

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

TIME: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PLACE: Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin St., Penticton, B.C.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 1, 2011 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna, B.C. *(page 1)*

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

- 5.1 Executive Director Report *(page 9)* *(includes recommendation)*
5.1.1 Water Supply & Demand (WSD) update *(page 15)*
5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report *(page 18)*
5.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report *(page 25)*
5.3.1 Water board website traffic report *(page 35)*

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 6.1 OBWB Goals and Objective 2011 *(page 44)*
6.2 Letter to Hon. Stockwell Day and federal officials:
Request for Attention to Renewal of Operating Orders for Osoyoos Lake *(page 50)*

7. **DELEGATIONS**

- 7.1 Brian Symonds – Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

9. **NEXT MEETING**

- 9.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held April 5, 2011 at Okanagan Indian Band's Head of the Lake Hall, 118 Head of the Lake Rd., Vernon.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2011, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Melissa Tesche	Interim Office and Grants Administrator
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator

GUESTS

Carol Teschner	RDCO Special Projects Accounting Analyst
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Warwick Sears called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO THE OBWB

2.1 Board Appointments and Elections for 2011

Regional District of North Okanagan

Director Rick Fairbairn
Director Buffy Baumbrough
Director Doug Dirk
Alternates – Mike Macnabb, Wayne Lippert, Shawn Lee

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Director Graeme James
Director James Baker
Director Doug Findlater
Alternates – Jim Edgson, Keith Fielding, Charlie Hodge

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Director Stu Wells

Director Gordon Clark

Director Michael Brydon

Alternates – Mark Pendergraft, Dan Ashton, Tom Chapman

Okanagan Nation Alliance

Director Gwen Bridge

Alternate – James Pepper

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Director Bernie Bauer

Alternate – Ted Van der Gulik

Water Supply Association of BC

Director Toby Pike

Alternate – Bob Hrasko

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Dir. Baker nominated Dir. Wells as Chair. Seconded by Dir. Pike.

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

Dir. Baker nominated Dir. Fairbairn for Vice-Chair, seconded by Dir. Clark.

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

Dr. Warwick Sears turned the meeting over to Chair Wells.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 1, 2011 be approved as amended.”*****CARRIED****5. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

8.2 Water Act Modernization update

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 7, 2010 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 7, 2010 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton be adopted.”**CARRIED****7. STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced discussion around the monthly financials update, provided by RDCO Special Projects Accounting Analyst Carol Teschner.

Dir. Fairbairn noted that he asked for the financials because of questions that he has received from Regional District of North Okanagan, asking for an update on projects. However, he added, perhaps monthly isn't necessary.

Following discussion, directors suggested that the update should be more than financial and include a reporting on activities, explaining to directors, their boards/councils and their constituents what projects are underway, where they are at, and how the work is benefitting their communities.

Directors agreed that a mid-year report would suffice, but also requested that staff provide additional updates if there is a budget variance of 10% or more over projected amounts.

“THAT Okanagan Basin Water Board staff provide the board with a mid-year report with a financial update and a description of projects. Further, that staff will provide additional updates if there is a greater than 10 per cent variance in the budget for a given program.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the audit of the Sewage Facilities Grant Program is nearing completion and directors will receive a report at the next board meeting.

The milfoil control crew is continuing to rototill where the lakes are not frozen. Staff have a meeting with Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the B.C. Ministry of Environment in March to ensure that it receives a work permit as soon as possible while addressing concerns around species at risk, she added.

Chair Wells was provided with a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding to sign, between the OBWB, and similar agencies in B.C. and the northwest U.S., agreeing to share information and best management practices for control of invasive aquatic weeds, including Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Dr. Warwick Sears reported the Osoyoos Water Science Forum will be held Sept. 18 to 20. Alt. dir. Pepper accepted an invitation to sit on the planning committee and accepted.

Chair Wells noted that, although the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (OLBC) has traditionally looked at lake levels, a recent U.S. study suggests that it consider negotiating flow levels. This has significant implications, added the chair. Brian Symonds, Director of Regional Operations with B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and who sits on the international board, will be addressing Water Board directors at their March meeting.

Dr. Warwick Sears said that she reviewed and provided comment to the U.S. study's report, noting it does not consider climate change or flows for fish upstream. However, Summit Environmental – which worked on the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study – is providing a report to OLBC and will be looking at the impacts of climate change on Osoyoos Lake water supply. These reports will be provided at the forum, allowing public discussion before any decisions are made, she added.

Dir. Clark exited the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

After further discussion, board directors asked staff to write a letter to Okanagan-Coquihalla MP Stockwell Day and Canada's Foreign Affairs Department, encouraging them to stay apprised of negotiations and ensure the protection of Okanagan interests as the U.S. and Canada renew operating orders for water levels on Osoyoos Lake.

Dr. Warwick Sears said she would draft a letter and bring it back to the board for review at the

next meeting.

Dir. Bauer suggested that provincial staff involved in the B.C. Water Science Symposium be made aware of the forum as well.

Dr. Warwick Sears told directors that the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) has asked the OBWB to help host a water governance workshop, looking at natural resource conflicts in relation to water (e.g. between fisheries, forestry, mining). The workshop will discuss how collaborative governance can help achieve effective, efficient, and equitable water use by these sectors.

The workshop will be held at the En'owkin centre in Penticton, Feb. 22nd. Similar workshops are being held in Alberta, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. It is interesting that the Okanagan has been noted as a region of interest, she added, explaining that each workshop is focusing on one specific watershed.

The executive director provided an update on the Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, noting that UBC Okanagan is now waiting for the Leading Edge Endowment Fund external review to be completed. It will then go to the full LEEF board. UBCO hopes to have approval by the end of March.

"THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated Jan. 24, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

7.1.1 Water Supply & Demand (WSD) update

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an update on Phase 3 of the Water Supply and Demand Study. Whereas Phase 2 looked at conservative estimates of conservation and population growth, Phase 3 will recreate the drought levels experienced in the Okanagan in the 1930s and look at the effects of urban sprawl. The scenarios are expected to be completed by May 31.

The impact of lake evaporation on the Okanagan's water balance is poorly understood and is one of the major information gaps in the OBWB's Water Supply and Demand study. After several years, recognizing the need to study this, Environment Canada is expected to conduct lake evaporation studies on Okanagan Lake this summer. The OBWB will be helping with logistics and taking researchers out on our milfoil boat as needed.

Responding to a question about how the study can be used by local government, Dr. Warwick Sears said that a report is being developed, describing what information agencies can expect to find that will help plan their communities.

"THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears on the Water Supply and Demand Project, dated Jan. 25, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported that the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) meets next week and will be focusing on groundwater. Oleg Ivanov, with B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and who sits on the council's groundwater sub-committee, will be making a presentation.

The OWSC is focusing on four issues this term: groundwater, source water protection, the need for an Agriculture Water Reserve, and Water Act modernization, added Mr. Jatel.

Dir. Baker referenced the B.C. government's proposed new Water Sustainability Act and noted that District of Lake Country is concerned about the potential commodification of water and water trading. The district has gone to the Southern Interior Local Government Association and the Union of BC Municipalities about this, he added.

Others also voiced concern on this issue. However, Dir. Pike suggested that it is of little use to speculate and respond to what might be proposed. We need to see the proposed legislation, he added.

Mr. Jatel reported that Kirsten Harma will be presenting research at next week's council meeting, having worked with software that will be used for the OBWB's hydrologic connectivity study.

The Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) will be launched this Friday at a news conference. It will allow water utilities to record and report their water use to an online database on a monthly basis, instead of by submitting paper forms once a year. The initial launch is aimed at the 25 largest utilities in the basin. Smaller utilities haven't been asked to report at this time, but we will be working to get them online next year and the OBWB has a small budget set aside to do this, added Mr. Jatel.

The Groundwater Monitoring Program was designed to be a three year program, installing five wells per year. The program drilled its first two wells in Oliver last month and is set to have six drilled in its first year. Spallumcheen has said it would like a monitoring well set up in Year 2. RDCO is also interested in having one in Joe Rich and one near UBC-O.

Referring to the OWSC's December minutes, Dir. Pike noted that it was suggested that the study of an Agricultural Water Reserve should consider the needs of B.C. The interests of B.C. are not always the needs of the Okanagan, he said, adding that if the OBWB is looking at an Agricultural Water Reserve it needs to ensure the region's interests are looked after.

7.2.1 Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Innovation Fund grant proposal update

Mr. Jatel provided a report on the Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Innovation Fund grant proposal.

The project is now for \$520,000, with \$50,000 contributed by the OBWB. The proposal focused on two issues: identifying an agricultural water reserve and developing a guide for water pricing.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report and AAFC grant proposal update from Mr. Jatel, dated Jan. 26, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

Dir. Dirk exited the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

In response to questions from the board, Mr. Jatel added that the AAFC project will be for two years and staff should know shortly whether the OBWB was successful.

7.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson reported on preparation for the launch of SWURT on Friday, including arranging the venue, and preparing and sending media advisories and news releases.

Staff are also helping organize World Water Week (March 20-26) and Drinking Water Week (May 1-7) events.

Ms. Jackson noted the media attention given to water issues over the winter holidays was significant, adding this is usually a slower time. Part of the reason was a news release that went out regarding milfoil control on Osoyoos Lake and another regarding the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program.

In reviewing the Okanagan WaterWise website and links to its partners, it was noted that a number of partners have not linked to the WaterWise site yet. In an effort to promote valley-wide messaging around Okanagan water issues, Ms. Jackson asked that board members request their local government/agency link to the site if they have not already done so. Dir. Brydon requested an e-mail be sent to board directors with the url information to be forwarded to the right people in their agencies.

Dir. Pike asked about web traffic to the WaterWise and OBWB corporate site. Ms. Jackson said she would look into this.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator Report from Ms. Jackson, dated Jan. 25, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Farm classification in times of severe drought

Mr. Jatel presented the board with a draft letter to be forwarded to the province, requesting the B.C. government waive the farm income requirements to maintain farm status in regions affected by drought level 3 or higher.

In responding to questions from directors, Mr. Jatel said such a declaration would be made by the River Forecast Centre for the whole Okanagan Basin. Directors noted that this would not be effective since conditions aren't usually the same throughout the valley.

The board asked that a new letter be drafted that provides general support for a change in the farm income requirements that encourage water conservation in times of drought.

“THAT staff draft a general letter of support to the province, encouraging a change in the B.C. government's farm income requirements as a measure to conserve water in the Okanagan during severe drought.”

CARRIED

8.2 WAM update

Mr. Jatel provided an update to the board on the Water Act modernization process, noting that the province has released a draft of the legislation, renamed the “Water Sustainability Act.” The deadline for responses is Feb. 21, he added, recommending that staff develop a submission and circulate it to the board for feedback, ensuring it is submitted by the deadline.

Directors agreed with developing a submission, but also noted that they were initially told by Okanagan MLA John Slater, B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary on Water Supply and Allocation, that there would be an additional opportunity for response. The draft legislation, released in December, is the first document to provide some details, but some directors felt there are still

many unknowns. The board asked staff to send a letter to Ministry of Environment, requesting another opportunity for feedback, and that the letter be cc'd to MLA Slater, each Okanagan regional district, the Water Supply Association of B.C. and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

“THAT staff send a letter to B.C. Ministry of Environment, requesting an additional opportunity for feedback to the proposed Water Sustainability Act; And, that the letter be forwarded to Okanagan MLA and B.C. Parliamentary Secretary on Water Supply and Allocation, John Slater, each Okanagan regional district, the Water Supply Association of B.C. and Okanagan Nation Alliance.”

CARRIED

8.3 OBWB Goals and Objectives 2011

Dr. Warwick Sears provided the board with a copy of the Goals and Objectives for 2011, noting many of them are ongoing. However, she added, the Water Management Program is up for renewal as of April 1, 2012. As such, there needs to be a review of the program and a report to the three Okanagan regional districts. A strategic planning workshop in May might be useful to discuss direction and get feedback from directors, she added.

Following on comments from directors, Dr. Warwick Sears explained that the Goals and Objectives are intended to be operational and indicate to the board the direction of staff activities for the coming year. Dir. Bauer noted that it may be useful to differentiate between staff goals and board goals, and break them out as operational goals and strategic goals. Dir. Baker agreed with this approach.

Directors also suggested that in speaking to the regional districts, it may be useful for staff to talk about the “on-the-ground” work of the OBWB, what effect this work is having on the everyday person and improving their life. It was also noted that while there is a need for research, that perhaps there needs to be more money given for grants and other projects.

Drs. Brydon, Pike and Fairbairn spoke in favour of a strategic planning session.

