



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD APRIL 6, 2010, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN,  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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**PRESENT**

Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Gyula Kiss	Regional District North Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

**REGRETS**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director George Saddleman	Okanagan Nation Alliance

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Heather Larratt	Larratt Aquatic Consulting
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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Pike

Seconded by Director James

*"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 6, 2010 be approved as amended."*

**CARRIED**

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Item 5 – Delegation: Heather Larratt on OBWB-Funded Innovations in Determining Intake Protection Zones for Mainstem Lake Source to Tap Assessments

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

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 2, 2010 at Benvoulin Heritage Church- Reid Hall in Kelowna.

Amendments: Correction of spelling error

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Baumbrough

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 2, 2010 at Benvoulin Heritage Church- Reid Hall in Kelowna be adopted as amended."***

**CARRIED**

There was discussion about an earlier motion to hold a board meeting at an ONA office to encourage First Nations involvement. Directors were pleased to hear Dr. Warwick Sears note that this is still being pursued.

Dir. Brydon walked in at 10:11 a.m.

#### 5. **DELEGATIONS**

Heather Larratt, Owner/Principle of Larratt Aquatic Consulting: OBWB Funded Innovations in Determining Intake Protection Zones for Mainstem Lake Source to Tap Assessments

Ms. Dunbar introduced Ms. Larratt, noting that her study on Intake Protection Zones (IPZ) was partially-funded through an OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant. While the grant was awarded to the District of Lake Country, Ms. Dunbar added the study has also benefitted Greater Vernon Water, with the same methods being used for work on its Kalamalka Lake drinking water intake.

Ms. Larratt spoke to her work on water intakes, noting the work was based on Interior Health's suggestion that Intake Protection Zone's should be a 100 metre radius around the end of an intake. As such, Ms. Larratt dropped drogues into Kalamalka and Okanagan Lake at five, 10 and 20 metres depth to study how water and wind currents affected the size of the protection zone. The study included analysis of fall-velocity rates of sediment, cyanobacteria, algae and bacteria.

Interestingly, she added, there were times when the 10-metre drogues were moving more quickly than the ones only 5 metres down.

Ms. Larratt noted that in her work on the proposed North Kalamalka IPZ she looked at riparian land use on South Kalamalka and found several potential problems, including fuel storage close to the water. In another area she noted a train line running close to the water. Further investigation found that the train tankers sometimes carry chemicals including fiberglass resin. There is a real need to prepare for a potential spill, Ms. Larratt added.

As such, Ms. Larratt provided five recommendations to the District of Lake Country as part of a Source Protection Action Plan. These include: 1) apply for a Licence of Occupation for foreshore areas from the Integrated Land Management Bureau and add IPZ to Official Community Plan documents; 2) protect/restore the foreshore; 3) exclude storm water; 4) conduct open discussions with the railway about what they are transporting and how to do so safely, and 5) conduct more consistent water quality sampling.

Recommendations for future improvements to the Lake Country System include extending the intake to 30 or 40 metres, adding UV disinfection for water supplies and continuing to replace septic fields within 200 metres of Kal and Wood Lakes, Ms. Larratt concluded.

Dir. Bauer asked about the effectiveness of the drogues. Ms. Larratt said that the drogues were tested against other scientific models and were found to be equally effective.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

### 6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced discussion around the formation of an Executive Committee as permitted within the recently approved Governance Manual. She added that Chair Wells asked that this be brought to the Board.

There was some discussion by board members about the need for such a committee. While it was initially suggested as a way to ensure a quick response to urgent matters when necessary, it was also noted that any major decisions would still have to be made by the board as a whole. It was also stated that board members are accessible, especially with e-mail.

It was decided to defer further discussion until Chair Wells was present.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Findlater**

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board postpone discussion around formation of an executive sub-committee until Chair Wells is present.”***

**CARRIED**

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the launch of Phase 2 of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand (OWS&D) Project. Government staff, researchers and contractors are now being trained on the use of the models, she added.

