

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 9TH, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Piazza	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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<u>OTHERS:</u> MELP	Jim Mattison	Director, Water Management Branch,
	Dr. Stuart Cohen	UBC
	Bill Barisoff	MLA, Okanagan Boundary
	Brian Symonds	MELP
	Dr. Jim Bryan	MELP
	Vic Jensen	MELP

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on December 5th, 2000 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Jim Mattison, Director, Water Management Branch, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks – Protection of Drinking Water Sources:

Mr. Mattison addressed the Board on measures being taken by the provincial government to deal with the recommendations of the Auditor General relating to protection of drinking water in BC. He noted that the 1999 report placed the emphasis on source protection and that the Premier had subsequently made a commitment at UBCM to better protect the water resources of the province.

Mr. Mattison explained that while existing legislation established many protective measures, recent events such as Walkerton and various outbreaks of waterborne disease in BC suggested that the safety of our water supplies cannot be ensured by treatment alone.

Mr. Mattison outlined the elements of the Drinking Water Protection Plan being developed by the Province. (attached) He noted that eight public meetings will be held including one in Kelowna on January 31st to receive input from local government, stakeholders and the public on how water supplies might better be protected.

The Chairman advised the Board that the UBCM executive has participated in this process since November and will make sure its members are kept informed.

Director Hein asked if the costs associated with measures to ensure water quality would be from funds additional to Infrastructure Grants. He also observed that the time line seemed very limited given the scope of the work to be done and secondly that crown leases to private enterprise impacted greatly on some watersheds.

Mr. Mattison responded that any funding would be new dollars and not from existing programs. He stated that other uses of watersheds have to be assessed as to their compatibility with the supply of high quality water. Some problems can be dealt with through education as it is not realistic to ban all other uses of watersheds.

Director Hein asked how authority would be delegated to local government to control activities in watershed outside its boundaries.

Mr. Mattison said he was unsure exactly how this would be accomplished. He noted that the Province and UBCM are working together to develop this legislation but that there were still many unanswered questions. He posed the example of whether local government should have a say in timber harvesting plans in crown watersheds. He said that it is necessary to find out what the community thinks they require to protect their water source, what resources are available, and what the cost of banning certain activities will be.

Director Hein commented that the Water Board is looking at a role as a coordinating agency to ensure that money is spent to the best advantage.

Director Klim said that the Province should take responsibility for setting standards and providing the funding to maintain those standards. The cost should not be downloaded onto local government.

Director Hansma stated that Spallumcheen has sixteen water districts and is currently trying to structure a municipal water authority. Funding is required to improve local infrastructure to meet government criteria.

Alternate Director Piazza noted that Osoyoos still has an unresolved problem with unsewered residences surrounding the north end of the lake. Financing is needed to deal with this problem and it must be done in the near future.

Director Novakowski asked for clear leadership from the province on managing water. He noted the current shared responsibility among many government ministries. He asked if the emphasis now being placed on addressing this issue was likely to change or disappear with political changes.

Mr. Mattison explained that the Public Accounts Committee which oversees the measures taken to address the Auditor General's concerns is chaired by an opposition member. He added that any program implemented now to improve the protection of water should endure if it is a good program.

The Chairman added that the water issues raised today are long standing. With over seventy watersheds in the valley which are all vulnerable, this is an urgent matter. He said that UBCM wants any legislation to be permissive in allowing those who see a need to participate. There is concern about funding and about leadership since there is as yet no clear spokesperson for the water resource within government. The emphasis and focus placed on water by the process outlined by Mr. Mattison is appreciated.

Dr. Stuart Cohen – Climate Change and Potential Effects on Okanagan Water Supplies:

Dr. Cohen gave an overview of the project funded by the Climate Change Action Fund, to examine the potential effects of climate change on water supplies of the Okanagan. He presented a series of slides which summarized preliminary data collected in the valley and explained how this information would be used to model possible scenarios for water supplies in the future.

He informed the Board that three focus group meetings would be held – January 23rd in Vernon, 24th in Kelowna and 25th in Penticton. These meeting would serve to inform water purveyors, users, and managers of the climate change information and the projected effects in the Okanagan. He explained that he is looking for feedback on how these projected changes could impact water management in the valley and thoughts on how these impacts might be dealt with. This would lead to a march workshop at which the basin adaptation responses would be presented.

Chairman Hobson asked how certain the group is that climate change is occurring as a result of human activities, and not just part of a natural cycle.

Dr. Cohen responded that a component of global warming is human while some is a natural process. He noted that the human component is increasing.

Director Hein commented that we may have to look at additional water storage to contain early season flows and make water available for use later in the year when low flows occur.

Director Klim questioned whether the amount of water would increase with greater evaporation from the oceans with higher temperatures.

Dr. Cohen replied that the situation was complex and the balance between increased rain and increased evaporation and evapotranspiration due to a longer growing season would require scientific modeling.

Chairman Hobson commented that impacts of climate change would affect our water conservation strategies, various species at risk, and our fisheries. He thanked Dr. Cohen for his presentation to the Board.

Director Klim left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Water Management Partnership Proposal:**

Chairman Hobson informed the Board that incorrect information regarding the proposal had appeared in the Vernon media including discussion of commitment of local funds not agreed to by the Water Board. He advised the directors that he had contacted Vernon mayor Sean Harvey as a result and they had agreed to meet so that the errors could be corrected and any of the concerns of Vernon Council addressed.

Alternate Director Hackman read the report he had given to Coldstream Council to the Board. He advised that his Council favored Water Board involvement in milfoil control and sewage grant funding only. There was a concern that the province would allow us to assume a more prominent role in water management only to pull out resources at a later date as happened with the weed control program.

Director Hansma advised that he had not made a report to his council on any project details as he felt this was premature. He noted that the report from Westland is a first draft to which the Board had

ordered changes and that the process should be to seek buy-in from senior government prior to advancing the project to local government for ratification.

Director Coady added that the partnership is not a proposal for a study or for expenditure of more local funds. It proposes reallocation of existing resources for more efficient use.

Alternate Director Slater agreed that it seemed that erroneous information had been communicated as it is our intention to channel the dollars already being spent to where they are most needed. He reminded the Board that it had become involved in this process as a result of being made aware that some of the money being put into valley water resource work was being wasted on overlapping projects. All parties wanted to see the best and most efficient use of resources.

Director Novakowski stated that he felt Westland had adopted a cautious step by step approach on behalf of the Board. This was not to seek justification of our mandate and he said that the fact that we currently deal with aquatic weeds and sewer grants does not preclude us advancing other uses of the Board with the consent of the regional districts.

Director Hein stated that the correct message did not go out in the North Okanagan and he wondered if a spokesperson for the Board should correct this and how it should be handled. He said that he believed that we had an interim report and had certainly not bought into any additional local expenditures. He recalled that the Board agreed at the December meeting that the report required changes before any presentation was made. He said that if forced to a choice he would see the first priority of the Water Board as being water quality and not weeds.

Chairman Hobson said that a response from the Board would be needed to councils and that since we have not yet submitted a proposal to senior levels of government we cannot comment on their support at this time. He advised that the Water Board was not established to cut weeds and give out sewer grants; it was to be the water management authority for the Okanagan Valley.

Director Hein suggested that it would not be appropriate to deal with the revised Westland Report without the full Board being present. The Board agreed.

There was discussion as to whether a presentation to the North Okanagan Regional District would be appropriate at this time. The Board agreed that since the proposal was still in draft form, it should be finalized before any presentation. The Board agreed to send a letter to the City of Vernon outlining the process being undertaken to look at a water management partnership.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Schedule of Water Board Meetings for 2001

The Board reviewed dates for water Board meetings for 2001 and adopted the attached schedule.

Community Futures Development Corporation of the Okanagan Similkameen

The Board received a letter commending it on its efforts to initiate a water management partnership to advance cooperative and efficient control of the resource in the Okanagan Valley.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Signing Officers**

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady:

"That Alternate Director Doug Hackman be appointed as a signing officer for the Okanagan Basin Water Board in place of Director Jack Borden."

CARRIED.

Sewage Grants – Historical Information

The Field Supervisor presented information on the amounts paid into the sewage grant fund since 1975 versus the funds received for Vernon, Armstrong, and Spallumcheen. He noted that the Fund had done what was initially desired in that small communities were able to implement sophisticated sewage treatment systems with the help of taxes collected basin wide. In this way, everyone in the valley who benefits from maintaining high lake water quality pays for the cost of infrastructure, rather than just the area served. If the latter had remained the status quo, many of the systems could not have been constructed and the valley as a whole would have suffered.

The Board asked that similar information from Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen Regional districts be obtained for the next meeting.

2001 Aquatic Weed Control

The Board agreed to send a letter to the Minister of Environment advising that we are finalizing plans for 2001 milfoil control and that due to reduced budgets, our schedule does not allow work in front of Provincial Parks.

Well Protection Toolkit

Mr. Armour provided the following information on the Well Protection Toolkit which Director Hansma had brought up at the December meeting.

He advised that the series of publications described how to develop and implement a well protection plan. There are about 750,000 people in BC who use groundwater for their drinking supply and the best way to protect aquifers from contamination is by implementing a well protection plan.

The idea originated in 1995 when the Fraser Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program recommended well protection steps for that area

The information contains six steps to well protection planning each described in a comprehensive booklet:

- Form a community planning team – sample well assessment forms, contact #'s, forming a society
- Define the capture zone or recharge area of the well – some hydrogeology made understandable by diagrams and examples
- Map potential sources of pollution in the capture zone – past, present and future. Point, non-point and line sources.
- Develop and implement protection measures to prevent pollution – develop public support; Existing legislation.

- Develop a contingency plan against any accidents – to minimize contamination, to provide an alternate source, train responders.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the plan annually – steps for evaluation and reporting; outline of an annual report.

Director Hein asked for a copy of the information.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board endorse the Well Protection Toolkit and inform its member municipalities of the availability of this information."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Water Management Meetings, Forums, and Workshops

The Field Supervisor noted the following upcoming water management related events:

- Ministry of Agriculture – Water Management in Agriculture – February 6th at the Summerland Research Facility
- Okanagan Nation Fisheries Alliance – Ecosystem Planning Session – February 7th in Kelowna

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 14TH, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF: G. Armour Field Supervisor

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD:

The appointments to the Water Board by the regional district boards were unchanged from last year.

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Director Novakowski nominated Robert Hobson as Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2001.

There were no other nominations and Mr. Armour declared Robert Hobson elected Chair.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Director Hackman nominated John Slater as Vice Chair of the Board for 2001.

There were no other nominations and Chair Hobson declared John Slater Vice Chair.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 9th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Sewage Facilities Grant Payments – Historical Information

Mr. Armour circulated a summary (attached) with a description of the rationale behind the sewage facilities grants instituted in 1975. He noted the results in terms of effectiveness in cleaning up the lakes and in establishing tertiary sewage treatment throughout the valley. The second section of the summary provides information on the amounts paid into the fund by member municipalities and the total grants received. Mr. Armour commented that the grants had followed the original premise that everyone in the

Okanagan benefited from clean lakes and everyone should pay regardless of whether they were to receive sewers or not.

Director Hein noted that this information should be made public as a success story of the efforts of local government and the Water Board to address a lake water quality problem.

Director Novakowski asked why some areas have not received grants. Were they just late in commencing projects?

Chair Hobson replied that in all likelihood, many rural areas will not be sewerred but have paid into the grant function to ensure the benefit of clean lakes. He added that the question of the future of the grants faces the Board. Is there a need to turn this funding mechanism to non point pollution sources in order to retain the gains we have made in reducing input of nutrient pollution into the lakes. Chairman Hobson mentioned storm water management as being an area where minimal attention has been given to date. He added that in rural electoral areas, the Ministry of Highways has jurisdiction over subdivision and standards may be quite different.

Director Hein asked how development on Indian reserves was dealt with

Chairman Hobson advised that Federal standards apply on reserves and any treatment and collection works are not eligible for Water Board assistance.

Director Hein stated that we should ask the federal government what they plan to do to address sewage problems on reserves.

Director Coady noted that the Penticton Indian Band is interested in extending community services to the reserve and it is probable that money will be the deciding factor.

Alternate Director Slater asked if storm water management projects were eligible for infrastructure grants.

Chair Hobson responded that such projects would likely receive lower priority than sewer projects and thus not qualify for the limited funds available.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approach the Federal Ministry of Indian Affairs to obtain current information on programs to address sewer issues on First Nation Lands."

CARRIED.

Director Novakowski asked how non point source pollution problems could be addressed by the water Board.

Chairman Hobson noted that there are a number of questions to be considered in any effort to address non point source (nps) problems. The issue of old problems versus new areas is one. He added that this might be an item for a water management partnership to address in setting some goal for the valley and to approach senior government with a priority list for actions.

Director Hein noted that the Ministry of Highways remain a major polluter with the run-off of road salt and oils into the lakes. They should be at the table if the issue of nps problems is discussed.

Director Cardoso expressed concern that rural areas have received no funds from the Water Board. He

commented that there should be financial incentives to upgrade on-site systems. Director Hansma favored this idea and said that many old areas which will not be sewered contribute to the pollution problem in the lakes.

Chairman Hobson advised that this is a possibility, but that the areas could not be destined at any time to be sewered as the enhanced on-site upgrade would only delay the community sewer remedy.

Director Novakowski added that the goal of the Board is for better quality effluent and these suggestions all fit that criteria.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Water Board invite the Ministries of Health and Environment to provide information on new on-site regulations and options for enhanced treatment systems."

CARRIED.

Director Hackman added that the enhanced systems could serve single or multiple units. Cost effectiveness would be a factor.

