

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009, AT THE OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE OFFICES, WEST
KELOWNA, BC**

PRESENT

Council Members:

Bernie Bauer, Chair	UBC Okanagan
Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Anna Page	Regional District North Okanagan
Bal Poonian	Urban Development Institute
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Brian Guy	Canadian Water Resources Association
Bryn White	South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program
Chris Radford	Regional District Central Okanagan
Dan Millar	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Denise Neilsen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Doug Edwards	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Doug Geller	BC Ground Water Association
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Howie Wright	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional District 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
Magnus Bein	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Mark McKenney	Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society
Mark Watt	City of Kelowna
Rob Birtles	Interior Health Authority
Steve Matthews	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship
Vic Harwood	Community Futures Development

Staff:

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:

Renee Clark	RDNO – Greater Vernon Water Services
Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News
Solvej Patschke	Ministry of Environment
Kirk Stinchcombe	Ministry of Environment
Vic Jensen	Ministry of Environment
Michael Brydon	OBWB Director, RDOS Director
John Janmaat	UBC Okanagan
Rehan Sadiq	UBC Okanagan

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chair Bauer welcomed members and guests and facilitated introductions.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Jillian Tamblyn

Seconded by Brian Guy

"That the agenda for the June 11, 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 April 9, 2009, at the EECO Centre, Kelowna

Moved by Lorraine Bennest

Seconded by Brian Guy

"That the minutes from the April 9, 2009, meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."

CARRIED

5. ROUND TABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

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

News, events and action items were identified:

Action Items:

- Doug Edwards will provide a report on the National Water Supply Expansion funding program at a future meeting.
- Ted van der Gulik requested that the Council provide comments on the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Agriculture Water Strategy (previously circulated to the Council) as soon as possible.
- Dan Millar announced that those members of the OWSC that are interested can obtain information about the Shanker's Dam proposal from the FERC.gov website e-library; enter P-12804 in the search sheet.

Events:

- The CWRA 62nd annual conference is currently being held in Quebec and Denise Neilsen is attending.
- Gorman Brothers hosted a field trip on June 10 in the Trout Creek watershed to open lines of communication between resource managers to understand the effects of mountain pine beetle infestation on forestry values and water supply. Representatives from Interior Health, Ministry of Environment, OBWB, Penticton Indian Band, Dobson Engineering, Okanagan Shuswap Forest District, and District of Summerland attended.
- The Mountain Pine Beetle Conference was held last week in Kelowna. Some excellent papers were presented at the conference and will be available from FORREX.
- The OBWB AGM will be held on September 18, 2009 – Council members will be invited.
- An International Joint Commission Board of Control meeting will be held on Oct 20, 2009 at 7 pm in Osoyoos. Contact Dan Millar for more information.
- The OBWB held a strategic planning session on June 2.
- Anna Warwick Sears recently presented at a workshop hosted by the Fraser Basin Council. Her presentation focused on the Okanagan as a successful example of watershed-based groups moving from planning to implementation.

News:

- UBC Okanagan is currently undertaking strategic planning and is ensuring a strong focus on how to engage faculty and students in sustainability.
- Doug Edwards and Ted van der Gulik took a trip to Quebec to look at a climate monitoring system that may be applicable to BC.
- The provincial government is still reorganizing after the recent election but focus on water issues, ecosystems, etc will continue to be a priority.
- The RDNO regional growth strategy is under way.
- South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program is developing a biodiversity conservation strategy for the south Okanagan-Similkameen area.
- Rob Birtles has taken the place of Mike Adams on the Water Stewardship Council.
- RDCO is working with Interior Health on water quality objectives for small water systems.
- John Janmaat of UBC Okanagan is conducting a residential survey to gauge people's attitudes about water pricing, metering, etc.
- The RDOS regional growth strategy is proceeding. RDOS is hosting a workshop focused on Skaha Lake where questions about recreational use and authority will be answered.
- Trail riding paths are being cut in the Lambly Creek watershed (some a metre away from streams) and recreational vehicles are crossing streams. The Water Supply Association will be releasing a statement outlining concerns about the existing planning and approval structure.
- The BC Groundwater Association has a new managing director. A strategic planning retreat is being held soon in Abbotsford.
- The Operating Orders for Osoyoos Lakes and Zosel Dam expire in 2013 and the IJC has begun planning for the renewal of these orders.
- The Province was denied intervener status on the Shanker's Bend dam proposal. They requested the status too late; the permit to complete the feasibility study was already issued. There will be another chance to apply for intervener status after the feasibility study is completed.
- The Province's new cabinet has been sworn in. Ministers that may play a role in water management in the Basin include Steve Thomson as the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Barry Penner continuing as Minister of the Environment, John Yap as Minister of

State for Climate Action (new role), Pat Bell continuing as Minister of Forests and Range, Kevin Falcon as Minister of Health Services, Ida Chong as Minister of Healthy Living and Sport, and Kevin Krueger as Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. John Slater, former chair of the OBWB, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation to the Minister of Environment.