Dir. Pepper exited the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Board members suggested that while some municipal councils will want to hear a report from OBWB staff directly, as part of the Water Management Program, many will not require it. It may be easier to report to the three regional districts and offer to meet with individual communities on request, they noted.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the board that staff will look at how they can better improve communication on what the OBWB is doing, how it is benefiting each of the Okanagan's communities, and how local governments are accessing OBWB work and research to improve their communities. Dir. Baker noted the Foreshore Inventory Maps are a good example of research the Water Board supported, that may not appear to be “on-the-ground,” however, it is assisting Lake Country staff create better development plans.

Dir. Pike added that the Kelowna Joint Water Committee also accessed a lot of information as a result of the OBWB's Water Supply and Demand Study. It is important for local officials to know the value of this, he added.

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held March 1, 2011 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 1, 2011 be adjourned at 2:17 p.m."

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 1, 2011
Agenda No: 5.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: March 1, 2011
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

We received a total of 35 applications for 2011, with a total ask of \$703,331. Staff recommendations will be brought to the board for approval at our April meeting.

	Number of Applications	Total Ask	Total Available
RDNO	8	\$127,530	\$58,500
RDCO	11	\$287,293	\$175,800
RDOS	16	\$288,508	\$65,700
Totals	35	\$703,331	\$300,000

The proposed projects are extremely varied. The criteria and weighting used to rank the applications include the following:

20	Basin-wide benefit
10	Leveraging of funds
10	Focus on action
10	Collaboration
10	Promotion of best practices
10	Complements current OBWB initiatives
10	Financial need
10	Track record/capacity
5	Innovativeness of project
5	Quality of proposal
100	

Watermilfoil Control Program

Rototilling continues in Kalamalka Lake, and along the shore of West Kelowna.

We have a meeting scheduled with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and B.C. Ministry of Environment (MOE) on March 14th, to discuss our program for 2011 harvesting and rototilling, and minimize disturbances to species at risk. We would like to get the permits in order as soon as possible. We were informed by DFO that the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel is being considered for up-listing to "endangered" from a "species of concern." There are likely to be implications for our program with respect to when and where we can harvest and rototill.

Sewage Assistance Grants

In the review of the Sewage Facilities grant program, we determined that the formula for calculating a grant to RDCO had been affected by the splitting off of sewage project grants to West Kelowna, resulting in the award for the Lakeview Trunk Sewer being lowered from \$9,145 to \$6,149. The project budget was originally established based on a pooled grant award to a number of different sewer projects, and when the projects were divided it affected RDCO's eligible amount. The OBWB has already requisitioned for the original amount. I do not believe it will be fair to the homeowners in this area to reduce the award (and increase the parcel tax) under these conditions.

Recommended motion: *That the Sewage Facilities Award to the Regional District of Central Okanagan for the Lakeview Trunk #605 sewer be maintained at the original award level.*

This is the only large variance we have found to date. We are still finalizing grant details with Lake Country, Kelowna, Oliver, Coldstream and Peachland, but have complete files for all other awards (Armstrong, Vernon, RDNO, RDCO, Westbank, West Kelowna, RDOS, Summerland, Penticton, and Osoyoos). When the review of all the awards has been finalized, the board will be able to review grant retirement projections to 2031.

We anticipate new applications in 2011 from Vernon and West Kelowna.

Funding to Re-Print Waterscape Poster

The OBWB has been given \$11,000 to reprint the Okanagan Waterscape Poster – these represent remaining funds in the original project budget, held by UBC-O. The poster was developed in 2005 through a multi-agency partnership led by Natural Resources Canada. Originally, 1,000 posters were printed in English, and several hundred in French, and distributed through the OBWB, NRCan, and several local environmental education organizations. OBWB grants have funded development of teaching materials for the poster, and staff hope to use it as part of our outreach and education program. The funds come at an opportune time as poster supplies have almost run out.

Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team update

The SIRDWT was established to reduce impacts on water quality from different ministry's conflicting mandates/legislation. As a representative of the OBWB, I am invited to attend their quarterly meetings. I have attached a report from the Director of the Regional Drinking Water Teams. As you can see in the report, the Southern Interior team had some success with motorized vehicle regulation in the watersheds, but most of the discussion has focused around authority and relationship to other government committees. There are questions about how the recent reorganization will affect the team, and the existing MOU.

Water Governance Workshop with NRTEE

On February 22, OBWB staff and Dir. Bernie Bauer participated in a water governance workshop with the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE). This was the first in a series of four workshops held across the country to explore potential reforms in collaborative water governance in light of current and future challenges to water use in natural resources sectors. NRTEE is a group of industry stakeholders sponsored by the federal government, whose role is to provide independent advice on policy. The workshops are geared toward staff and industry stakeholders. We arranged for this workshop to be held at the En'owkin Centre in Penticton, and asked for special emphasis to be placed on environmental and fisheries issues, and how this affects industry concerns.



January 28, 2011

Chelton van Geloven
Chair, Northern
Regional Drinking
Water Team

Len Clarkson
Chair, Vancouver Coastal
Regional Drinking
Water Team

Lynne Magee
Chair, Vancouver Island
Regional Drinking
Water Team

Marc Zubei
Chair, Fraser
Regional Drinking
Water Team

Val Cameron
Chair, Southern Interior
Regional Drinking
Water Team

Dear Mr/Mrs. Chair:

On behalf of the Inter-Agency Director's Committee on Drinking Water (DWIADC), I would like to thank you for your 2009/2010 annual report submitted under the *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Inter-Agency Accountability and Coordination on Drinking Water Protection* (MOU). An impressive amount has been accomplished by all five Regional Drinking Water Teams (RDWTs) over the past year, attributable to the dedication of each Chair and team member.

Each team has taken their own approach to implementing the MOU, based on regional membership, local issues, economies, population pressures, environmental considerations, and government structures. Team successes accordingly, are individual to each RDWT, but all revolve around the importance and benefits of inter-agency information sharing. Some of the achievements are:

- **Vancouver Coastal RDWT** saw progress in the discussions around source protection in Jefferd Creek and Chapman Creek, inter-agency/municipality communication, and the successful completion of a pilot GIS system development for wells and intakes in and around Whistler.
- **Southern Interior RDWT** has shown progress towards finalizing a guideline for approving land-use decisions potentially impacting drinking water. Drinking water intake mapping and provincial off-road vehicle legislation was supported and drinking water was established as a regional priority for the Southern Interior Inter-Agency Directors Committee (SI IADC).

...2

- **Vancouver Island RDWT** had success with Aquifer Vulnerability mapping, supporting a watershed protection action plan, eco-region water quality objective development and implementation of 4-3-2-1-0 objectives.
- **Fraser RDWT** achieved significant information sharing on drinking water protection strategies, sand and gravel mining activities, nitrate contamination issues and septic system contamination potential.
- **Northern RDWT** offered support toward a water steward position in City of Dawson Creek, guided implementation of the northern portion of the Water Symposium, and participated in development of Forest Practices Board Cumulative Effects Assessment of the Kiskatinaw River Watershed.

Although the RDWTs are all unique, there are common challenges. The main challenge is consistent agency, municipality and regional district attendance at meetings. This is an issue that the DWIADC also faces. The recent government reorganization and creation of the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO) has resulted in a reassignment of some of the staff who participated on the RDWTs or the DWIADC. The MNRO is intended to provide a single point of contact for land and resource authorizations across government. DWIADC focus will be directed to the question of MNRO and other resource ministry participation on the RDWTs and the DWIADC, as roles and responsibilities under the new land and resource management model develop.

The second commonality among the RDWTs in the annual reports is a request for better communication between the DWIADC and each RDWT. A SharePoint site has been developed to assist in this ongoing communication. As well, the Ministry of Health Services (MHS) has committed to providing a consistent representative on each of the teams. This role will provide back and forth communication between the DWIADC and each RDWT. In addition the MHS representative can communicate relevant issues or points between RDWTs.

Individual RDWT challenges also resulted according to local issues.

- **Vancouver Coastal RDWT** continues to struggle with factors which contribute to conflict and inefficiency relating to risk assessment, acceptable risk, standard of proof, etc. In addition, interagency co-ordination and co-operation has largely been reliant on the dedicated efforts of a few individuals. Accordingly they recommend a high level of review of the original MOU; to confirm or amend its goals and mandate.
- **Southern Interior RDWT** is looking at the role of the team as members believe it is critical to be aligned with the broader land-use agencies management framework through the SI IADC and the Sub-Regional Management Committees (SRMC).
- **Vancouver Island RDWT** would like to see the opportunity for greater Regional District input into provincially approved land use discussions, such as the sale of private managed forest lands for residential development. They are seeking a process for conducting multi-agency investigations and to ensure that issues are investigated in a collaborative and consistent manner.

- **Fraser RDWT** continues to be challenged to improve team communication.
- **Northern RDWT** is challenged with improving quality of meeting for remote participants (e.g. live meeting).

Of the RDWT specific challenges, two were directed to the DWIADC for comment and/or action.

1. **It has been recommended that the original MOU be revisited:** In addition to ministry responsibilities, there have been ministry name changes since the MOU was originally signed, which require the MOU be updated. DWIADC representatives are currently in discussions with MNRO to better understand the organizational structure and how best RDWTs can be integrated with government's new land and resource management structure. The RDWTs will be kept informed as information becomes available, particularly if a broader revisit of the MOU is required.
2. **Vancouver Coastal RDWT raised questions regarding the policy decision framework for natural resource management.** Land and resource management decision-making is complex and dependant on a number of factors. The legislative framework often requires a statutory decision maker to balance elements of risk, including social, economic, legal, and scientific considerations. The acceptability of risk falls with the statutory decision maker. Those decisions are generally informed by principles commonly applied such as scientific weight of evidence, values of fairness, and public and stakeholder needs, with the ultimate goal to ensure decisions support the public interest. In many cases, guidelines and best management practices have been developed to assist in making these decisions.

The purpose of the RDWTs is to facilitate discussions about activities that may impact drinking water and the issues facing decision makers in resource agencies, industry, communities, and health authorities. Participation on the RDWTs provides an opportunity to bring up concerns such as, risk assessment and risk management, to provide decision makers with the relevant information to support balanced decision-making. The mandate of the RDWTs and the DWIADC is not to set policy or instruct resource practitioners on how to interpret existing legislation, regulations and guidelines, but rather to foster communication and coordination. However, specific issues may arise where apparent conflicts between various policies are discussed and resolved to be moved up to the relevant decision-makers. Where these matters arise, and they can be specifically identified, the recommendations from an RDWT could be used to promote discussion among the policy makers. In these cases, the specific issues should be clearly identified so that specific policies can be reviewed.

In addition to these proactive approaches, Section 25 of the Drinking Water Protection Act empowers a Drinking Water Officer (DWO) to take action if there is a health hazard. For example, further information or better management practices to prevent the health

hazard from occurring can be ordered. In cases where a person considers there is a threat to their drinking water, Section 29 empowers him/her to request the DWO to investigate. This person must include specifics of the facts that constitute the threat and present them to the DWO who must decide if an investigation is warranted.

We encourage all RDWT's to continue with the spirit of open dialogue on issues of inter-agency importance, so that decisions that are, or are in the process of being made on the ground, are shared effectively and timely. The intention is that potential issues be addressed proactively, before they become a problem and result in an order or citizen complaint.

The DWIADC has heard presentations from two RDWTs (Fraser and Vancouver Island) and is looking forward to hearing from the rest over the coming months. These presentations serve both the DWIADC and the RDWTs well by allowing each to experience how the other committee is functioning and the challenges they are facing. Moving forward into 2011 the DWIADC will focus on the fundamental challenge of balancing interests and risks, as well as the more immediate challenge facing the teams in terms of ministry participation at a time when the ministries are restructuring. To that end, the DWIADC is engaging in discussions with various parties in government to ensure drinking water protection remains a priority and the good grassroots work of the teams is understood and appreciated.

Over the next year the DWIADC will be looking to the regional teams for input on issues such as the continued viability of small water systems and best management practices for recreation trails in watersheds.

Once again, the DWIADC would like to thank the RDWTs in the North, Southern Interior, Fraser, Vancouver Coastal and Vancouver Island for your contribution to the protection of drinking water. Your efforts over the past year to ensure issues related to drinking water are effectively communicated between communities and the various government agencies are of great importance and value. The DWIADC looks forward to another productive year and we look forward to interactive dialogue.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Janke', written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Janke
DWIADC Chair,
Ministry of Health Services

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 1, 2011
Agenda No: 5.1.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: February 23, 2011
Subject: **Water Supply & Demand Project Update – applications**

The Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Project assesses potential impacts of climate change, and supplies essential information for water decisions in the valley. It includes surface and groundwater hydrology, water needs for the environment, agriculture, and domestic use, and climate models to evaluate future changes. The initial analysis was completed in 2010.

