

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2003, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director R. Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Director R. Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director L. Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director J. Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director E. Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director D. Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director J. Oglow	N.O.R.D.
	Director S. Field	N.O.R.D.

<u>OTHERS:</u>	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
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<u>STAFF:</u>	B. Gagnon	CAO N.O.R.D.
	G. Armour	Field Supervisor

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

The meeting was called to order and Mr. Armour asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2003.

Director Hein nominated John Slater.

Director Oglow nominated Will Hansma

Directors voted by secret ballot, Mr. Armour tallied the vote with B. Gagnon acting as scrutineer and declared John Slater the Chair for 2003.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR:

Chair Slater called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Water Board.

Director Hackman nominated Director Hansma.

There were no other nominations and Chair Slater declared Will Hansma Vice-Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2003

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Alternate Director Oglow:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 1st, 2002 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

Director Gullen asked that a letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen to the Chief Hydrogeologist for Natural Resources Canada be added to the agenda.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Letter from RDOS be added to the agenda and the item be dealt with now."

CARRIED.

Director Gullen explained that the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen had asked for information on funding available from the Federal Government for groundwater mapping in the Okanagan.

Director Hobson suggested a copy of this correspondence go to Paul Kluckner of Environment Canada as this is an example of work that would help fill scientific gaps which are a significant concern to EC.

Director Hein expressed concern that there may be an expectation of commitment of local money and that we should indicate only our interest in looking at the proposal.

Director Hobson commented that British Columbia has no groundwater legislation and present aquifer mapping in the Okanagan is not nearly comprehensive enough.

Director Gullen said that there is no indication of a partnership requirement from the Federal Government and that this was a response to the issues raised by Director Hobson concerning the lack of groundwater information in the Okanagan. She suggested that the letter be copied to the Green Sustainable Economic Development group.

Director Hobson agreed that forwarding the letter would be a good step.

BOARD OVERVIEW:

Mr. Armour presented a review of the Okanagan Basin Water Board. This covered:

Structure

History and Mandate

What assets does the Board have?

Where does Board get its funding and how much?

What does the Water Board Do?

- **Sewage Grants**
- **Aquatic Weed Control** – weeds have a good side and a bad side in natural systems

What is an ecosystem? And why do we spend so much time talking about them

There was discussion about the need for the Water Board to obtain approval from the Regional Districts for budget requisitions that are within the statutory limits set for aquatic weed control and sewer grants.

Mr. Gagnon agreed to look into this and bring clarification back to the Board.

DELEGATION:

Jillian Tamblyn: Okanagan-Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership: Water Conservation and Consumption Study and Ecosystem Conference

Ms. Tamblyn reviewed the two areas in which the Okanagan-Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership had received agreement for Water Board assistance.

The first was for a late spring conference on water quality and quantity issues and the interaction of human, urban and fisheries interests. The conference is a transboundary event as the group works in close conjunction with U.S. counterparts

Ms. Tamblyn noted that the Water Board had been approached last fall and agreed to having a Board member help to organize the water section of the conference. Unfortunately, Director Coady who was assisting in this regard was not re-elected. She noted that while still in the planning stages, the conference organizers will soon be issuing a call for papers.

The second item related to OSBFP work in the Okanagan and the need to obtain accurate water information for fisheries interests. The Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations groups that make up the Partnership wish to inventory water consumption data as well as conservation program information from Okanagan communities. At its October 2002 meeting the Okanagan Basin Water Board agreed that this would be valuable information for use beyond fisheries alone and committed \$15,000 to the project. Ms. Tamblyn reported that while the Regional Districts had committed some staff time or were considering doing so, a matching amount of funding to the water Board contribution had not been found. This is necessary to conduct the project.

Director Hackman asked what happens to the Water Board funding should matching funds not be available.

Ms. Tamblyn indicated that the Water Board money would be returned.

Director Hobson commented that should the funding needed to perform the project not be found the Water Board would likely reconsider its commitment.

Alternate Director Scheffler volunteered to assist with conference organizing and chairing of the water section.

The Board had a discussion about the mixed support among local government for any actions beyond weed cutting and sewer grants.

Director Hein commented that the board cannot accomplish anything without the agreement of all partners and that one partner is opposed to any new initiatives. He said that he is relying on the Chair to bring all parties to consensus on the role of the Water Board in new initiatives.

Chair Slater noted that he is concerned over the lack of support or agreement evident in Vernon and wondered if asking Vernon Council to attend a meeting would help.

Director Hackman stated that we need to indicate positive results of our proposed actions to help bring Vernon on side.

Mr. Gagnon said that a presentation to Vernon Council would be a good start.

Director Gullen remarked that the role of the OBWB is seen, by some, as one of coordination of efforts in water related issues in the whole of the Okanagan. She said that we need to convince the North that a return to this original purpose of the Board is needed. She noted that the information that the OBSFP wishes to collect is needed to make sure we are all on the same path and is also the type of information that is critical if Regional Districts and Municipalities are being asked to take on water supply systems.

Director Hobson added that Vernon, for a number of years, has said that all their resources are committed to their master water plan and they will not support Water Board initiatives that they feel duplicate their own efforts. They want to see bottom line benefits to the City of any Water Board efforts but will not contribute to any analysis that might reveal those benefits. He asked if the Water Board could state its case directly to the regional Board.

Director Field said that the City representatives will take the information back to their Council and a presentation directly to the City would be the best route.

Alternate Director Oglow commented that while there is support for the OBWB in other North Okanagan Municipalities, the City of Vernon is also listened to. There has been a lack of promotion of Water Board achievements.

Chair Slater referred to the Green Sustainable Economic Workshop and noted the need to raise the profile of water issues.

Director Hein said that the OBWB mandate is not built on sewer grants and weed control. Those were incidental issues compared to the broad original vision. He stated that the need for cooperation and coordination is vital to preserve our reservoirs of water in the face of human pressures.

Director Hackman suggested that local government technicians should get together to compare what each region is doing.

Alternate Director Scheffler remarked that there is still no data or understanding of the concept of a water basin. There are no resources committed to this and if we fail to move forward in this are all our other programs will do us no good.

Director Novakowski said that the Water Board is limited to a single staff person and in order to do all these things, we must have the personnel and expertise.

Director Gullen left the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

Director Hobson asked that a list of priority issues be brought back to the agenda and noted that it involves staff time and money to do analysis and review work. A proposal to do 'anything' requires expertise and professional staff.

Chair Slater advised that the Federal and Provincial governments want regional strategies for growth management, for air quality and now for water quality and quantity.

Director Hobson said that it may be possible to seek funding through the Green Sustainable Environment Fund.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Review of OBWB Meeting Allowance and Chair Stipend

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That meeting pay for Okanagan Basin Water Board Directors remain at \$100 and that the pay for the Chair be raised to \$150 per meeting and also that the Chair be paid at the same rate for attending other meetings on behalf of the Water Board."

CARRIED.

Alternate Director Oglow left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Sale of Lots on Reservoir Lakes

Director Hobson described a meeting he had with Water Supply Association of BC Manager Bruce Wilson and Medical Health Officer Dr. Moorehead concerning the sale of properties on reservoir lakes as a revenue-generating scheme for the Province. He advised that he had also tried to talk to MLA Rick Thorpe and will possibly pursue this with Minister Stan Hagen. Director Hobson indicated that there are two areas of concern in protecting the integrity and quality of the water supplied from these reservoirs:

the sale of existing leased lots and the subdivision and sale of new lots. He said the concerns were magnified by reduced Provincial management in these areas that could lead to rapid degradation of the water supplies.

Director Hein noted that he was meeting with Minister Hagen tomorrow on this topic and intended to bring to the attention of the Minister the difference between recreational and reservoir lakes. He advised that one response to climate change and lower snowpacks recharging these lakes may be a need to raise water storage levels. This would be much more involved if shoreline property was privately owned. He advised that the damming of creeks for water storage purposes created many upper elevation lakes. The sale of lots will spawn many other needs from larger, more permanent dwellings, increased inspection requirements for local government, road improvements, and so on. Director Hein told the Board that analytical work conducted on Lake Country's water supply had shown a substantial component of human coliform contamination. He said he felt that while the Province was promoting source protection of drinking water supplies the reservoir lots sale was counterproductive to this objective. He asked that the Board support his position so that this resolution could be taken to the Minister.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Field:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board is opposed to the sale of lots or recreational leases on reservoir lakes by the Province of BC and further that the Province not renew existing leases on these lakes."

CARRIED.

The Board watched a video prepared by the Ministry of Health on the development around Headwaters Reservoir Lakes in Summerland.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Regional District of North Okanagan – Copy of City of Vernon letter regarding OBWB future role

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That letter be received and the Water Board Chair and staff arrange to meet with the City of Vernon."

CARRIED.

Green Sustainable Economic Development Workshop

Director Hobson commented that this is an attempt to get Federal attention focused on Okanagan Regional Initiatives. He asked the Field Supervisor to prepare a brief outline of current and past water Board regional cooperative efforts for this workshop.

Mr. John Huby – Information on Water

Information on local, regional, and global importance of water was received.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the report from Mr. John Huby be received."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

Regional District of Central Okanagan - West Kelowna Estates

Mr. Armour advised the Board that OBWB criteria for a qualifying project (eligibility for Provincial grant) had been met. In this case a letter had been forwarded from the Ministry of CAWS stating that the West Kelowna project met their criteria to qualify for an infrastructure grant had funds been available. This is adequate to confirm eligibility for Water Board purposes. Also the project services an area that existed at the time the Water Board grant were instituted and is not a new development that should be paid for through DCCs. He recommended approval of the grant.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Grant for West Kelowna Estates be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

There was discussion regarding the payment of grants to areas that have been built up extensively since the grant program was initiated. It was agreed that the grants should be applied to sewerage in existing areas but expansion into new areas should be covered by DCCs or methods instituted by local government to cover these costs.

District of Peachland – Phase 2 and Phase 1-D Sewer Project

Mr. Armour advised the Board that the Princeton Avenue portion of Peachland's sewer project was approved by the Province in Feb 2000 and he contacted Doug Pryde, the Peachland Treasurer who said that this project did not go ahead until word was received on phase 2 and thus was just completed. This is still within the Ministry approval deadline for the project of Jan 2003. Mr. Armour indicated that the grant amount figures cited are correct and recommended approval.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the grant application for Peachland be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING:

The meeting schedule was extensively revised after Director Field advised the Board that The Regional District of North Okanagan had moved their monthly meetings to Tuesday afternoons. (revised schedule attached)

The next meeting will be held February 4th in Vernon.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2003, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Mike Stamhuis	NORD
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Field Supervisor
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MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein :

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on January 14th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:

The Board asked Mr. Armour to confirm the mileage rate paid to Directors.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Revised Schedule of OBWB Meetings

Mr. Armour provided the Board with a meeting schedule revised according to the criteria raised at the January meeting. There were no further changes made to this schedule.

The Board asked that a list of Directors phone numbers and email addresses be prepared and circulated.

Information on Weed Control Equipment Schedules

Mr. Armour explained the scheduling of the two methods of weed control, rototilling and harvesting, used in the Okanagan and provided summaries of the work done at various sites over the past year.