Director Coady said this is not just a rural consideration and that there are also areas of on-site systems within municipal boundaries which will likely not receive sewers due to economic reasons.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the subject of drainage and non point source pollution be considered in the same manner as on-site sewage disposal regulations and the Okanagan Basin Water Board obtain information from municipal engineering departments regarding their drainage policies and issues. In addition, that the Water Board consult with the Ministries of Transportation and Highways and Environment, Lands and Parks for current policies."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma noted that non point source pollution from drainage and on-site systems fits into the Board mandate to protect the lake waters from degradation.

Drinking Water Protection Plan – Draft Document

The Field Supervisor informed the Board that he had attended an information session sponsored by the Province and held January 23rd in Kelowna to consider the draft Drinking Water Protection Document. He expressed concern that the document proposed that watershed assessments be carried out by local government and/or purveyors using and unspecified help from province in regions where much of the land is under the control of the province. Also there seemed to be no indication of how Province proposed to deal with its own lack of coordination of water legislation and authority as made evident in the Report of the Auditor General.

Chairman Hobson advised that UBCM had expressed these concerns to the Directors Committee in charge of responding to the Auditor General's report. There had been assurances that funding to carry our assessment had be sought from Treasury Board.

The Board discussed whether any legislation would be passed prior to an election.

Chairman Hobson stated that it was unlikely that local government would have much opportunity to comment on draft legislation if it is to be considered in the next legislature sitting.

Director Cardoso wondered if the proposed drinking water legislation would directly affect the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Chairman Hobson advised that the effect would be on local government, allocating more authority over what happens in watersheds beyond municipal and regional boundaries.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the draft Drinking Water Protection Plan be received."

CARRIED.

Aquatic Weed Control – Program Expenditures Update

Mr. Armour reported that \$312,000 had been spent out of \$415,000 budgeted to Jan. 24th the fiscal year ends March 31st. There is still a transfer to reserve of \$53,000 which leaves approx. \$50,000 for the remaining two months of aquatic weed control.

The Board discussed the budget allocation for the next fiscal year noting the shortfall created by utilization of the Board's resources in other water management activities.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Province had not responded to written notification from the Water Board of the necessity to curtail weed control in front of Provincial Parks unless some funding was made available from the Province.

The Board discussed the effect of an election and possible change in government on aquatic weed control funding and agreed to raise the issue with the Province following an election.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission Workshop

Mr. Armour informed the Board that the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission (ONFC) had held a workshop on formulating an ecosystem based approach to enhancing sockeye salmon stocks in the lower Okanagan. He commented that the ONFC is following similar course to OBWB and will hold a workshop June 12 and 13 to address specifics of what must be done to adopt an ecosystem approach to salmon restoration. He noted that the ONFC has access to considerable federal and provincial funding and that there was also a significant U.S. component represented at meeting, both First Nations and federal and state governments.

The Board agreed to continue to encourage cooperation between First Nation and local government in furthering an ecosystem management approach.

Ministry of Agriculture Workshop

Mr. Armour reported on a workshop held February 6th which was fairly technical in nature, covering effects of climate change on agriculture and water demand; Southeast Kelowna Irrigation District experiment with metering of agricultural water users; and irrigation scheduling techniques.

He reported on one presentation which indicated that if all Okanagan agricultural irrigation systems were converted to most efficient type of system (at extremely high cost) there would be an estimated savings of 70 million cubic metres of water. If all systems were properly scheduled to apply water when needed, there would be an estimated savings of 67 million cubic metres or almost an equivalent amount. This translates to about the amount of water used by 300,000 people or an additional 23,000 irrigated acres. In order to achieve better scheduling more weather stations are needed, real time data is needed and additional types of data are needed.

Director Cardoso asserted that we should be learning from areas where water is better managed.

Director Coady noted that the savings in water use in the South East Kelowna experiment came from voluntary compliance not additional penalty costs.

Director Hein added that traditional practices play a major part in agricultural water use. He noted that the cost to growers of changes to irrigation systems is very high and there must be incentives in order to effect these changes.

Director Cardoso said that there is a need to look at incentives to those who conserve and use water efficiently, rather than penalties to those who don't.

Director Klim entered the meeting at 11:45 A.M.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water Management Partnership Proposal

Chairman Hobson informed the Board that he, Mr. Armour, and Directors Klim, Hackman, had met with Vernon Mayor Sean Harvey to review the interest of the Water Board in regional water management and try to clear up some misconceptions attributed to the Mayor in the media.

Director Klim noted that Vernon is embarking on several regional issues at considerable cost and is not prepared to pay any additional amount for expansion of the Water Board role.

Chairman Hobson noted that the water management partnership proposal is not finalized and therefore no firm costs are available. He added that the cost to local government could be zero. The issue of such a partnership is within the mandate of the Water Board to examine and then take any recommendation back to the three regional districts for consideration.

Director Klim passed on the Mayor's concern that any money spent, whether it is local or federal or provincial should go into actual works and improvements and not into expanded bureaucracy. She summarized that there is no support from Vernon Council for the Water Board taking on any new function and no support for any additional funding.

Chairman Hobson asked if Vernon could support the partnership if the Water Board was able to obtain senior government resources and not require any local contribution over what was already available.

Director Klim responded that the specifics of the partnership would have to be considered. There was the worry that senior government would participate in setting up a partnership function and then leave local government with the cost of operating it down the road.

Chairman Hobson said that the Board needs to agree on a partnership proposal to take back to the regional boards.

Director Klim said that the Board should enlist the cooperation of staff of local government in building credibility of the partnership proposal.

Chairman Hobson asked the directors what they were comfortable with in the short term. Should we invite staff to meet and share experiences and successes with the idea of establishing some common goals for the valley and in this way identify areas where we can work together.

Director Hansma replied that to some extent finances may impose this approach as we will be unable to contribute to anything more ambitious.

Director Hein stated that he was not in favor of spending time discussing a partnership if Vernon is locked into an opposing position.

Alternate Director Slater commented that we will face the same problem every year as one municipality or another is not in a financial position to support this effort.

Director Cardoso said that we could create the partnership but make no attempt to force anyone into it. If the structure is valuable they will participate later.

The Chairman advised that the Okanagan Basin Water Board can do certain coordinating actions which don't involve spending additional money without any approval required. Other actions could be done on a 'on-off- basis with approval of the regional districts for each expenditure. He added that the water management partnership was intended to be much more than this, and that ultimately the only effective way to manage water is to have all government and non-government groups cooperate in some fashion. A single agency or authority will not work.

Director Hein suggested that each director try to agree on what is good in the partnership document.

Director Hansma suggested that we let Vernon review the document and get input on what they agree with. He noted that Vernon is just one voice at the regional board table. It may not be wise to allow one dissenting voice to scuttle the whole process.

Director Klim suggested we ask for a resolution of support from all councils.

Chairman Hobson felt it was the job of the Water Board to recommend to councils something which we agree with.

Director Coady felt it would be wrong to submit to local councils, a document which is not finalized and is subject to misinterpretation. She added that not all the proposed partnership actions are local government, and that we expect other agencies to carry on with their water management activities but in a more coordinated and economic way.

Director Novakowski stated that if we cannot get agreement to put a secretariat in place to start the partnership, we should not pursue the issue any further.

Chairman Hobson said that even if we obtain the funding for a secretariat from senior government, there is the perception that this will be withdrawn in the future leaving local government with the costs. This implies that there is no agreement for the Water Board to spend other people's money either. He suggested that we put our existing resources on the table and see what provincial and federal governments will come up with.

Director Hein said that because Vernon is entrenched in the idea of no additional spending, we are wasting our time.

Director Hansma commented that there is no such thing as a no cost scenario for a water management partnership.

Director Coady left the meeting at 12:50 P.M.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board table the Partnership Proposal and appoint a committee consisting of the Chair, the Field Supervisor, and a Director from each region to recommend what items and issues we can work on given the financial concerns expressed about the partnership."

CARRIED.

Directors Hansma, Slater and Novakowski agreed to represent their regions on the committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY



Memorandum

To: OBWB Directors
From: Greg Armour
CC:
Date: February 23rd, 2001
Re: Committee Recommendations on Water Management Partnership

The Board, at the February meeting, directed that a committee composed of Chair R. Hobson, Directors Slater, Novakowski, Hansma and Supervisor G. Armour meet to discuss the Water Management Partnership proposal. This was done on February 23rd. Director Hansma was unable to attend.

It was agreed that the proposal sections describing the need for better water management and the goals of the partnership remained valid, however, local government is unwilling to commit additional resources at this time.

The committee discussed the Partnership mandate; specifically which items were feasible in the short term at no added cost to local government. The committee agreed that only the resources currently built-in to the operation of the Water Board could be utilized to further these activities. This would include a portion of Mr. Armour's time, the administrative capacity of the Board and the remaining \$53,600 allocated by the regional districts for water management actions. Expenditure of the latter funds would require regional board approval.

The Committee recommends that the following actions be undertaken:

1. Convene a State of the Basin Conference. This will initiate many of the coordinating actions proposed in the partnership document by gathering the potential partners together to present their water management agendas and seek agreement to work together in common areas.
2. The Water Board should inventory existing community education and communication programs and, with these groups, explore ways to carry out joint initiatives in a more cost-effective manner. We might secure external sponsorship from business or industry for education programs especially if these result in potential for financial savings.

3. Bring together agencies that consider referrals on water related issues and encourage a coordinated approach. The Water Board itself would not obtain and convey referral comments, but would act as facilitators.
4. Bring together partners to establish a data clearinghouse for water quality and water quantity stewardship information. The Water Board does not have the technical staff in-house to establish a data center. OUC should be involved to collate existing data and perhaps the hiring of summer students would accomplish this. This would have to be a continuing process to keep the database current. The Water Board could devote some staff time to obtaining and sharing information about new technology, programs and best management practices.
5. The Water Board could prepare a summary of the State of the Basin based on information provided by the partners at the conference.

Schedule of Actions:

1. Recommend that State of the Basin Conference be held in the spring of 2002. Since a major water related conference is scheduled for this fall, another conference would be too much. The Fall Conference (C5H2O) would be broad scope in dealing with global approaches to water management and resolution of water management conflicts. This would lead into a more focused look at an Okanagan Partnership in the spring of 2002.
2. Summer 2002 – Convene Steering Committee based on cooperative efforts identified at State of the Basin Conference. Begin to identify resources of partners and agree on some common initiatives.

Draft Recommendation to RDs:

That the Regional Boards authorize the use of remaining funds (\$53,600) already requisitioned by the Water Board for water management actions, to convene a State of the Okanagan Basin Conference; to assist in establishing a central water related data clearinghouse at Okanagan University College; and to promote coordinated and cost effective water management actions among Okanagan communities.

Draft Resolution for Distribution of Workshop Summary

That the Okanagan Basin Water Board distribute the Westland Proposal to the attendees of the October 31st Workshop, along with an update of the current status of the proposal.

Provisional Agenda for State of the Okanagan Basin Conference

The Okanagan 2050 – A Vision

First Nations – Historical Perspective

Population Trends and Man's Impact

The Effect of Climate Change

Air Quality Concerns

Basin Health Indicators

Water Quality Changes – Good and Bad

Water – Supply and Demand – where are we now and what is the picture for the future

Fish – as an indication of ecosystem health

Waste Treatment and Disposal

Future Requirements

Data and Monitoring – Establishing a Data Clearinghouse

Land Use – Consistent Regional Decisions based on sound Principles

New Partnerships - Governance Model and Issues

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 13TH, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.

STAFF:

G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on February 14th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Minister of Environment – Control of Eurasian watermilfoil

Minister Ian Waddell informed the Board that there would be no consideration of providing any funding for aquatic weed control. This was in response to notification from the Okanagan Basin Water Board that lakeshore Provincial Parks and day-sites might not be able to be treated for weed growth in the summer of 2001 due to reductions in local funds for milfoil harvesting.

Moved by Director Cardoso and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the regional boards be made aware of the weed control situation facing the Okanagan Basin Water Board in front of Provincial sites and the possible consequences of curtailment of weed control, and that the Boards be encouraged to express any concerns to the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks."

CARRIED.

Director Hein asked that the letter be copied to the Okanagan Valley MLA's and the Board agreed.

Chairman Hobson suggested that the letter to the regional boards contain information concerning the previous commitment of the Province to a five year cost-sharing agreement and the withdrawal of funding due to a provincial financial crisis.

Mr. Armour questioned the distances that would be left surrounding Provincial Parks as most of the lake bottom is crown land.

The Board discussed the benefits of controlling weed growth from an economic standpoint and noted that the benefits to water quality were questionable. The plants tend to remove nutrient from the lakes and improve water clarity, but are a physical and visual problem to water users. It was agreed that weed control was within the mandate of the Board.

Director Hein wondered if the replacement of equipment should be funded by specified area since the benefits of weed control were primarily economic.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Province's own study commissioned by Treasury Board showed a strong rationale for continued involvement in weed control as there is a tremendous benefit economically to the Province as well as the local areas. He noted that the Water Board has collected reserves to pay for equipment replacement and that the existing equipment purchased by the Province had been turned over to the Water Board at no cost.

Director Hackman asked if weed control work in Mara Lake was performed by the Water Board

Mr. Armour replied that this was done by Columbia Shuswap Regional District on an annual contract negotiated with RDNO.

Okanagan Lake Action Plan – Conference Report and Summary of Phase 1

Mr. Armour presented a summary of information presented at the two day conference held on the Okanagan Lake Action Plan for the recovery of kokanee fish stocks.

The two day conference held March 3rd and 4th updated people on what has happened since the initial conference in 1995 and charted strategy for the next five years.

BC Environment put on the conference but the Action Plan involves other government and non-government agencies and groups as well.

Facts from presenters:

Three factors are affecting the health of the kokanee population:

- Habitat degradation
- Competition from Mysis shrimp
- Poor quality food in lake

Drs. John Stockner and Ken Hall (U.B.C.) – both of whom worked on the original Okanagan Basin Study presented an overview of the limnology of Okanagan Lake. They quoted the per capita input of phosphorus into Okanagan Lake as 17 g from point sources and 24 grams from non point sources.

Analysis of plankton in Okanagan Lake shows marked differences now to what was present in 1970.

The high input of nitrogen and phosphorus in the early 1970's caused a bloom of blue green algae in July and August. There was an annual fall bloom of diatoms and flagellates. (zooplankton)

In 2000, the lake is dominated by blue green algae in late summer and early fall, and in parts of the lake nitrogen is usually non-detectable by June. There is no fall diatom and flagellate bloom. Blue green algae (cyanophyta) can 'fix' nitrogen from the atmosphere where the others cannot, and so can flourish in low nitrogen conditions. The lake is extremely nitrogen poor by fall and this imbalance is responsible for the change in the algal growth pattern.

Cyanophyta are poor quality food for kokanee – they lack sufficient fatty acids and other nutrient components. Flagellate zooplankton are the primary food for juvenile kokanee emerging from rearing habitat in the creeks during the early fall. If the kokanee fry get poor quality food prior to winter, many do not survive.

Researchers thought the competition of mysis shrimp for this food was putting pressure on the kokanee population. This may be part of the story along with the poor quality source of food.

Kalamalka Lake provides an interesting comparison. The species composition of algae is as it was thirty years ago. There is a fall predominance of diatoms and flagellates. Despite the presence of large numbers of mysis shrimp, the kokanee do well in Kalamalka Lake. Nitrogen is not growth limiting in Kalamalka Lake.

The Okanagan Basin Study set objectives for lake phosphorus levels in the valley. These were based on estimates of desirable levels and represented major reductions from the high levels associated with secondarily treated wastewater entering the lakes. Some of these objectives have been achieved while other lakes still show levels higher than the objective.

The ratio of nitrogen and phosphorus appears to be unbalanced in Okanagan Lake. We have in reduced phosphorus to a more natural level through improvements to liquid waste management, but we may have reduced nitrogen too much.

A program of adaptive management will be followed in Okanagan Lake and any work will follow these principles:

- Take small incremental steps
- The steps should be reversible
- The purpose and results of the steps should be communicated prior to initiating next step

Director Novakowski commented that the complexity of factors affecting kokanee points to the need to take a watershed approach to these problems.

Director Cardoso noted that sometimes people do not appreciate the importance of a single species such as kokanee.

Director Hein added that in Lake Country, the Oceola Fish and Game Club must be given some credit for stocking of kokanee and keeping the Wood and Kalamalka Lake populations in good shape.

Water Management Conference (October 2001) – Draft Outline and Sponsorship Information

This Conference was discussed under New and Unfinished Business along with the Water Management Partnership Proposal.

Kelowna Community Stewardship Centre – Concept Paper

Mr. Armour noted that the Stewardship Centre Concept Paper had been included in the agenda to demonstrate the efforts of non government organizations to better coordinate their activities. Information and expertise would be available at one location and overlap of projects could be minimized. He added that this is comparable to what the Water Board is promoting on the government side with a Water Management Partnership.

Chairman Hobson advised that the City of Kelowna will be discussing the location of the Centre with the Group and dealing with zoning questions and so on.

Director Coady noted that the organization of NGO's would make it easier for us in dealing with funding requests.

Director Cardoso asked about the plan to sustain the Centre financially. He noted that a long term source of funds would be required.

Director Novakowski commented that we should assist if possible as the NGO's are future potential partners in water management.

Chairman Hobson agreed that alliance with stewardship groups makes sense but felt that funding sources should be outside the Water Board.

The Board agreed to invite Michelle Boshard to a meeting to further discuss the Stewardship Centre and related issues.

J. Mattison, Director, Water Management Branch

The Board received a summary of input gathered from Mr. Mattison's presentation on preserving drinking water sources.

Director Hein noted that the topic of local control of resource use in watersheds had been a recent issue of concern in Lake Country.

Chairman Hobson said that in areas of the U.S. where there is very controlled access to watershed, a fee is levied and the proceeds are used to undertake management actions in that watershed.

John Rowse, Ministry of Health

Mr. Armour informed the Board that Mr. Rowse had responded by telephone to the Board's letter to the Minister of Health asking for a presentation of information on enhanced septic systems, package treatment systems, and new septic tank regulations.

Mr. Rowse said that in approximately a month, re-drafting of the new regulations will be completed and he would be in a position to make such a presentation.

The Board agreed that local government staff from engineering and planning departments should be invited to the presentation and suggested that perhaps the May meeting would be a suitable time.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water Management Partnership Proposal

Chairman Hobson reviewed the report of the Board sub-committee (attached) and the recommendations for proceeding with some areas of the water management partnership. He said that the group recommended that no revision of the goals and vision section was necessary as this information was still valid. The question addressed was what could be done with existing resources and staff. He outlined the ideas of a State of the Basin Conference and report, collaboration on community education programs, facilitating the coordination of referrals affecting water, and establishing a data clearinghouse. He noted that the resources at the disposal of the Board included the funds requisitioned for water management actions last year and the Field Supervisor's time.

Director Hein wondered if any funding might be available through the Province's Drinking Water Protection Initiative. He also asked how a data clearinghouse would differ from the information centre proposed by the stewardship groups.

Mr. Armour noted that information of a technical nature such as monitoring results might be collected through an institute such as OUC while the stewardship groups would have material on how to take on various projects and funding sources. He added that there would be an ongoing requirement to keep a technical database current and perhaps make the information accessible through a website.

The Board discussed the C₅H₂O Conference to be held in October and how this might integrate with the proposed State of the Basin Conference.

Director Coady felt the Water Board should consider sponsorship of the C₅H₂O Conference.

Chairman Hobson reported that a significant portion of the \$75,000 needed had already been raised.

Director Novakowski stated that he felt all Board members should attend and also supported the idea of sponsorship.

Chairman Hobson said that we would need Regional District approval for any sponsorship and also to spend any funds on the other water management actions discussed previously.

Director Hein suggested that these events are the beginning of the water management process that the Board has been talking about, and that we should inform the regional boards of our wish to proceed.

Chairman Hobson summarized that the Water Board proposes to participate in some fashion in the C₅H₂O Conference; to host a spring 2002 State of the Basin Conference, and to use existing reserves and the time of the Field Supervisor to pull these actions together.

Director Cardoso cautioned that the Board should clarify the purpose of the conference and who is promoting it before we endorse or sponsor it.

Director Hackman asked if the reserve for water management was additional to the equipment reserve. He added that the Board should make sure that all other priorities were covered before allocating funding to either conference.

Mr. Armour said the Board had just over \$53,000 in addition to the equipment reserve.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the committee recommendation to request Regional Board authorization for the use of funds previously requisitioned by the Water Board for water management actions and the time of existing staff to convene a State of the Okanagan Basin Conference; to assist in establishing a central water related data clearinghouse at Okanagan University College; and to promote coordinated and cost effective water management actions among Okanagan communities. In addition that the Water Board distribute the Westland Proposal to the attendees of the October 31st Workshop, along with an update of the current status of the proposal."

CARRIED.

The Board discussed the recommendations received from the RDOS Board concerning water management actions which that regional board felt should be undertaken by the Water Board.

Director Cardoso asked if these issues are being addressed in the motion.

The Board agreed to review these recommendations and refer to them in the letter to the RDOS Board.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS:

City of Vernon - Blue Jay Subdivision

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the application for a Sewage Facilities Grant from the City of Vernon for debt incurred in providing community sewer to Blue Jay Subdivision, be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

The Board noted that the grant application was for works dating back to 1999 and that if large retroactive grant applications were received, it might be necessary to phase payment of the retroactive amount over a number of years if the funds to avoid budget problems.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON APRIL 3RD, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Piazza	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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<u>OTHERS:</u>	Michelle Boshard	Stewardship Coordinator
	Jennifer French	Stewardship Coordinator

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 13th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

M. Boshard and J. French – Kelowna Stewardship Centre:

Ms. Boshard outlined the concept of a Stewardship Centre proposed by a group of Kelowna stewardship organizations. She explained that her current positions as a Stewardship Coordinator employed by the Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership allowed her to assist these groups. Her position is paid by funding from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, but is administered by the Fisheries Partnership. She estimated that the amount of community stewardship contribution in volunteer time was close to \$2 million annually.

Director Novakowski asked if the provincial government was involved in the Fisheries partnership.'

Ms. Boshard said that it is.

Director Hackman asked about the purpose of organizing the stewardship groups.

Ms. Boshard replied that to date the groups have operated independently and have lacked coordination. This had led to competition for funding sources.

Director Hein asked if funding for Ms. Boshard's position was a line item in the DFO budget or if it was for a term only.

Ms. Boshard said that her position is for a five year term which is scheduled to end in March of 2002.

Director Hein asked how the location of the stewardship coordinator positions was chosen.

Ms. Boshard replied that in her case it was through agreement between DFO, the Fisheries Partnership and the Okanagan Nation Alliance where her base is. A workplan is developed and approved by all three.

Director Klim questioned Ms. Boshard's reference to assisting groups in writing proposals.

Ms. Boshard answered that she had put on work shops on proposal writing and funding sources for various stewardship groups.

Director Klim asked who determines where the funding goes.

Ms. Boshard said that each funding source has discretion over which projects are funded. Problems occur when project time requirements differ from the term of funding. This can lead to difficulties in project coordination.

Ms. French added that is difficult to 'marry' funding sources to carry out an effective program in many cases.

Ms. Boshard noted that administration is not funded by most sources and this can lead to some confusion.

Director Klim asked how these failings could be fixed.

Ms. Boshard said that a stewardship centre combined with increased networking of stewardship groups would help, while on the funding side, some coordination among sources is needed. She outlined the proposal for the Kelowna centre stressing the need for groups to share administrative costs and work together to coordinate with local government and landowners and in applying for funding. This would lead to a more efficient use of the limited money available. She hopes to provide a centralized information source for volunteers and groups, and perhaps act as a data repository for fisheries and water management information. She submitted an implementation plan for the centre and said a business plan is being developed on how to generate some revenue in order that the centre be self-sustaining.

Director Hein asked how long Ms. Boshard had been in her present position and what had been accomplished so far.

Ms. Boshard replied that she has been working for one year so far and has worked at increasing the number of and the training of volunteers. She has facilitated the agreement of stewardship groups to work together in a stewardship centre, and established seven watershed roundtables comprised of private citizens a government technical people with the goal of improving conditions in a specific watershed.

Director Hackman commented that the proposal was to have a centre in Vernon as well and he wondered how this would fit with the existing Water Stewardship Committee.

Ms. Boshard said the idea was to tie together existing groups and not to create a new group.

Director Hackman wondered if this could be handled through the Water Stewardship Committee.

Ms. French noted that the Centre would offer a range of training and information to groups and would avoid duplication of effort.

Director Coady advised that she had attended the initial meeting of the Penticton Watershed Roundtable and felt there was a need to follow up on the initial enthusiasm of the volunteers with some actions. She said there was a need for someone with the time and expertise to access funding in order to take action and this was typically not available in volunteer groups. She asked Ms. Boshard what she saw the current role of the OBWB as.

Ms. Boshard said that she knew the Board was involved in the control of Eurasian watermilfoil and in sewage treatment initiatives, but not in on the ground stewardship.

Alternate Director Slater asked, given the competition for funding among stewardship groups, if the Centre should be disbursing funding.

Ms. Boshard responded that this would be beneficial in some ways, but that a political role was not something they wanted to take on.

Ms. French said that she did not see funding as an appropriate role for the stewardship centre. Their role would be to direct groups to funding sources and help them make application.

Alternate Director Slater noted that most groups tend to focus on their own backyard and wondered if volunteers would travel to meet with other groups.

Chairman Hobson inquired about the centre start-up costs. He noted that in addition to building renovations, there was \$140,000 in on-going operational costs. He asked if the other centres would cost the same and if this money would have to come from the same sources that presently fund individual groups.

Ms. Boshard said that they hoped to fund most of the operating costs through the community groups. Some funds were already allocated by each individual group for administration.

Chairman Hobson advised that the City of Kelowna has an Environmental Division with a staff of three who do projects in Kelowna and perform public education. The Regional District of Central Okanagan has hired a new stream steward to work in the rest of the region and to participate in the Enhanced Mission Creek Program recommended by the LRMP.

Ms. French responded that the educational needs are so great that the demand will likely not be met even with these additional resources.

Chairman Hobson asked why the group wanted to house the centre in a new site when the Mission Creek Visitors Centre already exists and has space.

Ms. French said the Mission Creek facility is a visitors centre not a stewardship centre and that communication in discussion with Parks staff has not been good to date.

Ms. Boshard commented that there is a reluctance to house a community resource in a government structure.

Chairman Hobson stated that if the groups do not feel welcome at the centre paid for with their tax dollars then there is a major problem. He asked whether the role of the centre as a data repository was appropriate or whether this should be a role of OUC perhaps.

Ms. French answered that the community will not be aware of the information if it is at the college but she agreed that a stewardship centre would not be equipped to store, sort and analyze technical data.

Chairman Hobson said that to be effective the centre will have to link with local government who already has a significant investment in this area. He asked if the group would be asking local government for funding.

Ms. Boshard said that after circulation of the implementation document they would receive community input at a meeting on April 29th.

Director Coady left the meeting at 11:45.