The project results have already been applied to a number of key projects in the Okanagan Basin:

1. **Reservoir lots moratorium.** In 2009, we received a letter from the province, stating that decisions on the sales of reservoir lots had been put on hold, pending the results of hydrology studies for the Okanagan (i.e. the Water Supply & Demand Project). In July 2010, the OBWB sent a letter to Minister Pat Bell, detailing the results of our study, and the clear conclusion that reservoir capacity and quality must be protected. The government subsequently placed a moratorium on the sale of these lots.
2. **Informing renewal of Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders.** Results from the Water Supply & Demand Project are being used for two International Joint Commission-sponsored reports informing the renewal of the international agreement controlling water levels on Osoyoos Lake.
 - a. Study 6 - Climate models and scenarios are being used for studies on potential climate change impacts on Osoyoos Lake water supplies, and provide information demonstrating the Okanagan's potential water scarcity in the future.
 - b. Study 1 - Agricultural water demand data was used for a report on management of Osoyoos Lake levels.
3. **Water demand data for municipalities and water suppliers.** The OBWB, through a grant from NRCan, is supporting data access for specific local government planning projects. We are developing a "Local Government User's Guide to the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project" and anticipate a number of data requests once this is released. To date we have provided information or have pending requests for the following projects:
 - a. Penticton irrigation plan

- b. RDOS regional growth strategy
 - c. Twin Lakes aquifer viability analysis
 - d. Kelowna Joint Water Committee planning process
 - e. City of Vernon Liquid Waste Management Plan
 - f. Lake Country Master Water Plan
 - g. Peachland Master Water Plan
 - h. RDNO regional growth strategy
 - i. West Kelowna water planning – this is a new query, details still to come
4. **Locating 15 new groundwater monitoring wells.** Target sites for new monitoring wells in at-risk aquifers were identified by the Water Supply & Demand groundwater study, and the OBWB coordinated a three-year plan to install 15 new wells. The project has received cash and in-kind support from Agriculture Canada, Environment Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment, and the local jurisdictions where the wells are located.
5. **Public education.** Okanagan Waterwise, the OBWB's public education program, uses information from the Water Supply & Demand Project as the base of our water conservation campaign, including our "water bottle" banners. Much more information will be released through Waterwise (www.okanaganwaterwise.ca), the Okanagan Water Supply & Demand website (www.obwb.ca/wsd), and the Okanagan Water Viewer (www.okanaganwater.ca), when the next round of climate change scenarios is completed.
6. **Recommendations for Water Act Modernization.** The Water Supply & Demand working group submitted recommendations to the Water Act, reinforcing those of the OBWB. These include: the demonstrated need to protect reservoir areas, the need for groundwater legislation, and the need for increased monitoring of streams and groundwater.
7. **Data requests and alternative communication methods.** NRCan funds have also supported access to Water Supply & Demand Data by independent partners.
- a. Okanagan Groundwater: The OBWB has provided data for a book on Okanagan Groundwater by Murray Road (author of the Okanagan Geology book).
 - b. Water Resources Mapping: The OBWB has provided data to BCIT students developing a water resources map for the Okanagan Basin. This map is intended to provide very simple information for the general public, such as the location of their water sources, and the names of different lakes and tributaries.
 - c. 3-D Basin Mapping: The OBWB has had a data request from a UBC-O student constructing a 3-D animated model of the Basin.
8. **Government support for related projects.** Data gaps demonstrated by the study have led to considerable government support for other OBWB projects, including practical tools and further studies.
- a. Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) – This project was motivated by the giant gap in data for water extraction and use, which convinced the provincial and federal governments to fund development of the tool. SWURT allows large water

utilities to report their water use, reservoir levels, snow pillows, and other essential data. It is being considered as a pilot project to be implemented across B.C.

- b. Hydrometric Monitoring Database – The first step to re-establish an adequate hydrometric network, is to have a single place to store non-Water Survey Hydrometric data. This has long been a gap, but it was reinforced by the data needs for the Okanagan hydrology modeling. A proposal has been submitted to Environment Canada to fund this new database. Hydrometric data can be entered through SWURT.
- c. Lake Evaporation Study – Lake Evaporation is the single largest area of uncertainty with Okanagan water supplies. After testing 17 separate evaporation models, Environment Canada researchers resolved that the only way to accurately determine lake evaporation was with on-lake and shoreline meteorological studies. An extensive effort is now being planned for 2011-2012, using researchers, equipment and techniques from the Great Lakes area.
- d. Hydrologic Connectivity Project – This project is intended to provide the technical basis and policy rationale for establishing an Okanagan basin-wide drought plan, that can be used to proactively plan for water shortages. It uses the hydrology data and models, water use, and water licence data from the Water Supply & Demand project. It has received funding support from NR Can.

More practical applications to come. The Water Supply and Demand Project makes the Okanagan one of the most information-rich areas of B.C. for water data. This information is extremely valuable for identifying problem drainages, and places where information gaps remain. It also gives a baseline as conditions change in the future. The next step and a major challenge for the OBWB, will be to use the data to find solutions for these problems – whether through community planning, policy changes, or improvements to infrastructure. Some of the projects – like solving over-allocation and environmental flow needs problems – will require serious effort.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 1, 2011
Agenda No: 5.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Date: February 21, 2011
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

This memo provides an update on some of the ongoing activities of the OBWB's Water Management Program.

1.0 OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL, TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Water Stewardship Council had a productive February. Meeting highlights included:

- Letter to B.C. Minister of Environment: (1) addressing general support for the proposed Water Sustainability Act; and (2) requesting further input to the act after it has been drafted, but before it becomes legislation.
- Presentation on groundwater priorities and issues – focus on recommendations for the Water Act Modernization process. Action item: develop a blog entry to be vetted via e-mail by the Stewardship Council and the Board of Directors prior to submitting.
- Presentation by recent graduate student Kirsten Harma, who provided an informative talk about the Water Evaluation and Planning System (WEAP) modeling tool that was used in her graduate work – the same modeling software currently under development for the Okanagan Hydrologic Connectivity Study.
- Review of a final draft of the Sustainable Water Strategy 2010 Progress Report.
- Lively discussion and review of a silvopasture project introduced by Ted van der Gulik and Lee Heskith. Rob Dinwoodie, representative from Ministry of Natural Resources and Operations, provided strong support for this initiative.
- Member updates noted a number of important issues taking place throughout the basin including tensions in the Mission Creek watershed around snow mobile association members and other motorized vehicle users irresponsibly using groomed snowmobile runs. The BC Real Estate Association is developing a flood mapping tool to support proper risk assessment and full disclosure by realtors throughout the province.

A memo was submitted by Bob Hrasko, Vice Chair of the Water Supply Association of BC and member of the Stewardship Council, titled: "Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Direction." Mr. Hrasko commented on a range of issues including: council meeting format; council meeting structure and size; sustainable strategy works. Staff are working with council members and continuing to solicit feedback on how the council may be improved and better support our mission and function.

The Water Stewardship Council was established by the Okanagan Basin Water Board as an advisory body and communication channel to water stakeholders throughout the Okanagan. The council uses its collective expertise to identify basin-wide water issues and develop solutions based on best available science, innovative policy, and consensus, and provides independent advice to the Board of Directors to support sustainable water management in the Okanagan. The council recommends only those actions that can be undertaken within the bounds of the OBWB mandate. In addition to its role as an advisory body, the council develops programs that contribute to the local knowledge base and provides stewardship tools for the watershed community, as well as provides ad hoc technical advice on board projects.

The council's mission is to be a trusted source of expertise and knowledge for sustainable water management in the Okanagan, providing balanced and considered advice to the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Directors – and through them to the community at large. The council will draw upon its member's diverse range of knowledge and experience to develop the recommendations and implement the actions needed to achieve its mission.

This month's Stewardship Council meeting will be held 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 10th at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna and board directors are encouraged to attend. This month the council will be focusing its discussion on; (1) source protection of Okanagan waters, and (2) improving council functioning: recommendations for Okanagan Stewardship Council direction and improvement for meeting format and structure. Our guest speaker this month is Fred Schaad, City of Kelowna, presenting on city drain and stormwater quantity and quality issues.

2.0 PROJECT UPDATES

2.1. Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool

The streamlined water use reporting tool launched March 4th at the Holiday Inn in West Kelowna. The launch was well-attended and covered by local media throughout the valley including print, radio and television.

2.2. Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project

The groundwater monitoring project is going well. The project team met last week to review progress of implemented wells. The committee is looking to next year's proposed monitoring well projects. Subject to funding, the groundwater monitoring project is well positioned to develop five more monitoring wells in 20011/12.

Monitoring groundwater supply is done through the development of strategically placed groundwater wells equipped with specialized monitoring equipment that provides real-time data collected at a centralized location. For this project, the data is collected by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and posted on the B.C. Government's observation well network website (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/data_searches/obswell/).

2.1. Sustainable Water Strategy Action Plan 1.0: 2010 Progress Report

The progress report has been vetted by the Water Stewardship Council and a final report has been developed and is attached. This report provides for a meaningful update on the progress of the 45 actions identified in the Sustainable Water Strategy (2008).

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010, AT
BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, Chair
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Doug Edwards
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Denise Neilsen
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Fruit Growers Association	Lorraine Bennest
BC Ground Water Association	Doug Geller (alternate)
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
City of Kelowna	Mark Watt
City of Vernon	Ed Stranks (alternate)
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Dan Millar
Kelowna Fish and Game Club	Doug Flintoft
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Oceola Fish and Game Club	Lorne Davies
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	Howard Neufeld
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Jamie Pepper (alternate)
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Margaret Bakelaar
Regional District North Okanagan	Laura Frank
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert
South Okanagan Real Estate Board	Elden Ulrich
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasko

Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Resource Stewardship & Parks	Ken Cunningham
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch	Steve Matthews
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Okanagan College	Douglas MacLeod
Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society	Mark McKenney
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck
Urban Development Institute	Robert Evans

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications and Research Coordinator	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Interim Office and Grants Administrator	Melissa Tesche

GUESTS:

B.C. Ministry of Environment, OWSC Source Protection Cttee.	Solvej Patschke
Insight Environmental Consulting	Kellie Garcia
Okanagan Xeriscape Association	Barbara Crawford
B.C. Ministry of Environment	Oleg Ivanov
Clarke Geoscience Ltd.	Jennifer Clarke
SFU doctoral candidate	Laurie Neilson-Welch

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Amend to include 9.3 – Provincial silvopasture project

Moved by Don Dobson

Seconded by Denise Neilsen

“That the agenda for the Dec. 9, 2010 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held Nov. 2, 2010, at Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna.

Small change to wording.

Moved by Doug Edwards

Seconded by Hans Buchler

“That the minutes from the Nov. 2, 2010 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT

Dr. Warwick Sears presented her board report, noting directors adopted its 2011-12 provisional budget. The budget is now being forwarded to Okanagan regional district boards for their approval.

The board voted to sign on to an agreement with Ministry of Environment and Agriculture Canada for the Groundwater Monitoring Project.

Also, the board was informed of an Osoyoos Water Forum that is being planned for October 2011. The forum will allow for feedback on reports that are being conducted in preparation for the renewal of operating orders on Osoyoos Lake and the U.S.’s Zosel Dam.

The board also approved using remaining funds from the “Rain to Resource” workshop to create a homeowners guide for rainwater management. A guide was developed in California and the OBWB was given permission to customize it to the Okanagan and make it available to local residents.

5. WSC MANDATE & PRINCIPLES REVIEW

Mr. Jatel reviewed the council mandate and principles for the benefit of new members. It was noted that the mandate of the OBWB is to enhance water quality in basin and undertake strategic projects to further this goal. The board was formed by the three Okanagan regional districts.

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council is a technical advisory body to the board, providing advice to the board and information to the public. One of its primary goals is to help ensure clean, healthy, sustainable water for future generations.

Three priorities have been identified for the council to work on in 2011/12:

- water source protection

- Okanagan groundwater
- an agriculture water reserve

1:22 p.m. Rob Birtles entered the meeting.

Much of the work of the council is led by its Sustainable Water Strategy, which recognizes that the Okanagan's water supply is affected by a number of factors including climate change, Mountain Pine beetle, and population growth.

Mr. Jatel noted that the OBWB is unique and a model to other agencies on how to manage water in a region. The OWSC is also unique in promoting dialogue and collaboration on such issues.

6. SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY REVIEW

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the OBWB's Water Management Program will be up for review at the end of this coming fiscal year. Review of the Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) will form part of the reporting of what has been accomplished.

Ms. Garcia led discussion on the draft SWS Review. Following a review of the report, she encouraged council members to provide further feedback as soon as possible. A final report is expected by the end of February.