He noted that while rototilling (derooting) is generally repeated annually at most sites, this has resulted in lower weed densities and operating hours have been reduced. He estimated that for large weeded areas such as Vernon Arm, Kelowna Foreshore, and Okanagan Falls, the amount of machine hours was less than half of that required years ago. He said that some sites can be left for more than one growing season without re-treatment but these are the exceptions. The average number of rototiller operating hours is 1300 to 1500 per year.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that harvesting accounts for only a fraction of total weed control, a departure from the early 1980s when the machine were run two shifts per day and cut up to 1900 loads per season. Loads now are in the 150 to 200 range and harvesting is used as a cosmetic clean-up

measure in areas, which are not or cannot be rototilled.

The areas treated each year are compiled from the priorities given by each region. Water Board staff does boat and/or aerial surveys to determine the seasonal variation in amount of weed growth. Comments and complaints from beach users and property owners are taken into consideration in scheduling.

Director Hansma asked about reserve funds for replacement of equipment or purchase of new equipment.

Mr. Armour replied that the Board sets aside about \$53,000 in reserves for this purpose. The amount accrued is about \$250,000 or sufficient to replace one machine. He added that it has been possible to keep the same machine running for over 25 years in some cases and until better technology comes along, there will likely not be a need to replace them.

Director Hein asked about the value of composting cut weed material.

Mr. Armour answered that the water content of the plants combined with the relatively low levels of essential nutrients made commercial composting not a viable enterprise. He said that several studies in the U.S. had confirmed this. He told the board that over the years all harvested weed material had gone to gardeners for use as mulch. This had been done free of charge.

Director Hackman asked about the lead-time needed to obtain a new weed control machine.

Mr. Armour responded that harvesting equipment was commercially produced in the U.S. and could be obtained in a matter of a couple of months. The rototillers were of our own design and were all built in the Okanagan. It would take up to six months to commission construction of a new machine depending on how many design changes were incorporated.

Proposed Presentation to City of Vernon

Mr. Armour informed the Board that he and Chair Slater would be appearing before the City of Vernon Committee of the Whole on Monday, February 10th. He had conveyed the Chair's request to make the presentation to open Council but this had been turned down.

Mr. Armour had provided the Board with draft notes for the presentation and asked for comments.

Director Hansma suggested that the notes be provided for distribution to Council this week so that they could be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Director Novakowski commented that in reviewing our mandate he noted that we have no authority to go beyond what we currently do. He said that it not our intention to grab authority from local government, but to cooperate in assisting them to do a better job.

Chair Slater said that it is obvious that senior government requires regional planning in order to commit funds to local projects.

Director Hein felt that it was important to provide Vernon with a summary of our current objectives but noted that the Water Board deals with the Regional District and not the individual municipalities. Any new proposal we wish to make would be considered by NORD. The Water Board needs to develop a plan with appropriate budget and present and promote this to all three regional districts.

Director Hackman expressed frustration with the number of groups who seem to be doing something with water issues. He did not wish to duplicate something that is already being done.

Director Hein said that the Water Board had talked about this 3 years ago and it had culminated in the

Water Management Partnership Proposal. He noted that we are all dependent on limited water supplies

in the Okanagan and this implies we should increased effort into protection over the long term. He suggested perhaps meeting at OUC and involving the two Chairs in Watershed Management.

Director Hackman said that we need a plan for the City presentation and asked Mr. Stamhuis to comment.

Mr. Stamhuis, NORD Manager of Community and Infrastructure Services, advised that we need to indicate the benefits of buy in to regional goals to the City of Vernon. He explained that as a region we have the ability to make predictions about occurrences and effects on our water supplies from such things as climate change.

Director Field noted that Vernon contributes over 50% of the revenue for NORD, and can withdraw from functions if they wish. He stressed that the presentation should be informative.

Chair Slater asked if we should provide background only or deal with some of the Water Board long term goals.

Director Hansma replied that this is the first presentation and should be an overview of the Board. Later we might wish to provide information on possible redefinition of our mandate.

The Board agreed with this approach.

OBWB – Priority Issues

There was a discussion of priority issues for the Water Board.

Alternate Director Hanson said there was a need to concentrate on obtaining federal funding to do mapping of groundwater aquifers in order to manage these supplies efficiently.

Chair Slater added that groundwater is s significant component of the whole water management picture.

Director Hansma stressed the need to do things in steps. He noted that Spallumcheen has 18 water purveyors and a fist step toward a future strategy might be to compile the water inventory information of the various municipalities and purveyors.

Director Novakowski commented that perhaps the role of the Water Board should be to facilitate in small steps a better way of managing water.

Director Hansma pointed out that the Board still has funding authorized by the regional districts for water management actions, that could be used to have a professional grant application put together to get senior government assistance for a regional water inventory.

Director Hein requested more information on the Board mandate and referred to the Okanagan Basin Implementation Report that is referred to in several of the Board's objects and purposes. He said he had never seen a copy of this report. He commented that our first step should be to form the secretariat outlined in the Water Management Partnership. He said he can understand the concerns about creating another bureaucracy, but if we are to put together plans that make sense to everyone we must have the technical expertise. He noted that what we are doing in the valley today is not sustainable.

Director Hansma said that it is obvious that senior government is ready to participate in developing a Master Water Plan for the Okanagan. We should use our funds to prepare a proposal or application for such a project and once approval is given approach the regional districts.

Chair Slater noted that under the Green Sustainable Economic Development (GSED) program we are applying to Western Economic Diversification for funding of various projects. He suggested getting the approval of the regional districts to apply for a grant to put together a master water plan for the valley.

Director Hansma agreed that this was a good fit with the objectives of the GSED and that Senator Fitzpatrick would likely be an avid supporter as the amount of water will ultimately limit growth in the valley.

Mr. Stamhuis advised the Board that this could be a more extensive undertaking that at first appearance since many smaller water purveyors have no information or water planning. The level of detail required for a master water plan may be difficult to obtain and he also noted that the preparation of the water plan for Greater Vernon alone, had cost \$250,000. He said that we should provide a comprehensive statement of what the need is in the valley for such information and make a case for the participation of all regional districts.

Director Novakowski agreed that the RFP would be a statement of what a master water plan would accomplish and what the costs might be. He thought we should go to the regional districts to indicate what we propose and get their support.

Director Hein said that the application should outline the proposal, provide some background, list the phases and timeline necessary to complete the work, and provide a budget.

Director Hackman cautioned that our resources are limited for such an endeavour.

Mr. Stamhuis advised that the project would have to encompass all water sources, the quality and quantity of water available, and the effects of factors such as climate change and population growth on those supplies.

Director Hein agreed that we should not underestimate the costs and apply for the funding necessary to do a comprehensive job.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein :

"That a draft of a Request for Proposals for preparation of a Master Okanagan Valley Water Plan be prepared for the next regular meeting by Mr. Armour and Mr. Stamhuis."

CARRIED.

Director Hackman asked if this proposal would interfere with the objectives and chances of senior government funding of the Greater Vernon projects.

Mr. Stamhuis responded that this was unlikely since infrastructure money and the source of funds for a master water plan would be different.

Correspondence:

Municipality of Lake Country - Sale of Lots on Reservoir Lakes

The Board received a letter sent by the Municipality of Lake Country to the local government asking for support in opposing sale of lots of reservoir lakes by the Province.

The Board also reviewed correspondence from the North Okanagan Water Authority, sent to the Province, outlining technical objections to the sale of lots on reservoir lakes.

Director Hein reviewed his meeting with Minister Hagen and his staff to present Lake Country's concerns about the proposed sale. He said that while he was given the opportunity to make his presentation he left the meeting with the understanding that there was little or no way to stop this provincial initiative. He commented that letters to MLAs would not be enough and encouraged all directors to personally confront their representatives. He noted that the media had begun to take an interest and was not at all satisfied with the senior government response that there was no opportunity for public consultation. He said that he has submitted a Freedom of Information request for all First Nation Consultation and also noted that

Director Hackman asked if the plan is to sell more lots than just those currently leased.

Director Hein responded that that is the intent.

Director Field wondered who would undertake the site clean up if the current leases were not renewed. He said this should be the responsibility of the Province.

Director Hein concluded by saying that Lake Country's options of the Provincial plan is not changed, is to buy all the leases in their watershed at a cost of about \$15 million. They had looked at obtaining a head lease over the whole area but this is not possible with the Province's current intention to sell the leases.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

There were no grant applications at this time

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held March 11th in Penticton. The Board asked that Drs. Wei and Scott of OUC be invited to attend and agreed that if the location was not amenable the meeting could be held in Kelowna or at the OUC North Campus.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MARCH 11, 2003, AT THE BOARD ROOM, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Alternate Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Mike Stamhuis	NORD
	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D
	Mark Watt	City of Kelowna
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor

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 4th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Dr. Rick Nordin - Okanagan Lake Water Quality Objectives

Dr. Nordin made a presentation for the Board on a review of the phosphorus objectives for Okanagan Lake that have guided us since 1985 and the possible expansion of measurements of water quality criteria.

He said the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has commissioned this work, and he is currently working on contract for them. As a long time employee for the Ministry he has been extensively involved in previous work on lakes in the Okanagan.

Dr. Nordin reviewed the physical characteristics of Okanagan Lake noting that the separation of the lake into three basins causes different parts of the lake to react in different ways. In additions, there is typically a lack of surface water mixing. In years of high inflow the phosphorus concentration in the lake is also high.

He reviewed the approaches taken to water quality protection measurements: loading or concentration criteria; physical or chemical criteria such as water clarity; and biological criteria such as contamination of fish tissue. Our previous water quality objectives have focussed on keeping phosphorus levels at or below 10 micrograms per litre. Other objectives might include nitrogen levels, water clarity, algae numbers and types of communities, zooplankton; and contaminants in fish and mysis shrimp.

Dr. Nordin summarized that changes and physical and biological parameters measured over the years. He said that the future of the lake would depend on a collaborative approach being taken, leadership,

inclusive and holistic management, taking a long term and sustainable view, and establishing the role of water quality objectives.

Director Hein asked about the effect of climate change on freshet.

Dr. Nordin said that it is hard to predict the exact effect, but it will certainly change the inputs into the lake.

Director Novakowski questioned a role for the Water Board in providing leadership as the Province has the power and authority in water related matters.

Dr. Nordin replied that the resource is better managed by and amalgamation of local interests.

Chair Slater noted that achieving goals will require a partnership of Federal and Provincial authorities as well a local government.

Director Hein commented that the OBWB has lost confidence in its role as a water management authority and re-affirmation of this role is needed from the Province.

Director Hobson asked about the usefulness of objectives if they are not legislated.

Dr. Nordin said that guidelines for water quality are difficult to translate into penalties but they can be useful as standards for liquid waste management plans. He commented that the reduction and withdrawal of senior government services leave the Board in the position of requiring expertise and regulatory authority to implement standards on a regional basis.

Director Hein added that we generally do not realize how cheap water is today and we will have to take financial responsibility for dealing with our problems.

Mr. Stamhuis advised that we to know the specifics of what we need to do, or not do in order to meet water quality objectives to define what our role is.

Director Gullen noted that while industrial use of water is heavily regulated in the valley, there are few accurate measures of private use.

Alternate Director Scheffler asked Dr. Nordin what we should do in a scientific and technical sense to establish our priorities for the valley.

Dr. Nordin responded that education of the public with respect to the way water is undervalued and the value of the lakes in comparison to the costs of effective management is needed.