- Anna is preparing a governance manual for the OBWB.
- The Oceola Fish and Game Club sent a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in support of maintaining fishing lodges on upper drinking water reservoirs. There is a difference of opinion between the Oceola Fish and Game Club and the OBWB regarding reserve lease lots. The goal of the Oceola Fish and Game Club is to promote fishing, hunting and camping by families, and they recognize the opportunity afforded to the general public by the fishing and hunting lodges on our upland lakes.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist, Greater Vernon Services *Cattle Impact Reduction in the Duteau Creek Watershed*

Ms. Clark's presentation covered the following topics:

- grant application and securing dollars – OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant for \$20,000,
- development of a cattle impact reduction plan,
- consultation with stakeholders,
- GPS, inventory and mapping of range control structures,
- range improvement opportunities,
- projects – debris fencing, development of contained in-stream “nose holes”, water trough (MOE permitted transfer of license capacity for offstream watering), and corral site, and
- maintenance of fences, cattle guards, ditch lines.

Discussion ensued about how difficult it is to get a licence for off-stream watering stations. There is no licence required if cattle are drinking out of the creek, but as soon as that water is moved out of the creek a licence is required. If the creek is fully recorded then a licence will not be issued. Many ranchers want to do the right thing by keeping their cattle away from watercourses and are coming up against this roadblock. The Ministry of Environment is in the middle of legislative changes that will allow off-stream watering licences, and it would be helpful if the OBWB showed support and interest in this topic by sending a letter to the ministers of Agriculture and Lands, Forest and Range, and Environment.

Moved by Brian Guy

Seconded by Lorraine Bennest

“ That the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council recommend that the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to the ministers of Agriculture and Lands, Forest and Range, and Environment that voices its support for licensing livestock water use and encourages the ministries to work together to develop a system that recognizes historical water use by cattle and the need to encourage off stream watering facilities that will help to reduce the impacts of cattle on the aquatic environment and drinking water quality.”

CARRIED

At the request of the Council, Ms. Clark provided an update on a recent court case dealing with mud bogging in the Grizzly reservoir. Conservation officers witnessed a mud bogger getting stuck in a wetland area and took photos of the damage he was doing. The officers charged the driver under the *Forest and Range Protection Act* and gave 3 others who were trying to help the driver out of the mud a warning. The judge was supportive of the regulations and the charges stayed, although the fine was reduced from \$575 to approximately \$200. The court case will raise awareness amongst the mud bogging community.

Kirk Stinchcombe, Manager, Operational Policy and Planning, Ministry of Environment
The South East Queensland Drought Experience: Lessons for Canadian Demand Management Practitioners

Mr. Stinchcombe worked in water demand management in Australia during the recent record-long drought. His presentation included:

- background information about the South East Queensland drought;
- discussion of four innovative drought response projects: the Home Waterwise Service (\$42.1 million investment), the SEQ Pressure and Leakage Management Project (\$70 million expenditure to date), the One-to-One High Water User Program (\$8 million), and the Gold Coast Waterfuture Project; and
- lessons for Canadian demand management practitioners.

The Home WaterWise Service included a comprehensive audit, 1 new water saving showerhead, water efficient aerators on bathroom and kitchen taps, up to 3 leaking taps fixed – all for just \$20. At the peak of the program 135 plumbers were involved, 3000 retrofits were conducted per week, a call centre with 50 staff was operating, and a comprehensive marketing campaign was underway. 226,551 homes were retrofitted in 2 years, resulting in 4800 ML savings per year.

The SEQ Pressure and Leakage Management Project included pressure reducing valve installation, flow modulation control, and active leak detection and repair. It resulted in 47.8 ML/day savings by Oct 2008 and is projected to save 64 ML/day by 2012.

The One to One High Water User Program focused on assisting 80,000 “high volume” households using more than 800 litres/household/day to significantly curb their water consumption. It included a mandatory completion of a water use survey and a customized water saving plan sent back based on the survey response. The program had a 92% compliance for survey submission, and resulted in a reduction of water use of 30.1 ML/day.

The Gold Coast Waterfuture Project focused on putting water savings infrastructure in new homes, including a Class A+ Recycled Water Treatment Plant, mandatory rainwater tanks, and dual piping systems.