7. PROJECT REVIEW – INNOVATIVE APPROACHES PROGRAM APPLICATION: POLICY TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER SECURITY IN THE OKANAGAN

Mr. Jatel and Dr. Warwick Sears provided an overview of the Water Board's process in applying for Innovative Approaches funding through Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC).

The AAFC Innovative Approaches Program is intended to fund projects that enhance the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector with one of the priorities being market-based instruments, noted Mr. Jatel, adding the call went out at the end of August with applications due Oct. 1st.

Mr. Edwards added that there wasn't an open call for proposals and the OBWB was invited to apply.

With Water Board approval, a grant proposal was submitted by staff. Subsequent conversations with AAFC asked the Water Board to narrow its proposal to study the concept of an Agricultural Water Reserve in the Okanagan (what the benefits would be and what it might look like) and develop a Water Pricing Toolkit. The agency also requested that the OBWB seek further input from the local agricultural community and other stakeholders before resubmitting.

Mr. Jatel noted that a meeting the previous day with stakeholders provided helpful feedback. Council members, including members of the agricultural community and local water purveyors, raised a number of issues at the meeting including: the lack of consultation prior to the original proposal submission, the size of the original proposal, the inclusion of market-based mechanisms, lack of emphasis on collaborative learning, and the contingent valuation study of how the public values agriculture land.

With feedback from AAFC and input from the agricultural community a revised proposal was proposed by staff. Mr. Jatel presented a PowerPoint presentation with highlights of a revised proposal outline. He then asked for comments from council members, adding that if the council wishes to proceed, the deadline for staff to submit a revised final submission would be Dec. 17th.

Mr. Buchler said that he supports the proposal in principle and that he would like to see ongoing consultation throughout the process. Ms. Bennest agreed and also noted the importance of ongoing consultation.

Mr. van der Gulik suggested that the study on an Agricultural Water Reserve should consider a model that will work throughout B.C., adding that the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and Environment has an Ag-Water Subcommittee that could be helpful.

A vote was called by Chair Bauer on whether staff should resubmit a revised proposal and it passed with a majority.

8. ROUND TABLE – DIALOGUE ON OKANAGAN WATER: SOURCE PROTECTION STRATEGY

Mr. Jatel provided a review of the discussions around source protection at the last council meeting, adding a number of barriers were identified. It was suggested that a workshop could be useful, reviewing the gaps and looking at a valley-wide strategy.

Mr. Dobson said that a workshop would require organization, adding inter-jurisdictional issues are a stumbling block and the council will have to explain the benefits of such a strategy.

Mr. Birtles noted that, currently, source protection plans are being done one at a time, up and down the valley. By bringing in the OBWB, best practices can be established and become a model for the province.

Mr. Jatel said that the Source Protection Strategy subcommittee will be meeting in February, prior to next council meeting and will look at this issue.

9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Farm Classification Memo

Mr. van der Gulik provided council with information regarding a letter of support he is requesting from the OBWB, asking the province to waive the income requirement for farm status in Level 3 drought conditions.

The request is the result of a suggestion made by the Regional District of North Okanagan last winter when it was concerned about potential drought. Such an allowance by the province would let those with farm status not water without losing their status.

Chair Bauer added that the board approved writing a letter in principle but wanted to know why Minister Ben Stewart was opposed. We still don't have an answer to this, he added.

Mr. Jatel said that he would draft a letter.

9.2 Bill S-11 - Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act

Mr. Jatel noted Bill S-11 is intended to standardize drinking water regulations for First Nations in Canada, however, there has been some criticism of the legislation. Council member were asked to take a look at the bill and told that it will be discussed in the coming weeks. Kelowna-Lake Country MP Ron Cannan has been told that the Stewardship Council will be reviewing the bill, he added.

9.3 Provincial silvopasture project

Mr. van der Gulik informed council members that the BC Ministry of Agriculture is interested in piloting silvopasture sites in the North Okanagan. It is looking for funding, development and delivery partners (e.g. with other agencies, producers and conservation interests). Those interested in the project were invited to contact his office.

10. ROUND TABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

- Ms. Bakelaar: RDCO is looking for new members for its environmental advisory commission. Interested individuals can apply online. The regional district is looking for people with a variety of backgrounds.
- Mr. Hrasko: The Kelowna Joint Water Committee is busy developing a drinking water strategy.
- Dr. Guy: Canadian Water Resources Association is holding its annual conference in St. John's, Nfld. in June. Summit Environmental is looking for biologists and hydrogeologists.
- Mr. Davies: Middle Vernon Creek had 8,000 kokanee return making it an average year.
- Ms. Frank: The RDNO-Shuswap advisory group had a successful first meeting regarding a basin-wide water protection plan, with about 40 participants attending. The meeting included a visioning exercise and identification of issues. There was also talk about incorporating Source Water Protection into the planning strategy.
- Ms. Neilsen-Welch: The Adaptation to Climate Change Team at SFU is studying why the Okanagan Basin has been successful in planning its adaptation to climate change. It will be using the information to form the basis of a model to be used in other communities.
- Mr. Ulrich: The Government Relations Committee for the BC Real Estate Association has conducted a survey on water conservation. It shows 70 percent of clients did not raise the issue with their realtor. Another study on the residential cost/benefit of conservation and flood protection has been done. Contact us for more information.
- Mr. Edwards: Agriculture and Agri-food Canada is looking to hire a hydrogeologist to help with work in the B.C. Interior, a watershed hydrologist for Kamloops, as well as possibly other positions in the Southern Interior. We're planning a Kelowna workshop for the end of February with the national ag-climate service and Environment Canada, looking at forecasting and new products available. A water well workshop to discuss best practices with homeowners is also being discussed. Stats Canada will be releasing crop assessments, making it timelier to find conditions of crops on a climate basis.

Ms. Bennest suggested that there be some discussion about holding council meetings in other parts of the Okanagan valley to make it easier for those who travel long distances to attend. Mr. Hrasko added that maybe one meeting a year in the north and one in the south should be considered. Mr. Stanko noted that Kelowna is a half-way point for a lot of members.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held Feb. 10, 2011.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Moved by Elden Ulrich

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of Nov. 2, 2010 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 1, 2011
Agenda No: 5.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: February 22, 2011
Subject: Communications and Research Coordinator's Report

Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) Launch

The launch of SWURT on Friday, Feb. 4, at the Holiday Inn in West Kelowna went very well and was followed by a training session for Okanagan water utility staff. The news conference was attended by local, provincial and federal government officials, utility staff from various parts of the Okanagan, as well as media. Media representation included TV (*CHBC News*), radio (*CBC Kelowna*), Internet news (*Castanet*), and newspapers (*Kelowna Capital News*, the *Kelowna Daily Courier*, and *Westside Weekly*). The story was also picked up by a number of other media outlets throughout the valley (e.g. *Astral's AM 1150*, *Sun FM* and *EZ Rock* stations), ensuring the news reached every community in the Okanagan Basin.

Interestingly, *Castanet* ran a poll based on the story, noting: "The OBWB recently upgraded its water management system. Do you plan to take more steps toward water conservation in your home?" Some 1,236 votes were cast over two days. While 635 responded "yes" another 601 said "no." It should be remembered that such polls are not scientific, however, it is still significant that the topic was chosen as a question to put to the public and that a large number of people, at least for a moment, were prompted to think about their water use.

Below, please find the poll and results attached, as well as a news clipping from the SWURT launch.

World Water Week

World Water Week is March 20 to 26, 2011. The OBWB is planning a panel discussion on March 22 at the Bohemian Café (Kelowna), 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The topic is "Water for Cities – Responding to the Urban Challenge." We hope to attract more people than we have in past years by holding it later in the day, making it easier for the working/student crowd to attend.

Staff are also working to develop a contest for youth, promoting awareness around Okanagan water issues and the Okanagan WaterWise program.

The Gordon Foundation now has its Canada Water Week website up and running (www.canadawaterweek.com). People are invited to post their Water Week events on the site. It also has a number of useful materials, including proclamations, posters to fill in event information on, and much more. The site is at: www.canadawaterweek.com. You can also connect with them on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr.

Drinking Water Week

Work continues with BC Water and Waste Association to develop materials to promote Drinking Water Week (DWW), May 1 to 7, 2011. OBWB staff have also been talking with RDNO and City of Penticton staff to promote a valley-wide message around water, recognizing that we are “One Valley. One Water.”

Attached is a proclamation for Drinking Water Week. The DWW committee is also looking for water utilities to provide tours of their treatment plants – encouraging residents to get to know where their water comes from. RDNO will be holding an open house at their new Duteau Creek Water Treatment Plant and calls have gone out to other communities in the valley to determine interest.

The BCWWA has developed some web pages for Drinking Water Week materials. They can be found at: www.bcwwa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=32&Itemid=214.

There is also a DWW Facebook page at www.facebook.com/drinkingwaterweek?sk=wall.

Water Board Website Traffic

In response to a request from the board, staff asked the OBWB’s website manager, Inge van Oostveen to prepare a report on traffic to the Water Board’s corporate website (www.obwb.ca) and its public outreach website (www.okwaterwise.ca). Ms. Van Oostveen was also asked to include information on how to improve the websites to increase traffic, better meet the needs of visitors and improve the sites as important communication tools for the Water Board. Ms. Van Oostveen’s report is attached as 5.3.1.

Summary of Recent Media

Jan. 24	“OBWB invites proposals for grants,” <i>AM 1150, Sun FM Penticton</i>
Feb. 2	“Power of internet harnessed to track Okanagan water use,” <i>AM1150, EZ Rock Penticton, and EZ Rock Kelowna</i>
Feb. 3	“Conservation projects can tap into funding,” <i>Penticton Western News</i>
Feb. 3	“Water board says public left out,” <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
Feb. 4	“The importance of SWURT,” <i>AM 1150 Jacked-in with Jessica Samuels</i> (live afternoon drive show)
Feb. 4	“New way to track your water usage,” <i>CHBC News, Global Wpg., Global Toronto, Regina Leader Post</i>
Feb. 4	“Water Board unveils tool to improve water management,” <i>CBC Radio One</i>
Feb. 4	“OBWB improves water management,” <i>Castanet</i>
Feb. 4	“OBWB unveils water reporting tool,” <i>Peachland News</i>
Feb. 4	“Revolutionizing water management,” <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
Feb. 4	“Water use reporting tool unveiled,” <i>Power 104, Q 103.1</i>
Feb. 6	“Water usage reports streamlined,” <i>Kelowna Daily Courier</i>
Feb. 7	“Water Board wants more input to BC Water Act,” <i>EZRock Penticton</i>
Feb. 7	“Council discusses village zoning bylaw (UBCO water resources chair),” <i>Keremeos Review</i>
Feb. 7	“Okanagan releases water use reporting tool,” <i>Water Canada</i>
Feb. 7	“Poll - Will you do more to conserve water?” <i>Castanet</i>
Feb. 8	“Okanagan directors say water act process is all wet,” <i>Vernon Morning Star</i>
Feb. 9	“SWURT a vital part of water management,” <i>Westside Weekly</i>
Feb. 10	“Water Board has ideas for revising century-old B.C. Water Act,” <i>AM1150, Sun FM Kelowna, Sun FM Penticton</i>
Feb. 11	“New program, tracks water,” <i>Vernon Morning Star</i>
Feb. 13	“Council backs water projects,” <i>Vernon Morning Star</i>
Feb. 15	“Grant pursued for oxbows,” <i>Penticton Western News</i>
Feb. 15	“Water board grants,” <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
Feb. 17	“Frozen Osoyoos Lake freezes out OBWB milfoil clearing efforts,” <i>Sun FM Penticton, Sun FM Vernon, EZRock Summerland, AM1150 Kelowna</i>
Feb. 22	“RDCO Board highlights - Water Board grants,” <i>Castanet</i>

While a summary of recent media (as above) is a useful tool to determine if the Water Board's messages are getting out, it is interesting to note the changing landscape of communications. No longer is the public merely learning of what is happening in their community through traditional media (eg. TV, radio, and print). In the past year, it has been noted that social media is fast becoming an important tool in communications, for example Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.

Through Okanagan WaterWise's Facebook and Twitter pages, almost daily messages regarding the work of the OBWB or other water news is reaching at least 150 followers – people who have chosen to stay connected to our message.

As for blogs, the OBWB is appearing in these as well. For example, Stu Wells' re-election as board chair was noted in the Penticton Daily News blog on Feb. 6. The Oliver Daily News blog promoted the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum in a Feb. 17 post. The OBWB's involvement in World Water Day events was noted in the Feb. 18 UBC-O blog, and information regarding the Water Board has appeared in Lake Country CAO Alberto DeFeo's blog.

