

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Day

“That the minutes from the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 5, 2008 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

No delegations.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Gas Tax Funding Agreement

Dr. Sears explained to the Board that the grant received by the Okanagan Basin Water Board of \$415,890 from the UBCM/Gas Tax Program needs a resolution to enter into a funding agreement in order to be finalized and to begin to be able to submit invoices.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board enter into a funding agreement with the UBCM Gas Tax/Public Transit Management Services for \$415,890 to support essential components of the Okanagan Basin Water Supply & Demand Study.”

CARRIED

6.2 Coldstream Sewer Extension Grant

6.2.1 Letter from the District of Coldstream

Dr. Sears reported to the Board that the District of Coldstream has submitted a proposal for an extension of their sewer trunk line along Aberdeen Road to the new fire hall. It is the first phase of a project intended to service an area of old development along Aberdeen Road.

She explained that while the project appears to be eligible under the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s criteria, the District of Coldstream does not require mandatory connection which weakens the effectiveness of community sewer projects for providing water quality protection. She asked the board to consider mandatory connection as a condition of all OBWB Sewage Facilities grants.

Director Taylor explained that when the extension was installed on Aberdeen Road many of the parcels were farms which are bigger than the 1HA requirement for sewer. It is difficult to convince farm owners whose houses might be far back from the road to hook up to sewer. It is just too costly. He also pointed out that another requirement in the District of Coldstream is that

if a septic fails and a sewer line is available you can not replace the septic system. You must hook up to the sewer line.

After further discussion the Board resolved to approve the grant request without conditions for mandatory hook-up.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves Sewage Facilities Grant funding for the District of Coldstream sewer extension along Aberdeen Road between Kalamalka Road and the Coldstream Fire Hall.”

CARRIED

6.3 Endocrine Disruptor Study

6.3.1 Endocrine Disruptor Letter – Health Canada

Health Canada has awarded \$25,000 for a project to sample the concentration of endocrine disruptors in Okanagan Lake. Mr. Jatel told the board that this project will be led by Dr. Jeff Curtis at UBC-O. In addition to the funding from Health Canada, Interior Health has provided additional funding in the amount of \$4,000.

Mr. Jatel requested that the board approves contributing \$30,000 from the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s regional projects fund, following the recommendation of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Director Siddon inquired if the Okanagan is a test site for the rest of Canada.

Mr. Jatel replied that the Okanagan is an ideal area for this research as we have a large segment of older population using high levels of pharmaceuticals and that the lake has very low turn-over and long residence times.

Director Siddon stated that with elevated stress on watersheds we can’t afford not to initiate the research. There needs to be more control on what we dispose of in our waters.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board authorizes the contribution of \$30,000 to the Okanagan Lake Endocrine Disruptor Study from the regional projects fund.”

CARRIED

6.4 Federal Funding Proposal

Dr. Sears informed the board that on February 21 she and Mr. Jatel made a presentation to the Federal Conservative Caucus of BC, requesting that the Okanagan be recognized as a priority area in the National Water Strategy.

The goal was to gain better federal research support and increase the Okanagan's competitiveness as a candidate for a Georgia Basin scale environmental initiative.

She said the presentation was well received by the Caucus, and Minister Stockwell Day offered to put forward a proposal for funding in this coming fiscal year. Dr. Sears has developed a short list of projects that have proposals already developed and will submit this to Hon. Stockwell Day by March 7th. She requested resolutions of support from the Board to accompany the proposal.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Siddon

"The Okanagan Basin Water Board resolves that the Okanagan should be included in Canada's National Water Strategy as a priority watershed and center for water science research in Western Canada, recognizing that tools, programs and solutions developed in the Okanagan will assist other Canadian communities to adapt to water shortages and climate change, improve water quality, and better ensure national food security through advances in water management."

CARRIED

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Pike

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward a request to the government of Canada for projects supporting Okanagan water science, including: designing the Okanagan as a priority for Federal Research in 2008;and an Okanagan Lake Evaporation – Physical Limnology Study; and a Risk Assessment of Endocrine Disruptors from Municipal Wastewater Effluent"

CARRIED

6.5 Co-op Student for Water Supply & Demand Project

Dr. Sears explained that the Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Working Group has requested that the OBWB hire a co-op student for the 2008 summer season to assist with communication and outreach for the project, develop the website, and help prepare for the One Watershed, One Water conference.

An application will be submitted for the co-op student under the federal grant program for Student Summer Jobs through Human Resources Canada.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Bennest

"The Okanagan Basin Water Board is to pursue opportunities to hire a summer co-op student to support outreach and communication for the Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Project and other OBWB projects."

CARRIED

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears explained to the Board that the OBWB received a formal announcement for the Water Supply & Demand project with additional BC provincial funding of \$150,000 for the \$60,000 from the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Dr. Sears announced that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has introduced a 1ha bylaw for the OBWB area although not included is the Similkameen.

She explained that the Hydrometric Monitoring Group met March 3rd for a focused and productive discussion regarding which stations should be prioritized for funding. This prioritized report that is being developed will be presented to the OBWB, and will ultimately be used by the (as yet to be developed) hydrometric governance group to determine how they will be managed in the future.

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported that this month at the Water Stewardship Council meeting Clint Alexander will be discussing climate change modeling and adaption needs of the Okanagan.

He further reported that NASA is possibly interested in conducting research in the Okanagan with regards to watershed research. It is possible to share data to improve hydrology models. They have remote sensing and satellite technology that otherwise is not used for this kind of research.

Mr. Jatel updated the Board members that the Groundwater information for the Green Bylaw Toolkit has been well received by the body that created the original toolkit and we have been asked to put together a full proposal that they will review and provide input.

7.2.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting- February 14, 2008

Moved by Director Day

Seconded by Director Reid

“That the minutes from the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of February 14, 2008 be received as circulated.”

CARRIED

7.2.2 Groundwater Recommendation

Mr. Jatel presented the Board with 2 revised recommendations for motions regarding groundwater licensing.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Siddon

“Whereas a thorough understanding of groundwater systems is necessary for sound water management planning; and

Whereas our knowledge of groundwater systems in the Okanagan Basin is limited because use is not licensed; and

Whereas lack of groundwater use licensing allows the unregulated capture of licensed surface water, which negates the “first in time first in right” doctrine as outlined in the B.C. water Act; and

Whereas, except for large projects (>75 L/sec), no environmental assessment of proposed groundwater withdrawals is required in B.C., meaning that most groundwater development projects proceed without any consideration of their implications for instream flow needs, ecological values or surface water licenses.

BIRT the Okanagan Basin Water Board encourages the B.C. government to license groundwater withdrawals, starting with a pilot licensing program within the Okanagan Basin.

BIRT the Okanagan Basin Water Board enters into discussions with the B.C. government to determine the scope and contents of the pilot licensing program within the Okanagan, and the most appropriate implementation and funding mechanisms for the program.”

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for April 1, 2008 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:20 and reconvened at 12:55

10. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Pike

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourn to an in-camera meeting at 12:55pm.”

CARRIED

11. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board resumed at 1:25pm to report a new contract award to CLPA Consulting for the Master Wastewater Management Plan

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the contract for Phase 1 of the Master Wastewater Management Plan be awarded to CLPA Consulting.”

CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Siddon

“That there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be adjourned at 1.30pm.

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director