



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

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**PRESENT**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	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

**GUESTS:**

Honourable John Slater	Parliamentary Secretary for Water Allocation
Diana Thomas	Assistant to MLA John Slater

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

*“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 1, 2009 be approved as amended.”*

**CARRIED**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Item 7.4 – Presentation and information arising from Westside Joint Water Committee Meeting, held Thursday November 26  
Item 8.2 – Correspondence from South East Kelowna Irrigation District regarding application for water license by reservoir lot leasee (Minnow Lake).

#### **4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 3, 2009 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Kiss**

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 3, 2009, held at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted as presented.”***

**CARRIED**

#### **5. DELEGATIONS**

- 5.1 Carolyn Stewart – City of Penticton, Water Conservation Program, Commercial Water Audits Pilot Program

Ms. Stewart presented on the City of Penticton’s Commercial Water Audit Pilot Program which received a Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant from the OBWB in 2009. She highlighted that without the WCQI Grant this program would not have been possible. This program is the first time water conservation in the commercial sector has been addressed in Penticton. A template has been created such that the program can be repeated in other jurisdictions.

- 5.2 Camille Rivard-Sirois – Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, Water Quality Monitoring for Okanagan River Restoration Initiative, Phase 1 construction.

Ms. Rivard-Sirois presented on the results of water quality monitoring in Okanagan River done as construction went ahead for Phase 1 of the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative, connecting two former oxbows to the main channel of Okanagan River throughout summer 2009. This program received a Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant from the OBWB; funds were directed towards water quality sampling and monitoring personnel throughout the course of the project.

#### **6. STAFF REPORTS**

- 6.1 Executive Director Report  
6.1.1 OBWB Reformatted Budget

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the Board with the reformatted budget, completed as an outcome of the November budget discussions.

Director Clark asked why the budget for the Water Supply and Demand Project was not included as part of the overall budget. Dr. Warwick Sears explained that the budget presented will be forwarded to the three Regional Districts for adoption and includes information pertinent to the regional district budgeting process. The budget for the Water Supply and Demand Project does not require a separate regional district requisition and will

be presented to the Board early in 2010 for adoption.

**Moved by Director Clark**

**Seconded by Director Kiss**

***“THAT the reformatted OBWB budget presented by staff be adopted as the official 2010 – 2011 OBWB budget.”***

***CARRIED (Director Bauer and Director Pike abstained)***

#### 6.1.2 Water Supply & Demand Project Data Sharing Agreement

Dr. Warwick Sears explained that the Data Sharing Agreement has been reviewed since the November Board meeting, with input coming from UBC-Okanagan representatives and legal counsel. The revised document reflects changes as a result of these reviews and is in an acceptable form to both parties.

Director Bauer echoed Dr. Warwick Sears sentiments, saying that the university is quite satisfied with the Data Sharing Agreement now.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Fairbairn**

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

***CARRIED***

Dr Warwick Sears also updated directors on the status of the Water Supply and Demand Project; informing the Board that timelines have shifted so that most of Phase 2 will be completed by the end of January 2010. The Web Reporting Tool is under construction and the first section is expected to be complete at the end of December 2009. Additional federal funding will allow development of an increased number of scenarios in 2010.

#### 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an overview of the committee meetings that took place in mid-November. Mr. Jatel highlighted the large amount of volunteer time that has been contributed by both Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) and committee members over the course of 2009. Council meetings continue to be a valuable forum for discussion amongst water professionals who constitute the technical advisory role of the Water Stewardship Council. An RFP for the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool project has been sent out, with Mr. Jatel managing the project and committee members providing input to the process.

Mr. Jatel reported to the Board that input into the Modernization of the Water Act process will continue with the Stewardship Council throughout December and January.

Director Baker asked Mr. Jatel where he would direct an inquiry he received from a member of the public concerning the Water Act. Mr. Jatel indicated that Ministry of Environment staff would be a good choice and Honourable John Slater echoed that sentiment and explained that more information about public input on the Water Act would be shown in his upcoming presentation to the Board. A broad outreach campaign will be launched for Modernization of the Water Act process.

Director Clark asked how input from First Nations is being incorporated into the review of the

Water Act. Mr. Jatel explained that their input will be crucial and it was his understanding that the MOE communication process will address mechanisms for First Nations consultation; he added it is inappropriate for the Okanagan Basin Water Board to speak on behalf of any other Government unless directed to do so.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Clark**

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel dated November 24, 2009, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

### 6.3 Office and Grant Administrator’s Report

Ms. Dunbar explained that the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program for 2010 will be accepting applications starting in mid-December and that press releases and notification of the program will be sent out beforehand. The application deadline has been set at Friday February 19, 2010. The funding levels will remain at \$300,000 for the valley and special emphasis will be placed on projects that support other Okanagan Basin Water Board initiatives such as Drought Response planning and Water Education & Outreach.

Director Fairbairn asked about projects that are potentially larger in scope than is typically funded through the WCQI program and he understood there was a ‘regional projects’ fund to assist with proposals such as this. Dr. Warwick Sears responded by saying that the OBWB doesn’t have another grant program but that there are budgeted funds to put toward regional projects managed by the OBWB and as such, become ‘in house’ projects, and not something handled by an external agency.