**Moved by Director Kiss**

**Seconded by Director Baumbrough**

***“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated March 31, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

### 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on two presentations made at the March Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting. Celine Davis, with Ministry of Environment, spoke on the province’s Drought Management Plan and then Don Dobson spoke about the state of hydrometric monitoring in the Okanagan Basin. Following Mr. Dobson’s presentation, the OWSC struck a sub-committee to develop recommendations on hydrometric monitoring in the Okanagan to be forwarded to the Water Board in the next couple of months.

Mr. Jatel noted that Chris Johnston will be speaking on rainwater management at the April 8, 2010 OWSC meeting and invited board members to attend. In May, the council will be discussing water economics and water pricing, he added.

On March 29, the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) project had its first meeting with 27 water purveyors and suppliers participating, representing 70% of water being supplied in the Okanagan Basin. SWURT builds on Phase 2 of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study, noted Jatel, adding it can greatly assist in the management of drought and is being looked at by the province as a B.C.-wide pilot project. Another focus group meeting is planned for April 16 in Victoria with Ministry of Environment staff.

Mr. Jatel noted that people who attended the March 29 meeting were very positive about the potential for the tool. Dir. Brydon asked if water use reporting would be mandatory for those who are not interested in it but who have a water licence. Mr. Jatel responded that reporting will be required, but only on large water licences.

Mr. Jatel went on to invite board members to the next drought management webinar scheduled for April 14 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The invitation is being expanded to the agricultural community, he added.

As for World Water Week, Mr. Jatel said he recognizes time is tight for members of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to participate in various OBWB activities, but he was pleased that Gwen Bridge could take part in a March 22 panel, providing valuable insight into ONA water quality issues.

Finally, Jatel concluded, Jeff Curtis will be speaking at 12:30 p.m. at the May board meeting on the Endocrine Disruptor Project.

**Moved by Director Kiss**

**Seconded by Director Baker**

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel, dated March 30, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

### 6.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the extensive media coverage given to the March 26 launch of Phase 2 of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study. Coverage included every media outlet in Kelowna (TV, radio, internet news and newspaper) and extended throughout the Okanagan valley and into Vancouver and Calgary.

There was also very strong coverage of the World Water Week panel, held March 22.

As a result of the OBWB’s raised profile, there has been interest from various media outlets in providing regular reports on water issues.

Ms. Jackson noted that the March 26 event also allowed for the unveiling of the Water Board’s first Okanagan WaterWise marketing tactic – a display of free-standing banners that show water bottles indicating Okanagan water use. The display was well-received, she added.

There was discussion among the board about how the media attention seemed to spark some good debate around water issues.

Dir. Findlater suggested that a list of board meetings be posted to the OBWB website to encourage further media interest. Dir. Baker added that posting the agenda may also be helpful.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Findlater**

***“THAT staff provide a report with recommendations on how the Okanagan Basin Water Board can improve communication with the public about upcoming board meetings.”***

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Clark**

***“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator Report from Ms. Jackson, dated March 30, 2010, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7.1 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant awards**

Ms. Dunbar presented recommendations for Water Conservation and Quality Improvements Grants for 2010. In total there were 37 submissions requesting a total of \$753,911. With \$300,000 available, 18 applicants were recommended.

In response to a question around valley-wide relevance of the projects, Ms. Dunbar told the board that many of the recommended applicants in each of the three regional districts will be conducting projects that will benefit the entire valley.

Ms. Dunbar went on to explain that applicants who have other funding partners in place are also looked upon favourably. This raised some concern for Dirs. James and Findlater around potential duplication in funding.

Regarding who is eligible to apply, Ms. Dunbar noted that local government can apply, but so can charities if they have a local government sponsor. In the case of ONA, it is a registered charity and was sponsored by the Town of Oliver, she added.