Director Novakowski noted that protection and authority go hand in hand.

Mr. Watt asked if the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will do monitoring to gather data for new objectives. He said that it is critical that objectives result in data to improve our understanding of the lake.

Director Gullen said that economic factors are not given enough priority along with the value and impact of water resources on the valley. Licensees pay next to nothing for the resource.

Alternate Director Scheffler agreed and added that the use of water from wells should be subject to significant charges.

Director Hobson referred to strategic water allocation planning being done by CORD for the Westside. He said the Province and the Regional District are providing funds to do the study that will guide future water allocation decisions for this area.

Dr. Adam Wei and Dr. David Scott – Okanagan University College Chairs in Watershed Management

The Board welcomed the two OUC Chairs in watershed management.

Dr. Scott briefly described the establishment of the two positions through FRBC endowment and indicated that there is somewhat of a priority toward forest and watershed issues as a result. He said that the Chairs determine other areas of interest and it is up to them to obtain research funding for projects that are typically conducted by graduate students.

Dr. Wei referred to the uniqueness of water and the need for an ecosystem approach when dealing with management issues. He said that some of his personal interests included that protection of riparian areas to protect water sources and the use of GIS mapping as a tool to manage water. He noted that funding typically comes from Federal agencies such as NSERC and from government and industrial partnerships. He said that funding with a term longer than one year is very useful in research efforts.

Director Hein asked which watershed will be looked at in research projects.

Dr. Scott said that is not yet determined but will be influenced by the funding partners as well as the need for extensive data for the study area.

Dr. Wei noted that data and results from a small geographic area might produce methodology and recommendations that apply to a larger area. He said that projects require a solid proposal for a researchable field and generally funding is not expensive.

Director Hobson stated that many of our interests are interdisciplinary and bring in socio-economic and political issues. He asked how this could be addressed at the College.

Dr. Scott suggested that this is what the BC Freshwater Institute at the College is designed to do in drawing on the resources of the University as a whole rather than just one department.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Presentation to City of Vernon**

Mr. Armour reported on the presentation made February 10th to the City of Vernon Committee of the Whole. He said that he, Chair Slater and Mr. Stamhuis met with Council for about 35 minutes.

Chair Slater introduced the group and commented on the negative tone of Councils' letter about the actions of the Water Board. Mayor Harvey apologized and said the letter was meant to indicate councils' satisfaction with weed control and sewer grants but their opposition to any expansion of the Boards' role. Mr. Armour made a presentation on the current make-up and activities of the OBWB and provided some information on the usefulness of valley wide action from both ecological and financial aspects.

Councils' questions centred on our finances, particularly when our sewer grant program would be completed. There was no support for turning this funding toward other initiatives that might encourage beneficial actions on a coordinated valley wide scope. Vernon felt they had taken on enough in local projects and had no resources to support such initiatives.

Director Novakowski asked about the sewer grant program completion and the benefits received by the City of Vernon.

Mr. Armour said that Vernon had received a considerable amount more in benefits that they had paid in to the grant program. He added that some of the debt from original grants made over twenty years ago had been or was being retired but that new projects which were more expensive in comparison with those done years ago were still being added. The intent of the Board is that projects made necessary by growth will be funded by local government without OBWB assistance.

There are still areas identified in the original Okanagan Basin Study that have filled in but are likely eligible for grants.

Director Hein expressed frustration that we are not being allowed to fulfill our mandate and said that he did not think that our letters patent would allow a partner to withdraw from the function.

Director Hobson noted that only one community continues to be opposed to our mandate and their concerns should continue to be pursued. Sewer grants will probably be issued as long as senior government infrastructure funds are available. He commented that our inability to promote new technology and effective maintenance for septic systems in rural areas is a problem since these areas have paid into the program but will never be sewerred.

Chair Slater agreed that rural areas would benefit from our assistance and that we need to prove the worthiness of our goals to the City of Vernon.

Alternate Director Scheffler said that groundwater is a major concern in the South Okanagan and large developments on wells requires that new technology be applied in unsewered areas.

Director Hackman commented that if we cannot convince Vernon, then perhaps we need to re-think our approach.

Director Hein said that the Board must recognize that our abilities are currently limited by the amount that can be done with one staff person. He said that we must decide what we want to do, the costs of taking these responsibilities on and then sell this to the three partners.

There was a discussion of the ability of one area to refuse to pay or otherwise drop out of a function within a region. Areas where crises had precipitated changes in governance such as California water shortages and Walkerton health and quality concerns were mentioned.

Master Water Supply Strategy – Draft Proposal

Mr. Armour reported that as requested by the Board at the February meeting, he and Mike Stamhuis put together a draft proposal to catalogue and analyze water quantity data, and develop an action plan to better manage water quantity throughout the valley.

It is proposed that the project be developed in three phases.

Phase I entitled 'Data Assembly' would be done using Water Board funds and would simply identify all sources of water quantity information and areas where necessary information does not exist. It would form the basis of a submission for senior government funding through Western Economic Diversification, for subsequent phases.

Phase II would be a comprehensive analysis of the information, research to fill the information gaps and projections of where and when water quantity crises will occur.

Phase III an action plan to avert or delay crises. Such a plan might include ways to increase supplies, reduce demand, changes to legislation licensing or governance.

He informed the Board that funds remaining from the \$75,000 approved by the Regional Districts for Water Management actions totaled about \$45,000.

Director Hein stressed that this proposal was a draft.

Director Gullen noted that economic data should also be obtained from purveyors.

Director Hobson said that we should get information on all similar work being done such as CORDs' Westside project so that we make use of available information and not ask the same questions of

suppliers that others are already asking. He was also concerned that the data collection and analysis costs were not very predictable, as we have no idea what might be involved.

Director Hein pointed out that water quantity data is not as hard to obtain as water quality information.

Director Gullen commented that the project would tie in with growth management strategies being undertaken or contemplated by the three regions.

Director Hobson stressed that the collection of data must be an ongoing process and not just a snapshot in time. He asked about the status of the OUC database project.

The Board asked that a representative update the OUC database project at the next meeting.

Mr. Stamhuis advised the Board that phase I of the proposal would include data on projections, growth, and climate change and not just a snapshot in time. Current usage information will be collected but also all information useful to making projections.

Director Field suggested that a technical committee was needed to assess Phase I of the water management strategy.

Director Gullen asked about funds set aside last fall for work by the Okanagan Nation Fisheries Commission pertaining to water quantity and fisheries flows.

Mr. Armour reported that he had contacted Jillian Tamblyn of the ONFC and was told that Michelle Boshard had drafted the proposal and that Ms. Boshard has now resigned from the Fisheries Commission. The status of the project is unsure.

Director Hein argued that the Water Board has to start to take action somewhere to deal with water quantity and quality issues. He suggest coordinating a meeting at the OUC Campus involving the Watershed Management Chairs and the OUC Database Group to scope out possible areas of research where information applicable to larger areas could be gained.

Correspondence:

District of Lake Country – Copy of letter to Regional Director, Ministry of WLAP

Director Hackman congratulated Director Hein on spearheading efforts that had resulted in the Province delaying action on sale of lots on reservoir lakes.

Vic Jensen, Ministry of WLAP – Okanagan Lake Water Quality Objectives

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Septic Tank Education Program

Director Hobson reported that CORD felt that septic tank maintenance education on a valley wide basis was one area where the OBWB could be useful.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the correspondence be received."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

City of Penticton – Industrial Area Sewer Project

Mr. Armour clarified that the City of Penticton Project involved extension of sewers to business in the Industrial Area currently on septic, and not just connection as mentioned in the application.

Director Hobson asked if the project qualified for Federal/Provincial Infrastructure Funding.

Mr. Armour said that it did.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the sewage grant application from the City of Penticton for extension of Industrial Area sewers be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

Regional District of Central Okanagan – Clarification of Project Funding

Mr. Armour reported that he had clarified CORD questions regarding up-front payment of sewer costs. Projects are eligible whether the applicant incurs debt or funds cost up front. The total project cost is eligible for OBWB grants.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON MAY 24, 2003, AT THE FRESHWATER INSTITUTE, OKANAGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, 3140 COLLEGE WAY, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
	Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Mike Stamhuis	NORD
	Mark Watt	City of Kelowna
	Dr. Stuart Cohen	UBC
	Dr. Denise Neilsen	PARC
	Lisa Vitols	Environment Canada
	Vanessa Sutton	O.S.R.D.
	Dan Ashton	O.S.R.D.
	Aaron Dinwoodie	C.O.R.D.
	Brian Symonds	MWLAP
	Dr. Adam Wei	OUC
	Dr. Jeff Curtis	OUC
	Nelson Jatel	Freshwater Institute
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on March 11th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Green Sustainable Economic Development (GSED) Implementation Report:

The report from Westland Resource Group was received along with a letter from RDOS Chair D. Ashton recommending that the Okanagan Basin Water Board be the agency responsible for implementing the green sustainable development strategy. The Board also considered a memo from Mr. Stamhuis commenting on areas of the strategy which may fit under the Board's existing mandate and on possible roles for the Board in assisting with the resource side of the GSED.

Mrs. Sutton summarized the thinking behind referral of the GSED report to the Water Board. She noted that the Water Board was the only truly regional political representative in the Valley, that it already has taxation authority, and that water may be the appropriate means to take this strategy beyond individual political boundaries.

Director Hein said that it was time to move our mandate to a higher level than sewers and aquatic weeds. He commented that in order to undertake a project such as this the Board would need professional staff in the form of a secretariat and the funding to support it. This would give us the capacity to take on areas of our mandate that are not part of our current actions.

Director Novakowski asked if addition of a secretariat would enable us to go beyond our limitations and function as a political board. Perhaps we need to disband and start from scratch.

Chair Slater suggested that the idea be sold at the political level by bringing together local government and First Nations to present it to Senator Fitzpatrick.

Director Scheffler commented on the parallel to the Columbia Basin where they are also an international waterway but has large amount of funds through the Columbia Basin Treaty to deal with programs such as this.

Director Gullen suggested that Public Health is a valuable and necessary participant in this process.

Director Hein suggested that the board agree to pursue establishment of a secretariat as the first step to taking on this project.

Mrs. Sutton said that she would need help in developing a presentation.'

Director Hansma advised that we need buy in from the regional Boards prior to approaching the Senator with a proposal. He suggested we report on what we plan to do to the regional boards and receive their mandate to approach the Senator for funding and support of OBWB initiatives

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That a proposal be sent to the three Regional District Boards requesting support to approach Senator Fitzpatrick for financial assistance to enable the Okanagan Basin Water Board to assume a role in implementing the Green Sustainable Economic Development Strategy."

Discussion of Motion:

Mrs. Sutton advised that Westland Resource Group asked for \$35,000 to prepare the next phase of GSED implementation.

Director Field stated that the Water Board should have Senator Fitzpatrick's consent prior to approaching the regional districts.

Mr. Stamhuis commented on his memorandum to the Board that contained ideas for a potential role for the Water Board in Implementing the GSED strategy. He felt that going beyond water issues was not advisable at this point and we need to focus on quantity of water issues as it relates to growth and development.

Director Gullen said that we need to identify what we are looking for as an end result. We do not want that result to be another document. We need a person to draw together all the information from other agencies that already exists.

Director Hein pointed out that the real challenge will be to rid us of the parochialism that exists in the valley. The person will have to break down those barriers and at present the allocation of water is beyond our jurisdiction.

