



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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
Anna Page	Regional District of North Okanagan
Bal Poonjan	Urban Development Institute
Dr. Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Dr. Brian Guy	CWRA
Bryn White	SOSCP
Dr. Denise Neilsen	Agriculture Canada
Doug Geller	BC Ground Water Association
Drew Kaiser	CORD Environmental Advisory Committee
Gevan Mattu	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Gwen Bridge (alt.)	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Howie Wright	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional Dist of Okanagan Similkameen
Ken Cunningham	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship
Kerry Rouck	Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen's Association
Lorne Davies	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Lorraine Bennest	BC Fruit Growers Association
Mike Adams	Interior Health Authority
Stu Wells	Community Futures
Steve Matthews	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship
Toby Pike (alt.)	Water Supply Association of BC
Tricia Brett	Greater Vernon Water Stewardship Committee

Staff:

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

Others:

Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News Reporter
Magnus Bein	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Tom Siddon called the meeting to order at 1:05pm

2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair Tom Siddon facilitated the introduction of all members and guests. Gevan Mattu has replaced Kendall Woo as a representative of Environment Canada and Bal Poonjan has replaced Grant Maddock as a representative of the Urban Development Institute.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Bernie Bauer

Seconded by Denise Neilsen

"That the agenda for the February 13, 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 January 15th, 2008, at the EECO Centre, Kelowna

Amendments:

Item 5, last sentence should be reworded to make it clear that Toby Pike is not the new chair of the water stewardship council

Item 7, last sentence should read "Dr. Siddon suggested preparing draft speaking notes for the incoming chair of the OBWB."

Moved by Ken Cunningham

Seconded by Denise Neilsen

"That the minutes from the January 15th, 2008, meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended".

CARRIED.

5. Presentation: Irrigation Scheduling Calculator

Mr. van der Gulik discussed his time at the *Premier's Innovation and Excellence Awards* ceremony on February 5, 2009, where the Water Balance Model for British Columbia won silver. After the awards ceremony, Mr. van der Gulik had an extended conversation with the Premier on water-related issues.

Mr. van der Gulik provided a presentation on the Irrigation Scheduling Calculator. The new tool will be available online by April. The objective of the calculator is to help farmers and homeowners water efficiently. It uses real-time weather station data, along with information entered by the user such as the farm or garden location, crop or plant type, soil type and

depth, and the type of irrigation system, to determine watering times and amounts.

During the presentation a discussion ensued regarding the loss of Environment Canada weather stations and the impact that is having on research projects and models that rely on them. With the closing of stations, long-term data records are being broken. The irrigation calculator relies mostly on Farmwest stations, which are automated and privately owned. This is not a sustainable way to manage the weather network.

Dr. Neilsen suggested that the Council make it a priority to support and lobby for the climate network.

Dr. Guy told the Council about a gap analysis that was completed for hydrometric stations in the Okanagan and suggested that a similar study be conducted for the climate network to identify what we really need and what is being lost.

Mr. Jatel suggested that the Council provide the Water Board with a recommendation to support the maintenance of the climate network.

6. Memo: Terms of Reference

At the January 15 meeting the Council requested that OBWB staff provide recommendations on the Council Terms of Reference.

Mr. Jatel recommended that the Council keep the 5 guiding principles as written and that no changes be made to the Council Function section of the Terms of Reference. There was no opposition to these recommendations.

Mr. Jatel recommended draft policies on how the Council should deal with unsolicited proposals. A discussion ensued about changes that should be made to the policies and staff was directed to make revisions and bring the policies back to Council at the March meeting.

Moved by Brian Guy

Seconded by Hans Buchler

"That staff recommendations regarding Principles and Council Function sections of the Terms of Reference are accepted by Council and staff recommendations for unsolicited proposals are deferred until revisions are made by staff".

CARRIED.

7. 2009 Work Plan: Discussion

Mr. Jatel presented the revised draft 2009 Work Plan to the Council. Six committees will be formed to work on implementing the Sustainable Water Strategy action items. Co-chairs are as follows: source protection – Ms. Tamblyn (other co-chair to be determined), groundwater – Mr. Gellar and Mr. Bauer, water information management – Mr. Guy and Ms. Neilsen, drought management – Mr. Hrasko and Ms. Bennest, economics – to be determined, and communications and outreach – to be determined. A discussion ensued about the format and logistics of Council and committee meetings. Clarification was requested by Council members regarding the relationship between committee work on the Sustainable Water Strategy and other projects and flagship recommendations.

8. Committee Development

Dr. Warwick Sears requested that she sit on the water information network and drought management committees.

Ms. Bennest volunteered to co-chair the drought management committee.

Mr. Rouck requested that he sit on the Source Protection committee.

Mr. Jatel requested that members of the Council notify him by phone or email as to which committee they would like to sit on and to provide recommendations for external persons to join the committees.

9. Board Report

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Council about some of the new Board Directors. At the February 3 meeting, many of the Directors identified water quality as the main issue. A strategic planning session will be held with the Directors in June. A gathering between the Board and Council will be planned.

10. New & Unfinished Business

10.1 Drinking Water Reservoir Leased Lots

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Council that the issue of drinking water reservoir leased lots came up at the February 3 meeting of the Water Board. The Board requested that staff do three things: 1) write a letter to the new Minister of Agriculture and Lands to ensure the file stays active, 2) write a letter to the Southern Interior Local Government Association asking for a resolution against the sale of leased lots on drinking water reservoirs, and 3) prepare a template letter for local governments to send to SILGA with the same request.

10.2 Mainstem Lake Source Protection Plan

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Council that the new Chair of the Water Board, Brian Given, wants to give source protection a higher profile and show support for a collaborative mainstem lake protection plan. Source protection plans are required by Interior Health as part of the filtration deferral process.

10.3 Draft Trails Strategy for BC

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Council about the draft Trails Strategy for BC recently developed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and the Arts. The Trails Strategy does not include information on the potential impacts of trail construction and use on drinking water sources. Letters have been sent to MOTCA from Interior Health and local water suppliers requesting the inclusion of a drinking water protection plan in the final Trails Strategy. The Water Board will be sending a letter to MOTCA.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held March 19, 2009 (location to be determined). It will be a full-day session.

A new Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the April meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Moved by Gevan Mattu

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of February 12, 2009 be adjourned".

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director