



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD MAY 5, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRESENT

Chair Brian Given	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Gyula Kiss	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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OBWB STAFF

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 10:09AM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2009 be approved as circulated.”

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Water Supply Demand Project Budget – Item 7.2
Discussion of OBWB Policies – Item 7.3
Letter from Mr. Lloyd Manchester – Item 8.3

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 7, 2009 at the Regional District Of North Okanagan

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 7, 2009 held at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATION

- 5.1 Lloyd Manchester, Okanagan Cottage Owners Association–Leased lots on drinking water reservoirs

Lloyd Manchester, president of Okanagan Cottage Owners Association (OCHOA), delivered a presentation regarding leased lots on drinking water reservoirs. He provided an account of the history of cabins in the watersheds, outlined various activities of other users that impact water quality, and discussed stewardship efforts by cabin owners. The presentation is included in Appendix A.

Discussion ensued about the number of residents potentially affected by development on reservoir lakes; the framework agreement that the ILMB presented to the OCHOA, Water Supply Association, Interior Health, and the three Okanagan regional districts in 2006; what rights the leases do and do not give cabin owners; the use of seasonal leased lots for year-round living; and the impact of development on private land around mainstem valley lakes.

Chair Given stated that the Board would consider the information provided by the OCHOA and prepare a formal policy statement about the matter.

Director Brydon joined the meeting at 10:15.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Executive Director Report
6.1.1 June 2009 OBWB Strategic Planning Session

Dr. Warwick Sears reminded the Board about the strategic planning session to be held at the Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen on June 2. A professional facilitator has been hired and preparation for the session has begun. Dr. Warwick Sears is writing a governance manual that lays out OBWB policies and procedures; the manual will be distributed to Directors beforehand. The *Okanagan Basin Master Wastewater Management Plan Update* and the *Management Plan for Eurasian Watermilfoil* reports were distributed to the Directors for review for the planning session.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that an AGM will be hosted by the OBWB in September in Kelowna. The purpose of the AGM is to share information with all elected officials in the Basin. It will be a workshop format.

Dr. Warwick Sears announced that Dr. Andrew Larder, Senior Medical Health Officer with Interior Health and Valerie Cameron from the Ministry of Environment will be speaking at the July Board meeting. Dr. Larder will discuss turbidity and water quality issues and Ms. Cameron update the board on the activities of the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team.

Chair Given left the meeting at 11:09 and Vice Chair Wells took over.

Director Pike asked Dr. Warwick Sears if elected officials from the Improvement Districts will be invited to attend the AGM. A discussion ensued about the best way to accommodate the many elected officials of the Improvement Districts. Director Baker and Director Brydon voiced their support for having representation from the Improvement Districts at the AGM. Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that she and Director Pike have a further discussion at a later date to identify who should be invited to the AGM.

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears dated April 28, 2009 be received and further that representatives from the Improvement Districts be invited to attend the September AGM.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

6.2.1 Water Stewardship Council minutes

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the Water Stewardship Council. The Council met for the first time with its new members and Chair in April. Council meetings are now held every second month, with Council committees meeting in between. The 2009/10 Work Plan for the Council is completed in draft form and will be taken to the Council in June. On May 14, the Council committees are meeting for the second time. These meetings will be more focused on action.

Mr. Jatel told the Board that the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit is in its final draft and a final copy will be presented to the Board at the July meeting. At their May 14 meeting, the Water Stewardship Council Groundwater Committee will be discussing how to implement the Toolkit. Regional planners have also been invited to that meeting.

Mr. Jatel advised the Board of a new report called *Fish out of Water: Tools to Protect British Columbia's Groundwater and Wild Salmon*. The document provides a description of legal tools relative to the protection of groundwater as essential salmon habitat, Aboriginal law, Aboriginal rights and groundwater, aboriginal title and groundwater, and treaty rights and groundwater.

Director Wells asked Mr. Jatel about the status of the UBC-Okanagan endocrine disrupter research project.

Mr. Jatel stated that the final report has not been submitted yet and the Masters student is currently on maternity leave. Mr. Jatel has requested an interim report from Dr. Curtis on the texting that has been completed.

Director Wells suggested that Dr. Curtis be invited to speak to the Board.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel dated April 29, 2009 be received.”

CARRIED

- 6.3 Research and Communications Coordinator Report
 - 6.3.1 First Draft of OBWB Communications Plan

Ms. Garcia highlighted the main components of the draft OBWB Communications Plan. Discussion ensued about means of evaluating how often and effectively the OBWB communicates, methods of improving OBWB branding, the addition of Interior Health as a target audience, and financial implications of the communications plan.