**Moved by Director Clark**

**Seconded by Director Pike**

***“THAT the Office and Grants Administrator Report from Ms. Dunbar dated November 24, 2009, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 7.1. Outreach and Education Strategy and Action Plan

Mr. Jatel presented the final version of the Okanagan Waterwise Outreach Strategy and Action Plan. He noted that this is the first time the Okanagan Basin Water Board will deliver a public education and outreach strategy. Mr. Jatel explained that during implementation of the internal launch of the strategy, partnerships will be sought amongst Okanagan communities, in order to encourage collaboration and support efficiencies between Okanagan municipalities and their current conservation and outreach efforts.

The Action Plan presented to the Board is considered a living document, likely to change as portions of it are carried out and adapted to the needs of the Okanagan as the Outreach Strategy evolves.

Dr. Sears mentioned that a great value of the Action Plan is the flexibility in implementing components of it and that it can be adapted to the needs of the Board as it sees fit.

Moved by Director Kiss

Seconded by Director Clark

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopts the Okanagan Waterwise Outreach Strategy”.*

**CARRIED**

Moved by Director Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Pike

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the Okanagan Waterwise Action Plan”.*

**CARRIED**

## 7.2 Final OBWB Governance Document

Dr. Sears presented the OBWB Governance Document to the Board, informing Directors that she had recently presented the document to all three Okanagan regional district Boards and Chief Administrative Officers for input. She mentioned value in circulating the draft as some changes were made in the document.

Once the OBWB adopts the Governance Manual it will be forwarded to the Regional Districts for approval and adoption, at which time it will become the official OBWB policy manual.

Moved by Director Findlater

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopts the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s Governance Manual and forward it to each of the Regional Districts for consideration – requesting approval and adoption”.*

**CARRIED**

## 7.3 OBWB Meeting Schedule for 2010

Moved by Director Findlater

Seconded by Director Fairbairn

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopts the meeting schedule for 2010 as presented”.*

**CARRIED**

## 7.4 Westside Joint Water Committee

Director Findlater discussed that through his attendance at the Westside Joint Water Committee’s (WJWC) Meeting of the Whole on November 26, 2009 he was made aware that the WJWC is looking into expanding the membership and potentially the role of the Committee, to include the District of Summerland, City of Penticton and other jurisdictions. Director Findlater expressed concern that an organization like this would duplicate efforts by the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and/or the Board and would like to explore ways to avoid this potential duplication. Director Findlater suggested that WJWC, KJWC and other large water supplier groups could form a special advisory committee to the OBWB.

Mr. Jatel said that staff are working on the Water Use Reporting Tool project over the next 12 months. The project involves convening meetings with Okanagan water suppliers and other large water users. A staff review to assess OBWB’s involvement with an expanded WJWC and

others encompassing the valley may be helpful. It would be necessary to survey the level of interest to form a technical working body and share best practices among water suppliers and large water users. The WSA of BC is another organization who may be appropriate to support a regional 'water industry cluster' effort.

Director James agreed, saying that this might be valuable as a way to share knowledge and experience amongst a variety of utilities with different capacities and numbers of connections.

Dr. Warwick Sears said that more investigation was needed to determine how a new water utility organization would fit in with the activities of existing organizations.

**Moved by Director Findlater**

**Seconded by Director Clark**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board directs staff to examine the feasibility of convening a technical committee of water suppliers and irrigators to address water utility issues”.***

**CARRIED**

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Okanagan Sustainability Institute – Request for support for Agriflex proposal

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Baumbrough**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board provide a letter of support to the Agriculture Flexibility Fund of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, supporting the Okanagan Sustainability Institute’s funding application”.***

**CARRIED**

8.2 South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID) letter to Conrad Pryce, re: Application for a Water License by Edward Lawrence on Minnow Lake

Director Pike explained that this letter shows application for a water license at a reservoir lake leased lot and that recently water license applications have been occurring for leased lots in the Okanagan. This particular application was the first one received by SEKID and it was CC'd to the OBWB. Director Pike explained that Ministry of Environment staff is trying to structure these water license applications differently than other applications, with reduced daily allocations and linking the length of the water license term to the lease term.

Director Findlater indicated his appreciation at being informed through the OBWB of this application, and asked that the Regional Districts be kept informed of these applications as well.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Bauer**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the correspondence from South East Kelowna Irrigation District to Conrad Pryce regarding application for a water license on Minnow Lake by a Mr. Edward Lawrence”.***

**CARRIED**

**9. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

9.1 MLA John Slater, Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation

MLA Slater provided a presentation to the OBWB on the Modernization of the Water Act including information about the Province's Living Water Smart plan, the proposed outcomes of changes to the Act, the engagement process to be undertaken by the Province and the steps to incorporate results of that engagement. The proposed outcomes of changes to the Water Act include: protection of stream health and aquatic environments, an improved water governance framework, efficient and flexible allocation system, and to protect quality and use of groundwater. The Province of BC will be engaging with all levels of government, stakeholders, First Nations and the public on proposed changes to the Water Act. The engagement process is detailed and will extend through Spring 2010. The Province will be developing online tools and a public discussion paper in addition to holding a variety of public sessions with a cross government advisory team, and multi stakeholder sessions. MLA Slater also discussed that the Province will be holding sessions with First Nations as part of this process.

The Province of BC will be introducing a new bill as a result of the Modernization of the Water Act to the Legislature in the Spring of 2011.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board will be providing input during this process and the Water Stewardship Council is currently developing material for consideration by the OBWB.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on January 5, 2009, at the Regional District of North Okanagan

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Baumbrough

*"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 1, 2009 be adjourned at 2:07 pm."*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director