



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD JULY 7, 2009,
AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, COLDSTREAM,
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

PRESENT

Chair Brian Given	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
Alternate Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan

REGRETS

Director Tim Manuel	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Given called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2009 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Reservoir Lots Item – Item 7.4.1

Contract Award for Web-based Reporting Tool, Water Supply and Demand Project – Item 7.5

Letter from International Joint Commission, Osoyoos Lake Board of Control – Item 10.1

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2009 at the Regional District Of Central Okanagan

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Bauer

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2009 held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATION

- 5.1 Valerie Cameron, Regional Manager – Thompson, Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment and Ivor Norlin, Source Protection Officer, Interior Health Authority – Update on Activities of the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team (SIRDWT)

Valerie Cameron with the Ministry of Environment and Chair of the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team delivered a presentation discussing the formation and activities of the SIRDWT. Ms. Cameron provided the Board with the rationale for forming the SIRDWT, the agencies involved and the types of activities it engages in. Ms. Cameron described the current focus of the provincial government to encourage accountability and coordination, as highlighted in the Living Water Smart Plan for BC, and that the SIRDWT fits these goals well. She outlined an Issue Matrix developed by the team to address specific drinking water issues and the necessary actions to tackle them. Ms. Cameron emphasized that the SIRDWT handles broad, regional issues with policy implications in a strategic manner. The Okanagan Basin Water Board has been invited to participate on the SIRDWT.

Moved by Director Wells

Seconded by Director Clark

“THAT the OBWB directs staff to determine the appropriate level of participation in the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team and report back to the Board.”

CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Executive Director Report

6.1.1 AGM Draft Agenda

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that planning has begun for the AGM, to be hosted by the OBWB on September 18, 2009 at the Creekside Theatre in Lake Country. The purpose of the AGM is to share information on OBWB initiatives and programs with all elected officials in the Basin. It will be delivered as a workshop format.

Dr. Warwick Sears informed the Board that the Province is interested in exploring various governance models for water management and that the OBWB’s Governance Manual is a timely document in light of this. She mentioned that incorporated in governance are notions of coordination amongst agencies, responsibilities of various agencies and the level of

participation amongst local agencies. Dr. Warwick Sears solicited a legal opinion on the OBWB's Governance Manual and mentioned that she was incorporating those comments before bringing it to the Board.

Dr. Warwick Sears also brought forward the idea of a social gathering for OBWB directors with Okanagan Water Stewardship Council members after the September 1, 2009 OBWB meeting. Board members are supportive of the idea but wish to wait until the OBWB meeting is held in Kelowna, a more central location than the south Okanagan.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Pike

"THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears dated June 25, 2009 be received."

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

6.2.1 Water Stewardship Council minutes

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the Water Stewardship Council meeting, held on June 11. A presentation given by Kirk Stinchcombe, Manager, Operational Policy and Planning for the Ministry of Environment on The South East Queensland (Australia) Drought Experience generated much interest; council members learned about some innovative drought response initiatives undertaken in that region of Australia. The OWSC also received a presentation from Ms. Renee Clark, Senior Water Quality Technologist with Regional District North Okanagan, Greater Vernon Water that discussed cattle impact reduction measures undertaken by Greater Vernon Water in conjunction with a variety of stakeholders, such as construction of new fencing structures and other cattle controls in the Duteau Creek watershed.

6.2.2 2009 Priority projects proposed by the Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel informed the Board there are 13 project recommendations put forward by the Water Stewardship Council that are based on the Sustainable Water Strategy. These are considered priorities for the current three-year term of Water Management Program. Approvals for all projects initiated from this document, and the resulting potential external grant applications will come through the OBWB first.

Director Bauer, Chair of the Water Stewardship Council added that it is important for the Board to understand that this document is a draft and consists of project options and ideas and is meant to gauge the Board's comfort level with the types of project proposed.

Director Baker suggested that the information provided in the Priority Projects document could be used as a tool in leveraging provincial grant funds.

Director Pike suggested adding a component to the document that lists each project, the expected OBWB contributions, external funding sources and a contingency plan should external funding sources not be available.

Director Brydon agreed with Director Pike, adding that information about expected project timelines and identifying potential obstacles would be valuable.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the document titled Okanagan Basin Water Board: Water Management Program, 2009 Priority Projects Proposed by the Water Stewardship Council, from Mr. Jatel dated June 5, 2009 be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Update on water supply conditions in the Okanagan Basin

7.1.1 Current Supply Status

Director Pike provided an update on the water supply situation in the Okanagan Basin mentioning that as of June 12, 2009 the inflow to Okanagan Lake is lower than 2003 and is the sixth lowest inflow since measurement on Okanagan Lake began in 1921. He told the Board that some water systems are going to be more stressed than others depending on their location in the basin and the type of source (surface – upper elevation or valley lake, or groundwater) and because of that water suppliers are being asked to be careful about water level at their intakes. Director Pike suggested that strong conservation measures need to be implemented. The City of Kelowna has implemented a strong conservation measure for 2009 by having all City parks follow the same irrigation schedule as domestic customers when City parks are considered as agricultural connections with large allotments of water

Director Fairbairn asked about ways to ensure that individual water license holders are as judicious about their water conservation in light of low water supplies. Director Pike replied that individual water license holders deal directly with the Ministry of Environment concerning allocation. The Ministry of Environment can request that 5% of allocation be cut back in order to conserve water for in-stream uses (ecological baseflow). Director Pike explained that irrigators on an irrigation district's system are provided an allotment (volume) of water as determined by the water supplier and once the allotment is consumed the irrigation district has the capacity to turn their water off.

Director Kiss asked how water suppliers can determine long term, dependable supplies for the population increases predicted in the Okanagan valley; Director Pike responded that there will always be variable water supplies in the Okanagan but the work of the Water Supply and Demand Project is to help answer those questions as climate change scenarios will be placed in the model in addition to incorporating information on odd year and variable events.

Director Brydon asked if the Water Supply and Demand Project can provide estimates of water savings based on tangible and specific water conservation measures. Dr. Warwick Sears responded by explaining that information would be difficult to draw out for a very localized area, but likely a valley wide response could be determined.

7.1.2 Drought Planning Workshop – Memo and Draft Agenda

Dr. Warwick Sears informed the Board that the OBWB had been contacted by some provincial representatives who felt that in light of current water supply conditions and the forecasted above seasonal temperatures for the remainder of the summer that a drought planning workshop for water suppliers and local politicians would be a timely and well received event. The format of the workshop would include general information on drought planning, current water supplies in the Okanagan Basin and perspectives from local water suppliers in the morning session; and addressing specific issues when creating a drought plan in the afternoon session, using the Dealing with Drought Handbook from the province.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board host a Drought Planning Workshop, to be held on Thursday July 23, 2009 in Kelowna.”

CARRIED

7.2 Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Project – Database Hosting

A memo presented by Dr. Warwick Sears detailed the data needs of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project and recommended that the most appropriate agency to house the database is the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Fielding

“THAT the OBWB will host the Okanagan Water Database and associated models from the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project, with joint ownership and support from the Project Partnership.”

“THAT the OBWB directs staff to enter into an arrangement with the Regional District Central Okanagan to house the model and database in their IT department.”

CARRIED

7.3 Support of licensing off-stream livestock watering facilities

Mr. Jatel informed the Board that the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, at its June 11th meeting made a motion asking that the Okanagan Basin Water Board write a letter to the Ministers of Agriculture and Lands, Forest and Range and Environment to support issuing water licenses for livestock use and to encourage provincial ministries to work together to develop a system that encourages establishing off stream watering locations to help reduce cattle impacts on the aquatic environment and drinking water quality.

Moved by Director Brydon

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the OBWB write a letter to the ministers of Agriculture and Lands, Forest and Range, and Environment in support of licensing livestock water use.”

CARRIED

7.4 OBWB Policy regarding leased lots on upper drinking water reservoirs

The OBWB has reviewed the two draft policies originally submitted to the Board at the May 5, 2009 meeting, as a working group of four board members (Gordon Clark, Doug Findlater, Bernard Bauer and Toby Pike) and staff. During this review, information provided by Lloyd Manchester, President of the Okanagan Cottage Owners Association, and material gathered over the past six years was reviewed.

Discussion regarding the wording of policy 1a ensued, with the final whereas being considered to be presented as a universal truism in the manner it was initially worded. Director Bauer suggested amending the wording of the final whereas to read: E: The Okanagan Basin Water Board believes that the protection of water supply and quantity takes priority in the watershed.

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Brydon

“THAT the OBWB adopt Policy 1a – Multiple Use of Crown Land in Watersheds as amended and that the OBWB adopt Policy 2a – Disposition of Crown Lands Surrounding Drinking Water Reservoirs in the Okanagan Watershed.”

CARRIED

7.5 Approval of the Web Based Reporting Tool Contract for the Water Supply and Demand Project

The Water Supply and Demand Project Working Group released a request for proposals to develop a Web-based Reporting Tool to communicate results of the project to a wide range of audiences. The evaluation committee recommended that a contract be offered to ESSA Technologies. Dr. Warwick Sears reminded the Board that while all costs are met through the Project budget the ESSA contract will be held by the Okanagan Basin Water Board and as such the Board must approve it as well.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Wells

“THAT the OBWB approves in principle, entering into a contract with ESSA Technologies Inc., to develop a Web-based Reporting Tool for the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.”

CARRIED

8. ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING

8.1 Contract to Develop an Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy

The Board adjourned to In Camera meeting in order to award a contract.

9. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

9.1 Contract to Develop an Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy

The Okanagan Basin Water Board will rise and report on the results of the In Camera meeting.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT the OBWB rise and report on the results of the In Camera Meeting, held July 7, 2009 at the Regional District North Okanagan.”

CARRIED

The contract to develop an Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy was awarded **Think. Marketing** for the project entitled *Development of an Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy*. Funding for this project is part of the 2009-10 OBWB Budget.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Letter from International Joint Commission, the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control regarding sharing results and data from the Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Project in order to inform the reissuance of the Osoyoos Lake Orders.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Brydon

“THAT the letter from the International Joint Commission dated July 6, 2009 regarding sharing results and data from the Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Project, be received;

AND THAT the OBWB accept the request contained within the letter, to share information with the International Joint Commission, and to determine if data sharing for additional projects is appropriate.”

CARRIED

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on September 1, 2009, at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fairbairn

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2009 be adjourned at 2:09 pm.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director