

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 3RD, 1994, IN THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director G. Ockenden	C.O.R.D.
Director R. Ginther	C.O.R.D.
Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. McGrath	N.O.R.D.
Director E. Hornby	N.O.R.D.
Director G. Kiss	N.O.R.D.
Director T. Shields	O.S.R.D.
Alternate Director S. Whittaker	O.S.R.D.
Director D. Cameron Sr.	O.S.R.D.

ALSO PRESENT:

R.A. Nickel	Ministry of Environment
P. Epp	Ministry of Environment
E.D. Einarson	Ministry of Environment
A. Louie	Osoyoos Indian Band
M. Watts	Westbank Indian Band

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
-----------	------------------

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Kiss, seconded by Director Hornby:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 28th, 1994, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT BUSINESS:

AGREEMENT FOR AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL:

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the Ministry of Environment legal and risk management staff had returned the draft agreement to the Water Board and he recommended that the document be accepted and forwarded to the three regional districts for signature.

He indicated that the Province had accepted insuring their equipment for actual cash value instead of replacement cost. This made the insurance affordable. All liabilities are covered by existing insurance.

Moved by Director Shields and seconded by Director McGrath:

"That the Agreement for Aquatic Weed Control be forwarded to the three valley regional districts with the recommendation of the Okanagan Basin Water Board that it be signed."

CARRIED.

DEROOTING SUMMARY 1994:

The Field Supervisor gave a brief verbal report on the status of derooting work. He indicated that there had been a late start to full operation as funding was not available until the start of the new fiscal year on April 1st, 1994. Work would normally have commenced in mid-February.

Mr. Armour said that machines were currently working in Skaha Lake and Okanagan Lake at Kelowna, with work having been completed in Kalamalka, Wood, Osoyoos, and Okanagan Lake at Summerland and Westbank. He added that it was approaching the time of year when derooting would have to be curtailed due to the amount of fragmentation of growing plants and the interference with tourist water based activity.

Director Kiss asked about collection of the derooted plant material and Mr. Armour reported that the rototillers were not equipped to collect the plant. The harvesters used in the summer months did, however, collect cut material and deposit it on shore for removal.

Moved by Director Cameron and seconded by Director Ockenden:

"That the Information on 1994 derooting be received by the Okanagan Basin Water Board."

CARRIED.

The Chairman asked that Mr. Armour provide a written summary of 1994 derooting for the next meeting.

Director Ginther entered the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: AQUATIC WEED CONTROL**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT: AQUATIC WEED CONTROL FUNDING:****Moved by Director Kiss and seconded by Director Ockenden:**

"That the letter from the Minister of Environment confirming the commitment of his Ministry to provide up to \$200,000 annually on a 50/50 cost share basis for aquatic weed control be received and filed."

CARRIED.

SKAHA ESTATES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:

A letter stating the importance of rototilling for weed control was received from the Skaha Estates Improvement District.

Mr. Armour reported that the community beach area at Skaha Estates was currently being rototilled and work would be finished in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE: OTHER BUSINESS**MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: WATER QUALITY TESTING**

A response to the request made by the Okanagan Basin Water Board for Ministry support for water quality testing in the Peachland, Summerland, and Westbank areas was received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Minister stated that she shared the Board's concerns regarding integration of such work with Provincial objectives and plans. She also indicated that no request for funding had been received.

Director McGrath asked for a description of the nature of the testing proposed.

Mr. Armour indicated that the information provided at the last meeting referred to the potential impact of increased recreational and logging activities on community watersheds in these areas.

A delegation from Peachland was present at the meeting and Director Ginther asked Mr. Bruce Owen to outline the situation.

Mr. Owen confirmed that no application had yet been made for funds. He informed the Board that the goal of the proposed monitoring program would be to focus on faecal

coliform levels in Okanagan Lake. The study proposed to utilize Okanagan University College to perform the sampling and analytical work and the cost ceiling was expected to be \$35,000.