Director Hein noted the success of the Salmon River Roundtable in restoring large portions of the river.

Chairman Hobson thanked Ms. French and Ms. Boshard for their presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

University of Washington – Conference on Water Resource Management in the Pacific Northwest

Mr. Armour advised that he had been invited to attend a conference in July to discuss potential impacts of climate change on the water resource of the Pacific Northwest.

Chairman Hobson said that this might be useful to identify participants for our proposed State of the Basin conference.

Mr. Armour offered to check the cost of attending and if it was reasonable would be pleased to go.

Moved by Director Kilm and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That Mr. Armour be authorized to attend the July Conference on Climate and Water Policy in the Northwest providing costs are not excessive."

CARRIED.

Fraser Basin Sustainability Indicators Workshop –Report

Mr. Armour reported on the workshop he had attended.

The workshop held in Kamloops, was one of a series to get opinions on sustainability indicators for the Fraser Basin. In other words, what data should be tracked to see if measures implemented to improve management of the water resource are working or not. They produced a workbook with 40 possible indicators and asked for comments on the appropriateness of these and for any other suggestions.

This seems pertinent to our objective of establishing a data clearinghouse. What data should we focus on? What is the purpose of collecting it? The data needs to be relevant in a reasonable time frame, that is, long term health statistics over fifty years are of limited use in assessing changes in the watershed within the time frame of the project.

Geographically, the Fraser represents a much larger basin than the Okanagan and data that is important in the upper reaches of the watershed may have little or no bearing on the lower mainland. The opposite is, of course, also true. The Basin is divided into 5 regions, each with a regional office and coordinator. Wide arrays of differing projects have been undertaken in each region, reflecting the importance of specific issues in each region. For example, the Howe Sound region has a project dealing with discharge of waste from the abandoned Britannia Mine that has obliterated marine plant and animal life in a large area of the Sound. The Hope-Mission area has a debris management program for logs that collect in the Fraser at that point and cause potential flood concerns.

Equal funding shares from local, provincial and federal governments presently supports the Fraser Basin Council (FBC). They are aiming toward a 25% non-government share in the near future.

The indicators all will relate to the four directions set in the Fraser Basin Charter; social, environmental, economic and governance. They will be used as planning tools for the regions and to assess if there is a role for the FBC in correcting a problem. The indicators will show change and not necessarily problems. This may allow corrective programs to be implemented before the problem occurs. The indicator monitoring is intended to complement 'on the ground works' and not just be data collection for the sake of accumulating numbers.

The Fraser Basin Council currently acts as a resource to the communities in the watershed. They supply expertise, some funding, and facilitate getting projects underway which will benefit the basin in the four areas in their charter. They have had success in bringing together diverse interests to get stalled projects going or arrive at agreement on what actions to undertake where the parties involved were unable to.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS:

City of Penticton – Industrial Area

Mr. Armour advised that the community sewer project had been funded entirely from local sources and he had not yet determined whether the project had been eligible for provincial grants.

Moved by Alternate Director Slater and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That consideration of the application for a Sewage Facilities Grant from the City of Penticton be deferred until the status of the project with respect to eligibility for provincial assistance is determined."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Drinking Water Protection Act

Chairman Hobson updated the Board on Drinking Water protection legislation which has been the subject of discussion between the UBCM Environment Committee and the Province.

He said that the proposed new legislation had been reviewed and while there was no provision for a truly independent office representing water, there was to be a Provincial Water Office with two appointees from Environment and health, reporting to the Health Minister. He said there will be a drinking water officer in each region of the province with a wide range of authority. Chairman Hobson noted the concerns of the UBCM Committee that watershed assessments would put a financial burden on local government and it was not yet clear what provincial funding would be available. In addition, the committee had asked for the legislation to contain the right of communities to appeal a decision of the drinking water officer which forced them to spend money and a requirement for a written statement of the reasons for any such decision.

Next Meeting

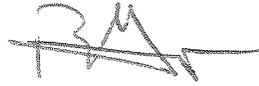
The next regular Board meeting will be May 8th at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JUNE 5TH, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on April 3^d, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ministry of Health – Presentation on On-Site Sewage Disposal Regulations

Mr. Armour reported that John Rowse of the Ministry of Health advised that new regulations governing on-site disposal systems were not at a stage where a presentation could be made to local government. He wondered if this was a presentation that could be made at the July or August meeting, or should be left until September, to include as many people as possible.

The Board agreed to wait until September.

Chair Hobson commented that further work was being done on the regulations which had been reviewed by the UBCM Environment Committee. He said he thought the Board should arrange for the Chair, Vice Chair and Mr. Armour to meet with the new minister in the near future to discuss this and other issues in the Okanagan.

Director Cardoso entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Chair Hobson noted that the question of the liability to local government in operating package type treatment facilities was of concern.

Director Hein said that local government needs to be part of the approval process for on-site treatment at least in a referral type role. They have the awareness of local conditions and factors.

Chair Hobson agreed and suggested we communicate our offer to bring together local government in a workshop format as part of the consultation process for the final regulations.

Alternate Director Slater added that the cumulative effect of servicing areas with on-site systems needs to be addressed in the regulations. At present, once a subdivision is created, Health approval is on a site specific basis only.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hein:

"That a letter be sent to the new Minister informing him of our interest in the new on-site disposal regulations and our agreement to host a regional workshop for local government to receive information and have input to the legislation."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma added and the board agreed that we should indicate in the letter, liability, cumulative effects and the need for local input as our specific areas of concern.

Health and Safety Program Analysis – McMullen and Associates

Mr. Armour reported that with the permission of Chair Hobson he had retained McMullen and Associates to perform a health and safety audit of the weed control program. The cost would be about \$1650 and the Regional District of North Okanagan had already selected this firm to do a similar audit. He noted that new WCB guidelines made it necessary to review and upgrade our procedures for working with equipment, working alone, and working over water. These are all considered high risk areas.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board authorize the health and safety audit as proposed by McMullen and Associates."

CARRIED.

Director Cardoso asked if the recommendations would likely involve actual procedure and equipment changes or just written instructions. He added that there might need to be a contingency set up for the cost to comply with new regulations.

Mr. Armour said that he expected much of the requirement would be for written procedures.

Chair Hobson suggested and the Board agreed that Mr. Armour should review the results of the audit and present his analysis to the Board.

Meeting with Hon. R. Duhamel – Secretary of State for Western Economic Development

Director Novakowski reported on a meeting of Okanagan Valley local government and Minister Duhamel who is responsible for Infrastructure Grants. He commented on the variety of local projects put forward to the Minister and said that the majority were water related.

Mr. Armour, who also attended the meeting, noted the Minister's closing remarks where he asked how often local government met to discuss valley priorities. The Minister said that his job of awarding grants was made much easier in areas where regional priorities had been established.

Chair Hobson informed the Board that Senator Fitzpatrick, who organized the meeting, had also set up a

committee of the three regional Board Chairs to look at economic priorities in the Valley. He noted that the infrastructure program is greatly oversubscribed so the competition for grants is fierce. He reminded the Board of our lack of success in the past in establishing regional priorities for sewer projects with the master Liquid Waste Management Plan and commented on the difficulties in establishing agreement for priorities for regional transportation.

Director Klim replied that perhaps the possibilities for regional planning are enhanced by the remarks of Minister Duhamel. She asked for further information regarding the process involving the three Chairs.

Chair Hobson responded that the project will be administered through RDOS and funding has been applied for to conduct the work. He added that it is probable that we will continue to be asked by funding agencies, to make recommendations with a regional scope.

Director Hansma informed the Board that North Okanagan road infrastructure programs had received priority because they were based on regional planning concerns, and not the wishes of one municipality.

Alternate Director Slater wondered if the Water Board should be supporting specific projects as [art of a regional approach.

Chair Hobson replied that this will be the natural course that things are likely to follow. He suggested that at the meeting with Okanagan MLAs in the fall we try to get water onto the agenda along with transportation, education and health issues.

Director Hein referred to the presentation given to the Board by Water Management branch Director Jim Mattison, and asked what the status of Drinking Water Protection legislation would be with the new government.

Chair Hobson noted that in discussions with the UBCM Environment Committee, it had been indicated that the new legislation was perceived as have too much regulation and required further local consultation. There had been discussion with the Federal Government as a result of recent fatalities in Walkerton and North Battleford, to put more money into protection of water supplies. Other provinces, including Ontario, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Newfoundland are putting legislation similar to BC, in place. He felt the present legislation was good but that the source of money necessary for local government to assess watershed problems and rectify them was not defined. The 'single voice for water' proposed in the Auditor general's report had not been dealt with. He said that the Drinking Water protection Legislation should be on our list of topics to discuss with the Minister.

Director Hein hoped the new government would act quickly to enact the legislation.

Alternate Director Slater commented that the new government has many members with municipal experience who are aware of the need to establish assurance of safe water supplies.

Director Hein remarked that he citizens of Lake Country currently pay more for cablevision than they do for water.

Director Cardoso referred to the bulk sale of water and wondered how surplus amounts would be calculated. If we are able to conserve water would this amount just be added to potential surplus for sale.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board urge the expedient implementation of Drinking Water Protection Legislation by the new government and note the requirement of local

government to have input and influence on activities in community watersheds in areas beyond the municipal boundaries."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Slater commented that if the new regulations drive some small water purveyors out of the business there is a question of who will take over these supplies.

Director Hansma responded that the intention is to have all small suppliers come under the authority of local government. He said the local government needs to have firm criteria in place for accepting these where the province must pay to upgrade the system to meet acceptable standards.

Chair Hobson said that improvement districts are not eligible for infrastructure funds while local government is.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the correspondence be received."

CARRIED.

Regional District of North Okanagan – Approval to Continue to Investigate Water Management Partnership Actions

Received

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen - Approval to Continue to Investigate Water Management Partnership Actions

Received

Chair Hobson noted that the Central Okanagan Regional Board had also agreed to the same presentation and that a letter would be forthcoming.

Regional District of North Okanagan – Aquatic Weed Control

Received

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Aquatic Weed Control

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board meet with the new Minister and outline the failure of the previous government to live up to its commitment to fund aquatic weed control."

CARRIED.

Director Coady suggested and the Board agreed that a written summary detailing past involvement of the Province in weed control accompany the letter in advance of the meeting and that the summary be sent to valley MLAs and Regional Boards as well.

Director Hansma noted that this is a regional issue in the Okanagan as should be a test of whether the

government stands by its stated intent to participate in regional programs.

Chair Hobson suggested that this be included as one of the number of regional issue we wished to discuss with the Minister. He added that this was an opportunity to rectify the breach of the five year agreement signed by the past government.

Director Hein asked Mr. Armour if weeds cut at the south end of Wood Lake could be trucked away rather than left to decompose in the southeast corner. He suggested Mr. Armour call the Administrator to find a suitable access site.

Environment Canada – Meeting with Regional Director General

Mr. Armour advised that Regional Director general Don fast had clearly stated that if an ecosystem approach were taken in the Okanagan Valley toward environmental issues, Environment Canada would look at an increased role in this area.

Derek Thompson, Deputy Minister of Environment – Aquatic Weed Control Funding

Received

Ministry of Environment – Drinking Water Protection Plan Consultations

Received

Minister of Indian Affairs – Sewage Disposal Systems on Reserve Lands

The letter responded to OBWB concerns that sewage treatment on First Nation lands be of the same standard as enforced on other sensitive areas around the lakes. The minister said that treatment systems were inspected by health Canada but that individual septic systems were looked at only at the request of First Nation government.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the OBWB urge the Minister to consider legislation requiring mandatory inspection and permitting of all new on-site disposal systems on First nation lands and the condition of existing systems be evaluated. In addition that the Federal Government provide funding for Liquid Waste Management Plans to be put in place for First Nation lands in the Okanagan."

The board discussed the motion and decided to revise it.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the OBWB urge the Minister to consider legislation requiring mandatory inspection of all new on-site disposal systems on First nation lands and the condition of existing systems be evaluated. In addition that the Federal Government provide funding for Liquid Waste Management Plans to be put in place for First Nation lands in the Okanagan."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the OBWB request the federal and provincial governments to encourage partnerships between First Nations and local government for implementation of liquid waste treatment systems on Indian Reserve lands."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma opposed.

Mr. M. Little – Skaha Lake Weed Control

Chair Hobson asked Mr. Armour to draft a response to the letter from Mr. Little outlining actions that had been taken to control weeds in Skaha Lake.

Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission – Ecosystem Workshop

Received.

The Board authorized Mr. Armour and Chair Hobson to attend.

Ministry of Environment – Watershed Assessment Referrals

Mr. Armour advised that draft assessments of two Okanagan upper watershed, Kelowna and Mission had been referred to the Board for comment. He noted that the work represented two years of data collection in one case and four years in the other. This is the type of information that will be needed under the Drinking Water Protection Legislation to determine the status of community watersheds.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Coady :

"That the OBWB encourage the new Minister responsible to continue data collection and make provision for data analysis of Community Watershed assessments conducted by the Ministry of Environment."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS:

City of Penticton – Industrial Area Sewer Extension

The City supplied a letter stating that they would have been eligible for a grant but the project would have been classed as a low priority and there would not have been funds to proceed expediently. The City decided to go ahead with the community sewer project, funding it entirely from local sources. They were asking the Board to consider a Sewage Facilities Grant retroactive to 1999.

Chair Hobson said it was the Board's decision as to eligibility of a program without provincial funding.

Director Coady said the project was the start of a larger project that would provide sanitary sewer to the Penticton industrial area, which is presently served by on-site systems and is in close proximity to Skaha Lake.

Director Hein said that the Water Board needed to establish a policy concerning paying grants retroactively. He proposed that there be no such grants paid for time periods prior to the submission of an application for a qualifying project.

Director Hansma asked how the City of Penticton determined that the project would have been eligible for a provincial grant.

Director Novakowski said he was not in favor of paying grants for projects whose eligibility was justified after completion.

Alternate Director Slater suggested that since a policy was not presently in place we 'grandfather' this project in and establish a firm guideline for the future.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the OBWB agree to pay the grant as requested in the letter from the City of Penticton, subject to receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs stating that the sewer extension met their eligibility criteria."

CARRIED.

Director Hein opposed.

The Board discussed putting in place a policy that no retroactive grants are paid from this time forward.

There was a reluctance to add to or amend the original policy which was not in front of the Board.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Cardoso:

"That the OBWB place a moratorium on retroactive payments of sewage facilities grants until the current policy is reviewed."

CARRIED.

Opposed Novakowski, Hansma

Director Hein noted that he is not aware of the legalities of the first motion thus he could not support it.

The Board discussed whether to reconsider the first motion to pay the City of Penticton request.

Director Coady asked why the Board would not want to subsidize a project that met our requirement to remove sources of pollution from the lake, regardless of when the project took place.

Chair Hobson commented that payment of retroactive grants where the necessary funds had not been requisitioned might jeopardize other qualifying projects in that year.

The Board agreed to let the motion stand and to review the grant payment policy at the next meeting.

Water Management Actions

Chair Hobson advised the Board that we need to proceed with a schedule for actions authorized by the three regional boards, an allocation of funds for each action, and an outline of the State of the Basin Conference content and objectives.

Director Klim said that we should focus on the needs of the Okanagan and on sharing knowledge in areas where communities have already done good work such as on conservation of water. She wanted to make sure that the conference addressed water issues from the bottom up, in other words, so the message was received by the people who will use the information and ultimately constitute the support for the Board's actions.

Director Coady felt the conference agenda should relate specifically to what we can do in our own areas.

Director Hansma added that the water purveyors have to be involved and must agree on representation, in order for the message to get through.

Director Novakowski felt that the outcome of the conference should be a revised mandate of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Director Hackman noted that it would be useful to compare our way of doing things between the three regional districts.

Director Hein stated that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has a mandate to look at water quality and quantity, and that this should be the role of the Board in the future. If it is not, then there needn't be a Water Board.

Director Cardoso said that we must be expedient in doing something or the credibility of the usefulness of this Board will be damaged.

Alternate Director Slater said we need to make substantive progress in order to have the continued support of the regional districts.

Chairman Hobson said that a list of actions would be prepared for discussion at the July meeting.

Next Meeting

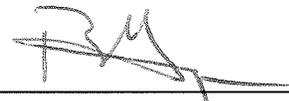
The next regular Board meeting will be July 24th at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JULY 24TH, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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<u>OTHERS:</u>	Mel Maxnuk	Ministry of Land, Air and Water
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Protection

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on June 5th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

First Nations Sewage Treatment Policies on Reserve Lands

The Chairman summarized the discussion at the last meeting where the Board resolved to ask the Federal Minister to institute mandatory inspection of new on-site disposal systems on reserves and evaluate the condition of existing systems. At present, this is done only at the pleasure of the First Nation Government. The Board also resolved to ask that the Federal Government fund Liquid waste Management Plans for First Nation Lands.

The Chair reported that he subsequently asked that this correspondence be delayed so that he could contact the Westbank First Nation to see if we could work together toward a better system of ensuring sewage disposal practices on band lands were consistent with other Okanagan Valley standards. This action was consistent with the protocol agreement that the Regional District of Central Okanagan has with the Westbank First Nation. He said that he had been unable to set up a meeting as yet to discuss the subject but wished to propose that the Okanagan Basin Water Board work with First Nations to address problems rather than setting up a conflict situation.

Director Klim informed the Board that the Regional District of North Okanagan has a similar protocol agreement with the Okanagan Band and agreed that we should develop a consistent approach with all parties involved.

Director Novakowski proposed that the Water Board send a letter to the Bands offering to work together to develop a joint submission to the Federal Government to address pollution concerns.

Director Hein agreed that a coordinated approach would be most beneficial.

Director Coady noted that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has a draft protocol agreement with the Penticton Band and also supported a direct approach to First Nations.

Chairman Hobson wondered if we should approach each band individually or the Okanagan Tribal Council.

Director Cardoso noted that the Bands are required to conform to Federal standards for new developments. He asked if the Board should follow the agreements and policies of one of the member regional districts if the others do not have similar arrangements.

Director Klim said that communication with First Nations was currently very good in the North Okanagan and she wished to see this issue addressed as part of existing consultation with the Bands rather than opening new channels of communication.

Director Coady agreed that local contact with the Bands is important so that we do not introduce a new regional body as another contact.

Alternate Director Slater suggested that a letter be sent to the Bands outlining what we would like to see happen. This would initiate communication and might fit into the wish of many of the bands to tie into local service infrastructure.

Chairman Hobson read the two motions carried at the last meeting.

Director Klim noted that the second motion encouraging partnerships was a better approach than complaining about sewer problems.

Chairman Hobson suggested meeting with First Nations to discuss what problems they may have in sewage disposal and to inform them what we are trying to achieve.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the motion from the June 5th meeting stating "That the OBWB urge the Minister to consider legislation requiring mandatory inspection of all new on-site disposal systems on First Nation lands and the condition of existing systems be evaluated. In addition that the Federal Government provide funding for Liquid Waste Management Plans to be put in place for First Nation lands in the Okanagan, be reconsidered."

CARRIED.

Director Hein agreed that it would be better to identify problems in consultation with the Bands.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the motion from the June 5th meeting stating "That the OBWB urge the Minister to consider legislation requiring mandatory inspection of all new on-site disposal systems on First Nation lands and the condition of existing systems be evaluated. In addition that the Federal Government provide funding for Liquid Waste Management Plans to be put in place for First Nation lands in the Okanagan, be rescinded."

CARRIED.

Directors Hackman and Hansma entered the meeting at 10:40 a.m.]

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to the First Nation Bands asking if they are interested in meeting to discuss sewage treatment issues and problems and how we might jointly address them."

CARRIED.

The Board agreed that the letter should indicate the interest of the Water Board and our current mandate, as well as reference the protocol agreements.

Director Hansma noted that the original motion addressed the lack of Federal legislation and resources for dealing with sewage problems on Band lands.

Director Cardoso replied that Federal officials from Indian Affairs and health could be invited to attend a meeting.

Director Coady commented that we share water as a priority with First Nations, however, they consider that we have caused the degradation.

Director Klim added that several regions are currently working with the Bands and that this clear protocol should be incorporated into OBWB dealings.

The Board agreed that the second motion from the June meeting reading *"that the OBWB request the federal and provincial governments to encourage partnerships between First Nations and local government for implementation of liquid waste treatment systems on Indian Reserve lands"* could stand but that no action would be taken until after meetings were conducted with the Bands.

Letter to Minister of Land, Air and Water Protection, Joyce Murray requesting a meeting to discuss aquatic weed control funding, drinking water legislation, and septic tank legislation:

Chairman Hobson advised that no response had been received from the Minister and that he did not anticipate an opportunity to meet in the near future prior to clarification of the province's finances.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board request a meeting with Minister Murray at UBCM."

CARRIED.

UBCM Conference on New Technology

Chairman Hobson reported that UBCM had received a grant to sponsor a conference on new technology including onsite treatment systems. This will take place in Vancouver on October 11 and 12. He suggested that we may wish to hold our workshop session on septic legislation and advanced systems until after the UBCM event.

He also informed the Board that he had discussed the new Drinking Water legislation with Minister Joyce Murray as part of his UBCM Environment duties. The legislation will be brought back for additional local consultation concerning the standards to be set and the means to be provided to local government to address concerns in crown watersheds.

Sewage Grant Policy Review – Retroactive Grants

Mr. Armour reviewed the request made by the City of Penticton to consider payment retroactively, for Industrial area sewers paid for with 100 percent local funds. Provincial funding was not applied for on the advice that the project would receive a low priority ranking. The Board had asked Penticton to obtain a letter from the Province indicating that the project would have been eligible for Provincial funding. The

City had written to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Service, but no reply had been received.

The Board agreed that the grant to Penticton would be paid upon receipt of this letter, as resolved at the June meeting. The Board then discussed the handling of any other situations involving application for retroactive payment of grants.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board not approve any Sewage Facilities Assistance grants or retroactive payments to projects for which application is made later than one year following receipt of confirmation of eligibility for provincial funding."

CARRIED.

ONFC Conference Report

Mr. Armour reported on the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission Ecosystem Planning Conference held in Kelowna June 12 and 13. The focus of the event was on salmon recovery in lower Okanagan River. There were a large number of delegates from US. State and Federal agencies as well as power utilities and the Colville Confederated Tribes. The presentations were mainly technical with the goal of trying to decide on steps which need to be taken to ensure recovery and maintenance of healthy sockeye stock. A Conference Summary report is available.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the ONFC Ecosystem Conference report."

CARRIED.

Pacific Northwest Water Policy Conference Report

Mr. Armour also reported on the Pacific Northwest Water Policy Conference July 16 and 17 held in Stevenson, Washington. The University of Washington sponsored the conference to try to get water policy makers to consider ways to incorporate climate change information into water policy directions.

The delegates represented a cross section of senior bureaucrats and political representatives from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. BC was noticeably absent. Although discussion centred on the Columbia River system, policy and governance considerations apply to other river systems as well.

Climate change will have minimal effect in the next 40 years on areas where rivers and lakes are charged by snowmelt as long as the snowpack areas are sufficiently high in elevation that an increase in temp. does not turn the snow into winter rain. Most of our water 'storage' is in the form of snow. This differs from coastal rivers where water flows according to rainfall patterns and storage is artificial in the form of dams and impoundments.

The point was made by many that existing governance structure and institutional considerations do not allow effective management of water particularly in a drought year such as this. Incorporating climate change merely throws another variable into a system that already is dysfunctional.

Dr. Doug Kenney of the Natural Resources Law Center at U. of Colorado made an interesting presentation on Western Water law and the constraints and opportunities it provides. A few highlights:

"We're Not All in this Together"

- Water Law dictates that in a drought the 'senior' rights get their full share of water, while in 2/3rds of remaining states the burden is shared among all users.

- Groundwater and surface water are dealt with differently
- Recognition by Law as a beneficial user – e.g. Is power generation favored over fish?

Water Management is (NOT!) Rational:

- At least 10 major Fed. Studies in last 100 years have recommended that water management occur on a basin-wide basis. This is still not applied.
- In Denver there are 120 water suppliers who do not have any sort of forum to communicate with each other.
- Use of new forecast information such as climate change is risky – if you make a mistake using the traditional methods, it is tolerated. If you make a mistake by using a new method, it is punished.
- Water management is inefficient by design – serves antiquated allocations; expected to meet all new demands; large safety margins; water is free, distribution subsidized and power is cheap.

Even without Climate Change, our vulnerability to drought is increasing:

- Population growth
- Trend in water law is to recognize more uses as valid

Coping Strategies for Water Shortages

Development of new storage is in most cases off the table except in the form of non traditional storage. Examples – gravel pit reservoirs. Ground water recharge areas. Most coping strategies fall into the following categories:

Risk Reduction:

- Saved or salvaged water
- Conservation
- Water system efficiencies

Risk Re-Allocation

Permit permanent water transfers from area of drought that can absorb impact to sector that cannot.

Temporary transfers – Water Banks

Subordination Agreements –

Dry year options where farmer is paid an annual fee for access to part of his water allocation in a dry year.

Another presentation concerned examples of Water Management Partnerships: (Chad Day – SFU & Dave Marshall Fraser Basin Council)

They examined various partnerships and rated them on the criteria of :

Legislation

Adaptive Planning and Implementation – clear, ecosystem- based goals and targets. Public evaluation of outcomes

Representation Are all the interests at the table?

Financing adequate and long term

Leadership Political Support, Innovative

Outcomes Promoting social economic, and environmental sustainability

The CalFed Bay-Delta Program in the San Francisco Bay Area has an \$880 million budget for 2001 to improve ecosystem quality and water quality and supply.

The GBEI was discussed along with the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team. The Yakima River Basin Watershed Plan was represented at the conference, where three counties have formed the Tri-County Water Resources Agency to manage water in that region. This partnership was mandated by Federal Legislation.

2001 Weed Harvesting Schedule and 2000 – 2001 Derooting Summary

Mr. Armour presented a schedule of work to be done this summer with the Board's two aquatic weed harvesters and a summary of work done in the past fall, winter and spring with derooting equipment.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Cardoso :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the harvesting schedule and summary of winter derooting activities."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of North Okanagan – Aquatic Weed Control Funding

The Board received the motion from the Regional District Board endorsing the proposed contact with the new government Minister of Land, Air and Water Protection, to discuss aquatic weed control funding.

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Aquatic Weed Control Funding

The Board received the motion from the Regional District Board endorsing the proposed contact with the new government Minister of Land, Air and Water Protection, to discuss aquatic weed control funding.

SIFERP & NRIN Information

The Board received information on the Extension Research Partnership and the database the group is establishing.

North End Residents Association – Sutherland Bay Weed Control

The Board received information on Sutherland Bay, Kelowna, aquatic weed control.

Mr. Armour said he will look at the site and see if weed removal will help water circulation. Residents are interested in getting the log booms moved to allow better water circulation and hopefully improve water quality conditions.

C₅H₂O Conference Information

The Board received information on the fall conference.

Don Fast, Regional Director General, Environment Canada – Copy of Correspondence with Okanagan Nation Alliance

The Board received the letter from the Regional Director General.

Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Conference

The Board received the notice of the Columbia Basin Conference.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the above correspondence be received."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:**Schedule and Costs of Proposed OBWB Water Management Actions**

The Board discussed allocation of funds and possible timing for the actions authorized by the three regional boards to promote a regional approach to water management issues.

Mr. Armour summarized the focus workshops:

- **On-Site Treatment Systems**

Alternatives to community sewer extensions; advanced on-site systems; package plants; legalities and liabilities for local government.

- **Water Conservation and Water Quantity**

Try to encourage some cost saving through coordination and consistency in valley standards; compare programs; share successes.

- **Drinking Water Protection**

Watershed assessments; what has been done? What type of information is needed? What are the concerns and threats? Implications of new legislation?

- **Stormwater Management**

Collection, purification and disposal of stormwater; impacts of not treating stormwater; how are other regions addressing this?; is there funding available?; regulatory requirements now and in the future; options for treatment and disposal.

- **Liquid Waste Management**

Update local government requirements for liquid waste treatment over next 5 years; performance of treatment options to date; new options?; phasing out of Sewage Facilities Grants and possible use of Water Board taxation authority for other infrastructure needs.

Director Coady said that perhaps the stormwater session could coincide with the Smart Growth Conference(s) scheduled for the fall.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Drinking Water Legislation will have an additional local consultation process and perhaps we could offer to bring together the appropriate people from local government.

Director Hein stated that drinking water issues were uppermost in the concerns of most people and definitely a top priority for Lake Country. Local government needs to know what authority and resources will be available to better enable them to regulate potentially harmful activities in their watersheds.

Chairman Hobson suggested that the Board contact the Minister and advise her of our willingness to cooperate in setting up a regional consultation on the new legislation. The timing would depend to a large extent on the Province's requirements.

Director Klim noted that the North Okanagan Water Authority performs a significant amount of testing to ensure water quality. She wondered if the information was available on what future needs would be and what our ability is to meet them.

Chairman Hobson added that the local consultation would be focused and not a broad based open forum. It would likely involve municipal engineers and purveyors.

Mr. Maxnuk commented that the Okanagan has a very high number of community watersheds along with many purveyors of greatly varying size.

Alternate Director Slater left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Director Hansma said the Board should contact the Province and offer to host a local session on new septic tank regulations as well.

Director Coady noted that First Nations should be part of the workshops.

Chairman Hobson said that the Board may need some financial consulting assistance in developing a model for a revised or new grant program for advanced onsite systems or package plants.

Director Klim remarked that each of the workshops should be directed at achieving a local action plan, and not just be informational.

Chairman Hobson suggested that we present our list of proposed workshops to local government and ask for their assistance in getting the right people and circumstances to lead to an action plan. He said the quality of the workshops would be improved by advice in the organizational stage from a technical steering group.

Director Hansma summarized that we will not make progress until we share information about how we each deal with issues. There may be some areas who currently do not consider some of the issues.

Director Hein was adamant that we need to get the message out as to why we are taking these steps and what we expect as outcomes from each of the actions.

Director Hansma indicated that we should return to the regional districts following completion of these tasks and indicate what we think our mandate should be, based on the outcomes.

Chairman Hobson noted that the results of the meetings and workshops could form the basis of a year end summary report.

The Board agreed to ask local government for staff representatives to form a technical advisory committee and discussed the need to sharpen the focus on goals of the workshops.

Mr. Armour and Chair Hobson updated the Board on contacts with OUC with respect to setting up a water management data base. Mr. Armour noted that a number of data bases now exist or are in the planning stage and we should be cautious about duplication.

Mr. Maxnuk described the water quality database maintained by his Ministry and explained that the information is only accessible by government staff at present.

Director Hein asked why the information is not public.

Mr. Maxnuk responded that it seemed to be mainly a matter of cost but that the data input to the database also had to meet scientific criteria.

The Board asked Mr. Armour to follow up with OUC on the costs and requirements to establish a consolidated database.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board allocate \$3000 to sponsor the C₅H₂O Conference."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Grant Applications for Westbank Sewer Projects, Sunnyside Sewer, Lakeview Sewer.

An application from CORD to fund Whitworth Road and Sunnyside sewers was received. Mr. Armour indicated that both projects received Provincial approval and 25% funding and service existing developments.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski :

"That the application for Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants from the Regional District of Central Okanagan for Whitworth Road and Sunnyside sewers be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be August 14th at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Chairman Hobson advised that if there was insufficient business to warrant a meeting in August, it would be cancelled or material sent out for information.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA , B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Slater (Vice Chair)	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on July 24th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Health and Safety Program Audit and Proposal – McMullen and Associates

Mr. Armour reviewed the two day safety audit conducted by D. McMullen in early August. He explained that Mr. McMullen had spent time on harvesting and rototilling machines in operation and observing an equipment move from Wood to Okanagan Lake. He had conducted an inspection of the OBWB storage yard and shop as well.

The proposal addressed two main Health and Safety deficiencies:

- Written safe work procedures to comply with OHSR in 9 areas
- Training of OBWB employees in 7 areas required by OHSR

The cost for the program was \$9940 which Mr. Armour indicated could be divided over 2 fiscal years. He noted that written procedures and documented training courses are the only foolproof way to ensure that an employer has met WCB standards of safety and diligence. Some procedures could be developed by staff after some initial instruction. He said that he anticipated that after this is done in 9 initial areas, he will be able to update, revise and add other written procedures as required.

Director Hein felt that the amount of money was relatively small in comparison to the potential cost of an accident involving an OBWB employee.

Director Hansma said that some of the sections quoted in the proposal from the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations were obsolete.

Director Cardoso asked if alternative means of receiving training had been investigated.

Mr. Armour replied that WCB approved courses were available through community colleges. This would entail costs, scheduling problems and ensuring that the generic course content meets OBWB needs.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Hansma :

"That the proposal from McMullen and Associates to implement a Health and safety program be accepted."

CARRIED.

Director Klim asked that the City of Vernon be contacted through the Administrator to determine if any cost savings could be made by having some joint training sessions.

Chairman Hobson noted that the cost of staff training should be reflected in the charge out rate for any contract work undertaken by the Water Board and that other jurisdictions with milfoil control programs should be notified of the need to meet new health and safety standards.

Proposed Joint Efforts with Okanagan Indian Bands to improve Liquid Waste Disposal in Sensitive Areas

Mr. Armour advised the Board that responses to our letter to Indian Bands about jointly pursuing solutions to sewage problems on native and non-native lands had been received. Okanagan Band Manager (Phil Beattie) asked for more information on the OBWB and its goals to present to his council. Penticton Band Chief Stuart Phillip expressed interested in meeting with the Board.

Director Hein noted that new leadership in the Indian Bands seemed very interested in partnership that would result in a better quality of life for their people.

Director Cardoso noted that this was an opportunity to work together in areas such as watershed protection and not just sewage treatment.

Director Klim agreed that the Bands wish to make improvements and we should explore partnerships and identify common goals.

There was a discussion about when meetings should take place and if the meetings should be with individual bands or as a collective group.

It was agreed that the best format would be to hold a roundtable discussion with representatives of the individual bands at a regular OBWB meeting held in that area. At that time shared concerns for the lake could be explored as well as a description of the programs undertaken by the Water Board and by the Bands. The goal would be to identify ways to meet mutual objectives.

The Board Agreed to invite the Okanagan Band to the October meeting in Vernon, and the Penticton Band to the November meeting in that locale.

OBWB Sponsored Workshop Sessions

Mr. Armour reported on responses from Local Government regarding representation to a technical committee to set up the workshops. He advised that Vernon had appointed Eric Jackson and Kelowna had appointed John Vos. Also Andrew Swetlishoff from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

had agreed to assist. A letter from Minister Murray offered assistance of regional staff for the sewage treatment option workshop.

Director Klim suggested that Bob Campbell of NOWA be invited to participate. The Board agreed to make the request.

Director Cardoso asked what the committee would do.

Mr. Armour said the planning committee would ensure that the workshops were designed to meet real needs of local government in the Okanagan. They would recommend workshop timing, agendas, invitees, and resource people.

Chairman Hobson advised that government is very busy at the present time, with Provincial review of all budgets and program funding. The probability of assistance and participation would be more likely after this process was complete. He suggested and the Board agreed that planning of the workshop outlines proceed but that the actual events be held later in the fall when government could focus more attention on the issues.

Mr. Armour reported on discussions with Okanagan University College regarding establishment of a water resource database. He noted that Chairman Hobson had met with OUC President, Katy Bindon. As a result Mr. Armour had held discussions with Adam Bielecki, Campus Development And Strategic Planning Director and with Rob Scherer (SIFERP) who is working with the college to develop the BC Freshwater Science Institute.

The Board received a copy of the BC Freshwater Institute Business Plan. Mr. Armour explained that this was still in stage of institutional considerations about how BCFI will operate. They are not yet ready to detail requirements for establishing a database although this is intended to be a part of the institute. The proposal is that the database would link not only provincial information but also have Links to NRC and Environment Canada.

Audited Financial Statement for year ended March 31, 2001

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater :

"That the Audited Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2001 be accepted."

CARRIED.

Director Hackman asked that Note Number 6 on page 10, referring to the expiration of the cost sharing agreement with the Province, be amended to reflect that the Province had breached the agreement before the end of the five year term. The Board agreed to ask the Auditors to make this change.

Fiscal Year 2001 – 2002 Budget

Mr. Armour presented some budget information for guidance from the Board in preparing the Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003 Provisional budget and in reference to the Aquatic Weed Control Budget for the current year.

A \$40,650 reduction was made to weed control operations representing savings from not doing work near provincial parks. The money was allocated to water quality and quantity management initiatives. Mr.

Armour indicated that we will require most, if not all of this funding to complete current year weed control. (until March 31, 2002) He asked for authorization to shift the money back to the weed control activities.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Klim:

"That the \$40,650 put into 'Consulting Fees and New Initiatives' in the 2001 –2002 budget be reallocated to Aquatic weed control programs."

CARRIED.

Director Cardoso Opposed

Director Novakowski asked if weed control work had been done in front of provincial parks.

Mr. Armour said that harvesting had been done in some park areas. He advised that it was difficult to determine what constituted park frontage. Almost all of the lake bottom supporting plant growth is crown land and weed beds offshore of a provincial park may also affect non-provincial recreation areas adjacent to the parks.

Director Cardoso indicated that the decision not to do weed control work in front of Parks was not just a threat, but a necessary action of the Board resulting from the refusal of the Province to share in the cost of the work.

Director Hansma said he was disappointed that any work had been done in front of provincial parks and that we should consider sending a bill to the Province for those services.

There was a discussion about ways to have the new government reconsider support for weed control.

Chairman Hobson suggested that aquatic weed control funding might be added as a topic to the agenda of the September 19 meeting between Okanagan Mayors, Regional Board Chairs and Okanagan MLAs.

Moved from the floor:

"That the subject of aquatic weed control funding be added, with the permission of the Kelowna Mayor, to the agenda of the September 19 meeting between Okanagan Mayors, Regional Board Chairs and Okanagan MLAs; that an information package be provided in advance to participants and that the Province be billed for any work done in front of Provincial Parks this fiscal year and notified that no derooting work will be done unless there is a financial commitment from the Province."

CARRIED.

Directors Klim and Hackman Opposed

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the above motion concerning weed control funding be amended to deal with so that the billing of the Province and notification of no derooting work in front of Provincial Parks as a separate item."

DEFEATED.

Director Cardoso asked that the Field Supervisor prepare a report delineating the boundaries of provincial parks fronting the Okanagan mainstem lakes and indicating the areas which will not receive weed control without provincial funding.

Aquatic Weed Control Budget for F.Y. 2002 – 2003

Mr. Armour provided information on cost increases which needed to be incorporated into the budget for the next fiscal year. He advised that an increase of 6% from F.Y. 2000 to 2001 (\$415,095 to \$439,626) had mainly covered salary adjustments. He proposed a 7.2% increase (\$31,600) for 2002 to \$471,226. This will go to increased fuel costs for trucks and weed removal equipment (\$4000), increased cost of repairs (\$8000), NORD administration increase (\$13,600) and the implementation of upgraded health and safety practices and training (\$4970). He noted that these figures are approximations.

Director Hansma commented that the NORD administration increase was due to instructions from the regional board to document the time spent on various areas and ascertain accurate costs.

The Board agreed to ask the NORD treasurer to present information on how the administration costs are derived, at its next meeting.

Sewerage Assistance Fund Requisition for F.Y. 2002 - 2003

Mr. Armour summarized the status of the Sewage Facilities Assistance Fund. He noted that in F.Y. 2001 – 2002 there was a 21% increase over the 2000 requisition. (\$2.1 million from \$1.76 million) The requisition had been held artificially low over the three preceding years to eliminate a fund surplus which accrued when projects for which funds were requisitioned, were delayed in their commencement.

There remains a surplus of \$351,880 in the Sewage Assistance Fund. He explained that the three years of requisitioning less revenue than the amount of grants to be paid was projected to reduce the surplus by about \$333,000 per year. In reality, the debt was reduced by a lesser amount because:

- Sewer works anticipated to draw on the fund did not do so in the first year that funds were collected
- Interest was earned on the surplus
- Refinancing of MFA issues at lower rates resulted in most grant amounts being lower in 2001 than projected.

Fiscal Year	Revenue (\$)	Estimated Grants(\$)	Actual Grants(\$)	Fund Surplus(\$)
1995 – 96	2,483,886		2,270,170	895,344
1996 – 97	2,175,544		2,090,349	980,539
1997 – 98	1,961,417		2,134,119	807,837
1998 – 99	1,833,656		1,775,634	865,859
99 – 2000	1,842,021		2,063,221	644,659
2000 – 01	1,724,439	2,224,330	2,072,398	351,180
2001 – 02	2,100,000	2,100,000		

Mr. Armour said that projected Grant payments for 2002 – 03 will be approximately \$2.15 million.