Mr. Stamhuis said that the first step is to tie the importance of water to economic growth as a means of selling the strategy.

Director Novakowski suggested reversing the strategy and brining the OBWB under the umbrella of the GSED rather than using the Water Board to separately implement part of the strategy.

Director Gullen stated that consumption based pricing of water is the single most important factor in ensuring that there is water to sustain life on this planet.

Alternate Director Hanson noted that leadership is required to move forward from the discussion stage and get the job done.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Gullen:

"That the five elements of the original OBWB mandate:

- 1) To organize or receive proposals from private interests, local organizations or agencies and all levels of governments concerning water-resources utilization and management in the best interests of man;*
- 2) To define problems and determine such factors as priorities, economic feasibility, responsibility, necessary supports legislation and required action;*
- 3) To provide communication and co-ordination between various levels of government and government agencies involved with water-resources utilization and management;*
- 4) To present proposals and recommendations to appropriate agencies, being municipalities or governments, according to jurisdiction and responsibility; and*
- 5) To participate, financially or otherwise, in such surveys, investigations or projects on behalf of Municipalities, Electoral Areas or Regional Districts as may be authorized by the participating Regional Districts.*

be presented to the three regional districts for approval and the actions under these mandate items to further the GSED Strategy be supported by senior government funding to establish a Water Board Secretariat."

Director Gullen suggested obtaining Senator Fitzpatrick's agreement and asking the Senator to attend the regional board meetings with media in attendance.

An amended motion was proposed

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Gullen:

"That the five elements of the original OBWB mandate:

- 1) To organize or receive proposals from private interests, local organizations or agencies and all levels of governments concerning water-resources utilization and management in the best interests of man;*
- 2) To define problems and determine such factors as priorities, economic feasibility, responsibility, necessary support legislation and required action;*
- 3) To provide communication and co-ordination between various levels of government and government agencies involved with water-resources utilization and management;*

- 4) *To present proposals and recommendations to appropriate agencies, being municipalities or governments, according to jurisdiction and responsibility; and*
- 6) *To participate, financially or otherwise, in such surveys, investigations or projects on behalf of Municipalities, Electoral Areas or Regional Districts as may be authorized by the participating Regional Districts.*

be presented to the three regional districts for approval with the prior agreement of Senator Fitzpatrick for financial assistance to establish a Water Board Secretariat."

CARRIED.

Director Hein commented that we need to be aware of what resources we can commit to this project when we approach the Senator.

Mr. Stamhuis stated that this will mean a permanent change in how we deal with water in the basin in a sustainable fashion.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board allocate up to \$50,000 from its discretionary funds for water management actions to support the GSED implementation contingent on approval of federal financial assistance and Board approval of a workplan."

CARRIED.

Mrs. Sutton advised the Board that she would act in their behalf in communicating with Senior Government, but that any formal applications for funding would have to be prepared by the Water Board staff.

Regional Water Supply Strategy

Mr. Armour reviewed information previously considered by the Okanagan Basin Water Board relating to a regional water supply strategy.

In February the Board in discussing priority issues noted the lack of a coordinated plan to manage water quantity in the Valley. The amount of water will probably be the limiting factor to growth in the Okanagan and the sooner we deal with potential problems the better equipped we will be to at least stave off a crisis. Some areas of concern were:

- Lack of current water use information and predictions of future use from some purveyors
- Lack of collation of information on water supply and future demand on a valley scope
- Groundwater information
- Factoring in climate change
- Growth predictions and the resultant effects on water demand

A draft memo was presented to the Board at the March meeting outlining a possible step by step means of obtaining and integrating water use information, beginning with an inventory of what is available and leading to subsequent phases for which senior government funding would be required.

The next phases would involve filling information gaps and analyzing information to determine the limits

of our supplies. Lastly we would need a coordinated action plan to mitigate the point at which demand exceeds supply.

There are many individual efforts underway to deal with area specific water quantity issues and there are cooperative management efforts such as the Kelowna Joint Water Committee and the newly formed GVWU. These would form a strong base to tie together the valley picture.

Mr. Armour informed the Board that several knowledgeable experts from different sides of water management were in attendance to join in discussing the validity of our thoughts and to help us clarify what may need to be done.

Ms. Lisa Vitols, Senior Regional Analyst with Environment Canada addressed the Board. She offered information on a pilot project being conducted in the Okanagan to determine what information local government needs and integrate the data collected by EC. She said she is also involved in analyzing infrastructure grant applications and is hoping to assist local government in preparation of application to make them stronger in Federal government eyes.

Ms. Vitols said that EC is hoping to form partnerships with local government to assist in having Federal government information incorporated into local decision making. EC has also agreed with UBCM to take steps to further ecosystem based decision-making, the coordination of EC activities into local decisions, and facilitate the sharing of information with local government.

She noted that there is also a problem in internal transfer of information from one federal department to another. A goal of the pilot project will be to hold a workshop where federal scientists can present work they have been doing to local government as part of looking internally at how EC deals with communities and what information is needed by communities.

Chair Slater asked how data and information are exchanged with small communities which may not have an environment or even an engineering department.

Ms. Vitols replied that it may be beneficial to work with the small communities on this.

Director Hein suggested that the LRMP would be a good blueprint of what the 'Community of the Okanagan' would like to see happen.

Director Gullen questioned the urban focus of the pilot project and asked if rural areas were being left out.

Ms. Vitols responded that the Okanagan was considered an urban area but contains many rural components.

Drs. Stuart Cohen and Denise Neilsen summarized their work on phase 2 of the study of climate change effects on the Okanagan. (Executive Summary attached)

Director Hein asked what we should be doing to address climate change effects on such things as timing and volume of freshet, and ultimately the amount of available water.

Dr. Cohen explained that the first phase of the work did not address adaptation or responses to climate change. This phase does to some extent.

Dr. Neilsen noted that she has tried to factor in climate change scenarios to crop water demand at various points in time.

Dr. Cohen said that reservoir inflow volumes will decline in the future as well as alteration of the timing of flows. The proposal for phase III funding deals with this.

Chair Slater asked about climate change impacts on groundwater.

Dr. Cohen replied that the connection between climate change and groundwater is assumed but no model has been created.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Gullen:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the continuation of the climate change work and the provision of funding for Phase III of the project."

CARRIED.

Director Gullen said she felt there should be more groundwater science and more information to deal with the consideration of water as a commodity rather than a resource by NAFTA.

Dr. Cohen responded to questions about the total water budget as affected by climate change, noting that there may be increased winter precipitation with less snow and more rain. While this area may receive less total precipitation, there will be other areas where the reverse is true. Water will not disappear but its distribution will change and the timing of its availability will change.

Mr. Stamhuis asked about the effect of climate change on the total water storage in Okanagan Lake.

Dr. Cohen answered that there is not enough information to make accurate predictions. He also said that our willingness to change our practices would be a factor. For example would we be willing to 'mine' water from the lake? Would we pump out more than the annual inflow and thus permanently reduce the lake level?

Brian Symonds of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection addressed the question of how many more people the watershed can support from his perspective as engineering manager of the Okanagan Lake Regulation system. He said there is not a simple answer to this question. Changes in water usage patterns and the public acceptance of changes will be big factors.

He commented that each 1 centimetre drop in lake level is the equivalent of 40 cubic metres per second less flow out of the lake. Our current replenishment of water comes over a short period of time in April, May and June. The question will be what trade-offs are we willing to make in the future with respect to our usage of water, our acceptance of lower lake levels etc.

Mr. Symonds also informed the Board that the Ministry is considering changes to the governance of water regulation on the Okanagan system and will perhaps look to local government to take on this role. He also mentioned that the International Joint Commission is looking at expansion of their presence in the Okanagan.

Mr. Symonds outlined the Provincial involvement through the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management with CORD in the Trepanier Landscape Project. This pilot project is designed to assess upland and groundwater sources and relate these to where development should occur. This process could then be applied to other areas of the valley.

Director Hein expressed concern at the suggestion that local government take on lake regulation without any licensing authority. He noted that current licensed withdrawals are not properly monitored and suggested that unused licenses be revoked.

Dr. Jeff Curtis, OUC professor and head of the Freshwater Institute observed that from a scientific perspective, the best unit for effective water management in the valley is the basin as a whole. The political a governance issues that result in fragmentation are not easily addressed by science.

Dr. Curtis informed the Board that many Okanagan based questions are 'one-off' or site specific and senior funding agencies do not favour such projects.

Chair Slater suggested that cooperation between the Water Board and OUC to supply supporting science toward achieving water management goals would be valuable.

Director Hein agreed that supporting the expertise within the Okanagan community was very worthwhile. He asked whether the college would consider a project within a single watershed to look at water quality and quantity, on a joint basis with local government.

Dr. Curtis answered that the project would have to fit the criteria of the researcher and this would involve the applicability of the results and information to a wider area.

Director Novakowski asked what we can do to foster more academic focus on the valley.

Dr. Curtis replied that national and international application is a big factor in applying for research funding.

Dr. Wei of OUC noted that the College does have access to Federal and Provincial funding not available to government.

Director Hansma advised that Spallumcheen has initiated discussion with OUC on a joint water pilot project.

Nelson Jatel of the Freshwater Institute advised on the database project that was jointly initiated between the Water Board and OUC. This project now called the Okanagan Basin Information Network (OBIN) was designed to pull together existing water data from a variety of sources and identify the questions that need to be asked and the information that is required for decision making. The challenge is how to pull diverse information together in a useful format.

Dr. Wei voiced his strong support of the database project, saying that integrated management is not possible without data.

The Board asked that the Summit and Westland reports done for OBWB on integrated water management be sent to Dr. Wei.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the agenda package for OBWB meetings be sent to the OUC Freshwater Institute and they have an opportunity to attend our meetings."

CARRIED.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 1:30

Mark Watt of the City of Kelowna Environment Department addressed the Board. He commented that the future water needs of Kelowna should be met by licensed withdrawals for Okanagan Lake. The Water Board needs to focus on the bigger picture of basin wide supply and future allocation scenarios. What is the basin water balance? Water use is just a small portion of this balance.

New and Unfinished Business:

OBWB – Changes to Signing Authorities

The Board approved the attached resolution to change signing authorities.

2002 – 2002 Budget Report

The Board received the report on the Fiscal Year 2002 – 2003 fiscal year expenditures and agreed to maintain the sewage grant reserve amount noting the possibility of future use in rural areas for satellite treatment systems.

Correspondence:**Community Futures Development Corporation (Okanagan Similkameen) Copy of Letter to D. Ashton Regarding GSED**

Received.

Okanagan Similkameen Boundary Fisheries Partnership – Water Consumption and Fish Screening Project

Mr. Armour reported that the OBWB approved \$10,000 in funding providing OSBFP obtained matching funds for the project. The OBSFP letter informs us that funding was not received and our contribution is not required. The letter also reports the scaling back of program.

Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society – Fish Tissue Sampling

The Water Board received the Water Quality Society letter regarding need to do fish tissue sampling in Osoyoos L. and their application for \$12,000 to do these tests.

The Board also received information from Vic Jensen of WLAP about Environment Canada testing done in 1997 and Washington State fish testing.

Director Scheffler reported that there is a need to examine fish as part of the assessment of Osoyoos Lake. Baseline information is needed and there is now no funding from the OBSFP due to cutbacks.