Mr. Nickel told the Board that the Ministry of Environment had carried out water quality studies in the Okanagan for the past twenty years. This testing is now part of the Water Management Division. He explained that monitoring had focused on phosphorus levels in the mainstem lakes and the actual sampling was carried out by regional staff. Mr. Nickel agreed that a lack of coordination could result in a waste of resources.

Mr. Watts informed the Board that the Westbank Indian Band had received a contract to perform water quality testing. He was not familiar with the details of the work but offered to further elaborate at the next meeting.

Director Ginther suggested that all groups with an interest in water quality monitoring, including local, provincial and federal levels, should meet.

Director Kiss commented that Mr. Nickel appeared to have the required Provincial information and added that the Okanagan Basin Water Board could coordinate local concerns and put these forward to the Ministry.

Director Cameron agreed and said a role for the Water Board might be to ensure that local requests were directed to the appropriate authority.

Director Shields referred to a water quality study undertaken by the Town of Osoyoos in conjunction with Okanagan University College, from which valuable information was gained.

Director Hornby questioned the difference in the information obtained in the locally initiated study with the sampling performed by the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Nickel said there was a view that the local study would not stand up to rigorous scientific scrutiny, but agreed that it did point out some problem areas.

Alternate Director Whittaker observed that the real value in this study was to focus local attention on the water quality issue. She said the education provided led to community action to lobby for dollars to begin to address these problems.

The Chairman identified several questions needing to be answered: what are the current water quality monitoring objectives of each agency; what work is being done now; are there gaps or overlaps existing; and what are the possible solutions and sources of

funding available. Chairman Hobson suggested that the Ministry of Environment organize a meeting and ask the Director of Water Quality Branch to attend.

Mr. Nickel agreed to try to schedule the meeting and asked that a list of local interest group contacts be provided by the Field Supervisor.

Director Ginther commented that forestry companies were an integral part of watershed management, and perhaps they should participate.

Chairman Hobson observed that the region had received approximately \$35 million in funding under the new forest practices code and said he would report on the purpose of this allocation at the next Board meeting.

Moved by Director Ginther, seconded by Director Cameron:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board provide information to the Ministry of Environment on local contacts with concerns needing to be addressed regarding water quality monitoring and participate in a meeting to coordinate activities of all agencies involved in this work."

CARRIED.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN:

A letter was received from the Regional District of Central Okanagan, in response to correspondence from the Water Board, regarding the use of sewage facilities assistance grants to fund studies. The Central Okanagan Board resolved that the current policy should remain in effect and studies funded locally.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN:

A resolution from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Board was received asking that Okanagan Basin Water Board consider raising the levy for sewage facilities funding to set aside monies to fund studies.

Mr. Armour wondered if this proposal was sufficiently different from the question of utilizing funds already raised to warrant going back to the other regions.

Director McGrath felt that the request was a duplication of what has already been considered and would likely receive the same negative response from the other two

regional districts.

Director Shields pointed out that the main concern of the Okanagan-Similkameen Board is that the liquid waste planning process not be stalled or delayed in any community through lack of funds to perform the initial background work.

Mr. Epp commented that all jurisdictions in the valley had a liquid waste plan in place now and the question of funding would apply only to updates of existing plans.

Director Cameron stated that in view of this he felt that the status quo with respect to funding was acceptable.

Moved by Director Kiss and seconded by Director Shields:

"That the correspondence from the Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Districts be received and filed and no further action taken with regards to allocation of sewage facilities funds for liquid waste studies."

CARRIED.

DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND: APPLICATION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDING

An application for infrastructure grant funding was received from the District of Summerland.

Mr. Armour suggested that this be discussed with the other funding applications from the valley and confirmed that the request was in the spreadsheet prepared for the Board on the infrastructure grants. (attached)

Director Cameron said that he wished to confirm that this application would be included on the list of projects supported by the Water Board, as the documentation was submitted near the deadline.

