



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
May 6, 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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:25am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 6.3 2008 Mayor's Youth Forum Sponsorship Request was added.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Bennest

***"That the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on
May 6, 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 April 1st, 2008 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Pike

"That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2008 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Remi Allard, President, BC Groundwater Association
Sustainability of Groundwater Resources in the Okanagan

The Okanagan Basin Water Board heard a presentation from Remi Allard of the Groundwater Association of BC about groundwater development in bedrock aquifers and the high vulnerability of these aquifers to depletion through over-pumping. They highlighted problems associated with development approvals in absence of knowledge about groundwater processes and recommended further support for groundwater studies. Attention was also placed on the importance of groundwater for maintaining environmental base flows in surface water

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Water Qualities Advisories Report – Toby Pike

Director Pike spoke to the Board regarding a report issued by a Technical Advisory committee appointed by Ministry of Health in 2007.

The report addresses the different approaches taken across BC on how, why and when water quality advisories and boil water notices are issued. It also examines how turbidity is used to measure water quality, how it is monitored and the health risks involved.

The five-person committee found that drinking water advisories alone cannot completely safeguard drinking water systems. An examination of all components of a drinking water system including source protection, drinking water treatment and distribution systems is needed. The committee also recommended safeguards including management, monitoring, research, science and technology development, guidelines, standards and objectives, legislative and policy frameworks as well as public involvement and awareness.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hobson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board direct staff to prepare an objective summary of the Water Qualities Advisories Report including recommendations for future actions".

CARRIED.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting broke for lunch at 12:15pm and reconvened at 12:50pm.

6.2 City of Vernon Service Review

Dr. Sears informed the Board that the City of Vernon has announced their intention to proceed with a service review of the Okanagan basin Water Board.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board direct staff to provide a progress report regarding the City of Vernon service review for the next board meeting of June 3, 2008”.

CARRIED.

6.3 2008 Mayor’s Youth Forum Sponsorship Request

Dr. Sears explained she received a request to sponsor the 2008 Mayor’s Youth Forum in Kelowna. Children aged 15 – 18 participate in a survey discussing issues regarding water use and conservation and put forward recommendations to the Mayor of Kelowna on how to make improvements on this issue.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board provides sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 to the 2008 Mayor’s Youth Forum”.

CARRIED.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears informed the Board that she has been exploring alternative office space for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in the North and Central Okanagan. A report will be presented to the Board at the next meeting of June 4, 2008.

Dr. Sears requested that Directors begin developing a proposal for renewal of the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s mandate which will be concluded April 1, 2009. She would like to meet with the Board formally in September to discuss the mandate.

Dr. Sears informed the Board that on May 21, 2008 there is a water governance workshop that will include individuals from throughout the BC Southern Interior to discuss the report Delegating Water Governance which she distributed to all directors.

She also described an additional workshop to be held May 22, 2008 where water governance in the Okanagan will be discussed. This is a special session requested by the Ministry of Community Services as part of the Regional Governance review. All OBWB members are invited to the workshop and will also include

representatives from Okanagan municipalities, the Okanagan First Nation, NGO's and others.

Dr. Sears explained that staff members from Interior Health approached her in April to discuss the potential for the OBWB to act as a convener to help facilitate joint source assessments for filtration deferral and source protection/risk assessment. Interior Health wants to move forward with this and see it as a good beginning to the process. The preliminary plan is to hold a meeting with a group of water suppliers and Okanagan Basin Water Board staff to better understand if having these joint assessments is possible or worth while.

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel informed the Board topics of the April 10, 2008 meeting of the Water Stewardship Council included a discussion with Mayor Baker and Councilor Given regarding the Okanagan Reservoir Leased Lots and a proposal from Scott Schillereff on a groundwater borehole project. He also explained that the May 15, 2008 meeting of the Council will be a full day workshop on the Sustainable Water Strategy to enable Council members to provide input on the first draft.

Mr. Jatel explained that the OBWB staff attended a project management meeting with the Okanagan Indian Band April 14, 2008 regarding the Endocrine Disruptor Project. The meeting provided for an opportunity to determine project delivery timelines, identify key areas of project responsibility and to initiate a communication strategy. A UBC Okanagan student is scheduled to begin sample collections in the early summer of 2008 under the guidance of Dr. Jeff Curtis.

Mr. Jatel stated that he is continuing to develop three groundwater initiatives as directed by the Board.

Moved by Director Ashton

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the OBWB approves the application to the Federal Government Gas Tax (GSPF/IF) Application Form - Capacity Building and ICSP for the amount of \$55,000 for the project titled: Development of Local Government Groundwater Supply Bylaw Toolkit".

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the application to the BC Government, Ministry of Community Services Infrastructure Planning Grant Program for the amount of \$ 10,000 for the project titled: Development of Local Government Groundwater Supply Bylaw Toolkit.

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Hanson

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board contribute up to \$20,000 towards the project titled: Development of Local Government Groundwater Supply Bylaw Toolkit.

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of April 10, 2008 be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 BC Conservative Caucus Letter

Dr. Sears explained that she and Mr. Jatel received a thank you letter from the BC Conservative Caucus as a result of a presentation she and Mr. Jatel made to them in February 2008 regarding the Okanagan Basin Water Board's proposal to include the Okanagan watershed as a priority area in the National Water Strategy Budget.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the letter from the BC Conservative regarding the BC Stakeholder Meeting February 21, 2008 be received".

CARRIED.

8.2 Letter from Minister Bell on Reservoir Lease Lots

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Hanson

"That the letter from Minister Pat Bell regarding the sale of the Okanagan Reservoir Lease Lots be received

and;

that the Okanagan Basin Water Board directs staff to compose a letter to Minister Bell requesting his intent on meeting with the Okanagan Basin Water Board to discuss the sale of the Okanagan Reservoir Lease Lots".

CARRIED.

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for June 3rd, 2008 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

10. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Director Reid

Seconded by Director Taylor

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourn to an in-camera meeting at 1:55pm."

CARRIED.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That there being no further business, the regular and in-camera meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 6, 2008 be adjourned at 2:40pm”.

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director