Moved by Director Scheffler and seconded by Director Gullen:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society request with \$6000 to be taken from aquatic weed control budgets."

Defeated.

(Opposed Directors Hein, Novakowski, Field, Hackman)

Director Hein stated that the Water Board was the wrong agency to approach with this funding request. We cannot support funding of individual projects which although they have worth and value should be addressed by local government.

Director Field said that if this application was accepted the Board should stipulate that it be a one-time grant only.

Director Novakowski said that the project was unique to one local area and he was reluctant to support it.

Alternate Director Hanson said that this request does not pertain directly to the quality of water.

Director Hackman said that he could not support a local initiative that was not regional in scope.

Director Scheffler responded that the Board wishes to pursue new areas of water management and that's why we exist.

Director Hein stated that this would not be an appropriate expenditure of Water Board funds and would

be regarded as suspect by the people we wish to have as partners in valley wide water management. Director Gullen noted that the Board had approved fund for the OBSFP and this request was not substantially different.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen – Appointments to OBWB

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Field:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board accept the changes to RDOS appointments as outlined in the Regional Board letter."

CARRIED.

Okanagan Nation Alliance- Request for Conference Sponsorship

The Board received the agenda for the June 22 – 24 conference and a request for sponsorship funds ranging from \$500 to \$10,000.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Alternate Director Hanson:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board decline the request to sponsor the conference."

CARRIED.

The Board noted the Alternate Director Scheffler is chairing a session of the conference and Mr. Armour will attend as well.

Community Futures Development Corporation (Okanagan Similkameen)

A copy of a letter to RDOS Chair D. Ashton was received in which Community Futures agreed to work with the Water Board in implementing the GSED.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Gullen:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the letter from Community Futures."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

None at this time.

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 AUGUST 12, 2003, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director Gus Boersma	O.S.R.D.
	Director Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Mike Stamhuis	NORD
	Councilor Doug Dirk	Coldstream
	Karen Rothe	MSRM
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor

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 May 24th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Letter to Senator Fitzpatrick Requesting GSED Funding Partnership

Mr. Armour reviewed Board action from the previous meeting in sending a letter to Senator Fitzpatrick. The letter stated that the Board felt the role that best fit our mandate for implementing the GSED was one of focus on water issues pertaining to sustainable growth and development. The Board offered to put forward \$50,000 on a joint basis with the Federal government (90%/10% sharing) toward the Water Board taking on this role.

Mr. Armour also informed the Board of Community Futures involvement in GSED implementation. A copy of a Community Futures Development of Okanagan Similkameen letter to Sen. Fitzpatrick supporting our proposal was received as well as an offer from CFDC to fund and put on a fall workshop. The focus of the workshop would be to have key stakeholders examine the benefits of basin wide coordination of water planning, assessment and data collection.

Community Futures Development of Okanagan Similkameen had also contacted Chair Slater explaining that their expectation was that the Water Board would host the workshop as well as organized a list of participants.

Director Hobson asked if this was an initiative of Community Futures and noted that perhaps a workshop was not required if the consultant contacted all stakeholders to gather the necessary information.

Chair Slater advised that Community Futures would like the Water Board to request funding for the workshop from them.

Director Hansma commented that Community Futures would like to be the agency dispensing Federal funding.

Mr. Stamhuis noted that the proposed workshop was not well defined in terms of goals and purpose as well as deliverables.

Mr. Armour asked if this was a coordinated initiative of all valley Community Futures groups or just the Okanagan Similkameen chapter.

Director Hein noted that some of Community Futures objectives for the workshop had been met such as the establishment of a database and they should be advised of this. He also commented that we have put together a plan of action with our Proposal for a new Water Management Partnership prepared in 2000 and require agreement of the Regional Boars and funding to establish a support secretariat.

Director Hobson suggested we not approve Community Futures proposed workshop at this time but have a more detailed discussion to determine the goals of Community Futures to put this in a format acceptable to all the partners.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That Community Futures be invited to the September meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board to be held in Penticton."

CARRIED.

Conference – 'Making Ecosystem Connections' June 22 – 24 in Penticton

The Board thanked Director Scheffler for a job well done in chairing the water section of the two day conference held in Penticton.

Mr. Armour advised the Board that the conference proceedings are to be posted on the internet.

Workshop - Climate Change Issues and Energy Opportunities

Mr. Armour advised that he attended this session in Kamloops. He referred to a brief memo he prepared for the Board including some comments from one presenter that seemed relevant to the importance of planning for water and energy consumption in initiatives such as the GSED.

Director Hobson noted that the Kyoto reform due out this week would have significant impact on the future of greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Request for Letter of Support for Climate Change Project Phase II

Dr. Stuart Cohen of UBC has requested a letter of support for funding of the next phase of his climate change project in the Okanagan. This is described in the attachment to the minutes of the May Board meeting attended by Dr. Cohen. Funds would come from the Climate Change Action Fund.

Director Scheffler entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter of support for the second phase of the Climate change project proposed by Dr. Cohen of UBC."

CARRIED.

Mr. Stamhuis suggested that the Board ask a few questions in the letter relating to projection on actual water supply and demand projections under the climate change scenario being studied; what the governance might be to effect the necessary changes; and what part the Okanagan Basin Water Board might play.

Director Hein expressed his thoughts that climate change information was still inconclusive and that he was not convinced that changes needed to be made. He felt that more information on the current status of water was required.

Director Hobson said that he agreed with Director Hein but still felt that climate change investigation was good work. The more we learn regarding future supply and demand of water the better off we will be in managing it. He stated that we must be able to meet instream needs for the valley and referred to the current situation in Summerland where domestic use and fisheries flows could not both be met. He said that the role of the Board was to make people aware of the need to consider the many factors required to maintain our water resources.

Director Novakowski added that the OBWB should be a leader in this education process and the problems experienced with water this summer could be a driving force in expansion of our mandate.

Alternate Director Boersma asked what the total amount of water available in our system is. He said that the effect of increased removal of water from the lakes is not well known. He added that agriculture has set limits for water withdrawals, which remain constant.

Director Hansma advised that he had fielded many complaints about low water and the relation to climate change. He noted that the recollections of many people of similar past events are short term and when records are examined there have been years of lower water levels than the current status. If climate change is indeed occurring we should be aware of the facts and utilize them in our management of water.

Director Hein remarked that water management tools should include metering and proper rates of charge for water use. He said that these tools should be part of an education program.

Director Hackman asked if agriculturists tended to over-water and if there is information on the amounts of water need for various crops.

Director Scheffler responded that there are many aspects of agriculture water use including cooling and the different crop requirements.

Chair Slater added that while requirements are known the water dole valves are not set according to these needs.

Director Hansma noted that the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture used to examine crops and advise on water usage. These staff are no longer available.

Director Hein noted that the technology to better use water in agriculture is available but we continue to waste the resource because water is under-priced.

Director Hansma said that economics do not allow the average farmer to install sophisticated irrigation controls.

Director Hobson remarked that the residential misuse of water on unsuitable landscaping builds in a tremendous future demand for water.

Director Hansma responded that xeriscaping should be a part of education on management of water.

Mr. Stamhuis commented that that some water utilities suffer more than others under situations like we are currently experiencing. Some have adequate licenses to deal with droughts while others do not. He

suggested that we need to do something regionally to make best use of water supplies.

Director Hobson observed that all of our water comes from one system and many people fail to realize this.

Director Hansma added that jurisdictional problems are a major factor against achieving cooperation. Everyone who has a license refuses to cooperate for fear of giving up their license of running short of water.

Director Scheffler said that we also fail to look at problems in water recharge areas. Logging has greatly contributed to recharge problems causing early snowmelt and lack of absorption and holding of water by the soil.

Director Hein advised the Board that assistance in obtaining cooperation is needed from senior government. He cited the example in Lake Country where the Province was invited to assess water licenses, usage, and requirements. As a result some licenses were revoked, and changes made to others. In addition, local government was empowered to police the water licenses.

Director Hackman remarked that education should include information about the use of reclaimed water.

Chair Slater noted that reclaimed water use is causing a variety of problems after years of use in some areas. The build-up of sodium from household water softeners can destroy soils.

Other Business

Federal Support for Agricultural and Rural Large Scale Infrastructure Projects

A notice was received that Golder and Associates had been retained to identify potential large scale infrastructure projects for agricultural and rural water supplies in BC.

Director Hein advised that it was the job of Golder and Associates to collect an inventory of projects and submit it to the Federal government. It is not intended for small projects but for multi-million dollar efforts. He noted that perhaps the water diversion for the Shuswap system envisioned forty years ago could be re-examined.

Moved by Alternate Director Boersma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the information from Golder and Associate be received."

CARRIED.

Director Scheffler commented that reconnection of the oxbows left after the Okanagan River was channelized might be a suitable project.

Mr. Stamhuis suggested that staff bring some project ideas back to the next Board meeting.

Director Hein advised that individual valley projects likely will not qualify for these grants. Large coordinated projects are needed.

Director Hobson said that Provincial dollars are needed to qualify for the Federal money and the Provincial Government has no money. In addition he wondered if engineered solutions to water supply problems takes away from our focus on non-engineered efforts.

CORRESPONDENCE:**Vic Jensen, MWLAP – Request for Funding for Sediment Core Analysis**

The Board received a request for financial support of analysis of sediment cores collected from the lake bottom by the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection.

Mr. Armour explained that sediment cores, rather than giving a snapshot of water quality conditions that a regular water sample would, yield a long term historical view of how our practices have altered water conditions. From this we can tell such things what the optimum level of nutrient is in terms of historical fish production.

The project is being supported by the Ministry as far as collections go and by UVIC (\$5000) for core analysis; by ON Fisheries (\$5500) The Ministry is paying Queens University another \$5000 for analysis and another \$5000 – 10,000 is needed.

The Board supported the Ministry's sampling efforts in principle but has no budget to contribute financially.

Lisa Vitols, Environment Canada – Workshop In Conjunction With UBCM

A letter was received from Lisa Vitols of EC who attended the last Water Board meeting OUC. Environment Canada proposes a EC – Okanagan Local Government workshop in conjunction with UBCM on Sept. 22nd or 23rd. To see what the information needs of local government are and inform local officials what information is currently available from Environment Canada

Director Hobson noted that this workshop was not discussed at the UBCM Planning Committee and that time allocation at the Convention is very tight for most people. He suggested that this is not the best time for the workshop and perhaps it should be held later and in the Okanagan.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hobson:

"That the Water Board suggest to Environment Canada that the proposed workshop be held at a later more convenient date and here in the Okanagan."

CARRIED.

BDO Dunwoodie – Audited Financial Statement**Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hein:**

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive and approve the audited financial statements for 2003."

CARRIED.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board the Management Letter and letter dated May 21, 2003 from the auditors."

CARRIED.

Science Council of BC - Eco Efficiency Partnership

Mr. Armour noted that the information in the BC Science Council letter fits into the GSED strategy in improving the sustainability of existing business.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the letter from the BC Science Council."

CARRIED.

Handbook on Good Governance in Restructuring Water Supply

Mr. Armour said that the outline of this document was provided for the information. The full handbook is available at the websites noted on the cover.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Handbook on Good Governance in Restructuring Water Supply be received for information."

CARRIED.

SEWERAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

No Grant Applications at this Time

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Director Hein updated the Board on the sale of lease lots on reservoirs. He said that Premier Campbell said he was not aware of this initiative and he was trying to arrange a meeting through MLA John Weisbeck. He advised that the Okanagan Nation Alliance was also opposed to sale of these lots. Director Hein suggested that all councils and boards need a strong reminder to continue their opposition to these sales and to contact their local MLA's as well. He said we must convince the Premier that this action is the wrong thing to do environmentally and politically He noted that this is the only way that BC Lands and Assets will stop the sales.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

SECRETARY



Memorandum

To: **OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD DIRECTORS**
From: Greg Armour
Date: August 12, 2003
Re: Water Board Wages and Salaries

Okanagan Basin Water Board Staff Salaries and Wages

Proposal for Fiscal Year 2004 - 2005

- The last increase to OBWB wages and salaries was effective April 1, 2001. This involved adjustments to bring Water Board staff closer to comparable positions within regional and municipal local government.
 - The attached memo from then Chair R. Hobson outlines the 2001 adjustments and comparisons and states that future increases are to be based on cost of living, performance evaluation, and NORD salary and wage information.
 - There have been no increases since 2001. (Field Supervisor forgot to include in annual budgets)
- NORD - COLA 2002, 2003 and 2004(est.) Total 6.9%
- There are currently four (4) permanent OBWB staff:

G. Armour – Field Supervisor / Project Manager

Current	\$59,731 per year
COLA Adjustment	\$63,852 (6.9%)
Recommended	\$67,417 (12.9%)
Same as other NORD professional staff	

Ian Horner – Foreman, Equipment Operator, Class 1 Truck Driver and SCUBA Diver

Current	\$21.00 per hour
COLA Adjustment	\$22.50 (6.9%)
Recommended	\$24.00 (14.2%)

The recommended wage is comparable to a sub-foreman position with the City of Vernon

Senior Planner \$76,789

Comparable Wages Outside Workers: (per hour) (2003 figures)

Arena Equip. Operator (CORD)	\$21.59
Truck Driver / Machine Operator (NOWA)	\$21.07
Maintenance Worker (Rec. Facility) (NORD)	\$20.66

Equipment Operators (Vernon)	\$22.82
Janitor, Shop Attendant I	\$20.75
Tandem Truck Driver (Vernon)	\$22.12
Sludge Truck Operator IV	\$22.12
Waterworks serviceman V	\$23.49

Senior Parks Operator (CORD)	\$24.75
Sub-Foreman (Vernon)	\$24.64

Memorandum

To: OBWB Directors

From: Greg Armour

CC:

Date: August 20, 2003

Re: Thought for Large Scale Agricultural Water Infrastructure Project

Background

Information was received at the August Board meeting from Golder and Associates asking for suggestions for large-scale agricultural and rural water infrastructure projects in BC. These will be forwarded to the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund for consideration. Qualifying projects are intended to be multi-million dollar in scope and may consist of a group of similar smaller projects.

The current situation of water shortages and supply and demand concerns in the Okanagan has intensified the opinion that changes must be made; changes to both our water management governance and education of the public in better use of water resources. (demand side management)

We are unable to deal with extreme years whether climate change factors into this scenario or not. Better usage and an improved management structure will allow us to deal more effectively in the event that climate change is a reality

Method

Agriculture is still the largest consumer of water in this region and is likely to remain so for the near future despite rapid urban population growth. The agricultural component of water use could benefit from improvements and education as well as the domestic side.

What agriculture requires to make better use of irrigation water is knowledge of current consumption, knowledge of optimum usage of water on specific crops (timing and amount) and the technology to answer these questions and implement solutions.

From Dr. Stuart Cohen at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at UBC:

"Stevens et. al (1992) investigated demand side management as a means of increasing the efficiency of water use in the Okanagan Valley. The study focused on universal water metering and drip, trickle irrigation systems as the water conservation mechanisms. Universal metering combined with installation of drip/trickle irrigation systems on 60% of the irrigated land in the valley was estimated to result in an annual reduction in water use from 95,000

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2003, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN - SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN STREET, PENTICTON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
	Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
	Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Karen Rothe	MSRM
	Mary Ellen Heidt	Community Futures
	Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
	Jane Coady	Community Futures
	Rory McIvor	Community Futures
	Karen Davies	Community Futures
	Stu Wells	Community Futures
	George Stayberg	Community Futures
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)

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 August 12th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Community Futures of the Okanagan Similkameen:

Ms Heidt reviewed the recommendation of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen that the Okanagan Basin Water Board and Community Futures cooperate in implementing the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy. (GSED) She noted that the role of Community Futures was and economic one and was not water related.

She advised the Board that Community Futures had agreed to fund a workshop involving stakeholders in the GSED as a start towards agreement on implementation and the possible methods to be used. She asked for Water Board participation and comments.

Director Hein commented that the workshop might provide a suitable dialogue for the Water Board to further valley wide water related objectives.

Mr. Armour explained the past work done by the Water Board in promoting and ecosystem approach to water management. He noted the 2000 Westland report resulting from a workshop involving all levels of government. High level bureaucrats from Federal, Provincial, Local and First Nations government met to

discuss how water might be managed more effectively in the Okanagan. It was agreed that an ecosystem approach with a Water Board secretariat staff advising political representatives would be the best way to go about this. The recommendation was subsequently not supported by all of the regional districts.

Mr. Armour also noted that one of the purposes of the Community Futures workshop was to consolidate information in a central database. He advised that this process had begun for water related data by the Water Board and Okanagan University College. The project is known as the Okanagan Basin Information Network. (OBIN)

Mr. Stayberg commented that the Community Futures funding was to help the OBWB towards its objectives.

Chair Slater noted that a problem exists now and we need a better means of dealing with the demands of growth that our current methods.

Director Hein said that despite unanimous support for a Water Board secretariat at the workshop, there is no local funding or senior government funding to support this. He added that the Province has seven Ministries with some jurisdiction over water and they tend to fund small projects that are very uncoordinated. He suggested that the City of Vernon should be tested by an approach from Senator Fitzpatrick to promote cooperation and a wider ranging view of resource management. The current situation of water shortages would help promote cooperation of all parties.

Director Scheffler entered the meeting.

Ms. Coady agreed that there is an acute awareness by the public of water issues this year. She stated that without buy in from all local governments another workshop would be of no use. She noted that while First Nation cooperation is needed, they do not participate financially.

Ms. Heidt suggested that the workshop could be more of a public information meeting.

Director Hansma agreed and said that a public meeting might help convince opposed participants to consider a valley wide approach to resource and economic strategies.

Director Novakowski asked if Community Futures had additional funding to that designated for the workshop.

Ms. Heidt replied that there was only the workshop funding.

Gerry Tonn stated that the workshop might consist of a one-day conference with broad representation where project with good ideas that have failed to receive support could be reviewed. A coordinated effort toward management along the lines of the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative could be examined.

Chair Slater observed that many workshops have proven to be of limited value and perhaps the money would be more effective in hosting a public meeting.

Mr. Stayberg noted that the Georgia Basin has received substantial money so why not the Okanagan?

Mr. Armour commented that Environment Canada had offered to contribute \$200,000 per year for a five-year term to the Valley and make it the next Federal Ecosystem initiative. The valley failed to take advantage of this offer, which was contingent on cooperation from all regions, and the funds have lapsed.

Mr. McIvor suggested asking the valley Mayors and representatives of the three valley Community Futures Organizations to meet with Vernon and review the benefits of dealing with water on a valley-wide basis. The current situation would provide an opportune time for such a discussion. He felt the public would demand that the system of management be revamped.

Director Hansma advised that the OBWB mandate is broad enough to accommodate such changes but we need unanimous approval.

Chair Slater said that Vernon has many local initiatives that are fully occupying their resources.

Director Hein stated that a change to the Water Board mandate would only add more rhetoric and what is really required is that we use the authority and taxation ability we now have. He added that the scientific evidence of a need for change often works against political and public wishes for no tax increases.

Ms. Rothe asked if Provincial participation and financial support would help bring the Regional Districts on side.

Director Hansma answered that Provincial assistance in a basin wide effort to better manage water would definitely spur local government cooperation.

Ms. Coady noted that the Water Board is the only body in BC with taxing authority across multiple Regional Districts.

Ms. Rothe commented on the Provincial participation and financial contribution in the Trepanier Landscape Unit and said that the preference for any similar projects would be to work with the Water Board rather than individual regions.

Director Hein wondered what it would take for the Province to influence local government.

Alternate Director Hanson suggested that there not be a workshop until cooperation of all parties has been obtained. She said that in this year in particular, the public and press should be supportive of a collaborative effort to better manage water.

Director Scheffler advised that he had discussions with senior Federal bureaucrats in which he was advised that \$40 million dollars in unspent infrastructure funding in BC would result in no projects submitted for the Federal Water Infrastructure program being approved.

Director Novakowski stated that we need a higher level of government to give us direction and state plainly that if we don't work together, there will be no funding.

Ms. Rothe noted that the Province has significant amounts of data and has an obligation to work with local government. She wondered what approaches have been made.

Director Hansma responded that there have been numerous approaches providing we are organized as a region.

Director Hein said that there is confusion among local government about which Ministry does what and how much communication there is between them. He referred to the sale of reservoir lots. While there is widespread local opposition to this the Province is pushing ahead. Senior Ministry officials claim to know nothing about it. He said that it seems funding is available for emergencies such as the Kettle Valley Railroad but not for water.

Ms. Rothe replied that information is often forwarded to higher-ups and no support is received. This is a frustrating situation for the technical staff. She said that government had likely not looked at the long-term implications of disposing of Crown Land

Director Hein said that it is hard to work with senior government when they are as uncoordinated as local government.

Mr. McIvor commented that Community Futures has an opportunity to assist. While a conference is perhaps not appropriate at this time it might be wise to proceed with a meeting of valley Mayors, the

three Community Futures Groups and the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, to outline the downside of not participating in a joint action. The funding for the workshop goes until the end of March.

Chair Slater re-affirmed the commitment of the Okanagan Basin Water Board to do whatever is needed to move toward better resource management.

Director Hein suggested that the Water Board and Community Futures should consider how best to proceed and meet again to agree on a firm direction.

Mr. Wells commented that the Valley MLA's should be asked to participate in a meeting of mayors.

Karen Rothe – Watershed Planner, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management:

Ms. Rothe thanked the Board for allowing her participation in the previous discussion.

She gave a presentation on the watershed planning process in southern British Columbia noting that her Ministry's focus is on sustainable economic development that considers communities, ecosystems, and financial and economic factors. The focus is on land use and water.

Director Gullen left the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Director Hein asked if Provincial help would still be available to communities that did not wish growth to be a driver toward sustainability, that is, wished to have zero population increase.

Ms. Rothe indicated that she did not know what the response would be. Perhaps if there were no growth there would be no problems. She informed the Board that the Trepanier project was the first of its kind in the Province. Water management, land use, and economic considerations are being tied into actual community by-laws that will guide development.

There was some discussion about the LRMP process and the Sustainable Resource Management Planning that has replaced it.

Director Scheffler observed that the LRMP had not included First Nations, private lands and some mining interests.

Director Hein questioned how the Georgia Basin Initiative has assisted in water usage problems in the lower mainland this year.