Mr. Armour noted that the Summerland grant application contained two options, only one of which was in the approved liquid waste plan. He asked if an amendment to the plan had been submitted.

Director Cameron confirmed that this had been done.

SEWAGE FACILITIES ASSISTANCE GRANTS:

There were no regular grant applications but the Field Supervisor circulated a spreadsheet listing all Canada-Province of B.C. Infrastructure Grant Applications for liquid waste projects on the Okanagan.

He also commented on the potential financial effects of these grants on the Okanagan Basin Water Board sewage facilities assistance fund. He noted that a total of over \$117 million had been applied for from the Okanagan for liquid waste projects.

Director McGrath questioned the future allocation of resources by the Board in funding local projects, as the percentage of senior government funding varied.

The Chairman observed that we need to analyze financial implications of both the infrastructure grants and the longer range perspective of the Master Liquid Waste Plan. He suggested convening a meeting of administrative and/or financial personnel from valley regional districts and municipalities.

Director Kiss suggested that the meeting include Ministry of Environment representatives.

Mr. Epp agreed and added that the Water Board might consider having Ministry of Municipal Affairs represented as well.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**OKANAGAN VALLEY MASTER LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN -**

Mr. Armour gave a presentation on the rationale for valley wide coordination on issues such as liquid waste management.

Director Cameron and Mr. Louie left the meeting

The list of Okanagan Basin Water Board recommendations pertaining to the Master Liquid Waste Plan was discussed.

The land use planning recommendation that there be a single coordinating agency for land use planning standardization was questioned. There was support for standardization of practices in principle but the possible increase in bureaucracy involved in having a central authority was challenged.

Director Hornby stated that one agency would, in his opinion, be necessary if this goal were to be met.

Chairman Hobson remarked that the Okanagan Basin Water Board is waiting for the Council of Councils to provide some direction as to future roles of the Board in land use planning.

Move by Director McGrath and seconded by Director Shields:

"That the statement of the Water Boards recommendation on land use planning be amended to read 'The Okanagan Basin Water Board supports standardization of land use planning policies and procedures within the Okanagan Valley. This would not attempt to limit the mandate of existing planning authorities but would provide a forum for dialogue which should lead to a more uniform approach to land use planning in the valley.'"

CARRIED.

Mr. Watts questioned the singling out of First Nations with respect to development processes. He suggested that all lands should develop in a manner that emphasizes preservation of water quality.

Mr. Armour recalled that this recommendation had arisen as part of the discussion of First Nations representation on the Board; something which had been lacking in the past.

The Board agreed that the recommendations would be altered to read:

All lands should develop in a manner that emphasizes preservation of water quality.
and

The Board agreed that it wishes to see all lands within the basin develop in a manner that addresses the preservation of water quality, and deals with liquid waste disposal in an environmentally appropriate manner.

With respect to Basin Water Quality, the Board agreed to alter the first statement to read "Every effort should be made to limit new sources of phosphorus entering the lakes and nutrient input generated from growth should be accompanied by a corresponding reduction in phosphorus input from existing sources."

Director Hornby observed that the Water Board recommendation that septic systems in sensitive zones be given priority for sewerage could act to promote or encourage servicing of areas not appropriate for additional development, that is, once the sewer is in place, more building might occur.

Mr. Epp agreed that this was a valid point and said that sewers should be sized to pick up existing effluent and not to promote growth.

Chairman Hobson observed that this is again an example of the complexity and degree of integration between liquid waste issues and land use.

Mr. Armour outlined the financial recommendations and reminded the Board that the issue of the Environmental Impact Levy II on septic tanks had been tabled until discussion of the entire report was completed.

The Chairman advised that he felt the Board must have a clear understanding of the impact of the financial recommendations and ascertain if this represents a better system than local Development Cost Charges.

Moved by Director Shields and seconded by Director Ginther:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board analyze financial implications of both the infrastructure grants and the longer range perspective of the Master Liquid Waste Plan recommendations by convening a meeting of administrative and/or financial personnel from valley regional districts and municipalities. Pertinant background information should be provided to local staff and representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Municipal Affairs invited."

CARRIED.

MANDATE OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD:

Chairman Hobson suggested that the Okanagan Basin Water Board await direction from the Council of Councils meeting to be held June 9th on the possible role of the Board in future initiatives.

The Board concurred with the Chairman.

OTHER MATTERS:

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL STAFF MODIFICATION:

The Field Supervisor explained to the Board that the amount of time spent on Okanagan Basin Water Board business other than aquatic weed control was having a detrimental effect on his milfoil program duties. he asked the Board's permission to promote his senior employee, Mr. Ian Horner, to a position of lead hand and allow a wage increase

in the range of one dollar per hour. If the situation became such that the employee were no longer required to perform additional duties, he would revert to his previous position and wage.

Director McGrath said that he wished a report on the financial implications of this change before making a decision, and also asked that the Administrator be informed.

Moved by Director Shields and seconded by Director Ginther:

"That Mr. Horner be promoted to the position of lead hand for aquatic weed control with an appropriate wage increase, subject to the agreement of the Water Board Administrator."

CARRIED.

Director McGrath opposed.

The Chairman asked Mr. Armour to report back to the Board on this subject at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board agreed to schedule the Financial and Water Quality meetings, and leave the next regular meeting to the call of the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY-TREASURER

**INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS
LIQUID WASTE PROJECTS**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GROSS COST \$	66% FUNDING	M.O.E. SUPPORT *
FORCEMAIN EXTENSION TO WINFIELD	6,060,790	4,000,121	*
SUNNYSIDE COLLECTION AND FORCEMAIN	1,761,692	1,162,717	*
LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANT	9,916,400	6,544,824	*
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT	26,451,180	17,547,779	*
BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT FACILITY	4,100,000	2,706,000	*
SEWERS: POPLAR POINT & CARAMILLO	2,293,788	1,513,900	*
SEWERS: RUTLAND AREA #21	12,505,182	8,253,420	*
BLUEJAY SUBDIVISION SEWER SYSTEM	749,034	494,362	*
OSOYOOS LAKE FRINGE SEWER - NORTHWEST	2,653,000	1,750,980	*
OSOYOOS LAKE FRINGE SEWER -SOUTHEAST	2,904,000	1,916,640	*
OSOYOOS LAKE FRINGE SEWER - SOUTHWEST	1,681,500	1,109,790	*
GALLAGHER LAKE COMMUNITY SEWER	1,804,999	1,191,299	*
HAULED LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY	42,000	27,720	*
BEACH AVE. DRY SEWER	875,360	577,738	*
INDUSTRIAL PARK SEWER	2,371,400	1,565,124	*
TREATMENT PLANT AND SEWERS	27,000,000	17,820,000	*
WATER AND SEWER / OKANAGAN LANDING	7,097,738	4,684,507	*
SEWER MAIN / PLEASANT VALLEY	20,871	13,921	
LEE AVE. LIFT STATION UPGRADE	300,000	200,100	
MOOSEJAW STREET SEWER RELINING	95,000	63,365	
WINNIPEG STREET SEWER RELINING	80,000	53,360	
UPGRADE/REPLACE LIFT STATION	165,000	110,055	
UPGRADE/REPLACE LIFT STATION	500,000	333,500	
REPLACE EXISTING SEWER MAIN	79,000	52,693	
EXTEND LAKESHORE RD. FORCEMAIN	771,515	514,600	
REPLACE SEWER AND WATER MAINS	1,510,611	1,007,577	
O.K. LANDING WATER AND SEWER - PHASE 2	3,817,513	2,546,281	
TOTAL GRANT APPLICATIONS	117,607,573	77,762,373	