Chairman Hobson commented that the Board might use the remaining surplus to adjust the total requisition to keep it at the same level for the next few years.

There was some discussion about the merit of retaining the entire surplus or a portion of it. The Board asked that Mr. Armour prepare an analysis of both options for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Regional District of North Okanagan – Aquatic Weed Control Funding**

The Board received a letter from the Regional District of North Okanagan urging it to continue to pursue weed control funding from the Province and obtain letters of support from other regional districts. A copy of letter of from Minister Murray was attached stating that the Province is unable to provide financial assistance.

Regional District of North Okanagan - Kalamalka Lake Water Quality

A letter was received from the Regional District of North Okanagan referring a District of Coldstream report on Kalamalka Lake water quality concerns and a request that the Water Board take a lead role to initiate and coordinate a study of the lake.

District of Coldstream - Kalamalka Lake Water Quality

The Board received a letter and report regarding Kalamalka Lake water quality concerns from the District of Coldstream.

Mr. Armour advised that he had asked the Penticton office of the Ministry of Air, Land and Water protection for current information on the condition of the lake but was unable to get a reply in time for the meeting.

Chairman Hobson observed that the Board could support a request from the regional district to the province to conduct a study, but assumption of a lead role by the Water Board would require authorization of the three regional boards to include this in the Water Board mandate. He noted that any deterioration of water quality in Kalamalka Lake represents a serious concern to residents of Vernon, Coldstream and Lake Country.

Director Coady advised that broadening of the mandate of the Board could not be specific to the North Okanagan as similar water quality problems are present in other parts of the valley.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board inform the District of Coldstream and the Regional District of North Okanagan that it would be willing to work with local government in the Okanagan to address serious concerns about water quality, providing all three regional boards agree that this is part of the Water Board mandate."

CARRIED.

City of Vernon – Participation in Workshop Technical Advisory Committee

The Board received a letter from the City of Vernon identifying Eric Jackson as the staff member designated to participate in planning the Workshop Sessions.

City of Kelowna - Participation in Workshop Technical Advisory Committee

The Board received a letter from the City of Kelowna identifying John Vos as the staff member designated to participate in planning the Workshop Sessions.

Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection – On-site Sewage Disposal Guidelines

The Board received a letter from the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection offering to have southern Interior Region staff participate in the workshop session and suggesting inviting other jurisdictions in province.

C₅H₂O Conference Information

The Board confirmed that Directors Hobson, Cardoso, Coady, Hein, Novakowski, Hansma, and Slater would attend the conference on October 15 and 16, in Kelowna.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON , B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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<u>OTHERS:</u>	D. Holmes	NORD
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 6th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Okanagan Indian Band

The Okanagan Indian Band was unable to be represented at the meeting due to other commitments of the Chief and Council.

The Band has requested that the Water Board Chair attend a Band Council Meeting.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Aquatic Weed Control – Provincial Parks

The Board asked at last meeting for clarification of why some weed removal was done in front of Provincial Parks this summer, when the Board had notified the Province that we would require funding assistance to be able to do this work.

Mr. Armour explained that while milfoil harvesting is a pretty straightforward procedure, the weed beds in question may affect a number of activities and properties in addition to Parks. He showed some aerial photographs of Haynes Point Park at Osoyoos, Christie Memorial Park at Skaha, and Kekuli Bay near Vernon. He advised the Board of the status of other Parks: Okanagan Lake Park has milfoil but was not cut this year; Sunoka Beach also has milfoil but was not cut this year; Bear Creek has minimal weed growth; and there is no milfoil at Fintry or Ellison Parks.

Aquatic Weed Control Budget for F.Y. 2002 – 2003

Doug Holmes, Chief Financial Officer for NORD provided details of the proposed increase in administration charges for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. He noted that an evaluation of staff time sheets had shown that the cost of Board administration and provision of office space and supplies was approximately \$33,000, up from the \$20,500 currently charged.

Mr. Armour advised that prior to the current year administration contract charges were \$17,900 for the previous four to five years. The charges were around \$23,000 during the mid 1990s and earlier. NORD was awarded admin contract in 1983 as low bidder among the three regional districts. In the early 1990's the contract was again offered and only NORD chose to submit a bid. He noted that there is less payroll now – up to 6 employees where there used to be 14 – 20 seasonal people. The decision in 90's to lower the charges was based on a reduction in funding from the province and the changed role of the Field Supervisor who took on more of the administrative load.

Director Hackman questioned the amount of time spent by the corporate controller on Water Board business. He said it seemed excessive as the clerk was performing most of the accounting and payroll work.

Mr. Holmes described the duties of the Corporate Controller.

Director Hackman said he could not support the increase based on this information.

Director Hein wondered what other options were open to the Water Board if they did not contract the administration through NORD. He said that while he agreed with Director Hackman's assessment, he doubted we could obtain administrative services any cheaper through other local government.

Chairman Hobson noted that Mr. Holmes was here to present the information requested by the Board and not to negotiate.

Director Hansma noted that some actions such as the processing of Sewage Grants required the time of the Corporate Controller and not the clerk. He advised that the Regional Board had asked for documentation of NORD staff time.

Director Novakowski said that he saw no benefit in arguing about staff time.

Director Coady asked what the effect would be on NORD if the Water Board chose to contract administration elsewhere.

Mr. Holmes said that staff reductions would have to be looked at.

Director Hackman agreed that there were no readily available alternatives for the Water Board, but he still felt a 50 to 60 percent increase was not justified.

Director Klim noted that Vernon Council does not support the increase and would like other options examined.

Director Cardoso noted that there is a benefit to the North Okanagan in having the Water Board housed there, in terms of dollars spent in the community. He suggested that perhaps the Sewage Grants should include an administrative charge.

The Board asked that Mr. Holmes obtain further information on the involvement of the Corporate Controller in Water Board business.

Mr. Holmes said that he could provide this later in the meeting.

Mr. Holmes subsequently returned to the meeting and said that a closer look at the analysis of staff time had turned up an error which had resulted in a higher proposed charge than would actually be the case. He was not sure of the exact amount but said it would be substantial. The Board agreed to incorporate the revised amount into its provisional budget.

Mr. Armour reviewed the provisional 2002 –2003 budget for aquatic weed control and the options for sewage facilities grant requisition. This information is attached.

He described the three options for sewage grant requisition as follows:

- 1) Requisition the same as 2001 – \$2.1 million (projection \$2.197 to be spent) The total RD requisition will increase because of aquatic weed control increase. (\$30,000)
- 2) Requisition \$2 million and use up about \$200,000 of surplus
- 3) Requisition amount we anticipate paying out in grants \$2.15 – \$2.2 million – will leave around \$300,000 surplus. This cannot be spent on projects other than Sewage treatment and collection without the consent of the three regional boards.

Director Hein noted that both the weed control and sewage grant assessments were well below the maximum amount the Board is allowed to levy. The cost to individual households in the Okanagan is small for the return in keeping the lakes clean.

The Board asked Mr. Armour to prepare a review of the status of the equipment reserve fund and a schedule for equipment replacement for consideration at the next meeting.

Director Cardoso commented that there was no allocation in the budget for improvements in areas of on site disposal in rural areas.

Chairman Hobson noted that rural areas can apply for grants to install sewers and that there was still a benefit to all of cleaning up municipal sources of effluent.

Director Hein agreed that at some point the Water Board should look at subsidizing enhanced on site treatment systems as an alternative to community sewers in some areas.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the FY 2002 - 2003 provisional budget for aquatic weed control as presented and requisition \$470,326 ."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Coady and seconded by Director Klim:

" That the Okanagan Basin Water Board requisition \$2,100,000 for sewage grants for fiscal year 2002 - 2003."

CARRIED.

UBCM Meeting With Ministry of Land, Air and Water Protection Senior Staff

Chairman Hobson reported on discussions between some Water Board Directors and the senior staff of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, held at UBCM. He said that Director Hansma had included weed control with the topics of a meeting he had arranged.

Director Hansma informed the Board that options for a dedicated source of revenue from which the Province could contribute to the control of aquatic weeds were discussed and the Ministry seemed amenable to considering this. They were not receptive to any sort of grant funding similar to what had been done in the past. The former government had rejected suggestion for both a boat trailer license surcharge and a marine fuel tax as options for funding. Director Hansma also mentioned these ideas in subsequent meetings he had with Minister Ted Nebbeling and Premier Campbell.

The Board asked that all parties be kept informed of any further discussions on this subject.

Chairman Hobson asked that the information package sent to the Ministry be forwarded to regional boards in other jurisdictions where aquatic weed control is performed.

Director Klim noted that a hotel tax would be part of discussions between Provincial government members from the Okanagan and the Mayors and Chairs. She suggested that part of this money might be made available to address weed control

Kalamalka Lake Water Quality

Mr. Armour reported that he had spoken with Vic Jensen of the Ministry of Land, Air and Water Protection about the Kalamalka Lake water quality concerns raised by the District of Coldstream and NORD.

Mr. Armour advised the Ministry had recently sampled Kalamalka Lake and Mr. Jensen would be willing to inform the Board of results at the next meeting.

Chairman Hobson asked if gathering information on the Kalamalka Lake situation was something the Board wished to do, even though participation in any study was currently not part of our mandate.

The Board agreed to invite Mr. Jensen to its next meeting.

Director Hackman noted that a study of Kalamalka Lake water quality may be initiated by the local governments around the lake as they are doubtful such work will be done otherwise.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership**

The Board received a letter asking for participation in planning sessions to be held in October and November.

OTHER BUSINESS:**Superannuation Arrears**

Mr. Armour reported that he wished to purchase pensionable time when employed by the Water Board but not enrolled in the superannuation plan due to administrative error. He said that he had been informed that the options are:

- Wait until retirement date and pay what was originally owed plus accrued interest to the retirement date. The Water Board would then have to pay on the same basis.
- Pay to purchase the arrears now. (original amount plus interest to date) The Water Board would have to contribute on the same basis.

The explanation received for waiting until the retirement date is that if the employer agrees to pay now, they must agree to settle all arrears claims. If they wait until retirement of the employee, they are obligated only to deal with that employees' application.

Mr. Armour indicated that he would prefer to buy the time now and save the interest but he was unsure of how to determine the liability of the Board for any other claims.

Director Hackman suggested, and the Board agreed that independent advice should be obtained as to the best course of action.

Protection of Watershed Areas Outside Municipal Boundaries

Director Hein noted that further consultation will be held with local government regarding the Drinking Water Legislation. He said he remains very concerned that local government, while being asked to ensure the safety and integrity of water supplies, has little or no jurisdiction over activities in community watersheds outside municipal boundaries. He expressed the need for such additional powers to be delegated.

Chairman Hobson commented that there was a question of Provincial interests in watersheds versus those of local government.

Director Hansma said the directors should take these concerns to local government consultations on the legislation.

Director Novakowski wondered if the Board should take a more formal position to be presented to the Province.

C5H2O Conference

The Board agreed to pay directors for attending the conference at the same rate per day as regular meeting pay.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2001, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON , B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Chair R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Cardoso	O.S.R.D.
	Director J. Coady	O.S.R.D.
	Director A. Klim	N.O.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director W. Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director Slater	O.S.R.D.

<u>STAFF:</u>	G. Armour	Field Supervisor
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<u>OTHERS:</u>	John Piazza	Director, RDOS
	Dan Ashton	Chair, RDOS
	Vic Jensen	Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
	Greg Gabriel	Administrator, Penticton Indian Band
	Joan Phillip	Councilor, Penticton Indian Band

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Coady:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 6th, 2001 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Greg Gabriel and Joan Phillip, Penticton Indian Band

Chairman Hobson outlined the role of the Water Board in providing grants for construction of wastewater disposal infrastructure on non – Band lands. He explained the taxation of all basin residents to support these grants. He said that the Board wished to talk to the Indian Bands about the problems they face in this area and explore ways in which we might assist in maintaining water quality in our lakes.

He noted that the band deals with Federal government on these issues and there is a need for both parties to have an understanding of the methods each has to deal with wastewater treatment and disposal.

Mr. Gabriel explained the problems in Penticton with connecting development on leased band lands to Penticton community sewers. He said that despite attempts to work toward rectifying environmental problems, progress was stalled.

Director Hein asked if the Band was financially able to put in their own collection and treatment system.

Mr. Gabriel said this had been looked at and Federal dollars were not available. He noted that they had also examined the ability of the individual areas to provide enough revenue to hook into the City.

Director Hein asked what amount of outside funding would be required and what the priority of the Band was – hooking into the existing Penticton system or constructing and operating their own system.

Mr. Gabriel said about \$ 2 million, to construct a treatment plant and collection system. He said the band would prefer to hook into the Penticton system.

Councilor Phillip commented that water quality is very important to the band and noted the achievements of the Okanagan Nation Alliance in improving fish habitat. She said that the failure to install community sewers to development on leased land was not due to the lack of money or the unwillingness of locatees to pay their share. There was a lack of political will to work out details of timing, costs etc. She explained that the Federal Government will not fund infrastructure programs on band lands which are privately owned. She said that a commitment is needed from both sides to sit down and work out the details of a solution.

Director Hansma asked about the ability of the Penticton Band to levy taxes to provide the necessary revenue.

Councilor Phillip explained that there is a strong resistance among band members to taxation. She noted that currently, taxes collected by the province from non band members on band lands, are not returned to the band or to projects on band lands. She said there is no way to access dollars without taxation and there is no will to enter into this.