Ms. Rothe said that she was not sure but that in general she supported smaller units of management such as Trepanier for facilitating action.

Chair Slater brought up the question of inter-basin transfers of water.

Ms. Rothe advised that there were ecological issues with transfers that information was not available on. There are questions such as pathogen introduction, algal growth, and flooding.

Director Hansma asked if the recommendations of watershed management plans would be made part of Community OCPs in the future.

Ms. Rothe said that this makes sense as water crosses jurisdictional boundaries and local decision making should include a broader watershed view.

Director Hansma said that local government should adopt coordinated actions throughout the valley and then receive financial assistance for the Province to implement them.

The Chair thanks Ms. Rothe for her presentation and for taking part in discussions.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Federal Support for Agricultural and Rural Large Scale Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Armour advised the Board that he and Mr. Stamhuis has prepared a suggestion for a large scale rural water infrastructure project in response to the notice received from Golder and Associates to identify potential projects for Federal funding.

The proposal is detailed on the attached memorandum.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Alternate Director Hanson:

"That the proposal for a large scale rural water infrastructure project be adopted and forwarded to the consultant for consideration."

CARRIED.

Construction of a new Aquatic Weed Rototiller

Mr. Armour asked the Board to authorized preliminary cost estimates for construction of a new rototiller. This would add to the operating time now limited by shared use of one machine with Cultus Lake and with Columbia Shuswap Regional district.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That Mr. Armour develop a business plan for operating costs for a new rototiller and proceed with preliminary capital cost estimates."

CARRIED.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**Environment Canada Workshop**

The Board asked that information about the number and scope of attendees be forwarded to the Directors prior to the meeting.

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

A copy of a letter to the District of Summerland was received expressing concerns about the use of groundwater to augment Summerland's water supply.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the copy of the letter from the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be received and that the Water Board write to the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection to indicate their concern over lack of groundwater data and information to guide local government in making decisions about use of this resource."

CARRIED.

Fiscal year 2004-2005 Salaries

Mr. Armour presented a recommendation for salary increases for him and three other Water Board staff members. (attached)

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Hein:

"That the Water Board staff receive an increase of the cumulative cost of living amounts

since the last adjustment in 2000. This would be 6.9% effective April 1, 2004."

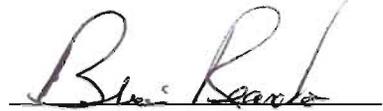
CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



CHAIRMAN



SECRETARY



Memorandum

To: OBWB Directors
From: Greg Armour
CC:
Date: September 9, 2003
Re: Construction of New Rototiller

Background

The Okanagan Basin Water Board owns two aquatic weed rototillers and shares a third one with Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Cultus Lake Park Board. This has been the situation for approximately a decade. The rototillers work from November when the weeds become dormant to May when the plant top growth is significant and the water temperature allows the spread of viable fragments.

The rototiller digs up the roots of the milfoil (a perennial plant) and allows them to float to the surface where they drift to shore, sink in deep water, with a small proportion sinking in the treated area. If this is done when water temperatures are cold the fragments do not tend to re-root.

Rototilling is more effective than summer harvesting. It achieves a degree of longer-term control, the operating season is much longer, and interference with water based activities is minimal. Rototilling constitutes the major portion of our weed control program.

The rototillers range in age from 14 to 20 years and are all still in very serviceable condition.

Proposal

Over the years we have expanded our program of rototilling as it has proved effective in a variety of sites and substrates. The previously treated sites need annual attention and although reduced time is required, we are short of rototilling time almost every year.

Shuswap uses the shared machine from October until January. In the past, Cultus Lake has done their work after our season end but would now like to do it in the winter as well.

We have tried expanding our hours of operation in the past but use of seasonal operators has not worked out very well as there is quite a learning curve to operating these somewhat unique machines. Day-length poses a problem in the winter months to expanded hours and two full shifts a day cannot be accommodated even in the spring.

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD HELD ON OCTOBER 14, 2003, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN, 1450 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
Director Ruth Ann Gullen	O.S.R.D.
Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.

OTHERS:

Alternate Director Patty Hanson	C.O.R.D.
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STAFF:

Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

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 September 9th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2004-2005 Provisional Budget for Aquatic Weed Control and Sewage Facilities Fund

Mr. Armour presented provisional budgets (attached) for weed control and sewage funding along with the requisition amounts from each Regional District for the budgeted amounts. A five-year projection of budget costs was also included.

Director Hein asked if the five-year projection was accurate.

Mr. Armour said that it was likely not accurate. Communities had amended their Liquid Waste Management Plans; scheduled projects had not come on-stream due to lack of senior government infrastructure funding; although the weed control portion of the five-year estimate was accurate.

It was suggested that the budget be left open until the Board decided whether a requisition for water management projects should be included.

Director Novakowski asked if the reduction in sewage grant requisition from \$1.9 million to \$1.7 million was an arbitrary amount or based on actual costs.

Mr. Armour replied that it was arbitrary. The surplus in the fund which had accrued from projects not commencing as scheduled, could be used to reduce the total requisition if the Board wished to do so. Indications at this point were that \$1.7 million would be adequate for sewage grants in 2004-2005.

Director Scheffler raised the point of funds left unspent in the Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program.

Chair Slater advised that new funding would not be forthcoming until these funds have been used up.

Director Hobson noted that the Infrastructure Grant is used for more than sewer and water projects.

Director Novakowski questioned whether OBWB assistance was available for package treatment systems.

Director Hansma advised that funding was available as long as the plants served existing development and not new expansion.

Director Hein asked if the majority contributors received weed control and sewer grants proportionate to their contributions.

Mr. Armour responded that the services were divided according to need as defined by local government and not by the amount of contribution.

Director Hein suggested to the Board that we allocate funds for water management initiatives openly in our requisition instead of asking permission for individual projects.

Director Gullen entered the meeting at 10:30 A.M.

Director Novakowski suggested keeping the total requisition the same as the current fiscal year and use the proposed decrease as a line item for water projects.

Director Scheffler noted that we need to be specific about what projects we would undertake.

Director Hein suggested some projects might be additional water storage through raising of dams; addressing specific water quality concerns; and groundwater mapping and relationships to surface water. He said these should be incorporated into a plan detailing use of extra funding.

Director Hansma said we should start with a source analysis of water for the entire watershed.

The Board agreed to delay adoption of the provisional budget until the inclusion of funding for water management projects was examined further.

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Capital and Operating Costs

Mr. Armour reviewed discussion of construction of a new aquatic weed rototiller from the last meeting. He proposed that the machine be added to increase the operating time now limited by shared use of one machine with Cultus Lake and with Columbia Shuswap Regional District. Mr. Armour submitted a budget for additional operating costs for full-time use of the third machine but said he had not yet received estimates on capital cost for construction. Once these were received and assuming the cost do not exceed our reserve funds, the Board could decide whether to go to tender.

Director Novakowski asked why we would give away the shared operating time even if we had the third machine.

Mr. Armour indicated that fulltime use of the three machines would be adequate to do the control work necessary in the Okanagan.

Director Field suggested that the Board write a letter to the Province indicating the need to spend money to keep pace with protecting a Provincial resource and asking for funding.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Water Board send a letter to the Province asking for funding to construct a new rototiller; get final estimates on the cost of the equipment; and look into funding from infrastructure grants and the GSED."

CARRIED.

Report on Environment Canada Workshop (September 30th)

Mr. Armour and Chair Slater reported on the Environment Canada workshop held September 30th.

The workshop was intended for EC to explain what resources and projects they had in the Okanagan and to determine what the needs of local government were.

Mr. Armour commented that the last session on the EC website was most informative. The website is new and still being developed but there is already a wide range of information available on water related issues. The problem remains how to integrate this information into day to day decision making at the local level.

Director Hein commented that he had looked at the website and found it confusing.

Mr. Armour offered to invite the presenter of the session to our next meeting.

Director Hobson added that the expertise of Environment Canada in the Pacific and Yukon Region is impressive and we need to find a way to entice some of this technical ability into the Okanagan.

Rural Water Infrastructure Project – Project Information Submission

Mr. Armour provided the Board with the proposal submitted for a large-scale rural water infrastructure project.

Options for use of Community Futures Funding for Furthering GSED – Discussion of Steps Required to Achieve Valley Wide Water Management Goals

Mr. Armour reviewed the September meeting attended by Community Futures of Okanagan Similkameen. CFDC is prepared to commit approximately \$13,000 towards an initial step in promoting the GSED and basin wide cooperation. The Water Board had suggested that both sides review the intent and audiences for the workshop to make sure the right issues were presented to decision-makers in local government.

Director Gullen said that quantity issues will impact growth first. She noted that in arid regions of the United States, quantity issues are the problem. The Provincial Government in BC is issuing water licenses without knowledge of the actual quantity available.

Director Hobson recalled that the workshop for a 'New Water Management Partnership' held in 2000 gave some consensus from a fairly senior cross section of Local, Provincial, Federal and First Nations representatives on a valley wide approach to water management.

He expressed concern that staff of the Provincial Ministries dealing with water has been greatly reduced and the result will be further downloading to local government.

He added that there is a need to involve the water purveyors for their opinions on Okanagan transboundary issues.

Director Hansma noted that water quality and quantity are linked. Common issues between local governments need to be identified and all parties need to be involved.

Director Novakowski stated that the immediate focus should be on water quantity and to deal with quality issues at the same time would be too large a process.

He said that there is currently no structure to manage common issues even if they are identified unless the Water Board is allowed to provide a secretariat for coordinating actions to deal with regional problems.

Chair Slater noted that this could be an outcome of the workshop and agreement of the local government decision-makers would be needed to provide the political will to go ahead.

Director Hein responded that water quantity is an issue that has been around for a long time and that seasonal variations are normal for this valley. He observed that the more people in the valley, the more the negative impacts on water quality.

Director Hansma said that we should put together the workshop and ensure that all local political representatives attend; those at the mayor and chair level, and hire a competent facilitator to provide direction.

Director Hobson observed that at the 2000 workshop there were notable absences from local government and the concept of regional water management could not be sold to these people afterwards.

Director Field said he was not convinced that Vernon would attend a workshop and also wondered how the water purveyors would fit in.

Director Scheffler commented that perhaps a strong announcement saying that the Water Board was prepared to exercise its full mandate would ensure attendance.

Director Hansma said the Regional Districts would veto this expanded role.

Mr. Stamhuis observed that the timing for involvement of all parties would be good with the drought this season. He reported that the North Okanagan had numerous water supply problems this year.

Director Hobson said finding funding to provide solutions to water issues would be an inducement to attend.

Chair Slater added that he and Mr. Armour would be making a presentation to the Water Supply Association meeting in Osoyoos at the end of October.

Director Gullen expressed a need to involve the media to create and awareness of the need to get together. She said that senior people should be brought in to identify potential funding sources to improve infrastructure and deal with quality problems. She advised that the Board should consider inviting the former Director for Water Resources for the Yukon as he had supervised a single authority that had dealt with all water issues in the territory.

Director Hansma said that senior Provincial Ministers should be invited to a facilitated workshop as well as local MLAs. In addition Senator Fitzpatrick and Minister David Anderson should attend. Community Future should be asked for agreement on this direction and a workplan should be submitted.

Director Field said that we still need to identify what we want from the workshop.

Mr. Stamhuis replied the a goal could be to get local government to allow the Water Board to set aside funds to begin to investigate water issues in the region.