Mr. Garcia told the Board about a proposed new communication tool: the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Newsletter. The electronic newsletter will be produced three times a year and will include feature stories on water issues and initiatives; share Council meeting highlights; spotlight member organizations; and provide announcements of upcoming events. The newsletter will come to the Board for approval before it is distributed.

Chair Given returned at 11:28.

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“THAT the Research and Communications Coordinator Report memorandum from Ms. Garcia dated April 27, 2009 and the OBWB Communications Plan draft v1.2 be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the concept of an Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Newsletter be endorsed.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7.1 Resolution of Support for the City of Kelowna Wetland Inventory Mapping Database

Ms. Dunbar told the Board that a City of Kelowna staff member has contacted her to request that the OBWB provide a resolution of support for the use of the City’s Wetland Inventory, Classification, Evaluation, and Mapping Tool. The tool was produced in part from data collected by the “Wetland Inventory Mapping project” that received funding through the OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program in 2007.

The Board agreed to write a letter to the City of Kelowna that recognizes the importance of the basin-wide wetland mapping, commends the City on their Wetland Inventory, Classification, Evaluation, and Mapping Tool, and provides information on how other jurisdictions are using similar tools for wetland protection.

Moved by Director Bauer

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“THAT the resolution presented on the City of Kelowna Wetland Inventory Mapping Database memorandum from Ms. Dunbar dated April 27, 2009 be revised to delete reference to the Official Community Plan review.”

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“THAT the OBWB send a letter to Kelowna City Council that recognizes the importance of basin-wide wetland mapping, commends the City’s Wetland Inventory, Classification, Evaluation, and Mapping Tool, and informs the Council of how other jurisdictions are using similar tools for wetland protection.”

CARRIED

7.2 Okanagan water supply & demand project budget

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT the OBWB adopt the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.”

CARRIED

7.3 OBWB policies

Mr. Jatel distributed draft policies on the following two issues: multiple use of crown land in watersheds and public ownership of crown lands surrounding Okanagan drinking water reservoirs and asked the board to adopt the policies.

Discussion ensued regarding the content of the policies. There was agreement that the language and content of the policies was generally good. Several directors suggested that the wording of the policies be simplified and that certain components of the policies be broadened in scope. The Board requested that staff work with Director Clark, Director Bauer, and Director Findlater to revise the policies and that the revised policies be brought forward at the June strategic planning session.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT the OBWB adopt Policy 1 – Multiple Use of Crown Land in Watersheds.”

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT OBWB staff revise Policy 1 – Multiple Use of Crown Land in Watersheds and the OBWB reviews the policy at the June 2009 strategic planning session.

CARRIED

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the OBWB adopt Policy 2 – Public Ownership of Crown Lands Surrounding Okanagan Drinking Water Reservoirs.”

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Findlater

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT OBWB staff revise Policy 2 – Public Ownership of Crown Lands Surrounding Okanagan Drinking Water Reservoirs and the OBWB reviews the policy at the June 2009 strategic planning session.

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Ron Cantelon regarding reservoir leased lots

Moved by Director Bauer

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the letter from Minister Ron Cantelon dated April 1, 2009 regarding Okanagan Drinking Water Reservoir Lakes Leased Lots, be received;

AND THAT a letter be sent from the OBWB to Kevin Dickenson at ILMB reminding him of the commitment made in Minister Cantelon’s letter dated April 1, 2009 that Mr. Dickenson will contact and meet with the OBWB;

AND FURTHER THAT a letter be sent from the OBWB to Minister Cantelon requesting confirmation of who will be undertaking the hydrological studies referred to in his letter dated April 1, 2009.”

CARRIED

8.2 Letter from Regional District of North Okanagan regarding reservoir leased lots

8.3 Letter from Manchester

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan dated April 14, 2009 and the letter from the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association dated April 27, 2009, both regarding Okanagan Drinking Water Reservoir Lakes Leased Lots, be received.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on July 7, 2009, at the Regional District of North Okanagan

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Baker

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2009 be adjourned at 2:09 pm.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director



Okanagan Cottage Owners Association (O.C.O.A.)

950 Stockwell Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y-6W2
Phone: (250) 712-9713 or Cell: 878-9352

Presentation to the Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors

May 5, 2009

Good morning Chairman Given and OBWB Directors,

Our organization appreciates the opportunity to meet with you today. As we noted in our letter of March 2, 2009 we requested many answers to statements made by Chairman Brian Given, Director James Baker and former Director Tom Siddon. We are extremely disappointed with Chairman Given response to our March 2nd letter stating, "The Okanagan Basin Water Board is in the process of developing a policy to clarify the Board's position on the sale and use of Crown land surrounding drinking water reservoirs in the Okanagan". In our response to Chairman Given we were quite clear in requesting answers to non-policy questions contained in our March 2nd letter. Quite frankly, as an organization we are fed up with numerous comments made in the press such as accusing cottage owners as compromising 345 thousand people's water and comments from Director Baker such as, "Private interests shouldn't trump the public, Thousands would be affected if any kind of outbreak occurred on a reservoir." As cottage owners we will not put up with misleading statements like these and many more that have been stated. We will continue to expect a response from this public body to our questions contained in our March 9, 2009 letter.