Chairman Hobson asked for clarification of the willingness of the locatees to pay to hook up to sewers.

Councilor Phillip said they were willing to pay sewer costs including the capital cost of extending infrastructure into the developments.

Director Coady noted that plans for sewer hook-up had been forwarded to the Band, by the City of Penticton. They were waiting for a response in order to sit down and discuss the situation.

Councilor Phillip replied that the Band lacks the engineering expertise to evaluate the plans and lacks the funds to hire the necessary expertise to proceed.

Chairman Hobson commented that the agreement and willingness seemed to be there from both sides, but the technical capacity was missing from the band side. He added that this was substantially different that other areas of the valley where there was no receptiveness of locatees to pay costs of sewer extension and hook up.

Director Coady added that a deal cannot be negotiated until the Band is able to respond to the proposal in the engineering plan.

Councilor Phillip said there is no federal money available and no programs on the horizon that showed any promise of such funding.

Director Hein asked about the possibility of creating a specified area which would pay back, over time, the costs of having the City do the engineering.

There was a discussion about the ability of the Band to create a specified area.

Mr. Gabriel noted that the developments on the lakeshore were on septic systems and the band is concerned about this as a water quality issue. He noted that a portion of the Penticton Band reserve is already hooked into the Penticton system. He informed the Board that all land in question was privately held and not band owned land.

Director Coady stated that the city's interest is in dealing with the entire issue of nutrient pollution from lakeshore development rather than servicing a few parcels at a time.

Chairman Hobson noted that the role of the Water Board in the absence of any taxation set up, was one of lobbying. He wondered who should be lobbied to achieve a resolution of this situation.

Mr. Gabriel said that the federal government currently provide infrastructure funds only to service new lots. He said there was a new program aimed at bringing communities together that might be a source of some funding.

Councilor Phillip commented that the locatees were using the leased land to make a profit and were taxed, but that none of the taxation revenue was returned to provide infrastructure.

Director Hein wondered if Federal Fisheries could be lobbied in light of the efforts of First Nations to improve water quality and fish habitat.

Director Cardoso noted that taxation was the accepted method of providing for common needs on non band lands. He asked how these needs were traditionally met in native society.

Councilor Phillip said that the Bands occupied small reserves of land now where they had once occupied most of the land. She noted that about 70 % percent of band members were not in the work force at present, and there was some fear that if taxation were implemented, they would lose what little assets remain.

Director Klim commented that the mandate of the Water Board is to work with the parties to resolve the situation and to offer support, but the lobbying role should rest with the band.

Director Hansma disagreed and felt that the role of the Board allowed for active lobbying to rectify and environmental and water quality problem.

Director Hein agreed that this was a role the Water Board could take on and asked for a recommendation from the band as to how we could help.

Chairman Hobson suggested and the Board agreed to ask the City of Penticton and the Penticton band to work together to identify what actual resources were needed to proceed and what role the Water Board might play in trying, through political support, see that these resources are made available.

Vic Jensen, Ministry of Land, Air and Water Protection - Water Quality in Kalamalka Lake

Mr. Jensen gave a presentation of Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection water sampling results in Kalamalka Lake as well as trends in water quality observed in that lake. The Board had asked for this information in considering the request from the District of Coldstream expressing concerns of deterioration conditions in water quality of Kalamalka Lake. Vernon, Coldstream and Lake Country have retained a consultant to look at in Kalamalka Lake in response to these concerns.

Director Hein asked if we have done too good a job in removing nitrogen and phosphorus through improvements to treatment of municipal wastewater. These are the key nutrients in algal growth and there has been a suggestion that the growth of the kind of algae needed for food by kokanee has been upset by low nutrient levels.

Mr. Jensen advised that the balance of the two nutrients is the critical factor in what types of algae are present. If nitrogen is in short supply, blue green algae will grow because they are able to take in atmospheric nitrogen but blue green species are not good food for the zooplankton that the fish feed on.

Director Hansma asked what has changed in Kalamalka Lake since the 1970s.

Mr. Jensen noted that there was an upward trend in the levels of spring phosphorus, a decrease in water clarity and an increase in algal growth in general. These are undesirable changes.

Director Klim asked if excess run-off from spray irrigation of sewage effluent represented a significant component of the phosphorus.

Mr. Jensen answered that there is a component of the phosphorus input, from spray irrigation, but that in his opinion, it was relatively small compared to the amount from natural erosion. He noted that there is a great deal of variability in results from year to year, relating especially to amount of run-off, and it is important to look at trends over time.

Director Hein asked if the shutdown of Hiram Walker and the elimination of large inputs of higher quality water from Okanagan Lake had been observed to have an effect on Wood Lake and Kalamalka Lake water quality.

Mr. Jensen said that Wood Lake water quality improved from 1972 to 1992 when Hiram Walker was discharging cooling water into Wood Lake. He said the source of increased phosphorus levels since that time is not clear.

Director Cardoso wondered, if in the absence of data from more than 30 years ago, a longer term natural cycle could be operative without us being aware of it.

Mr. Jensen said that this was definitely possible and natural cycles could be imposing patterns that we are not aware of.

Director Hansma asked if lake temperature affected the timing and type of plant growth.

Mr. Jensen replied that algae key more on amount of sunlight and nutrient levels and not so much on temperature. He added that the precipitation of calcium carbonate or marl formation depends on temperature as the dissolved calcium comes out of solution at around 20°C.

Director Hackman asked how much degradation of water quality there had been in Kalamalka Lake over the years, from a standpoint of its use as a drinking water source.

Mr. Jensen said the impacts of increased nutrient levels and alterations in plankton growth affected aesthetic considerations more than health.

Director Hein noted that the models used to determine phosphorus loading from agriculture and erosion were from the Okanagan Basin Study.

Mr. Jensen agreed that these were old calculations that made some broad assumptions about the system. Some of this information may no longer be valid.

Director Hansma pointed out that the demographics of the valley have changed with increased urbanization, densification and changes to agricultural and forestry practices.

Director Hein asked if the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection sampling information was shared with other agencies and if it was used to focus on the problems.

Mr. Jensen stated that if there is a health or habitat consideration indicated from the data, then the appropriate authorities are contacted

Director Hein asked if the shift to magnesium chloride for ice removal posed an environmental concern.

Mr. Jensen was unsure what the comparative effects would be.

Chairman Hobson thanked Mr. Jensen for his presentation and asked if the Ministry would have the capacity to carry on this work at the current level with reductions in funding and staffing.

Mr. Jensen said he was unclear on what the future would bring.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Regional District of North Okanagan – FY 2002-03 Administration Charges

The Board received a memorandum from D. Holmes, Chief Financial Officer of NORD, explaining the revised OBWB administration contract cost of \$25,000.

RDOS Chair, Dan Ashton, commented that his board had asked staff to prepare budgets with reduced or no increase costs for all items. The substantial increase in OBWB administration cost was a cause for concern.

Director Cardoso asked if the other Regional Districts had the capacity to take on the Water Board Administration function.

Chairman Hobson said that NORD was not able to take on any new functions.

Chair Ashton was not sure about the capacity or interest of RDOS.

Chairman Hobson noted that while the Water Board was empowered to levy weed control costs within its statutory limits, it respected the wishes of RDOS to make sure that cost increases were kept to a minimum.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Board include \$25,000 in its 2002 – 2003 budget for Administrative Services as proposed in the NORD recommendation."

CARRIED.

UBCM Conference on New Technology for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Treatment

The Board received a summary from Mr. Armour outlining the 2 day conference in Vancouver which was jointly sponsored by the Province and UBCM. (attached)

Mr. Armour commented on one presentation that dealt with the reluctance of local government to employ new technology because of the liability and risk involved. The speaker said the risks must be reduced through a knowledge of precedents or what has worked in other parts of the world; contingency plans and funding for alternative actions in the event that the technology prove unacceptable; and implementation of pilot demonstrations to convince people of the efficacy of the technology. He wondered if there might be a role for OBWB in initiating pilot demonstrations.

Director Hein said he would welcome presentations from manufacturers of new technology and could also see a role in viewing operations of systems which might be used in the valley.

Director Hansma asked if the Ministry of Health had approved any of the new systems for use.

Mr. Armour advised that Bob Smith of the Ministry of Health outlined some of the new advanced on-site technology at the conference which were 'approved' by his ministry.

Alternate Director Slater commented that the Province had refused to share in the cost of a package treatment plant at the north end of Osoyoos Lake instead of a lengthy extension to community sewer. They also require that local government be a co-permittee for any such plant.'

Director Cardoso said he could see a role for the Water Board in perhaps partnering with developers or manufacturers of new technology to demonstrate and showcase their products. He noted that any advances in wastewater disposal in rural areas will likely come from technology and not from extension of sewers.

Director Novakowski agreed that he would like to hear presentations and make his own assessment of the products.

Chairman Hobson said that the purpose of the workshop proposed by the Board was to get information on new septic regulations, on new technology and bring together the experts with technical representatives of local government.

Director Hein added that standards differ between the variety of Ministries approving various systems. He said that typically the development community will go to health for approval because smaller treatment plants with lower standards are likely to be accepted. He said that all parties should adopt minimum standards.

Director Coady asked if the technical committee had met to organize the workshop.

Mr. Armour said that this had not been done yet.

Director Klim cautioned that technology and ideas presented at the workshop should meet regulatory criteria or we are wasting time and money.

Director Coady wondered if the workshop should involve local government from outside the Okanagan and perhaps member of the development community.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Slater:

"That the Board proceed with the workshop on new technology in wastewater treatment and disposal in the following stages: first convene the meeting of the technical group to plan workshop details; second invite Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection representative as well as the technical committee to meet with the Board to ensure that what is presented fits regulatory guidelines; and third hold the actual workshop for local government."

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Town of Osoyoos – Request Support for Sewer and Water Infrastructure Grant

The Town of Osoyoos asked the Water Board to support an application for Infrastructure Funding to provide sewer and water to properties in the south east sector of Osoyoos Lake. The sewer and community water extension would rectify wells and beaches showing coliform contamination.

Alternate Director Slater noted that this area is primarily a tourist destination with up to 7,500 campers per day in the summer, but that the Ministry of Health had recently approved strata development of some properties. He stressed the urgent need to deal with the health risks of failing septic and well systems in the area. He asked that the Board endorse this application due to this urgency.

Chairman Hobson noted that the Board had agreed that prioritizing of projects was not within its mandate. Once a project received approval from the Province, the project was then eligible for Water Board assistance. He asked if the list of RDOS priority projects had changed since April.

Alternate Director Slater replied that the northwest Osoyoos sewer project was still a top priority and also had an element of urgency as access to right of way for a sewer extension would be lost by 2003.

Chairman Hobson clarified that the Water Board should not enter into local priority considerations and that as the south east sector project was currently not on the RDOS list of priorities, it should be taken first to that Board for inclusion. The water Board could then endorse the regional list of priority projects.

Director Piazza advised that the northwest upland area of Osoyoos Lake was the largest contributor of pollution to the lake. He also mentioned the possibility of funding through international sources as the pollution was a direct contributor to deterioration on the other side of the border.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Board receive the information on the Osoyoos south east sector infrastructure grant application and refer it back to the regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen."

CARRIED.

Town of Osoyoos – Pollution Problem at North End of Osoyoos Lake

The Board received a copy of a Pollution Prevention Order issued by MWLAP to Diamond Willow Ranch at the north end of Osoyoos Lake. The area currently operates on sewage collection system and storage tank which requires pumpout. The effluent is supposed to be trucked to the Osoyoos STP, but instead has been dumped in an oxbow adjacent to lake.

Mr. Armour reported that the Osoyoos Administrator had asked that the matter be brought to the attention of the Board to see if any action by OBWB could be brought to bear to rectify the situation. He said that the addition of nutrient raw sewage to the large bed of milfoil at the north end of the lake would compromise weed control efforts. He wondered if the Board would withdraw the service from that area in the event that the pollution was not addressed.

Alternate Director Slater reported that a tentative agreement had been worked out between the town and Diamond Willow Ranch.

The Chairman asked Alternate Director Slater to report back to the Board at the next meeting to confirm if the situation had been resolved.

There was a discussion about whether the Board should have a policy regarding weed control benefiting areas or persons who are cited for environmental infractions.

Moved by Director Klim and seconded by Director Cardoso :

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board have staff draft a policy to address refusing or withdrawing weed control in areas where the party benefiting from the service, including business, private citizens or local government, is cited for environmental infractions and fails to rectify the problem in an expedient manner."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

District of Lake Country – Draft Official Community Plan

The Board received the draft Official Community Plan from the District of Lake Country.

Director Hackman asked what was included in the plan for the Oyama area.

Director Hein said that a poll of residents showed that a moderate level of growth was favoured and that development on the east side of Kalamalka Lake was not supported.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sewerage Facilities Grants:

City of Penticton, Industrial Area Sewer

The Field Supervisor informed the Board that the application does not meet OBWB criteria as presented. There has been no provincial grant or application made. He noted that this is similar to the previous grant request for which the City is waiting for confirmation that they would have been eligible for Provincial assistance.

Director Coady noted that the City may be regarding this as the second phase of the same project and that approval is not required.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Board receive the information on the Penticton sewer grant application that staff clarify whether Water Board eligibility criteria have been met."

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Drinking Water Legislation

The Chairman gave a brief report on his participation on the panel reviewing Drinking Water Legislation.

Next Meeting

The Chairman gave a brief report on his participation on the panel reviewing Drinking Water Legislation.

Next Meeting

The Chair suggested and the Board agreed to meet on January 8th in Kelowna, and to cancel the December meeting, unless any urgent matters arise.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY