



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL OKANAGAN,
KELOWNA, BC**

PRESENT

Council Members:

Chair Tom Siddon	Okanagan Partnership
Vice Chair Ted van der Gulik	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Allison MacMillan	Okanagan College
Dr. Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
Bryn White	SOSCP
Dr. Denise Nielsen	Agriculture Canada
Doug Geller	BC Ground Water Association
Drew Kaiser	CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
Gord Shandler	BC Fruit Growers Association
Grant Maddock	Urban Development Institute
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Hillary Hettinga	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Howie Wright	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Gwen Bridge (alternate)	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional Dist of Okanagan Similkameen
Ken Cunningham	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship
Kendall Woo	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Dan Millar (alternate)	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Kerry Rouck	Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen's Association
Lorne Davies	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Mike Adams	Interior Health Authority
Anna Page	Regional District of North Okanagan
Tricia Brett	Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee
Stu Wells	Community Futures
Steve Matthews	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship

Staff:

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director, OBWB
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Coordinator, OBWB
Kellie Garcia	Research and Communications Coordinator, OBWB

Others:

Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News Reporter
Lorraine Bennest	BC Fruit Growers Association

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Tom Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:12pm

2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair Tom Siddon introduced all members and guests.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jillian Tamblyn

Seconded by Bob Hrasko

"That the agenda for the January 15, 2009 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved."

CARRIED.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held November 13th, 2008, at the EECO Centre, Kelowna

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Brian Guy

"That the minutes from the November 13th, 2008, meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated".

CARRIED.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER'S UPDATE

Council members provided an update on their organization's activities.

News, events and action items identified:

Action items

- Marina proposal for the west shore of Wood Lake
 - there is a lack of information about the recreational carrying capacity of the lake.
- The WSA recently commented on the provincial trail strategy document, stating that there is a lack of any kind of water resource protection in the strategy.
- The WSA recently met with the Kelowna snowmobile club, who operate in the Greystokes area, to discuss the possibility of permit requirements for any back country users. The permit would include educational information regarding best practices for back country use.
- Agricultural setbacks that are comparable to the Riparian Areas Regulation have been developed and have been signed off by MoE and DFO. The setbacks will be tied to a bylaw guide that needs to be implemented by local governments and into Environmental Farm Plan.

Events

- BC Groundwater Association AGM March 5-6 in Penticton – www.bcgwa.org/2009_convention.htm
Contact Mr. Gellar for more information.
- UBC Okanagan hosting a Geoexchange conference in March – contact Dr. Bauer for more information.
- IH will be hosting 10 municipalities for a workshop in the next 4-6 weeks to see how municipalities want to be involved on the Southern Interior Drinking Water team.
- A water governance workshop hosted by UBC Okanagan will be forthcoming.

News

- Skaha Lake dam gates are being replaced.
- RDOS has completed its 2008 stream mapping projects and almost finished its shoreline mapping project for Skaha Lake.
- Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) is currently getting sign off for a development protocol for Okanagan Lake that outlines high to low sensitivity areas and the kinds of development that can occur in each.
- Several projects are going on with the local water utilities, including Penticton changing the location of its sewage outlet, Southeast Kelowna installing dual irrigation/domestic system, Black Mountain conducting a BC Environmental Assessment for their reservoir project, and Glenmore Ellison constructing a major lake intake.
- The Ministry of Health and the health authorities are working on common turbidity notice procedures to be released mid-January.
- SOSCP will be taking the lead on the council of the biodiversity conservation strategy project.
- The OBWB website (www.obwb.ca) has a developed spreadsheet of available funding opportunities.
- IHA just received Greater Vernon Water Services Duteau Creek Watershed Assessment final report.
- Draft standard provincial risk assessment guidelines will be released shortly.
- Oliver groundwater production wells are high in Uranium and have been pulled off-line while looking for solutions.
- The agricultural water demand model is almost complete and the Water Supply and Demand Project is using the model to calculate landscape and indoor water use for the valley.
- The irrigation demand tool is being piloted in Vernon and Summerland.
- The Kelowna landscape and irrigation standards are being implemented and many landscape and irrigation installers are trying to get certified.
- Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant applicants should indicate in their cover letter where the grant could be scaled if they were to receive only partial funding.
- Suggestion that a conference like the OWOW conference held in October 2008 be held every 3 years in the Okanagan.
- The Water Supply and Demand Project is on target for completion in December 2009.
- The new Water Board members are: south – Stu Wells, Gordon Clark, and Michael Brydon; central – Doug Findlater, Brian Given, and James Baker; and north – Buffy Baumbrough, Rick Fairbairn, and Gyula Kiss; non-elected – Toby Pike, Chair of the Water Supply Association, the new chair of Water Stewardship Council who will be elected in April 2009, and an ONA representative.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE – REVIEW

Mr. Jatel stated that the council is nearing the end of the 18 month term and it is a good time for a discussion about the terms of reference that was developed in 2006.

The first topic of discussion was the **Principles** section.

Dr. Bauer stated that the title of the principles is misleading and should be changed to focus more on the council since these are operating principles of the council.

Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that these principles are making a statement about water management and speak to the broader community, not just the council.

Mr. van der Gulik agreed with Dr. Bauer's statement.

Mr. Cunningham stated that there is a lot of cross over in these principles between how to operate the group and how to manage water.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the council that changing these principles to make them strictly operating principles for the council would require significant effort.

Mr. Hrasko suggested that the principles be replaced with the 12 guiding principles of the Sustainable Water Strategy.

Dr. Bauer stated that there is no purpose in re-writing the principles at this point, but they could be taken off the website and replaced with the Sustainable Water Strategy principles.

Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that it would be difficult to make the council principles more operational because they are very motherhood. The Strategy principles are more action oriented rather than philosophical.

Ms. Bennest suggested that the being motherhood and naive in the way they are expressed is a good thing and that she would hate to lose that. The principles express how the council will function. We should leave them how they are because there are better things we can do rather than spend more time on the paperwork.

The second topic of discussion was the **Membership** section.

Mr. van der Gulik asked if council members are permitted to make suggestions regarding membership of other organizations. If so, he would like to suggest Doug Edwards from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada PFRA.

Mr. Siddon suggested that the council be kept at the same size and composition as now – approximately 26 people and roughly 1/3 government agencies, 1/3 watchdog groups, and 1/3 user groups. We need to make sure it is not overweighted to the government side.

Mr. van der Gulik suggested that Doug is added as an alternate to Denise Neilsen.

Dr. Bauer suggested that more economic development or industry folks should be added to council – someone who wants to exploit water.

Mr. Hrasko suggested adding someone from ILMB and someone from the City of Kelowna to council.

Mr. Jatel explained that the City of Kelowna has passed a motion to have a representative on the council, someone to replace Neal Klassen.

Mr. Cunningham asked if council members are permitted to bring guests to the meeting.

Mr. Jatel responded that the meetings are open, but please let the OBWB staff know if you are bringing guests so we can accommodate them.

The third topic of discussion was the **Council Function** section. The discussion focused on the relevance of the last sentence of the second paragraph. Mr. Jatel and Dr. Sears will update the language to make it more relevant.

No changes were proposed for the **Funding and Resources**, **Vision**, and **Mission** sections.

Mr. Jatel stated that the council **Goals** and **Objectives** section would be updated to reflect accomplishments to date.

The **Council Procedures** section was discussed next.

Ms. Tamblyn stated that she felt odd about how proposals were brought forward to council in the past. It has been quite ad hoc and she felt pressure to make the decision too quickly. She suggested that a clear process is developed for bringing proposals for council funding to council.

No changes were suggested for the **Communication Protocol** section.

Lastly, the **Conflict of Interest** section was discussed.

Mr. Guy echoed Ms. Tamblyn's concerns regarding proposals and asked that OBWB staff provide a clear framework for recommending and accepting project proposals.

7. DRAFT WORK PLAN – REVIEW

Mr. Jatel explained proposed changes to the council workplan, including having 2 speakers per meeting, forming committees, and preparing four white papers

Dr. Bauer suggested that the committees should be formed first and that they should choose the speakers. The speakers should be targeted.

Chair Siddon emphasised the important of delivering something powerful and relevant in the next 3 years and to not repeat what we have been doing the last 3 years.

Dr Sears stated that there are more resource people we could benefit from, and who could specifically inform projects we are working on.

Mr. van der Gulik suggested that council focus on the 45 action items in the Sustainable Water Strategy and go for low hanging fruit. Every meeting the council should talk about what can be done with these action items.

Ms. Dunbar suggested that we only choose speakers that will be helpful in implementing the action items.

Ms. Tamblyn asked if work on the 4 suggested topics could go on concurrently to speed things up.

Dr. Guy suggested that we bring in guest speakers that help us achieve our objectives and help us avoid spinning our wheels and wasting time. He shared some advice from David Marshall – while you are developing grand plan you should also be developing short-term projects that immediately gain credibility.

Mr. Davies stated that planning and action should occur concurrently; volunteers want action items that they can work on.

Ms. Bennest stated that the Sustainable Water Strategy should be used as the council's bible.

Dr. Bauer suggested that the council categorize the actions and then figure out how to implement them.

Dr. Siddon said that OBWB members should receive a copy of the SWS with a one-pager before the Feb 3 meeting and then at the meeting have a 10 min discussion with them that outlines a short list of priorities and gives a sense of immediacy.

Ms. Tamblyn suggested that the council workplan be closely tied with the actions in the SWS

Mr. Jatel agreed and stated that the next council meeting will focus on action items from SWS and Water Smart Plan.

Dr. Siddon suggested preparing draft speaking notes for the incoming chair of OBWB.

8. ACTION ITEMS

No action items were discussed

9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No new or unfinished business

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held February 12, 2009 (location to be determined)

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Moved by Gord Shandler

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of January 15, 2009 be adjourned".

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director