Summary of Upcoming Presentations

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Mar. 3 | "Planning for climate change and rapid population growth – trials and innovations in the Okanagan," to Canadian Water Network National Conference (Ottawa) – Dr. Warwick Sears |
| Mar. 7 | "Update on OBWB activities," to Kelowna council (Kelowna) – Dr. Warwick Sears |
| Mar. 10 | "OBWB Plans and Projects for 2011-2012," to Regional District of Central Okanagan (Kelowna) – Dr. Warwick Sears |
| Mar. 22 | "Water and the Okanagan," to opening ceremonies of World Water Day at UBC-O (Kelowna) – Mr. Jatel |
| Apr. 18 | "Are Water Prices in the Okanagan Effective?," to BCWWA Annual Conference and Trade Show (Kelowna) – Mr. Jatel |

Recently Delivered Presentations

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 4 | "Launch of Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool," to media, water utilities and elected officials (West Kelowna) – Dr. Warwick Sears, Mr. Jatel |
| Feb. 15 | "OBWB programs and Okanagan water issues," to Kelowna Roundtable (Kelowna) – Dr. Warwick Sears |
| Feb. 22 | "Okanagan Water governance," National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (Penticton) – Dr. Warwick Sears |

NEWS YOU CAN USE...

Please note the following materials and news items for Board Directors to take back to their communities.

- Public invitation to free Water Week panel discussion, presented by the Okanagan Basin Water Board and UBC-Okanagan.

TOPIC: Water for Cities – Responding to the Urban Challenge
DATE: Tues., March 22, 2011
TIME: 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Bohemian Café, 524 Bernard Ave., Kelowna

- Encourage people in your own community to hold an event celebrating water during Canada Water Week (March 14-22) or World Water Week (March 20-26). Forward the link to Canada Water Week (www.canadawaterweek.com) for people to post their own events and the poster link for people to fill out with their own event information (<http://canadawaterweek.com/content/posters>).
- A proclamation for Drinking Water Week in May. (A separate proclamation for Canada Water Week in March is also available on the page: <http://canadawaterweek.com/content/banners>.)



BC Water & Waste Association

Drinking Water Week in British Columbia, May 1-7, 2011

Mayor Proclamation

The BC Water & Waste Association together with the Province of BC has proclaimed May 1-7, 2011 Drinking Water Week in British Columbia. The aim of Drinking Water Week is to create awareness of the value of our water and its role in maintaining our quality of life. Our ultimate goal is to increase public appreciation of our water and the need to conserve and protect it, as well as the need to manage wastewater responsibly. This is an opportunity to get people thinking about where their water comes from, how it gets to them, and what happens after they have used it.

The BC Water & Waste Association's mandate is to safeguard public health and the environment in all water and wastewater matters. Therefore, our provincial Drinking Water Week Committee asks that all municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia proclaim Drinking Water Week from May 1-7, 2011.

Sample Proclamation Wording:

WHEREAS human health is dependent upon an abundant supply of pure, clean drinking water, and

WHEREAS safety, quality and abundance of water can only be safeguarded by sound environmental protection, appropriate treatment, and properly maintained distribution systems, and

WHEREAS we are all stewards of the water infrastructure which future generations depend upon, and

WHEREAS each citizen of our community is called upon to help protect our source waters from pollution, to practice water conservation, and to get involved in local water issues, and

WHEREAS federal, provincial, and local governments as well as concerned organizations, are cognizant and supportive of measures which promote safe, clean, and abundant water, and responsible wastewater management, and

WHEREAS one such measure involves heightening public awareness of the value of our drinking water resources, and encouraging the public to promote this awareness.

The City of _____, along with the BC Water & Waste Association and the Province of BC hereby proclaim that May 1-7, 2011 shall be known as **"Drinking Water Week"** in British Columbia.



AM1150 Newscentre

The power of the internet harnessed to help track Okanagan water usage

2/2/2011

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is launching a web tool that will keep tabs on how much water is being used.

That information is critical to help prepare for and manage water shortages and increased demand.

The demand is expected to increase due to climate change and population growth.

Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears says you can't manage what you can't measure.

"If you have no idea how much water people are actually using, how can you plan? You have to have a much better sense about what the actual water extraction is occurring out of the creeks and aquifers."

The Streamlined Water Use reporting Tool will be used by the over 100 water utilities up and down the valley.

Warwick Sears says they'll be able to determine things like... why at some times of the year is there not enough water in a particular stream for fish.

"Who's actually taking the water out and how much they're actually using. The Ministry of the Environment is actually supposed to be tracking that but I think there's not as much oversight as there could be."

According to Warwick Sears, the water providers will enter their data into the webtool providing an ongoing record of how much water is being used.

"Really it's a problem where you have a whole lot of different users extracting water from a source and there's no way of keeping track of how much they're using. It's equivalent to putting a water metre on your house but really it's looking at how much is coming out of the stream."

Funding for the \$249,100 price tag was split three ways.

Close to \$153,000 came from the federal government's Building Canada Fund, another \$18,000 from Environment Canada with the balance from the Okanagan Basin Water Board itself.

Howard Alexander - Kelowna

Westside Weekly

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

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NEWS

SWURT a vital part of water management

By Dorothy Brotherton
Westside Weekly

No, SWURT is not a new cartoon character, it's the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool, introduced in West Kelowna recently by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Mayor Doug Findlater called it an "impressive tool," and Anna Warwick Sears of the water board said it is critical for managing the Okanagan's water supplies and preparing for expected shortages.

It's an online computer software program designed for large volume water users to make it easy to report water use monthly.

"It's a giant step forward in the Okanagan, a first for B.C.," said Sears, explaining the pilot project here will roll out across the province if all goes well.

Water utility personnel will plug in information and the program will standardize the data, organize the information and spit it back in a useable format to both water utilities and government departments.

It is expected to save a whole lot of paperwork and time spent by water staff, who currently send paper-and-pencil reports to a variety of agencies.

Basically, it means we can have an ongoing record of how much water we are using.

Currently, the average Okanagan resident uses two times more water than the average Canadian, and yet the Okanagan has the least amount of water available per person in Canada, said Sears.

She recalled seeing a movie from 1972-73 about Okanagan water use, which asked hard questions of how to protect the water for our children.

"We could ask, how come we didn't fix it? But this is generational work.

"A major effort was undertaken (by an earlier generation) to get sewage out of the lake. Now it's about water supply," she added.

The data collected by SWURT, Sears noted, is important for infrastructure planning, long-term planning of communities, title and rights issues with first nations and other issues.

SWURT is geared to the Okanagan's 25 major water utilities, but is intended to bring together all those who extract large amounts of ground water.

"This is a fundamental change in how we manage water. We're looking for grants to expand it.

"It's not just about preparing for water shortages, but about having a much richer source of water management. It's about preserving this beautiful valley that we share," said Sears.



KIRSTIN LESOSKY/Westside Weekly

LIFE'S A BEACH

The George Court Beach Access was the place to be on a snowy day as residents gathered for a bonfire and some chili served up in bread bowls. Hosted by the Westside Resident's and Business Association, the event was well attended as residents enjoyed the tucked away-beach access, now under debate for a potential trade.

Continued on page 2



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SWURT

Continued from page 1

Findlater said West Kelowna staff welcomes the tool. He spoke proudly of steps in water protection being taken by the new municipality.

He explained West Kelowna has integrated two well-run large irrigation districts and now has five water utilities.

The official community plan will reflect our water values, Findlater added. He enumerated other strides, such as a water master plan and a stormwater management plan underway.

"Coun. Carol Zanon is a champion of xeriscaping and conservation," said Findlater.

He sits on the regional district's committee on wastewater management and noted the Westside plant is going to flow metering.

"The charge will be based on flow, not just number of residences, so it's an added reason to reduce consumption — it will reduce your taxes."

Bruce Wilson of Spot Solutions called SWURT a "one-stop data shop," and noted that "you can't manage what you can't measure."

He pictured trying to manage New York City traffic by driving a 1957 Chev through the streets, using a map, a phone booth and rolling down the window to ask directions, compared with the advantages of an eye-in-the-sky helicopter equipped with the latest technology.

That's an analogy of the old and new water data collection systems, he said.

Darren Schlamp of the Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District praised the new tool, but said other tools are needed.

"I look forward to more announcements of filling other gaps on our water knowledge," said Schlamp.

SWURT was developed with input from more than 25 Okanagan water utilities, government departments and ministries, and contractor, Spot Solutions.

Cost was \$249,000, provided by the Building Canada Fund, Environment Canada and OBWB.



KIRSTIN LESOSKY/Westside Weekly

With Tango music playing and snow falling, Westside lawyer Paul Hergott did a cold practice run of his ballroom dance moves, straight into Okanagan Lake on Sunday. Hergott will be performing with his wife, Terri, to raise money for the hospice society.

Takes two to tango

By Michelle Coile
Westside Weekly

West Kelowna lawyer Paul Hergott and his wife, Terri, will be participating in Swinging with the Stars, an annual fundraiser for the Central Okanagan Hospice Society.

The pair will be performing the Argentine Tango March 4 at the Coast Capri Hotel.

Although the Swinging with the Stars event is sold out, the community has the chance to check out Paul and Terri as they debut their tango during the Swinging with the Stars Preview Event Fundraising Evening Feb. 25 from 6 to 11 p.m. at Shannon Lake Golf Course.

Tickets cost \$20 each and include a burger dinner and beverage with a vegetarian option available, silent auction, 50/50 draw and music by Flyin' Hawaiian Entertainment with \$10 of each ticket going toward Paul's fundraising campaign.

Paul is taking on a series of antics when fundraising milestones are reached which has already resulted in him taking the plunge into Okanagan Lake.

If the fundraising campaign reaches \$5,000, Paul will be waxing one of his legs. If he raises \$10,000, watch for him running down the street in a hotdog suit.

Tickets for the Preview Event are available at Hergott Law at 250-769-5802 and Rose Valley Deli Mart.

For more information or to donate, go online to hlaw.ca/dance, call 250-769-5802 or e-mail info@hlaw.ca.



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TAKE THE POLL

The O B W B recently upgraded its water management system. Do you plan to take more steps toward water conservation in your home?

Yes	<div></div> 635
No	<div></div> 600

Total votes: 1235

Will you do more to conserve water?



by Grant Scott - Story: 59964
Feb 5, 2011 / 4:00 pm

"You can't manage what you can't measure"

With those words, Bruce Wilson of Spot Solutions summed up why his company teamed up with the Okanagan Basin Water Board and both the Federal and Provincial government to develop a revolutionary new software tool known as "SWUR T".

The Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool was unveiled at the Holiday Inn in West Kelowna Friday morning.

"We're extremely pleased to be launching this made in the Okanagan web based tool." says Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director for the water board.

"SWUR T will help our water utilities keep an ongoing record of how much water we are using. This is critical for managing our water supplies and preparing for the shortages that are expected with a growing population and climate change."

The Board also says their data shows that the average Okanagan resident uses 675 litres of water per day, more than twice the national average of 329 litres per day. This despite the fact that the Okanagan has the least amount of water available per capita in Canada.

With high usage rates and growing demand, water utilities across the Okanagan realized they have to work together to manage the valley's limited water resources.

SWUR T will replace the current system of water utilities manually writing reports and faxing them to the province.

"It's a dynamic tool that makes financial sense," says Wilson. "It consolidates data from all water users to help protect water sources, including Okanagan Lake, and will provide more information to the province more accurately."

Kelowna-Lake Country MP Ron Cannan had praise for the OBWB initiative.

"The internet, on a constant basis, is part of our livelihood. You can't leave home without the Blackberry. I applaud the leadership and innovation of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for using technology for making this system more efficient, more effective and obviously residents of the community will be the beneficiaries."

If this pilot project is successful in the Okanagan, it will soon be used in the rest of B.C. "The staff in Victoria are certainly looking forward to seeing the results of this project," says John Slater, B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation.

Kelowna Lake Country MLA Norm Letnick says SWUR T will also help compare the levels of usage for both agricultural and residential customers.

"A big part of this is to continue to provide information to everyone in the Okanagan. We're all part of the same system, so whatever we can do to continue the reduction in the use of that water, that precious resource that we need for agriculture, that we need to keep in our reservoirs to fight those fires that we have now and then, to fight the droughts, is a good thing."

"This program will help us measure water use in the Okanagan, and hopefully that will translate into each of us individually being more careful with our own water use."

SWUR T was developed with support from the Canada-BC Building Canada Fund and Environment Canada at a cost of just under \$250,000.

More than 25 Okanagan water utilities were consulted on this project, along with the B.C. Ministries of Environment and Health Services as well as the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

February 23, 2011

Anna Warwick Sears
Executive DirectorOkanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna BC V1W 3Z4Agenda No. 5.3.1Regular: ☒ In-Camera: ☐Date: March 1, 2011**Re: Website Statistical Analysis****OBWB**

Dear Anna,

Thank you for selecting WebWoman Communications to analyze website usage statistics for the Okanagan Basin Water Board's website at www.obwb.ca and the Okanagan WaterWise website at www.okwaterwise.ca.

This preliminary report will provide you with baseline website usage data that can be compared to your websites' performance at regular intervals (e.g. quarterly), and used to inform a plan to tune-up or tweak the websites, with measurable results.


Two main technological approaches were used to collect the data examined by this report. The first method, logfile analysis, reads the logfiles in which the web server records all its transactions, and the second method, page tagging, uses JavaScript on each page to notify Google Analytics when a page is rendered by a web browser.

Website data, similar to all data collection efforts, has its limitations. What may seem like a simple calculation to determine the number of visitors to a particular website is actually a very complicated exercise that depends on a variety of external factors, including the type of Internet connection each visitor is using, and whether those visitors are assigned dynamic or static I.P. (Internet Protocol) addresses.

For example, when an individual chooses to access your website from a different location than their usual computer, they are counted as a different user, although it is in fact that same individual visiting your website, and potentially, downloading the same content. Similarly, dial-up users do not have static IP addresses and are counted as unique visitors each time.

Please bear these limitations in mind as you read this report.

Sincerely,

Inge van Oostveen
WebWoman Communications

OBWB Website Stats Overview – Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2010

The OBWB's corporate website at www.obwb.ca received a steady amount of traffic throughout the year. In 2010, above average website activity was noted for the period of March to May. A comparative lull, or a 15% reduction in website traffic, was observed from mid-June through to the end of August.

On average, the site was well visited on weekdays and recorded an average number of 120 page views per weekday, which represents the average number of pages viewed by visitors on any given weekday from Monday to Friday. Comparatively, weekend usage was relatively low, and generated an average of 25 page views per day.

Per visit, users viewed an average of 2.85 webpages and spent an average of 2 minutes and 21 seconds on the website. Again, these numbers are averages only and does not reflect a particular individual's browsing patterns. Any average time spent on a website greater than 2 minutes is an achievement to be celebrated.

The OBWB website is a relatively large and information-rich website that comprises 269 unique page titles, which were viewed a total of 37,257 times in 2010.

The importance of the OBWB website in the provision of information to visitors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week cannot be understated. The website is a cost-effective vehicle that quickly and easily delivers information to users without impacting OBWB staff time. For example, a large number of documents provided in PDF format that are relatively large in file size (> 5Mb) are regularly downloaded each month by visitors.

Average number of document downloads, per month:

- Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy (4.4Mb PDF): **105**
- Water Supply & Demand Phase 1 Report (1.3Mb PDF): **90**
- 1974 Basin Study (9.37Mb PDF): **35**
- State of Fish in the Basin (6.5Mb PDF): **17**
- OWOW Conference Proceedings (8.9 Mb PDF): **32**
- Okanagan Lake Action Plan (10.2 Mb): **11**
- 1970s OBWB Minutes (11.1Mb PDF): **17**

With at least 78% of visitors utilizing **High Speed connections**, the provision of these large file-size documents via the OBWB website is a routine part of OBWB workflow and allows nearly instant access to information to anyone with an Internet connection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WHAT BROWSERS ARE VISITORS USING?

- The top 3 browsers accounted for 94% of all website traffic in 2010.
- Internet Explorer was the most popular browser (62.7%), followed by Firefox (20.8%) and Safari (10.4%).

WHERE ARE OUR VISITORS FROM?

- 13,063 visits were received from 107 countries or territories. 85% from Canada and 7.6% from the U.S. Top Canadian gateways include Kelowna 37%, Vancouver 8%, Vernon 6.5%, Victoria 5% and Penticton 4%.
- 13,063 visits came from 1,304 service providers, of which the top 3 service providers (Shaw, Telus, Province of BC) delivered nearly 63% of all visits.

HOW DO VISITORS FIND OUR WEBSITE?

- The majority of traffic to the OBWB website in 2010 was driven by **search engines** (60.3%), with **direct traffic** (typing in the OBWB website address into the browser, or following a browser bookmark, or a link in an OBWB staffer's email) accounting for 22.5% of all visits, and the remaining 17.3% derived from **referrer sites**, which are websites that contain a link to your site.
- **Referrals drove a total of 2,253 visits to the OBWB website from 210 different sources.** Top referrers included Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society, and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.
- **Referrals are a great way to drive more traffic to your website** – regularly reviewing OBWB webstats makes it possible to track the number of visits received from each referrer site over time, and allows evaluation of the effectiveness of paid placements.
- The **top 5 keyword searches** (“Okanagan Basin Water Board”, “OBWB”, “Okanagan Water Board”, “Eurasian Milfoil Plan Okanagan”, “Eurasian Watermilfoil”) accounted for **63% of all search engine traffic** to the OBWB website in 2010.

HOW LOYAL ARE OUR VISITORS?

- At least 47% are returning visitors.
- 53% visited once and 9% visited twice.
- Repeat visitors include at least 4% who visited the site 9 to 14 times, and **11% who returned to the site more than 200 times.**
- **Keep in mind the caveat on new vs returning users** – these stats likely indicate that there are more new users than there are in reality, due to the difficulties in determining the exact number of unique visitors.

WHAT PAGES ARE OUR VISITORS VIEWING?

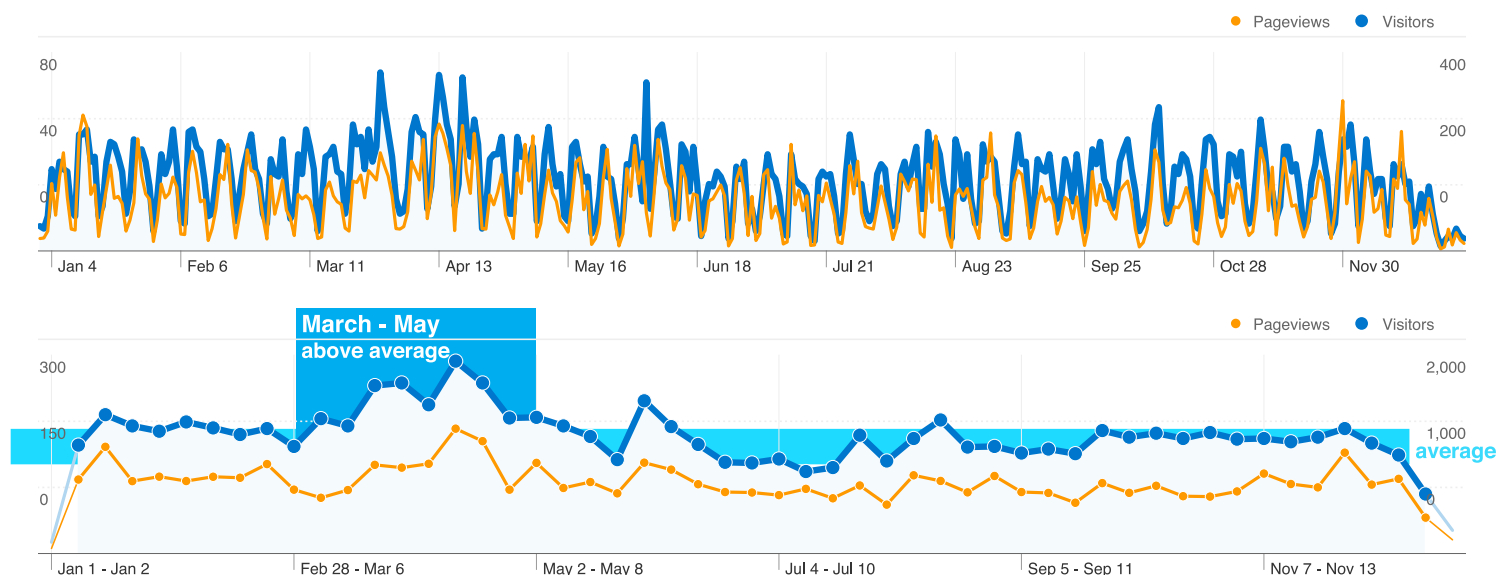
- With 269 page titles currently available on the OBWB website, additional analysis is necessary to determine which pages are viewed most often, which pages are not viewed regularly, whether there is any correlation with special events or media advisories to drive traffic to particular pages of the site, which sites are top exit page (the last page viewed by the user before leaving the site), etc.
- Significant seasonal, monthly, weekly and daily variations are noted in the top content.

CORRELATION OF WEBSITE ACTIVITY with NEWS RELEASES and MEDIA ADVISORIES

- The correlation between website visits and page views to the OBWB website and other efforts such as news releases and media advisories for the timeframes of January to June 2010, and June to December 2010 was examined and is further detailed on the following pages.

READ ON:

- **2010 Visitors Overview (Page 5)**
 - January to December 2010
- **2010 Page Views Correlated to Media Advisories, News Conferences, Events etc.**
 - January to June 2010 – Page 6
 - June to December 2010 – Page 7



Trends

Low activity on weekends. Average page views: 25

High activity on weekdays (Monday to Friday). Average page views: 120

At least **78% of visitors** utilize **High Speed** connections.

The top 3 browsers account for **94%** of all website traffic. **Internet Explorer** is the most popular browser (62.7%), followed by **Firefox** (20.8%) and **Safari** (10.4%).

13,063 visits came from **1,304 service providers**, of which the **top 3 service providers** (Shaw, Telus, Province of BC) delivered nearly **63%** of all visits.

13,063 visits were received from **107 countries or territories**. 85% from Canada and 7.6% from the U.S. Top Canadian gateways include Kelowna 37%, Vancouver 8%, Vernon 6.5%, Victoria 5% and Penticton 4%.

At least **47%** are **returning visitors**. 53% visited once and 9% visited twice. Repeat visitors include at least 4% who visited the site 9 to 14 times, and 11% who returned to the site more than 200 times.

7,204 people visited this site

13,063 Visits

7,204 Absolute Unique Visitors

37,257 Pageviews

269 page titles were viewed a total of 37,257 times

2.85 Average Pageviews

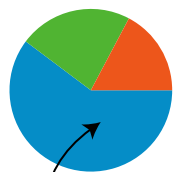
00:02:21 Time on Site

53.70% Bounce Rate

percentage of single page visits

52.88% New Visits

Traffic Sources



Search Engines
7,870.00 (60.25%)

Direct Traffic
2,940.00 (22.51%)

Referring Sites
2,253.00 (17.25%)

Top 3 Search Engines

Google 54%

Bing 3.4%

Yahoo 2%

Top 3 Referrers

Wikipedia 1%

LinkedIn 1%

olwqs.org 0.8%

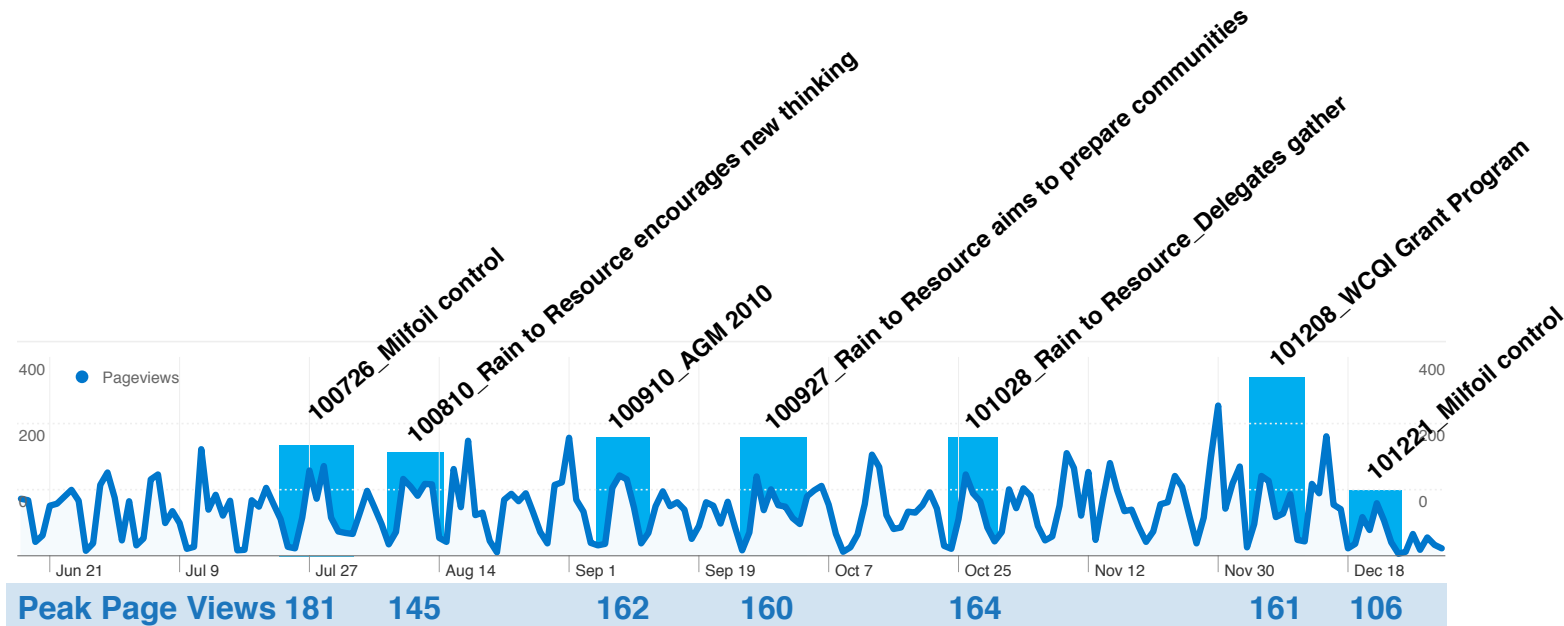
The **top 5 keywords** account for **63%** of search engine traffic

Keywords	Visits	% visits
okanagan basin water board	1,252	15.91%
obwb	946	12.02%
eurasian milfoil plan okanagan	379	4.82%
okanagan water board	246	3.13%
eurasian watermilfoil	147	1.87%

Content Overview

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	7,406	19.88%
/about/	2,081	5.59%
/water_management/	2,032	5.45%
/contact/	1,627	4.37%
/water_supply_demand/	1,565	4.20%

Page Views Correlated to Media Advisories, News Conferences, Events etc.



100726_Milfoil control (704)

July 24 – 18 (Saturday)
 July 25 – 15
 July 26 – 77
 July 27 – 172 (Tuesday – PEAK)
 July 28 – 115
 July 29 – 181 (Thursday – PEAK)
 July 30 – 77
 July 31 – 49 (Saturday)

100810_Rain to Resource encourages new thinking on stormwater management (789)

August 8 – 48 (Saturday)
 August 9 – 155
 August 10 – 140
 August 11 – 121
 August 12 – 145
 August 13 – 144 (Friday)
 August 14 – 36 (Saturday)

100910_AGM 2010 (600)

Media advisory, News conference
 September 6 – 24 (Monday, Labour Day)
 September 7 – 137
 September 8 – 162 (Wednesday – PEAK)
 September 9 – 154
 September 10 – 97
 September 11 – 25 (Saturday)

100927_Rain to Resource aims to prepare communities for climate change (710)

Media advisory, News conference
 September 26 – 47 (Sunday)
 September 27 – 160 (Monday – PEAK)
 September 28 – 92
 September 29 – 134
 September 30 – 102
 October 1 – 99
 October 2 – 76 (Saturday)

101028_Rain to Resource_Delegates gather to address rains of climate change (545)

October 24 – 14 (Sunday)
 October 25 – 74
 October 26 – 164
 October 27 – 126
 October 28 – 110
 October 29 – 57 (Friday)

101208_WCQI Grant Program (663)

December 5 – 64 (Sunday)
 December 6 – 161
 December 7 – 151
 December 8 – 78
 December 9 – 85
 December 10 – 124 (Friday)

101221_Milfoil control (358)

December 19 – 24 (Sunday)
 December 20 – 78
 December 21 – 52
 December 22 – 106
 December 23 – 71
 December 24 – 27 (Friday)

18,052 Pageviews

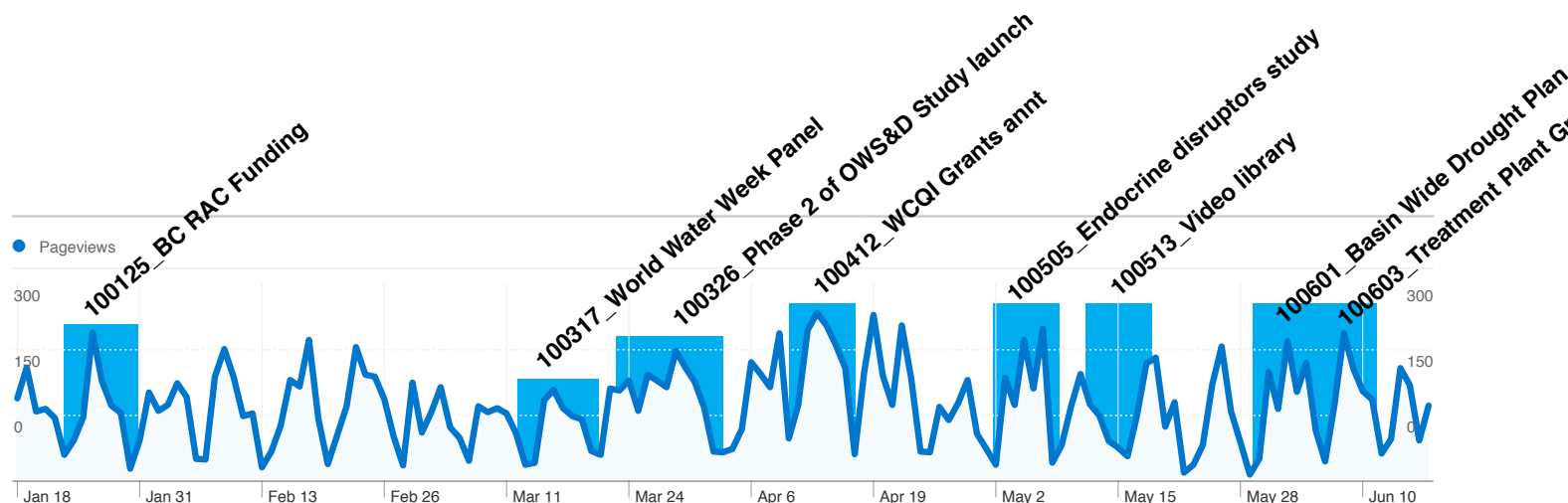
14,808 Unique Views

55.69% Bounce Rate

Jun 17, 2010 - Dec 31, 2010

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	3,460	19.17%
/about/	978	5.42%
/water_supply_demand/	889	4.92%
/water_management/	873	4.84%
/contact/	738	4.09%

Page Views Correlated to Media Advisories, News Conferences, Events etc.



226 Peak Page Views

139 198

256

232 188

213 / 225

100125_BC RAC Funding

Media advisory, News conference

January 24 - 40 (Saturday)
January 25 - 62
January 26 - 97
January 27 - 226 (Tuesday - PEAK)
January 28 - 152
January 29 - 115
January 30 - 104 (Friday)
January 31 - 19 (Saturday)

100317_World Water Week Panel

March 15 - 123 (Monday)
March 16 - 139 (PEAK - Tuesday)
March 17 - 111
March 18 - 99
March 19 - 94 (Friday)

100326_Phase 2 of OWS&D Study launch

Media advisory, News conference

March 25 - 102
March 26 - 162 (Friday)
March 27 - 153
March 28 - 143
March 29 - 198 (Monday - PEAK)
March 30 - 173
March 31 - 151
April 1 - 112
April 2 - 45 (Friday)

100412_WCQI Grants annt

April 12 - 230 (Monday)
April 13 - 256 (Tuesday - PEAK)
April 14 - 237
April 15 - 207
April 16 - 172 (Friday)
April 17 - 41 (Saturday)

100505_Endocrine disruptors study

May 2 - 25 (Sunday)
May 3 - 157
May 4 - 116
May 5 - 215
May 6 - 141
May 7 - 232 (Friday - PEAK)
May 8 - 28 (Saturday)

100513_Video library

Media advisory

May 12 - 117 (Wednesday)
May 13 - 100
May 14 - 61
May 15 - 51
May 16 - 38 (Sunday)
May 17 - 100
May 18 - 179
May 19 - 188 (Wednesday - PEAK)

100601_Basin Wide Drought Plan

100603_Treatment Plant Grants

May 30 - 34 (Sunday)
May 31 - 166
June 1 - 110
June 2 - 213 (Wednesday - PEAK 1)
June 3 - 136
June 4 - 180 (Friday)
June 5 - 77
June 6 - 30 (Sunday)
June 7 - 117
June 8 - 225 (Tuesday - PEAK 2)
June 9 - 171
June 10 - 137
June 11 - 124 (Friday)

17,368 Pageviews

14,526 Unique Views

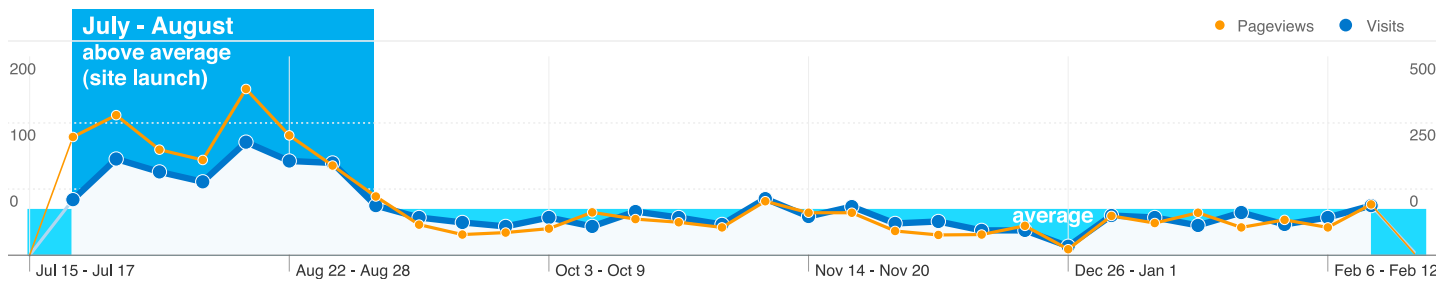
52.20% Bounce Rate

Jan 18, 2010 - Jun 17, 2010

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	3,633	20.92%
/water_management/	1,037	5.97%
/about/	1,012	5.83%
/contact/	807	4.65%
/index/	635	3.66%

Visitors Overview

Jul 15, 2010 - Feb 21, 2011



Trends

Weekend vs Weekday Activity: No discernible trend. On August 18, 2010, 64 visits generated 256 page views (peak activity). Since then, daily average is approx. 8 visits generating less than 25 page views.

At least **89% of visitors** utilize **High Speed** connections.

The top 3 browsers account for **93%** of all website traffic. **Internet Explorer** is the most popular browser (67.4%), followed by **Firefox** (19.2%) and **Safari** (6.5%).

1,486 visits came from **270 service providers**, of which the **top 2 service providers** (Shaw and Telus) delivered more than **64%** of all visits.

1,486 visits were received from **31 countries or territories**. 85+% from Canada and 1% from the U.S. Top Canadian gateways include Kelowna 44%, Vancouver 9%, Osoyoos 5%, Vernon 4%, Victoria 3% and Penticton 3%.

At least **54%** are **returning visitors**. 54% visited once and 11% visited twice. Repeat visitors include at least 5% who visited the site more than 15 times, and 7% who returned to the site more than 100 times.

809 people visited this site

1,486 Visits

809 Absolute Unique Visitors

4,108 Pageviews

20 pages were viewed a total of 4,108 times

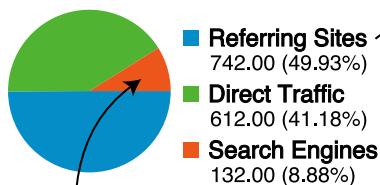
2.76 Average Pageviews

00:01:19 Time on Site

56.46% Bounce Rate
percentage of single page visits

54.44% New Visits

Traffic Sources



Top 5 Referrers

OBWB 28%
CivicInfo 11%
Facebook 9%
Twitter 9%
District of West Kelowna 8%

Top 3 Search Engines

Google 91%
Bing 6%
Yahoo 2%

The **top 5 keywords** account for **38%** of search engine traffic

Keywords	Visits	% visits
okanagan waterwise	21	15.91%
okanagan water wise	13	9.85%
ok water wise	6	4.55%
okanagan water - one	6	4.55%
ok waterwise	5	3.79%

Content Overview

Pages	Pageviews	% Pageviews
/	1,471	35.81%
/waterwise-in-the-home.html	357	8.69%
/index.html	313	7.62%
/prog_one-valley-one-	280	6.82%
/why-okanagan-waterwise.html	236	5.74%

Okanagan Basin Water Board 2011 Operational Goals and Objectives

The following Operational Goals and Objectives specify where OBWB staff will focus their activities in 2011, to support the board's existing program. Water is a common pool resource, and our objective is to undertake projects and programs that meet the collective needs of Okanagan citizens while supporting member jurisdictions in meeting their own water management goals.

This year, the OBWB will hold a Strategic Planning process, to develop Strategic Goals and Objectives for the Organization. The OBWB provides leadership to protect and enhance quality of life in the Okanagan Basin through sustainable water management. The structure of the OBWB provides economies of scale to address valley-wide problems.

I. Goal: Identify basin-level objectives and priorities for Water Management.

Rationale: *The Water Management program is under review. Sustainable water objectives must match the extent of the basin, and local area objectives must be coordinated so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Member jurisdictions face similar problems, and there are opportunities for knowledge sharing.*

Constraint: *OBWB programs and projects must address basin-wide concerns, and activities must not overlap with those of other jurisdictions, for example, land use planning or drinking water treatment.*

Objective I-1: Review successes and challenges of the program since 2006, including recommendations for improvements to OBWB governance. Consult with member jurisdictions and stakeholders to identify the water priorities of each area.

- Review the activities of the Water Management Program since 2006, and evaluate strengths and challenges.
- Undertake a strategic planning process for OBWB, to evaluate program priorities, and governance process.
- Meet with Okanagan elected leaders and administrators, to get their views on local water needs and governance.
- Consult with Water Stewardship Council and other key stakeholders on OBWB activities and governance.
- Develop a report with recommendations by June 2011 for review by Okanagan local governments.
- Seek final approval from Regional Boards for Water Management Program renewal by October 31, 2011.

II. Goal: Support Water Management Policy Improvements.

Rationale: *The OBWB has a mandate to determine priorities, necessary legislation and priority action for water management in the Okanagan Basin, and to make*

recommendations to local and senior governments. This enables coordinated action across independent policy makers, to avoid policy conflicts. It avoids duplication of effort, and benefits from specialized knowledge.

Constraint: *The OBWB does not have policy-making authority for water management.*

Objective II-1: Maintain ongoing community support for improved water management by maintaining clear communication and good working relationships with senior and local governments and key stakeholder groups.

- Send a delegation to each regional district and municipal council once a year to provide updates on OBWB activities, and receive information on local needs and concerns.
- Invite senior government politicians and staff to OBWB meetings and events. Make a presentation on Okanagan water issues to Okanagan MLA caucus and Okanagan MPs.
- Update B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary for Water Sustainability on OBWB activities and involve them wherever appropriate.
- Attend events of Water Stewardship Council member organizations and other water stakeholders to build the Okanagan water community.
- Strengthen connections with UBC-Okanagan and Okanagan College, by partnering on projects, attending events, and participating on committees.

Objective II-2: Provide recommendations to senior governments for improving Okanagan water management policies.

- Update water policy gaps and alternatives identified in the Sustainable Water Strategy with participation of the Water Stewardship Council.
- Make recommendations to B.C. Ministry of Environment to improve Okanagan water policies, including pilot groundwater regulations and the Water Act modernization process.
- Expand information sharing for drought response planning – working with B.C. Ministry of Environment.
- Participate in the Southern Interior Regional Drinking Water Team with B.C. ministries and Interior Health to improve policies protecting water sources.
- Stay apprised of trans-boundary international water issues, especially Osoyoos Lake operation orders renewal; as well as policy development occurring in other basins and provinces.
- Re-engage the Okanagan Hydrometric Monitoring governance process. Encourage senior governments to meet commitments for expanding the network.
- Participate in the Collaborative Watershed Governance initiative sponsored by the Fraser Basin Council and the B.C. Ministry of Environment to have input in the development of water governance policy for B.C.

Objective II-3: Provide recommendations to local jurisdictions and assist with policy development improving Okanagan water management.

- Continue with Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit outreach to help Okanagan local governments implement policies.
- Develop a coordinated drought agreement for basin-wide response between large license holders, based on the results of the hydrometric connectivity study, and begin the consultation process.
- Draft a Topsoils Bylaw Toolkit, in partnership with the Green Infrastructure Partnership and BC Water and Waste Association.
- Develop water pricing tools that support water use efficiency, cost recovery, and best management practices.

III. Goal: A WaterWise Okanagan.

Rationale: *The OBWB has a strategic role in watershed communication, linking governments, stakeholders, and the public. There is a persistent myth of abundance about Okanagan water supplies, and a duplication of effort between staff of water utilities. Having a valley-wide communications effort provides efficiencies of scale.*

Objective III-1: Improve public communication and support to raise awareness about important water issues and the work of the OBWB and Stewardship Council. Improve understanding about Okanagan water. Connect people and programs within the watershed, and with broader networks in B.C., Canada, and abroad. Be a credible source of reliable information on water issues.

- Implement the Okanagan WaterWise Program, working with the Water Stewardship Council and local government staff – using the WaterWise Strategy.
- Further develop Okanagan WaterWise website with content for individuals, businesses, and youth.
 - Develop new marketing tactics such as the water bottle display.
 - Focus on a sense of place, and recognition of our semi-arid environment.
 - Update and restructure the OBWB's corporate website and other outreach materials.
- Work with partner organizations to develop the OKCP website, making environmental information available to planners and policy makers.
- Seek out public speaking opportunities to key stakeholder and user groups and the broader public.
- Distribute media releases and monthly Board Reports to communicate about OBWB and Water Stewardship Council projects.
- Publish the "Slow it, Sink it, Spread it" homeowner's guide to rainwater management, and distribute it to the public.

Objective III-2: Improve communication with local government and between OBWB Directors, the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, local government electeds and staff.

- Meet with individual community leaders to stay informed about local water concerns and share information about basin water initiatives.
- Involve local government staff in Water Stewardship Council committees and other initiatives.
- Prepare an Annual Report on the OBWB's financials, year-in-review, and planned initiatives to be released August/September 2010.
- Host an AGM in August/September 2011, to coincide with the release of the OBWB Annual Report. Invite all elected politicians and key stakeholders and media outlets in the basin to share information, hear concerns and discuss policy.
- Hold a joint OBWB and Water Stewardship Council meeting in November.

Objective III-3: Strengthen understanding about First Nations' traditional values and build partnerships to address mutual water resource issues in the Okanagan.

- Conduct discussions with Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to explore ways to further their engagement with OBWB – identifying obstacles and ways to move forward.
- Seek out opportunities for the OBWB to participate in First Nations' cultural events focused on water and fisheries.
- Identify areas of mutual interest for collaboration with ONA and member bands.
- Hold one or more OBWB meetings at the ONA office or at a facility of ONA member bands.

IV. Goal: Make Improvements on the Ground.

Rationale: *Support water quality and management goals by channeling resources and political support to key research, restoration and infrastructure improvements. The OBWB provides economies of scale through knowledge and resource sharing.*

Constraint: *Support is primarily limited to subsidies, and information sharing.*

Objective IV-1: Improve water quality in Okanagan lakes and tributaries by providing infrastructure funds to local governments through the Sewage Facilities Grant program.

- Complete financial review of program, and provide grant recipients with easy-to-use templates and program guides.
- Conduct an assessment on the financial benefits and implications for using this program for stormwater management infrastructure.
- Consult with Okanagan municipalities to determine future infrastructure needs and interest in the program.

- Review terms of reference of Sewage Facilities Grant program to determine whether changes are needed.

Objective IV-2: Use the OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program to support key research, data collection and water management projects.

- Target awards to tangible projects that help meet OBWB's water management goals and objectives, leveraging local-scale efforts.
- Increase transparency of decision-making process for grant evaluations.
- Learn how to improve the grant making process through the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network's Water Funders Group.

Objective IV-3: Increase external grant funds and research into the Okanagan Basin.

- Actively promote the benefits of sponsoring and conducting projects in the Okanagan – target senior government politicians, staff at granting agencies, and federal and academic researchers.
- Support external academic and government researchers by connecting them with local resources and networks, and writing support letters.
- Seek out opportunities for external grant programs that meet the OBWB's water management objectives.
- Identify opportunities and help support external funding applications to coordinate ONA water planning with OBWB efforts.
- Facilitate corporate sponsorship of water conservation education programs.

Objective IV-4: Undertake projects and programs building Okanagan water information systems and increasing water sustainability.

- Implement highest-priority projects identified by the Sustainable Water Strategy.
 - Develop the OkWater Database so that it can better provide direct access to Okanagan water planners and other users.
 - Expand the database to hold Hydrometric Monitoring information
 - Complete project to develop a Streamlined Water Use Reporting tool to improve water demand tracking. Conduct additional trainings and outreach to help water utilities become comfortable with the tool.
 - Conduct a water supply pricing study to evaluate appropriate financial policies and mechanisms for cost-recovery for agricultural and domestic water.
 - Conduct outreach to educate and inform local government staff and consultants about what data and tools are now available from the Water Supply & Demand studies.
 - Work with stakeholders and policy experts to examine the feasibility of an Agricultural Water Reserve for the Okanagan, as a model for the province of B.C.

- Initiate new Water Stewardship Council projects on Source Protection and Groundwater.
- Continue Phase 3 of the Water Supply & Demand Project, building on results to develop policy and regulations, and establish information management and communication systems for the project.
- Participate in efforts to expand First Nations' capacity for water planning and hydrology, to coordinate planning and data collection on band lands with initiatives such as the Water Supply & Demand Project.
- Collaborate on international projects that impact the Okanagan watershed.

V. Goal: Manage Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Rationale: *Manages watermilfoil levels in high-value public areas while protecting aquatic habitats and maintaining a cost-effective program. Addresses a basin-wide water issue through coordinated action, minimizes duplication of physical assets and human resources with expert knowledge and experience.*

Constraints: *Responsibility was historically assigned to the OBWB following withdrawal by the province. Increasing regulation and oversight by B.C. Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.*

Objective V-1: Maintain control program and evaluate options for program assessment.

- Work with environmental regulators from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Environment to develop a streamlined environmental permitting system, to refine the program and minimize impacts to species at risk.
- Develop GPS methods for monitoring treatment effectiveness and impacts, with GPS responders on each machine tracking daily progress.
- Survey current and former treatment sites to evaluate control needs in different treatment areas.
- Respond to public enquiries about the Okanagan Milfoil program and provide information about OBWB control methods.

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 1, 2011
Agenda No: 6.2

File No. 0400.40

February 17, 2011

Hon. Stockwell Day
President of the Treasury Board and Canadian Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway
MP for Okanagan-Coquihalla, British Columbia
Suite 202, 301 Main Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5B7

Re: Request for Attention to the Renewal of Operating Orders for Osoyoos Lake

Dear Sir:

The International Joint Commission and the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control have begun a process to renew the operating orders for Zosel Dam, just south of the U.S. border, which controls the levels of Osoyoos Lake. The new agreement is scheduled to be signed in 2013. The Okanagan Basin Water Board is very concerned that the State of Washington will negotiate for mandatory flows to the U.S.A under the new agreement. Such a change in operating orders would be a significant change from current policy. Currently there are no requirements placed on Canada to provide minimum flows from the Okanagan River into the US. Adding flow requirements to the Orders has potentially significant implications for the entire Okanagan watershed – both for drinking water supply and the Okanagan ecology – that would be exacerbated during drought years. The Water Board respectfully requests that your office remains closely apprised of this issue, and ensures that Canadian water interests are protected.

A further important consideration with the application of a minimum flow policy is the negative impact on the Canadian Okanagan river salmon fishery. This fishery has had significant successes recently and is an example of collaborative governance between senior government and Okanagan First Nations.

As you know, the Water Board has recently completed a \$3 million study of Okanagan water supply and demand, and the potential impact of climate change and population growth on water availability. We found that under multi-year or extreme drought conditions, the Okanagan may not have adequate water for stream health and human needs north of the border. We do not feel that it

would be in Canada's best interest to guarantee flows to the U.S., at the expense of Canadian environmental and economic health.

Currently, the fisheries departments in the U.S. and Canada have non-binding cooperative agreements to maintain adequate flows for salmon stocks in the reach south of Zosel Dam. Under this arrangement they have worked collaboratively and have been able to maintain water in the channel under all conditions. The Water Board strongly feels that it is in the best interests of Canada, and in particular the citizens of the Okanagan and the unique ecosystems that are at the foundation of the region's quality of life, to maintain the existing arrangement and not require minimum stream flows. Healthy Canadian waters protect the salmon population on both sides of the border.

We respect the offices of the International Joint Commission, and the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, but we feel it is important for our federal elected leaders to engage in this critical international agreement process.

Sincerely,

Signature

Stu Wells
Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board

CC: Members, International Joint Commission and Osoyoos Lake Board of Control
Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Alex Atamanenko, MP for B.C. Southern Interior
Hon. Ron Cannan, MP for Kelowna – Lake Country, British Columbia
Hon. Colin Mayes, MP for Okanagan – Shuswap, British Columbia