



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD OCTOBER 6, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, COLDSTREAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	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
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

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 Wells called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 6, 2009 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Request from Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MAL) for a letter of support to include in their application for Agri-flex funding – Item 7.4

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 1, 2009 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 1, 2009, held at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

Director Pike and Director Baker requested that staff seek further clarification from Dr. Larder regarding whether or not there is flexibility in deadlines for implementation of treatment.

5. DELEGATION

- 5.1 Chris Johnson, Kerr Wood Leidel Associates, presentation on Integrated Stormwater Management

Chris Johnson’s presentation discussed why stormwater quality is important, outlined sources of stormwater pollutants, and provided examples of integrated stormwater management practices. He stated that many Okanagan communities continue to be leaders in developing stormwater quality programs. Strong source controls are in place for some new development areas and good educational programs are in place in some regions. He suggested that a comprehensive look at the contribution of stormwater pollutants to the lake systems in the Basin relative to sources is needed in order to set objectives and targets and assign priorities.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears told the OBWB is close to signing an agreement for NRCan Resource Adaptation Collaboratives (RAC) funding for \$358,000 over the next 3 years to support Phase 3 of the Water Supply & Demand Project.

Eurasian watermilfoil staff members will be joining the OBWB for lunch and can answer questions about details of the program and work begin conducted on the lakes.

RDOS has received funding grants for two projects upgrading community sewer and will soon be forwarding applications for matching grants from the OBWB.

Environment Canada has recently approached the OBWB to potentially enter into a funding agreement to complete spOke, a web-portal for Okanagan planning resources. The OBWB would act as financial administrator, partnering with the Okanagan Collaborative

Conservation Program and the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program.

Chief Phil Fontaine will be speaking at the UBC-O distinguished speakers series on Oct 26 in Kelowna. Chief Fontaine is a highly respected and dedicated Canadian First Nations leader.

6.1.1 Update on SIRDWT meeting

Dr. Warwick Sears attended a Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team meeting in Kamloops on September 14. The Team was formed to deal with interagency conflicts and address regional issues with policy implications that bridge different ministries. The OBWB was invited to participate as a local government representative. The Team is still working on their Terms of Reference with respect to local government involvement; there is some concern that the Team will have too many localized issues that may swamp the capacity of the Team.

Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that the OBWB continue to participate in SIRDWT meetings and convey issues forwarded by the Okanagan regional districts. Letters should be written to the regional districts to notify them that the OBWB is willing to provide this service.

Moved by Alternate Director Edgson

Seconded by Director Clark

“THAT OBWB staff participate regularly in Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team meetings,

AND FURTHER THAT staff communicate with Okanagan local government to determine what issues should be taken to the Team,

AND FURTHER THAT staff encourage the Team to include a process to deal with localized issues in their Terms of Reference.”

CARRIED

Director Clark asked that any memos or letters written by the OBWB regarding the SIRDWT be copied to John Slater, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen and Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation to the Minister of Environment.

6.1.2 Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool

The OBWB received a stimulus funding grant for \$154,000 to support the development of a web-based system for water suppliers and other large water users to record how much water they use. The reporting tool will bring groundwater and surface water together in one data system and will provide lots of resources to water users, including summary reports, time series trends graphs, pie charts and bar graphs. The project will build on a complement the Water Supply and Demand Project.

A discussion ensued regarding who would participate in the reporting system, what constitutes a large water user, and characteristics of the system that will be essential to its success. Director Findlater cautioned that the data entry system must be light and easy,

must not duplicate existing systems and must not use up too much staff time for water suppliers.

Dr. Warwick Sears stated that a steering committee/technical working group would be established to help staff develop a system that is not onerous and also to determine what constitutes a large user. The project will be based on a strong partnership between the OBWB, water suppliers, and the ministries of Environment, Community Development, and Agriculture and Lands, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, among other partners.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears dated September 28, 2009, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel outlined two requests for action and discussion by the Board related to Okanagan Water Stewardship Council projects: funding an Okanagan water pricing study, funding a water quality source protection study. Both projects are within the approved 2009-10 budget.

The water pricing analysis will collect information on current water pricing and infrastructure cost estimates in the Okanagan. The assessment will provide a frame of reference to guide water pricing options for municipalities and other water purveyors, identify mechanisms to support payment for infrastructure, and help determine farmer’s ability to pay for water.

The integrated stormwater management grant feasibility study will research the scope, costing, program demand, willingness of BC government participation, and governance issues associated with expanding the currently well utilized sewage facilities grant program.

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the OBWB allocates \$30,000 from the 2009-10 Water Management Program budget for an Okanagan Water Pricing Analysis project.”

CARRIED

Director Bauer and Director Pike abstained.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the OBWB allocates \$20,000 from the 2009-10 Water Management Program budget for the development of an Integrated Stormwater Management Grant Feasibility project.”

CARRIED

Director Bauer and Director Pike abstained.

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baker

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

CARRIED

6.3 Research and Communications Coordinator Report

Ms. Garcia gave an overview of the results of two surveys conducted recently by OBWB staff: a random telephone survey of 400 Okanagan residents conducted in August and a survey of local government electeds and staff that was emailed to more than 200 people and available at the AGM in September (32 respondents to date). She provided graphs comparing responses by local elected officials and the public (telephone survey conducted in August) to three questions that were asked of both groups. Responses were very similar between the residents and the politicians.

Ms. Garcia told the Directors that the survey of local government electeds and staff is still available – either in hard copy or on-line – and asked the Directors to encourage their colleagues to complete the survey soon.

Director Baumbrough requested that the survey be emailed to the distribution list again with a reminder about its importance.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the Research and Communications Coordinator Report from Ms. Garcia dated September 30, 2009 be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Office and Grants Administrator Update on Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program

Ms. Dunbar provided an update on projects that were awarded grants this year. She has completed site visits with many of the recipients and will be finishing up with the remaining recipients in October.

A discussion ensued regarding current levels of funding for the program, setting priorities for each year and communicating those priorities to applicants, and developing more stringent and transparent criteria to choose projects.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the WCQI Grant Program – Projects Update memo from Ms. Dunbar dated September 30, 2009 be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Drought Workshop Follow Up

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the OBWB allocate funding from the 2009-10 Water Management Program budget to develop a drought response technical framework (\$55,000), assemble a basin-wide drought team (\$5,000), and develop a water conservation bylaws toolkit using funding accounted for in the Water Management Program and not representing new costs to the OBWB (\$45,000).”

CARRIED

Director Bauer and Director Pike abstained.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the OBWB send letters to local government and water purveyors, provincial government, and federal government outlining recommended actions arising from the Drought Planning workshop hosted by the OBWB in July 2009.”

CARRIED

7.2 Gravel Pit Planning Committee

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the OBWB write a letter to MLA Norm Letnick requesting a seat on the new steering committee being struck for a pilot project that will look at where aggregate should and should not be mined in the Central Okanagan and that Dr. Bernie Bauer be appointed to that seat.”

CARRIED

7.3 NASA project

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the OBWB take a leadership role in the NASA remote sensing project

AND FURTHER THAT OBWB staff notify the Canadian Space Agency about the OBWB’s involvement in the project.”

CARRIED

7.4 Letter of support for MAL application to Agri-flex

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Alternate Director Edgson

“THAT the OBWB provide a letter of support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to be included in their application to AAFC’s Agri-flex Program in support of a BC agricultural water management program.”

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Lloyd Manchester, Okanagan Cottage Owners Association

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the letter from Mr. Manchester be received and filed.

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the letter from Mr. Manchester dated September 24, 2009, be received and a response be sent acknowledging his letter,

AND FURTHER THAT the OBWB response letter be copied to those parties listed in Mr. Manchester’s letter.

CARRIED

8.2 Letter from Barry Penner, Minister of Environment

Moved by Alternate Director Edgson

Seconded by Director Clark

“THAT the letter from Barry Penner dated September 24, 2009, be received.

CARRIED

Director Baker left the meeting at 2:10pm.

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on November 3, 2009, at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Fairbairn

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 6, 2009 be adjourned at 2:11 pm.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director