



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD
NOVEMBER 3, 2009, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO
ROAD, KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alternate Director Bill Schwarz	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Graeme James	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 10:03 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 3, 2009 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

Alternate Director Schwarz entered the meeting at 10:05 am.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

No late items.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 6, 2009 at the Regional District of North Okanagan

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 6, 2009, held at the Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

5. **DELEGATIONS**

No delegations.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

- 6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears discussed agenda item 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 (see below for minutes). She also provided an update on the Eurasian watermilfoil control program.

A discussion ensued regarding problems with watermilfoil management on Vaseux Lake. Issues have existed with access and weed storage sites along the lakeshore. Dr. Warwick Sears directed Ms. Dunbar to set up a meeting between Alternate Director Schwarz and the Eurasian Watermilfoil Field Supervisor to discuss the feasibility of returning the control program to Vaseux Lake.

6.1.1 Water Supply & Demand Project Data Sharing Agreement

Dr. Warwick Sears explained that she has been receiving many queries regarding Water Supply & Demand Project data, even before basin-wide results are completed. She developed a draft template data sharing agreement, which is based on the standard Ministry of Agriculture and Lands agreement and has been reviewed by both the technical working group and the steering committee for the project.

A discussion ensued about specific components of the data sharing agreement, including specific language used and lack of information regarding the resolution of disputes. The Board also discussed the need to have the proposed data sharing agreement reviewed by legal counsel.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Pike

“THAT the OBWB adopt the Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Project Data Sharing Protocol as presented.”

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Findlater

“THAT the OBWB defer the previous motion until the regular meeting of December 1, 2009.”

DEFEATED

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Alternate Director Schwarz

“THAT the OBWB directs staff to seek a legal opinion to clarify the Water Supply & Demand Project data sharing agreement and to bring a revised agreement to the Board for approval at the December regular meeting.”

CARRIED

6.1.2 Sustainable Planning for the Okanagan Environment (SPOKE)

Dr. Warwick Sears explained to the Directors that Environment Canada will provide \$40,000 in cash, which will be matched by in-kind contributions from Okanagan organizations, to complete the Spoke project that was started several years ago. The OBWB would be offering in-kind support for financial administration. Partners include the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Partnership, UBC Okanagan and the Sustainability Institute. A project report and a beta version of the website are scheduled to be completed by the end of March.

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Baker

“THAT the OBWB enter into a funding agreement with Environment Canada to complete the development of the Spoke web portal.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an overview of the RFPs currently being prepared by OBWB staff. He explained that the endocrine disrupter research project results are being finalized and a presentation will be given to the Board by Dr. Jeff Curtis once the project is complete.

Mr. Jatel reported that the Ministry of Environment has invited the OBWB to provide input into the *Water Act* modernization process. Over the past three months the Water Stewardship Council has been discussing a variety of considerations and issues regarding the *Water Act*, and Council input will be brought before the Board for consideration at the December meeting. Mr. Jatel encouraged Directors to also provide their own ideas for feedback. Once OBWB input is submitted to the MoE, early next year, there may also be an opportunity to meet with MoE staff to further discuss the input.

A general discussion ensued about the type of input the OBWB would like to provide.

Director Clark asked if there are common issues with the Fraser Basin Council and the Columbia Basin Trust and whether or not it would be useful to confer with these groups before submitting OBWB input.

Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that OBWB input focus on the legislative conflicts and issues that are relevant to the Okanagan rather than focusing on all of British Columbia.

Director Bauer suggested that OBWB input include a recommendation regarding the format and focus of consultation that MoE should take during the modernization process.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel dated November 3, 2009, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2.1 Water Stewardship Council Minutes

Director Bauer reminded Directors that the next Water Stewardship Council committee meetings will be held on November 12 and 13 at the Regional District Central Okanagan offices.

Director Fairbairn inquired about the increased number of absences at the October 8 Council meeting.

Mr. Jatel replied that the meeting was held in Penticton, and often when meetings are held outside of Kelowna the attendance levels drop. The Council has requested the meetings be held throughout the valley so there is a need to balance this request and potential lower rates of attendance. Also, some alternates attended, but were listed under “Others” in the minutes.

Moved by Director Fairbairn

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

“That the minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting of October 8, 2009 be received”.

CARRIED

6.2.2 Presentation on the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit

Mr. Jatel provided a brief presentation on the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit, which included the purpose behind developing the Toolkit and an overview of the content of the Toolkit's five sections.

6.3 Research and Communications Coordinator Report

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Baker

"THAT the Research and Communications Coordinator Report from Ms. Garcia dated October 28, 2009, be received."

CARRIED

7. **ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING**

7.1. Matters pertaining to OBWB staffing

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 1:03 pm".

CARRIED

8. **RESUME REGULAR MEETING**

Regular meeting resumed at 1:26 pm.

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Clark

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board resumes its regular meeting to rise and report on the In-Camera meeting".

CARRIED

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Baker

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves staff salary recommendations as presented".

CARRIED

9. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9.1 Sewage Facilities Grant Program Update

Dr. Warwick Sears told the Board that she and Ms. Dunbar have been working to develop a new application process for the sewage facilities grant program. This is being done as part of the modernization of the administration of all OBWB programs. The new application process for the sewage facilities grant program will enable better tracking of recipients and provide an extra layer of accountability. Dr. Warwick Sears will also be working with the RDCO financial administrator to review the current requirement of having the local government paying the equivalent of 2.5 mills of the 1988 assessment value for old development areas. If the requirement is removed or updated to reflect more recent assessment values, the total grant percentage may need to be changed to provide fairness with previous recipients. The review information will be brought back to the Board once completed.

Director Findlater stated that District of West Kelowna staff would like to provide feedback to the OBWB on the revised application process as they will be completing the application in the near future.

Director Schwarz inquired about when the program might sunset and whether or not tax funding will be reduced when the program sunsets.

Dr. Warwick Sears stated that the Master Wastewater Management Plan completed last year identified a continued need for the program and that the OBWB is currently committed to payments up to 2030 so there are no immediate plans to sunset the program.

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director Kiss

“THAT the OBWB adopts the new Facilities Grant Program application form as presented by staff.”

CARRIED

9.2 OBWB Provisional Budget for 2010-2011

9.2.1 Budget features

Dr. Warwick Sears reviewed her memo regarding features of the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s 2010-2011 budget. The budget has been developed to focus on priority water programs and services, which include watermilfoil control, sewage facilities grants, and water management.

9.2.2 Consolidated provisional budget for 2010-2011

Dr. Warwick Sears reviewed the provisional budget for 2010-2011.

Discussion ensued about the Sewage Facilities Grant program reserve and the overall format of the budget.

Dr. Warwick Sears told Directors that she is working with the OBWB financial administrator to change the format of the budget so it is simpler and easier to relate to financial statements.

Several Directors requested that Dr. Warwick Sears look into completing this format change before the budget is presented to the regional districts.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Alternate Director Schwarz

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the 2010-2011 budget as amended”.

CARRIED

Director Pike and Director Bauer abstained.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

11. NEXT MEETING

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Clark

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 3, 2009 be adjourned at 1:54 pm.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director