



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alternate Director Jim Edgson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair 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 Manual	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

Acting Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. BRIAN GIVEN MEMORIAM

Directors took the opportunity to remember Brian Given and express their sadness at his passing. In his short time as Chair of the OBWB, Brian left a lasting impression on each Director and he will be missed by all.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Acting Chair Wells turned the meeting over to Dr. Warwick Sears, who made a call for nominations for Chair.

Director Clark nominated Director Wells for Chair, seconded by Director Bauer.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Chair were closed.

There being no other nominations, Director Wells was declared Chair by acclamation.

Chair Wells took over the meeting and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Director Kiss nominated Director Fairbairn for Vice Chair, seconded by Director Baker.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Vice Chair were closed.

There being no other nominations, Director Fairbairn was declared Vice Chair by acclamation.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Clark

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 1, 2009 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

5. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Survey of elected officials to be distributed at AGM – item 8.2.1.1

Staff memo responding to Okanagan Caucus request for information on crown land surrounding Okanagan drinking water reservoirs– item 8.3.1

Resolution from RDNO supporting the execution of a lease agreement – item 9.1.1

Financial highlights to be included in Annual Report – item 9.2.1

Letter to Randall Rose, District of Lake Country, from Dale Thomas, Interior Health Authority – item 10.4.1

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2009 at the Regional District of North Okanagan

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baker

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

CARRIED

7. DELEGATION

7.1 Dr. Andrew Larder, Senior Medical Health Officer, Interior Health Authority
Providing guidance for interpreting the Turbidity Notification Decision Tree

Dr. Andrew Larder provided information on the new “decision tree” for water suppliers to respond to turbidity events and issue advisories. He also clarified issues surrounding filtration of water supplies. He stressed that the Interior Health Authority requires that water systems meet the 4-3-2-1-0 drinking water objectives, but this is an outcome-based policy and there is flexibility for how communities meet this standard. It is the responsibility of the water supplier to show the health authority through engineering studies and analysis how they are going to meet the standard or to justify why the standard should not apply to them.

A lengthy question and answer session followed Dr. Larder’s presentation.

Director Pike asked Dr. Larder if the two forms of treatment required by the 4-3-2-1-0 drinking water objective must include filtration.

Dr. Larder replied no, but stated that the water supplier would need to go through the filtration deferral process and provide solid evidence that the standard would be met without filtration.

Director Pike stated that the impression of many water suppliers, which is based on messaging from Interior Health, is that they must build reserves to plan for filtration – it is inevitable.

Director Baker referred to a letter from Dale Thomas, Interior Health Authority to Randall Rose, District of Lake Country, regarding the need to plan for filtration (included as late agenda item 10.4.1).

Dr. Larder replied that two issues must be considered: whether or not you can meet the standards with or without filtration and how quickly that is achieved.

Director Brydon stated his concern that the filtration criteria are ambiguous and a moving target. A presentation given by Rob Birtles from Interior Health stated that water suppliers must ensure the land footprint is available for filtration. Others from IH are providing more specific instructions that include engineered plans and capital planning. As the requirements are strengthened it becomes even more important to have specific filtration criteria.

Dr. Larder stated that they expect each water supplier to have a feasible, achievable plan with clear timelines to meet targets – whether filtration is needed or not – and a solid technical discussion.

Director Brydon again stated that in his opinion the requirements are very vague and what he is hearing today is much more specific.

Dr. Larder replied by restating that if a water supplier provides a feasible alternative to filtration that is backed by technical studies then Interior Health cannot force the utility to implement filtration.

Director Baker stated that it is refreshing to hear what Dr. Larder is saying but that they don’t

usually hear this from Interior Health staff.

Dr. Larder stated that the focus should be on the outcomes that have been clearly identified in the standard and that there are multiple ways that the outcomes that can be achieved within reason. The water supplier must have credible engineering expertise that outlines what is being proposed and Interior Health must be open to credible proposals that are put forward.

Director Findlater stated that the biggest issue in the Lakeview Irrigation District watershed is erosion and sedimentation from dirt bikes. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts continues to promote off-road recreation in this watershed. Director Findlater referred to the letter that Dr. Hasselback wrote to MOTCA regarding this issue and asked Dr. Larder to update the Board on the latest with this letter. Has there been a response from MOTCA?

Dr. Larder replied that he does not know the latest on the letter. He stated that we must deal with this issue effectively and that the Southern Interior Drinking Water Team was formed to improve communication between government ministries.

Rob Birtles, Interior Health Authority, spoke from the audience. He stated that as an outcome of the letter from Dr. Hasselback, MOTCA is working on a specific phased concept plan for responsible multi-use of watersheds and Interior Health will review and conduct an assessment of the plan.

Director Pike stated that elsewhere UV reactors are accepted as being effective for cryptosporidium deactivation but part of the hesitation water suppliers have to committing to different treatments is the concern that they will need filtration anyways. He asked Dr. Larder his thoughts on UV reactors.

Dr. Larder stated that he can't provide a "global" answer because the type of treatment is a technical issue that is relevant to each system. Interior Health should not make sweeping generalizations about what systems need. The legislation was written to become outcome based, not prescriptive so IHA must demand reasonable study and action and not be prescriptive.

Director Kiss briefly discussed a proposed development at Silver Star in Vernon and his concerns that it will contribute to water pollution. He asked Dr. Larder how local government can protect the source when they are dealing with developments that are approved by the Ministry of Transportation.

Dr. Larder agreed that the issue of source protection is very crucial, written in legislation. We would like to see any activity that we want take place, as long as there is no detriment to aquifer and streams

Director Brydon requested a commitment from Dr. Larder that IHA will publish a clear and unambiguous deferral or exemption policy and distribute it to water suppliers and post it on the IHA website. Without this policy, water suppliers can't plan. It is appropriate for IHA to set out benchmarks.

Dr. Larder stated that because each water system is different it is difficult to post one size fits all deferral criteria. He restated that 4-3-2-1-0 are the outcomes and how that is achieved must be decided by each supplier with input from IHA.

Director Brydon stated that they are hearing a lot of inconsistent information from IHA and are trying to make multi-million dollar decisions based on this.

Dr. Larder stated that the issue should not be focusing down on do I or do I not do filtration, but on how do I meet the treatment objectives? Decisions are being made on a case by case basis. We need to have specific meetings about your water system.

Chair Wells reiterated that there are issues with inconsistent information from IHA. Also, it is difficult for people to understand that every system is different and there is a sense of unfairness when different decisions are made for different water supplies and costs are different between areas.

Dr. Larder agreed and stated that it is a problem for regulators; it would be much easier if legislation put out x,y,z. But this is simply not the case, so different systems will get different decisions.

Alternate Director Edgson stated that he is very pleased to see that IHA is concentrating on how the standards are achieved. If engineering solutions are put above opinion then we will be successful. He asked if there is a public forum to discuss why things cost more in some areas than in others, and for water suppliers to share solutions.

Dr. Larder stated that he had assumed there would be such forums at the BC Water and Waste Association, or Water Supply Association of BC conferences, for example.

Director Baker stated that the District of Lake Country has been getting different information from IHA staff. To date they have not had any indication that they can do something else so they have been planning for filtration.

In closing, Dr. Larder emphasized that we must focus more effectively on managing and protecting water sources. We need to acknowledge that watersheds are multi-use and work on changing old habits and behaviours.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Research and Communications Coordinator Report

8.1.1 Update on Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy

Mr. Tony Peyton, Mr. Adam Less and Ms. Jessie Campbell from Think. Marketing presented a draft Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy, and the results of a survey on water completed by Okanagan citizens. The strategy will help the OBWB deliver information about water issues in a way that encourages citizens to participate in sustainable water practices.

The draft education and outreach strategy presented by Think. includes a name, logo and positioning line for the Water Management Program – all of which are simple, easy to remember, and appealing to the public audience – and a mission statement for the education and outreach program. The strategy also provides examples of tactical delivery components that include online, conventional media and on-ground outreach.

Discussion ensued, with Directors providing feedback on the strategy. Directors were supportive of the overall approach and concept. There was strong agreement that all materials should be co-branded with the OBWB. Support was given to building on the “blue” concept to represent water issues as has been done successfully with using “green” to represent environmental issues. After some discussion about the mission statement, Directors requested more information about the new website.

Director Baker left the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Mr. Less replied that having a website is a must for a campaign such as this because it provides a place for people to go to get more information. But, the website is only one component of the outreach campaign and would definitely not be the most important component. The outreach strategy would have a significant focus on “on-ground tactics” that would draw people to the website.

Responding to questions about the annual costs to implement an education and outreach campaign like this, Mr. Peyton replied that an organization does not need to commit an enormous amount of resources immediately, the campaign would be designed to build on year-by-year, and the tactics chosen would be based on the budget available.

Ms. Garcia told the Directors that she would be working with Think. over the next month to refine the strategy and will bring it back to the Board in October for approval. She requested that Directors provide her with any additional comments on the strategy as soon as possible so they can be incorporated before October.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the draft Education and Outreach Strategy for the OBWB Water Management Program document, prepared by Think. Marketing, be received.”

CARRIED

8.1.2 Drought Planning Workshop Report

Ms. Garcia told the Board about the success of the Drought Planning workshop hosted by the OBWB in July. More than ninety people representing a wide variety of water interests attended the workshop; including all levels of government, non-profit organizations, water purveyors, and consultants. She referred the Board to the *Living Within Our Means* document prepared by OBWB staff to summarize the workshop and provide recommendations for drought proofing the Okanagan.

Director Clark stated that he is impressed with the compilation of what was accomplished at the workshop and inquired about whether or not there is government buy-in to the recommendations contained in the report?

Ms. Garcia responded that many of the recommendations in the report actually came from government representatives at the workshop so there is definitely buy-in for drought proofing the Okanagan.

Director Findlater agreed that the recommendations in the report are good, but that they need to be discussed, refined, and prioritised and a formal process developed to start putting them in place quickly. With Official Community Plan review processes underway throughout the valley and a changing financial climate it is important to get our recommendations to the appropriate parties sooner rather than later.

Moved by Director Findlater

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT OBWB staff prepare communications regarding drought proofing recommendations to different levels of government and that these communications are reviewed and discussed at the October regular meeting of the OBWB.”

CARRIED

Director Clark suggested that OBWB staff review the list of participants at the workshop and determine who didn't come that we would have wanted to attend. Staff should use that information to target invitations to the next drought planning workshop.

8.2 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears explained to the Board that she is working with RDCO finance staff to do an internal audit and reorganization of the sewage facilities grants administration and will be contacting all grant recipients as part of the process.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that feedback from citizens about milfoil growth in the lake is very important to the milfoil control crew because it helps them determine where they need to do more work. She requested that if Board members are contacted by people with questions about weed control to make sure to get specific information about the area they are concerned about.

Ms. Dunbar followed up by stating that landmark information such as roads, campsites, developments, etc is most helpful to the milfoil control crew because they are working out on the water.

8.2.1 AGM Agenda

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 18 from 9:00am until noon. The AGM will provide an opportunity for staff to present on the annual report and to solicit input on priorities and concerns of Okanagan elected officials.

Chair Wells requested that Directors speak to their councils and other bodies to make sure they are aware of the meeting and compelled to attend.

8.2.1.1 Survey of Elected Officials

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that a survey similar to that given to citizens (see agenda item 8.1.1) will be handed out to AGM attendees.

Ms. Garcia stated that the survey is also available online. A pdf of the survey and a link to the online version will be emailed to AGM invitees with an RSVP reminder later this week.

8.2.2 OBWB Strategic Planning Session

Dr. Warwick Sears stated that the report prepared by Allan Neilson-Welch reflects the strong vision of the board, identifies a need for better definition of the role of the Water Stewardship Council and its connection to the Board, and recommends that the Board work on developing a sense of ownership of work done by staff and the Council.

Dr. Warwick Sears explained that the annual report and governance manual will provide details and clarification with respect to role of Council. She has also been making presentations to local governments that include a component on the Council and its relationship to the Board. The development of education and outreach strategy will also help address this issue.

Moved by Director Bauer

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the Summary of Okanagan Basin Water Board Strategic Planning Workshop report, prepared by Allan Neilson-Welch, be received

AND FURTHER THAT the Chair of the OBWB, the Chair of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, and OBWB staff meet to discuss how the report should be addressed at the October regular meeting of the OBWB.”

CARRIED

Director Wells suggested that Directors attend a Water Stewardship Council meeting to get a better idea of who is on the Council and how they operate.

Director Pike requested that Water Stewardship Council meetings be schedule to correspond better with board meeting.

Mr. Jatel stated that any changes to the schedule would need to wait until 2010 because the schedule for 2009 is already set. He acknowledged that scheduling some meetings on the same day as the Board meeting is one idea that may help.

8.2.3 OBWB Governance Manual

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that the governance manual brings together all existing policies of OBWB into one place. She stated that the attorney consulted during the development of the manual recommended that the three Okanagan regional districts be

given the opportunity to review and adopt the manual.

A discussion ensued about the most appropriate process for finalizing the governance manual.

Director Clark recommended that Dr. Warwick Sears attend the regional board meetings when the manual is brought forward in order to communicate the intent of the document and how it was developed.

Moved by Alternate Director Edgson

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT OBWB Directors are given the opportunity to provide additional input on the Governance Manual to Dr. Warwick Sears

AND FURTHER THAT the Governance Manual be forwarded to the Okanagan regional districts for review and comment and Dr. Warwick Sears requests permission to bring a delegation to the regional board meetings to formally present the Governance Manual.”

CARRIED

8.3 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel told the Board that the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit is complete and posted on the OBWB website. He is currently developing an outreach strategy that includes a survey of local government staff to solicit their input on how best to implement the Toolkit.

Mr. Jatel provided the Water Stewardship Council schedule for the remainder of 2009.

Mr. Jatel told the Board that staff are considering the development of a Water Conservation Toolkit, similar to the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit. He is working on organizing a meeting with Okanagan water professionals to determine how best to proceed with the project.

8.3.1 Brief for Okanagan Caucus

Mr. Jatel stated that the Okanagan MLAs will be having a caucus meeting on September 19 and there is an opportunity to provide a written brief. He referred the Board to the draft brief, which would include 3 attachments – the OBWB policy on the disposition of crown lands surrounding drinking water reservoirs in the Okanagan watershed, the OBWB policy on multiple use of crown land in watersheds, and the package of noted opposition to sale of recreational lots on reservoir lakes.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT OBWB staff forward a brief to the Okanagan Caucus regarding the sale of leased lots located on Okanagan drinking water reservoirs.”

CARRIED

9. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 OBWB Yard Lease

9.1.1 Resolution from RDNO supporting execution of a lease agreement

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the finalized lease agreement as presented by staff for signing by the Chair and Executive Director."

CARRIED

9.2 Adoption of Audited Financial Statements

9.2.1. Financial highlights to be included in Annual Report

Moved by Alternate Director Edgson

Seconded by Director Clark

"That the OBWB adopt the 2009 Financial Statements and distribute them as part of the 2008-09 Annual Report."

CARRIED

9.3 Chair Signing Authority

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Brydon

"WHEREAS it is desirable for the Okanagan Basin Water Board (hereinafter called the "Corporation") to authorize certain of its officers to, inter alia, sign cheques and contracts, deposit promissory notes and cheques, receive paid cheques, obtain and deliver from the Corporation's bankers, copies of all or any stocks and bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Corporation hereby enacts as follows:

1. That all cheques of the corporation drawn on its General Accounts be signed on its behalf by Stu Wells, Chair; Doug Findlater, Director; or James Baker, Director; and signed/countersigned by any one of the following: Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, or Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
2. That Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is/and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the Corporation's Bank (but for the credit of the said Corporation only) all or any Bills of Exchange. Promissory notes, Cheques and Orders for payments of

money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse the same or any of them on behalf of the said Corporation either in writing, rubber stamp, or electronic printer.

3. That Marilyn Rilkoff, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is/are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation from time to time to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the said corporation and the bank; and to receive all paid cheques and vouchers unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments.
4. That Marilyn Rilkoff, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to obtain delivery from the said bank for all or any stocks, bonds or other securities held by the said Bank in safe-keeping or otherwise for the account of the said Corporation and to give valid and binding receipts thereof.
5. That this resolution be communicated to the said Bank and remain in force until written notice to the contrary shall have been given to the Manager for the time being the Branch of the Bank at which the Account of the said Corporation is kept and receipt of such notice duly acknowledged in writing.
6. And that Stu Wells, Chair; Doug Findlater, Director; or James Baker, Director have the additional authority to sign contracts approved by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.”
7. This resolution shall take effect on the 1st day of September, 2009.

“That the Signing Authority Resolution be approved as presented.”

CARRIED.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1 Letter from Dan Ashton, RDOS Board Chair, regarding one hectare minimum parcel regulation
- 10.2 Letter from Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in response to letter received from Brian Given and Jim Mattison
- 10.3 Letter from Grant Main, Deputy Minister, Healthy Living and Sport in response to letter received from Nelson Jatel and Brian Guy
- 10.4 Letter from Randall Rose, Administrator, District of Lake Country, to Tim Lambert, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, regarding water filtration requirements of Interior Health
 - 10.4.1 Letter from Dale Thomas, Interior Health Authority, to Randall Rose, District of Lake Country, regarding planning for filtration

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT all correspondence be received.

CARRIED

Alternate Director Edgson left the meeting at 2:12pm.

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on October 6, 2009, at the Regional District of North Okanagan

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Findlater

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 1, 2009 be adjourned at 2:15 pm.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director