There was some discussion around how voting should occur – whether the recommendations for the three regional areas should be voted on all at once, or broken out into the three regions. It was decided to hold a separate vote for all three regions.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director James**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant staff recommendations for the Central Okanagan as received.”***

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Director Baumbrough**

**Seconded by Director Kiss**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant staff recommendations for the North Okanagan as received.”***

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Director Brydon**

**Seconded by Director Pendergraft**

***“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant staff recommendations for the South Okanagan as received.”***

**CARRIED**

Dir. Clark opposed.

Directors Pike and Bauer abstained from voting on all resolutions regarding the grant program.

Dir. Bauer suggested it might be time to review the grant program since the number of applicants is increasing, but dollars available have not increased. There was discussion around

trying to find additional funding for the program.

## 7.2 BC Water Act Modernization recommendations to the Province

Mr. Jatel introduced discussion around the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council's (OWSC) recommendations to the Water Board on its BC Water Act Modernization submission. He went on to acknowledge the work of Dir. Bauer as chair of the sub-committee.

Dr. Bauer noted that it was consensus driven and was up to the board to now take ownership of the document.

Some minor alterations were recommended, including recognizing First Nations as full partners.

Dir. James noted some concern around the reference to enabling legislation and the potential for water allocation to be downloaded by the province. Dr. Warwick Sears responded that the intent is to suggest other areas of B.C. should be empowered to create something like their own OBWB-type body without the cumbersome process used here. Columbia Basin and Islands Trust had problems getting started, she added, noting the OWSC recommendations do suggest water allocation not be downloaded.

Directors were polled around the table to have reference to "taxation authority" removed from the document. Dirs. Bauer and Findlater voted to have it removed, with the rest of the directors voting to keep it in.

Dir. Findlater noted that he supported the recommendations and asked that once final amendments are made that it be forwarded to municipal councils and regional district boards within the Okanagan Basin.

Dir. Findlater exited the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

There was some final debate around the appropriateness of using the current First-in-Time, First-in-Right model. Dir. Bauer noted that the submission suggests that FITFIR be re-examined without making any recommendations. Dir. James expressed strong concern about potential changes to FITFIR.

**Moved by Director Baker**

**Seconded by Director Clark**

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorses the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council's recommendations on the Water Act Modernization as amended and that it submit the report to the Province of BC."***

**CARRIED**

Dir. James opposed.

**Moved by Director Baumbrough**

**Seconded by Director Brydon**

***"THAT Okanagan Basin Water Board staff distribute the WAM submission to Regional Districts for information."***

**CARRIED**

## 7.3 CEGN Conference

Dr. Warwick Sears spoke to directors about an upcoming Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network conference in Toronto. Ms. Dunbar and Dr. Warwick Sears will be presenting a paper on using water grants to improve water management practices in the Okanagan.

Ms. Dunbar added that the conference provides valuable information on other funding opportunities which are passed along to OBWB partners.

Moved by Director Clark

Seconded by Director Kiss

*"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the CEGN Conference memo from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated March 31, 2010, for information."*

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Dr. Andrew Larder response to OBWB

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Clark

*"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Dr. Andrew Larder in response to the OBWB letter to Interior Health requesting clarification on IH's filtration deferral policy."*

CARRIED

9. ADJOURN TO IN CAMERA MEETING

9.1 Matters pertaining to OBWB staffing

Moved by Director James

Seconded by Director Baker

*"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 1:45 p.m."*

CARRIED

10. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting resumed at 1:56 p.m.

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 Baumbrough

Seconded by Director Baker

*"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves hiring a Summer Student and Acting Office and Grants Administrator."*

CARRIED

Moved by Director James

Seconded by Director Brydon

*"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves use of \$1,500 of the OBWB professional development budget to defray Dr. Warwick Sears' expenses on the Lessons from the Outback Australia water policy exchange; and further, that the time spent on this trip be considered straight work time, not vacation time."*

CARRIED

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on May 4, 2010, at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Moved by Director Baker

Seconded by Director Pike

*“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board directs staff to arrange a tour of the Westbank Water Treatment Facility to coincide with next month’s board meeting.*

**CARRIED**

12 **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Baker

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 6, 2010 be adjourned at 2:02 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director