



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
July 8, 2008, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN 9848 ABERDEEN
ROAD, COLDSTREAM, 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 Bill Schwarz	Regional District Okanagan Similkameen

STAFF:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Hrasko	Editorial Chair, Sustainable Water Strategy
Kellie Bunting	Technical Writer, Sustainable Water Strategy

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Slater called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Memo regarding the OBWB 2007/2008 financial statements added as item 6.2.1
- Letter from CORD regarding Phase II of groundwater in Joe Rich added as item 7.1.4
- Letter from The Wetland Stewardship Partnership added as item 7.2.2
- Memo regarding FLOW Support for National Water Strategy added as item 7.2.3

Moved by Director Taylor

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on July 8, 2008 be approved as amended”.

CARRIED.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- Memo regarding the OBWB 2007/2008 financial statements added as item 6.2.1
- Letter from CORD regarding Phase II of groundwater in Joe Rich added as item 7.1.4
- Letter from The Wetland Stewardship Partnership added as item 7.2.2
- Memo regarding FLOW Support for National Water Strategy added as item 7.2.3

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 3, 2008 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 3, 2008 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated”.

CARRIED.

5. DELEGATIONS

No Delegations.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sustainable Water Strategy Review (Nelson Jatel and Bob Hrasko)

Mr. Jatel introduced Kellie Bunting, Technical Writer of the Sustainable Water Strategy and Bob Hrasko, Editorial Committee Chair of the Sustainable Water Strategy to board members.

Mr. Hrasko explained that the Sustainable Water Strategy’s key issues are water quantity and quality and compliments the studies and results of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study. It contains twelve principles.

MOVED BY Director Siddon

Seconded by Director Hobson

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy Draft 3.1”.

CARRIED.

Consolidated Financial Statements

6.2.1 Notes on Administration Budget Variances

Moved by Director Schwarz

Seconded by Director Taylor

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board tables the 2008 Financial Statements for Okanagan Basin Water Board and directs staff to request further details from the auditors verifying the source of budget variances”.

CARRIED.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reported that the issue of office accommodations for OBWB is still outstanding. Discussions to share office space with both RDNO and CORD are continuing and she will provide regular updates.

Dr. Sears explained that regarding watermilfoil, rototilling has been completed for the season and equipment maintenance has begun. The paddlewheels for the largest rototiller are being rebuilt and the pontoons on the blue rototiller will have the skins replaced. In addition, the harvesters are being prepared for the summer with the skin plates being replaced and new paint for each machine as well.

She continued to explain that there is a need for a fence on the perimeter of the OBWB shop yard at McLeish Road for both liability and security reasons. She has approached Brian Reardon regarding cost-sharing the price of the fence, as it would also protect their property and reduce their liability.

Moved by Director Ashton

Seconded by Director Taylor

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board directs staff to continue discussions with North Okanagan Regional District to erect a fence at the shared property at 480 McLeish Road, Vernon”.

CARRIED.

Dr. Sears updated the Board members on the Water Supply and Demand Project. She reported that the steering committee met last week to discuss details of the project and plans for moving forward. The Water management and Use study has now been completed, as well as the Groundwater modeling pilot study in the southern Okanagan. The Lake Evaporation modeling study has also been completed. In August contacts will be awarded for the Surface Water Hydrology and In Stream Flow modeling of the Basin. Due to delays associated with the Water Management and Use Study, the project completion date has been extended to late 2009.

Dr. Sears explained that the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Environment are exploring the feasibility of a new streamlined online reporting system for water utilities and license holders. They are interested in conducting a pilot project in the Okanagan, building on the data collected from the Water Supply and Demand Project, with the OBWB as a partner. Rather than reporting to multiple agencies (MCS, IHA, MoE), in the new system licensees would enter information on a single web-based

form. This will help the province meet several objectives of the new BC Water Plan, and help improve the quality of data for Okanagan water.

Dr. Sears explained that a research group from UBC Vancouver's Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability (IRES) has submitted a proposal to the RBC Blue Water Initiative to fund an information sharing project between the OBWB and other Okanagan partners and Australia's International Water Centre (IWC), a government institute that has been leading development of drought adaptation programs. The funding will support travel between Australia and the Okanagan and workshops to transfer information. The Okanagan Partnership is also involved as the funding applicant.

She informed the board members that Shawn Edwards, our summer co-op student, has been working on developing the Okanagan-Waterbucket website. It has been populated with material and invitations will be distributed to stakeholders to contribute articles and reports. The site address is www.waterbucket.ca/okw.

7.1.1 RDCO letter regarding OBWB accommodations

7.1.2 Eurasian watermilfoil report

Ms. Dunbar presented the board members with a Eurasian watermilfoil report developed for the Ministry of Environment to provide information on current milfoil operations including how the OBWB contributes to water quality, fish habitat and other environmental issues.

7.1.3 Water Lines Article on Water Supply & Demand Project

Provided for information only.

7.1.4 Request from RDCO for funding support of a groundwater pilot in Joe Rich

Dr. Sears explained that she received a request from RDCO for funding support in the amount of \$60,000 for a phase II groundwater study in Joe Rich. A portion of phase I was funded by the OBWB small grants program. The project is well designed and will support informed development decisions in Joe Rich and would be an ideal candidate for a water conservation grant although the grant program has a ceiling of \$30,000. She recommended to the Board that staff send a letter to RDCO apprising them of the status of our grant program and our interest in supporting the project – both in a direct, financial way as well as indirectly; assisting RDCO staff in attracting external grant funds.

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

7.2.1 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting minutes of June 19th, 2008

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Pike

"That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of June 19, 2008 be adopted as circulated".

CARRIED.

7.2.2 Letter from Wetland Stewardship Partnership regarding *Living Water Smart* – British Columbia’s Water Plan

7.2.3 Memo regarding FLOW Support for National Water Strategy

Mr. Jatel requested the Board approve a request from the Forum for Leadership on Water (FLOW) to endorse an ad (open letter) written to encourage the Government of Canada deliver on their commitment to a new national water strategy.

Moved by Director Hobson

Seconded by Director Pike

“The Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the Hill Times ad (open letter) authorized by the Forum for Leadership on Water titled - Can Canada Avoid a Water Crisis? – requesting the Government of Canada deliver on their commitment to implement a new national water strategy”.

CARRIED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to Minister George Abbott regarding TAC report on Turbidity and Microbial Risk in drinking water

City of Armstrong letter on Turbidity TAC Report

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the letter from the City of Armstrong regarding the OBWB summary on the Ministry of Health Report on Turbidity and Microbial Risk in Drinking Water”.

CARRIED.

Letter to Ministry of Environment regarding Kelowna bridge sinking.

Letter to Minister of Agriculture and Lands Stan Hagan regarding Okanagan Reservoir Lots

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is scheduled for August 5th, 2008 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

It was discussed that many Directors would be unavailable for a meeting on August 5th and therefore the date was tentatively changed to August 12, 2008. This is to be confirmed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“That there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 8, 2008 be adjourned at 1:15pm”.

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director