Director Hobson added that a more comprehensive summary of the issues and goal for the workshop is needed. He suggested spending part of the money allocated for the workshop in doing this.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Sewering of Fire Damaged Area in Kelowna

Director Hobson reported that the City of Kelowna wishes to sewer the Okaview subdivision that is currently on septic systems. The area was heavily damaged by fire this summer and approximately 102 homes were destroyed along with their septic systems. Insurance will cover the cost of a sewer system hook-up for these homes but the residents of undamaged homes would face a cost of about \$12,500 each for sewerage.

He said that a decision has to be made soon before septic systems are installed leaving no chance to apply for funding through regular channels.

The Board discussed options Kelowna might have for subsidizing or providing funding to residents.

Moved by Director Novakowski and seconded by Director Hansma:

"That the Water Board ensure that the Okaview sewer project meets Water Board criteria and expedite funding from our Sewage Grant Program."

CARRIED.

International Joint Commission – New Agreement Process

Director Scheffler informed the Board that negotiations are underway for a new IJC agreement between the United States and Canada.

He suggested that water quality issues be included in this agreement allowing lower lake levels in years of high snowpack to flush the Osoyoos Lake system. He noted that the American side is spending a large amount of money on fisheries enhancement and that these stocks are in danger in Osoyoos Lake as well.

Director Hein commented that the fisheries enhancement approach might be used to achieve the water quality improvements.

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Scheffler:

"That the Water Board encourage the International Joint Commission to include fisheries enhancement and water quality analysis in the new agreement process."

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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 NOVEMBER 12, 2003, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN, 9848 ABERDEEN ROAD, VERNON, B.C. AT 10:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Director Rolly Hein	C.O.R.D.
	Director Len Novakowski	C.O.R.D.
	Director Robert Hobson	C.O.R.D.
	Chair John Slater	O.S.R.D.
	Director Eike Scheffler	O.S.R.D.
	Vice Chair Will Hansma	N.O.R.D.
	Director Stan Field	N.O.R.D.
	Director Doug Hackman	N.O.R.D.
<u>OTHERS:</u>	Gerry Tonn	Urban Systems
	Beverly McNaughton	Environment Canada
	Rob Richardson	Westbank First Nation
<u>STAFF:</u>	Greg Armour	Field Supervisor (OBWB)
	Mike Stamhuis	N.O.R.D.

MINUTES:

Moved by Director Hansma and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held on October 14th, 2003 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

Gerry Tonn, Urban Systems – Water Management Workshop

The Board discussed finalizing a structure for a local government water management workshop.

Mr. Tonn outlined two possible approaches to the workshop:

Option 1 provides for a less focused exploration of water management issues in the Okanagan with flexibility provided to allow each participant to bring their issues to the table. In this option the OBWB acts as a sponsor for Valley wide discussion of water management issues which may require a basin wide perspective and agency cooperation. It does not focus the workshop on the key issues of the OBWB such as the water quantity issue. The focus is also not on whether the OBWB could be restructured as a basis for basin wide activities.

At the request of staff a second option was prepared:

Option 2 provides for a more focused workshop. In this option the OBWB seeks to obtain the buy-in of other agencies to the issue(s) which it believes to be the most important - namely the water quantity issue. There is also a focus on how the OBWB may provide the basis for any future institutional arrangements for basin wide activities.

Director Hein said that water quality needs to be a part of the workshop discussion since this is the primary issue for many communities.

Mr. Tonn noted that option one leaves the opportunity for raising other issues at the workshop.

Chair Slater commented that introducing water quality would bring in many more attendees.

Director Novakowski noted that water quality is a complex issue and will somewhat be taken care of if we can deal regionally with the quantity issues and protection of watersheds. It may detract from our ability to deal with a single issue.

Director Hansma said that he would prefer that the workshop deals with a single issue rather than is watered down by inclusion of too many considerations. He added that other issues will naturally follow and we can set up an ability to deal with these later. Quantity is foremost in the public mind after this past summer and may be better supported by senior government resources.

Director Hein wondered about the meaning of water quantity management and how much control we actually have over quantity.

Director Hobson informed the Board that a recent meeting of the UBCM Environmental Protection Committee dealt with ways in which we can work effectively on integrated environmental issues. This approach is supported by Federal and Provincial agencies. He recalled that at the 2000 workshop sponsored by the Board, participants were invited to bring issues to the table rather than follow a pre-determined agenda. Agencies should include those representing quantity and quality as well as Forestry, Agriculture, and Tourism. The objective of the meeting should be to develop consensus on issues where it is more beneficial to work outside jurisdictional boundaries as in the Fraser Basin where members discuss issues and how to respond. An open agenda will help to limit a protective response for individual local governments.

Chair Slater reminded the Board that the purpose of the funding for the workshop was to further the implementation of the Green Sustainable Economic Development Strategy.

Mr. Stamhuis advised that the staff suggestion to pursue option 2 for the workshop set-up was based on water quantity being a more serious long-term issue. Quality problems can be addressed through treatment and tend to have specific concerns and localized effects. He recommended a clear agenda outlining where we want to go.

Director Novakowski agreed and said that too broad a focus will result in no consensus.

Director Hein stated that water quality legislation in BC over the past three years has resulted in less staff and effort provincially. We have an average of three hundred boil water advisories each day and no single agency addressing these problems. He said that a broad workshop discussion will bring the issues to the table.

Director Hansma replied that we cannot afford to be unfocused at the meeting but we can certainly open the end of the session to discussion of other issues of importance to local government. This may lead to another workshop session. The first session should be a single issue but this is not necessarily more important than other issues.

Mr. Tonn commented that as a facilitator for the workshop he was sure that issues other than quantity would come out regardless of how we tried to structure the session. He said these could be summarized on the agenda with the suggestion that we deal with one issue. This may offend some who see their prime issue is not being discussed and we must keep in mind that a consensus on basin wide action is the desired outcome of the meeting.

Director Hansma left the meeting at 10:50.

Director Field noted that quality was the most important issue from the perception of residents of the North Okanagan. Even though a quantity shortage occurred in Vernon this past summer the public, generally, does not believe there is a water shortage.

There was a discussion on potential speakers to cover the range of topics.

Director Hackman added that additional speakers from the range of users – agriculture, forestry, purveyors - should be included.

Mr. Tonn said that speakers should be high level representatives and noted that perhaps Health should be included.

The possible changes in Federal political structure were raised.

Mr. Stamhuis stated that we should formulate our issues rather than tailor them to Federal funding.

Director Hackman asked if the Water Board was contributing anything to the cost of the workshop.

He was informed that Community Futures had put forward funding to cover all costs.

Mr. Tonn advised that we should send out letters of invitation as soon as possible and suggested dates of January 16th or 23rd as possibilities for the event.

Bev McNaughton – Environment Canada – EC Database Website

Mr. Armour told the Board that Ms. McNaughton had made a presentation at the Summerland Workshop put on by Environment Canada presentation that was very informative about the EC website and the extent of information available as well as how to use website. He felt this information would be useful to Board Members.

Ms. McNaughton gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered a number of questions on information available on the site and how to access it in a useful form.

SEWAGE FACILITIES GRANTS:

City of Kelowna – Okaview Subdivision

Kelowna has applied for and received a Federal Provincial infrastructure grant for this project that Director Hobson brought to the attention of the Board at the last meeting. The purpose of the project is to sewer an area that was previously on septic systems, about half of which were destroyed by this summer's fire. The grant will make the sewer project more acceptable to residents whose share will not be covered by insurance from the fire.

By receiving the Infrastructure Grant and submitting a project budget the Okaview Sewer project meets Water Board criteria.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Water Board Sewage Grant for the Okaview Subdivision in Kelowna be approved."

CARRIED.

Lakeridge Sewer Project – Westbank First Nation

Lakeridge subdivision, which is on WFN land just above the west side of the Kelowna Bridge, is being sewered. The subdivision has been in existence since the 1970's and WFN has paid into the OBWB since 1992 but at a rate that amounts to 20% of what would have been paid on non-reserve lands due to a flat rate agreement rather than a rate based on assessment. The project did not receive Federal Provincial infrastructure grants but received a Federal First Nation's grant for the project. The purpose of qualifying for the provincial grant is to establish that technical criteria for the project have been met that is, connection to a tertiary treatment process.

Director Hobson advised that the property owners had paid full taxes to the province prior to 1992 and he recommended the project be eligible for full Water Board grants.

Director Hein supported this and said that we should show good faith by accepting the project. The arrangement with Cord stands until the end of 2006 at which time he is hopeful that the full amount will be paid as part of a new servicing agreement.

Moved by Director Hein and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the Water Board Sewage Grant for the Lakeridge Subdivision on Westbank First Nation I.R.9 be approved for payment."

CARRIED.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2004-2005 Aquatic Weed and Sewage Fund Provisional Budgets - Inclusion of Water Management Line Item

Mr. Armour recounted the discussion from the October meeting regarding including a line item in the Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 Provisional budget for Water Management Actions or Projects. The money would come from the Sewage Facilities surplus thus the total requisition would not change.

Director Scheffler commented that the Geological Survey of Canada and Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection joint groundwater project in the Okanagan might require some local funding.

Director Hobson proposed that the funds be left in the reserve until specific action items are identified, possibly at the workshop. The Board agreed.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That amended budget for Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005 be accepted."

CARRIED.

Operating costs for Additional Rototiller

Mr. Armour presented an amended 2004 – 2005 weed control budget that included the increased wages and cost for operation of a third rototiller. This amendment depends on approval of construction of the additional machine.

Director Hein said he hoped that some costs might be recovered by doing contract work in the Okanagan if time permits. He asked that Mr. Armour determine an hourly rate for the machine in order to quote on such work.

Moved by Director Hackman and seconded by Director Novakowski:

"That the amended Provisional Budget be accepted."

CARRIED.

Construction of New Aquatic Weed Rototiller – Capital Cost

Mr. Armour reported that the rough cost from 2 estimates was well within our reserve amount. He said these were ballpark estimates for budgeting purposes only so the final cost will vary but not significantly enough to affect the ability to fund construction from the reserve. He asked the Board for approval to proceed and for instructions of the process to be used.

Moved by Director Hobson and seconded by Director Hackman:

"That the Water Board obtain expressions of interest from potential builders of a third rototiller in the Okanagan Valley and that Mr. Armour short list these to a minimum of three applicants. The final bids should be through a formal tender process."

CARRIED.

Water Supply Association Presentation Report

Chair Slater, Mr. Armour and Director Hein made presentations to the WSA to inform them of the structure and goals of the Water Board and provide some information on the need to address water concerns. The need to have purveyors involved in the process right from the start was stressed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Groundwater Assessment Workshop – Nov. 7th Kelowna

Mr. Armour reported that he and Director Scheffler had attended a MWLAP and Geological Survey of Canada workshop where planning for groundwater study in the Okanagan to take place over the next few years. Wanted to know issues and concerns in the Valley. Will study specific aquifers and determine extent, contours, flow directions, recharge, and quality.

Similar projects done or underway in other parts of Canada.

Have funding to do scientific work. Need support of local government to get additional funding to relate work to local govt. needs.

Chief hydro-geologist of GSA said they would much rather work through a regional agency that represents the watershed than individual local governments.

Next Meeting:

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting January 13th, 2004 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY