalized and will be several months before plans are completed. Mr. Pendegraft is seeking assurances that the Board will approve the grant. The Province has agreed to fund the project, but the 1 hectare bylaw must be in place for the entire regional district before funds are released by the Province.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That when the 1 hectare bylaw is in effect in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen the Okanagan Basin Water Board will review the grant

application for the Osoyoos Rural sewer extension with a favorable eye, recognizing the importance of the project”.

CARRIED

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears began her report by announcing and congratulating Director Siddon on his new appointment to the RBC Blue Water Project panel. It is a ten year, \$50 million grant program to support projects dedicated to water conservation, watershed protection and access to clean drinking water in Canada and around the world.

She reported that she attended a Water Supply and Demand Project working group meeting which also held a joint session with the steering committee. It was discussed that the Project would seek to combine efforts with International Joint Commission with regards to the study of Osoyoos Lake. This would include studies related to water levels, water use, water licensing and climate change.

9.1.1 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report 2007

Dr. Sears brought it to the Board’s attention that the Okanagan had a complete page dedicated to it in the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report. It states that the region’s water resources will be unable to support an increase in demand due to projected climate change and population growth, so a broad portfolio of adaptive measures will be needed. It also stated that for all six Global Climate Model scenarios, demand is expected to increase and supply is projected to decline.

9.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel informed the Board that the Sustainable Water Strategy is well under way and this Thursday, February 07, 2008 is a meeting of the review committee and the first chapter entitled Protecting Our Lakes, Rivers and Aquifers will be reviewed.

He also informed the Board that Brian Guy and he have been appointed as co-chairs to the CWRC conference in October 2008. For World Water Day, March 26, the OBWB will be hosting an open discussion panel and the questions “Why is it important to understand how effluent entering mainstream Okanagan lakes impacts our environment / quality of life?” and “What are the greatest (1st order) water quality issues facing us in the Okanagan”.

9.2.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Moved by Director Siddon

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of January 10th, 2008 be received.”

CARRIED

9.2.2 ILMB Sale of Reservoir Lots Letter

Mr. Jatel explained to the Board that he has composed a letter to Pat Bell, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, regarding the sale of reservoir lease lots. Attached to the letter is a collaboration of letters from various agencies in the Okanagan Basin voicing their opposition to this sale.

Director Reid suggested composing three separate letters; one to the Premier and the Ministers to re-iterate the opposition to the sale of lease lots and one to the ILMB reminding them what is in their mandate and that it is not being enforced. A letter should also be sent to the Regional Governance Committee.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:20pm and reconvened at 12:50.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That staff is directed to compose separate letters. One to the Premier and Ministers of British Columbia re-iterating the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and all political leaders in the Okangan’s opposition to the sale of lease lots

and THAT;

a letter to Integrated Land Management Bureau reinforcing that they are not accomplishing what is in their mandate regarding the lease lots

and THAT;

a letter to the Regional Governance Committee regarding watershed protection in the Okanagan Basin stating that the Okanagan Basin Water Board requests more jurisdiction with additional funding to manage the watersheds.”

CARRIED

9.3 Water Stewardship Coordinator

Ms. Dunbar explained to the Directors that the application deadline for the Small Grants Program was February 1, 2008 and she has received over \$800,000 in requests in 26 applications. She will have them prioritized and make recommendations for the next board meeting. She further explained that in her summary she has included two scenarios. One scenario based on a \$300,000 budget and the other on a \$500,000 budget.

9.3.1 Summary of 2008 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Applications

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Canada-BC Water Supply Expansion Program Approved

Dr. Sears explained that the grant application the Board supported was approved within a week of its submission and the full funding request of \$160,000 was granted. She stated that there are seven projects within the Water Supply and Demand Study that this money can be allocated although the approval is for eligible costs incurred prior to March 15, 2008.

Moved by Director Fairbairn **Seconded by** Director
Baumbrough

“That the letter from Canada-British Columbia Water Supply Expansion Program regarding the \$160,000 grant approval be received”.

CARRIED

10.2 Water Supply Association Letter on Filtration Deferral

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

“That the letter regarding IHA Filtration Policy and Criteria for Filtration Deferral be received”.

CARRIED

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The Next Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for March 4, 2008 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

12. IN CAMERA

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

The Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourned to in-camera session at 1:55pm

CARRIED

Director Ashton left the meeting at 2:00pm

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That there being no further business, the regular and in camera meetings were adjourned at 2:07pm”.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director