



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
APRIL 1, 2008 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN 9848
ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, 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
Alternate Director Robert Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.

STAFF:

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 6.3 Conference Funding Requests was added to the agenda.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Ashton

“That the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on March 4, 2008 be approved as amended”.

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Item 6.3 was added to the Agenda

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 4th, 2008 at The Regional District of North Okanagan.

Moved by Director Bennest

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 4, 2008 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated”.

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Dr. Bernie Bauer, Dean, Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Sciences – discussed funding for the LEEF Chair in Reservoir Ecosystem Management.

Dr. Bauer explained to the Board that UBC-O received \$1.25 million in funding for the establishment of a UBC-O Chair in Reservoir Ecosystem Management through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF). It mandates applied research, practical outcomes, regional relevance and stakeholder investment. To receive these funds, UBC-O must obtain a matching contribution, and Dr. Bauer requested that the Board consider making a contribution toward this goal.

The Board asked staff to follow-up with Dr. Bauer and explore how research in Reservoir Ecosystem Management could best support the goals of local government in the Okanagan.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Recommendations

Ms. Dunbar presented to the Board a summary of the recommendations staff made with regards to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Bennest

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant recommendations as received by staff”.

CARRIED.

6.2 Sponsorship of Mayor’s Environmental Expo

Dr. Sears explained that the City of Kelowna is hosting an environmental expo May 22nd - May 24th, showcasing small business, corporate, government and non-profit initiatives in the Okanagan. The Okanagan Basin Water Board has been invited to sponsor the event. She requested that the OBWB sponsor at the Silver level of \$500.00.

6.3 Conference Funding Requests

Mr. Jatel explained to the Board that UBC Okanagan, School of Engineering has requested granting \$500.00 toward their workshop titled: Fueling the Economy of the Future – A symposium on engineering, Science & Technology Education, October 23 – 25, 2008. He further explained that the main goals of this symposium are to heighten awareness of science and engineering education, and to build stronger connections within the K-PhD education system and industry.

Mr. Jatel also presented a staff recommendation to contribute \$500.00 towards the BC Lake Stewardship Societies Conference with a theme of “Climate Warming: Less Water, Cooked Fish”. The BCLSS mission is to act as a resource, communication, and information network among scientists, environmental professionals, lakeshore residents, the general public, First Nations, and government agencies in order to preserve, protect, and restore lakes in British Columbia.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Ashton

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 to the Mayor’s Environmental Sponsorship, May 22nd – 24th, 2008”;

and

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 to the UBC Okanagan, School of Engineering led workshop titled Fueling the Economy of the Future – A symposium on Engineering, Science & Technology Education, October 23 – 25, 2008”;

and

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 to the BC Lake Stewardship Societies Conference titled Climate Warming: Less Water, Cooked Fish in the summer of 2008”.

CARRIED.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director’s Report

Dr. Sears advised the Board that she has received a memo from Brian Reardon, CAO of Regional District of North Okanagan, requesting that the Okanagan Basin Water Board investigate opportunities for alternate office space by September 2008.

Dr. Sears explained to the Board that the OBWB’s Water Supply & Demand Project has been granted an additional \$40,000.00 in funding from the Water Supply Expansion Program – above the \$160,000.00 awarded in January.

7.1.1 State of the Basin Report Excerpt

Dr. Sears provided the Board with an Excerpt from the draft State of the Basin Report on Water Management and Use, recently created by Dobson Engineering Ltd. under contract for the Water Supply & Demand Project.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting broke for lunch at 12:00 and reconvened at 12:45.

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel told the Board that the open discussion panel on the Fintry Queen was well received and attended. Each panel member was asked what they thought was the most important water quality issue in the Okanagan. It took place at the end of World Water Week whose theme for 2008 was sanitation.

Mr. Jatel informed the Board that the requested letter to Minister Barry Penner regarding the initiation of a discussion regarding a pilot program for groundwater licensing in the Okanagan has been sent under Chair Slater's signature.

He stated that the last meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council March 13, 2008 was held at Quail's Gate Winery in Westbank, BC. and the following two presentations were heard and discussed:

Mr. Clint Alexander gave a presentation on the implications of climate change on the Okanagan Basin water supply. The modeling software presented was developed by Dr. Kim Hyatt, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Dr. Stacy Langsdale and Margot Stockwell.

Recommendations include: implement more potent regulations including surface and groundwater license restrictions, enforceable demand management regulations on all new and existing water extraction activities and actively plan for water license buy-backs.

Mr. Jay Khene, Coordinator for the North Central Washington-Resource Conservation & Development (NCW-RC&D) gave a presentation on opportunities for the Okanagan Basin Water Board to collaborate with Americans on water studies. An opportunity has been identified whereby NCW_RC&D may seek the support of the OBWB for their application for a NASA project involving advanced computing and terrestrial mapping that may entail Stream flow Forecasting. There may be an opportunity for two-way sharing of hydrological tools and information.

Discussion ensued amongst OBWB Board members regarding sharing information with the U.S.A

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That any collaborations with US Federal agencies and/or project partners which involves sharing data relating to the Canadian Okanagan Basin be led by the International Joint Commission to ensure adherence to international laws and agreements."

CARRIED.

7.2.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Meeting of March 13, 2008.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Taylor

“That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of March 13, 2008 be adopted as circulated”.

CARRIED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled to be held May 6, 2008 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be adjourned at 1:50pm”.

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director