Lessons for Canadian demand management practitioners include:

- our assumptions about water supply security can change very quickly,
- when the time comes be ready, both with data and planning,
- use ideas from other places to develop demand management programs,
- establish governance systems early, and
- think bigger – there is so much more we could be doing in Canada.

Discussion ensued after the presentation regarding the modernization of the *Water Act*. Mr. Stinchcombe told council members that backgrounders will be distributed to the public in the next few months and that he would be willing to come have a discussion about it with the Council in the fall.

7. BOARD REPORT

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Council about the OBWB strategic planning session held on June 2. There was a big emphasis on the need to better define and communicate the OWSC's role and relationship to the OBWB (i.e., it is a technical advisory body not an authority). There especially needs to be improved communication to elected officials and the public; OBWB staff will be working on this over the coming months. The Directors also discussed potential changes to the Sewerage Grants program and whether its mandate should be expanded to include stormwater. The Directors also discussed governance.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Jatel explained to the Council the format and intention of the "priority projects" document distributed to the Council. The document will be presented to the OBWB as recommendations from the OWSC; the OBWB will prioritise the projects, and then give the green light to the projects they agree should be implemented.

Communications & Outreach

Ms. Page told the Council that the communications & outreach committee focused on the development of a community engagement strategy to deliver the messages in the Sustainable Water Strategy.

Ms. Garcia told the Council that a RFP has been issued to solicit a company to help prepare an "Okanagan Water Education & Outreach Strategy". The company will work with OBWB staff and Directors and members of the committee to develop a "brand" for the OBWB Water Management Program, develop key messages, and determine the most appropriate methods of communication.

Source Protection

Ms. Tamblyn gave an update on the source protection committee. The committee is working on three main projects: 1) increasing public awareness about drinking water and source protection by erecting signage in watersheds and engaging the media, 2) promoting the implementation of integrated stormwater management across the region, and 3) developing livestock and wildlife watering infrastructure.

Mr. Matthews told the Council that the RAPP outreach program is looking for projects to complete and events to attend so the time is right to start a partnership with them.

Mr. van der Gulik suggested that the committee also look at the water balance model and how to incorporate it with the regional integrated stormwater management project.

Mr. Jatel explained that a component of the integrated stormwater management project would be to look at the feasibility of expanding the OBWB Wastewater Treatment Grant program to include stormwater.

Water Supply & Drought Management

Mr. Hrasko provided an update on the Water Supply & Drought Management Committee. Wenda Mason attended the May 14 meeting and provided a provincial perspective on drought management. The committee decided that the best place to start planning for drought is to advocate that local governments use the provincial Dealing with Drought Handbook.

Ms. Bennest stated that the committee also talked about forming a drought management team for the valley, with component teams in each region.

Water Economics

Mr. Janmaat provided an update on the Water Economics Committee. The committee listened to a presentation by a consultant about software that can enable a water utility to map out future investments and pricing structure. The tool was used in South Africa and demonstrated to rate payers what investment would be needed; the open communication and transparency resulted in acceptance of the rate increases by the public without much hesitation or concern. The committee also learned about research that a grad student working under Mr. Janmaat recently completed. The research focused on regional attitudes towards water trading in the agricultural sector. The research found that most farmers are suspicious of buying and selling water, but if you label it differently they are less unhappy.

Water Information Management

Mr. Guy updated the Council on the Water Information Management committee. At the May 14 meeting, the committee discussed several projects including: development of a streamlined water use reporting system; improvements to hydrometric network in the Basin; the extension of data management through the Water Supply & Demand project to begin developing a water information database available to users over the web; an evaporation and evapotranspiration study for Okanagan Lake; and a groundwater monitoring network for the Basin. A sub-committee has been struck to prepare a proposal for the evaporation study by July 31.

Groundwater

Mr. Geller provided an update on the Groundwater Committee. The committee is working to develop project charters for implementation of the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit and development of a groundwater regulation pilot program.

Mr. van der Gulik urged the committees to complete the project charters and hand them out to Council members so they may pass them out at their respective meetings (especially provincial representatives on the Council).

9. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Work Plan

Due to time limitations, the work plan was not discussed.

9.2 Water Stewardship Council: 2009 Proposed Priority Projects

Chair Bauer requested that Council members provide feedback on the priority projects document prepared by OBWB staff by Wednesday, June 17.

10. NEXT MEETINGS

The next committee meetings will be held on September 16 and 17, 2009 at the Regional District Central Okanagan offices. The timing of each meeting will be determined by the co-chairs and a schedule will be sent out closer to the dates.

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held October 8, 2009 (location TBD).

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Moved by Anna Page

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of June 11, 2009 be adjourned.”

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director