Members of the OCOA have a long history in our watersheds. Cabins predated the installation of Dams in many of the Lakes. For example, in the Beaver Lake, Crooked Lake chain the Beaver Lake Lodge was built in 1921 and several cabins built in 1926 at Beaver, Crooked and Dee Lakes. When the Dam was built in 1938 on Beaver the trees were left in place which results in the poor quality brown(tannin) water that comes from these lakes). This is true of many of the lakes that have cottages on them. In fact, one of our cabin owners father Bert Bostock was one of the founding members on the Dunmovin cabin in 1932. His son is Ray a cabin owner at Oyama Lake is here today. There are also lodge owners here as well.

Cottage owners have always been stewards in our watersheds. We have a vested interest in maintaining the ecological integrity of the watersheds in which we live. A majority of cottage owners have had their cabins in their families for decades. Our members are the eyes and ears of the watershed. They clean up the mess that others have left, ensure unattended fires are put out and are often seen chasing cows away to stop them from defecating in the Lakes.

In a letter to the editor of the Capital News the owner of Jackpine Lake made many comments about what it is like to not have responsible people in a watershed. He was speaking mainly of the Bear Creek area. I can attest to being in the Bear Creek watershed on the Canada day long weekend and witnessing the uncontrolled recreational use that occurs. He makes many comments but states, "These many cottage owners are bound in a combined responsibility to maintain the highest standards achievable in order to assure the public the right of access to quality drinking water and co-enjoyment of the resource" He also stated, "It is 'high time' these various cottage owners and commercial operators are given the credit they are due as 'front line' ambassadors out there tirelessly and quietly working on your behalf."

On July 3, 2007 we made a presentation to this Board regarding the stakeholder process we were involved in to create a framework agreement in the watersheds. This agreement would have led to many sustainable actions in the watersheds including community septic systems, restrictive covenants, land act reserves around all lakes precluding potential future development, strategic agreements to control cattle, and a zoning by-law that would change the zoning for cabins and restrict their size. At the end of day we realized that the water purveyors would never come to an agreement. Their intention all along was to stall the talks and then lobby the government at the end against the sale of the cabins and ask for what was discussed in this process like land act reserves. Many of these options are off the table and we are back to where we started. We also detailed the numerous impacts that affect the Okanagan's regions largest drinking water source, Okanagan Lake.

Recreational uses of the lakes system will continue to increase as urban populations expand. There will continue to be increased demand on our water resources. Uncontrolled access of cattle to streams, lakes and riparian buffers can seriously impact water systems. Downstream impacts also need to be considered and this has been lost in any analysis to date.

The Okanagan region is the only area in the Province where cottage owners do not have the ability to buy their leased recreational lots from government. Property assessments are based on freehold lake properties from other regions. Cottage owners pay lease fees based on these property assessments. Over the last few years, property assessments have increased by over thirty percent per year. Cottage owners also pay taxes on their properties. This is creating financial hardship and uncertainty for all cottage owners. This inequity needs to be resolved.

Our association believes that environmental integrity within watersheds will only increase should we be allowed to purchase our properties. It is important to note that no further development or sale of land is allowed in the lakes system. We are prepared to work with regional governments to ensure that proper development guidelines are in place to guide this process.

Our organization shares a common interest with local and regional governments in that we want to ensure the lakes have good water quality and we want to promote good stewardship practices to ensure a sustained environment. A strong educational program is needed to ensure that a high level of educational awareness is promoted in the watersheds.

We do not support the use of septic fields for individual properties.

As citizens living in the Okanagan basin we all have an impact on the environment in which we live. We all have to take responsibility to ensure the protection and enhancement of our environment. It is clear that British Columbians believe that access to the backcountry is important to them. Multiple uses whether recreational or industrial within all the watersheds in the Okanagan will continue to increase.

We need to be proactive and creative in the solutions we employ to protect our watersheds. Ownership of our properties will not be detrimental to this goal. Working together with our association will assist us all in ensuring that environmental degradation does not occur. Working together, we can achieve the goals we have in common.

The Okanagan Cottage Owners Association thanks you for your time tonight.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association