



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD NOVEMBER 2, 2010, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL,
1171 HARVEY AVE., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

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

REGRETS

Director George Saddleman	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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OBWB STAFF

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

GUESTS

Drew Kaiser	Mission Creek Restoration Initiative
Norm Letnick	MLA Kelowna-Lake Country
Ted van der Gulik	Vice-chair of Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)
Members of the OWSC	

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., welcoming guests, including members of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council in attendance for a joint board/council meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 2, 2010 be approved."

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 5, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

Amendment: A couple small wording changes.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 5, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be adopted as amended.”
CARRIED

5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1 OBWB provisional budget for 2010-2011 – Budget features
5.1.1 Consolidated provisional budget for 2011-2012

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced the provisional budget for 2011-12, noting that the \$3.7 million budget represents 6 cents per thousand dollars’ value of assessed property values. As a percentage of assessments, the Executive Director noted that the requisition is unchanged from the previous two years.

Some 2.8% of new costs are attributable to the board’s recent commitment to the UBCO Water Resources Chair.

An additional increase in budget represents full cost recovery for accounting services at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Directors discussed whether the \$300,000 budgeted for Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants is enough. Directors were told that applicants are strongly encouraged to bring other funding partners to the table. As a result, last year’s funding reached more projects than the previous year.

Dir. James noted that he is opposed to groups asking City of Kelowna for funds to leverage funding for an OBWB grant. Dr. Warwick Sears responded that while this may occur at times, the OBWB funds projects that are of benefit to the entire valley. For example, City of Kelowna may fund a project in its jurisdiction because of local benefits and then OBWB makes a contribution because of the valley-wide benefit.

Of interest in the budget was an Osoyoos Water Science Forum in the fall 2011, and work on groundwater issues.

Mr. van der Gulik noted that the province will likely be drafting enabling legislation for local government to protect groundwater but will be looking for leadership on the issue. The OBWB is in a good position, having started to look at groundwater, he added.

Dr. Warwick Sears was asked to review the budget, make some small changes and bring it back to the board for its December meeting.

6. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

- 6.1 Matters pertaining to OBWB staffing

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 11:15 a.m.”

CARRIED

7. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting resumed at 12:32 p.m.

8. STAFF REPORTS**8.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that discussions were held with RDNO about the OBWB budget approval process. It was agreed that the board will receive an update on projects in October and meet again in December to answer questions on the provisional budget.

Staff are working with Ministry of Environment to address milfoil issues which will allow the rototilling part of the program to move ahead, she added. And, a new trainee has begun work.

A group from Washington has also formed to collaborate on aquatic weed management and has invited the OBWB to sign on to a Memorandum of Understanding as a cooperative partner, to participate in meetings and share best practices information. Dr. Warwick Sears recommended that the OBWB respond with a letter of interest. A final commitment would depend on the terms of the finalized MOU, she said.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter of interest to the other participants in the Upper Columbia River System Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), indicating provisional commitment to the terms expressed in the draft MOU. A final commitment would depend on the terms of the finalized MOU.”

CARRIED

Regarding a question by directors on the Similkameen’s potential participation on the Water Board, Dr. Warwick Sears stated that the OBWB’s strength is in its strong geographic basis and clear recognition of issues within those boundaries. She recommended that the Water Board’s structure remain as is and that the OBWB share resources and provide support to the Similkameen as they develop their own water governance structure.

“THAT the report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated Oct. 26, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

8.1.1 Water Supply & Demand update

Staff are looking to centrally locate information from the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand (OWSD) study, the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) and the Okanagan Water Viewer. This will provide a bank of data for local governments to access. A local government planning expert is writing a report for local governments on what information is available and how to access it.

The OWSD – Phase 3 committee is developing additional scenarios, looking at the impacts of serious drought. The deadline for this work is March 31, 2011. Two more contracts are required to complete the work and meet the terms of the funding agreement. Dr. Warwick Sears recommended the hiring of DHI Water and Environment Inc. and Polar Geoscience Inc.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board enter into a technical support contract with DHI Water and Environment Inc., to assist with the transition and use of the Okanagan Hydrology Model and the Okanagan Water Accounting Model for future scenario modeling; and, that the OBWB further enter into a contract with Polar Geoscience Inc. to interpret and report the results of that modeling process to a maximum of \$30,000 each.”

CARRIED

Ministry of Environment has put the OBWB in contact with BCIT students looking to do a 45-day internship. The Water Board is proposing the time be used to create a web page with a map showing information about Okanagan Lakes, rivers, and water supply areas. One feature will allow people to locate their water source and information about it by typing in their address. The UBCO geography department is interested in assisting.

“THAT the Executive Director Report from Dr. Warwick Sears, dated Oct. 26, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel recommended that four new agencies join the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council for the upcoming 18-month term.

“THAT the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists (APEGBC); City of Vernon, South Okanagan Real Estate Board and the Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board be included as council members for the upcoming 18-month term.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director Report from Mr. Jatel, dated Oct. 26, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

8.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson noted the success of the OBWB’s “From Rain to Resource” workshop held in Kelowna Oct. 28 and 29. Organizers reached their target of 100 attendees, including elected officials and local government staff, and others, working in rainwater management. There was also extensive media coverage. Presentations will be up shortly on the OBWB website (www.obwb.ca).

The WaterSmart Innovations conference, Oct. 6-8 in Las Vegas, provided extensive information on public outreach initiatives and studies. A few slides were presented from one session that looked at what motivates behavior change. Ms. Jackson answered a number of questions from directors and invited people to view the presentations at www.watersmartinnovations.com/2010_sessions.php. Topics include: Alternate [Water] Sources (with a large focus on stormwater); Code, Policy and Rates; Conservation and Incentive Programs; Construction and Development; Drought Management; Education; Landscapes; Marketing and Outreach; Plumbing, Appliances and Fixtures; Utility and Infrastructure; and Water Loss Management.

An invitation to take a quick survey was sent to the Water Board’s distribution list, including elected officials, Stewardship Council members and other interested individuals, asking for feedback on current OBWB programs and services and where efforts should be focused in the coming year. Ms. Jackson encouraged board members to complete the survey if they haven’t already.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator Report from Ms. Jackson, dated Oct. 26, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

8.4 Office and Grants Administrator Report

Ms. Tesche reported that recipients of last year's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants are beginning to submit midpoint reports.

Staff were hoping to start rototilling earlier this year to address milfoil, however, the discovery of an endangered mussel in the north and south Okanagan is being reviewed by the province. Staff are now waiting to see what areas are approved for the milfoil crew to work in.

"THAT the Office and Grants Administrator Report from Ms. Tesche, dated Oct. 24, 2010, be received."

CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Letter from MLA Ben Stewart, Ministry of Community and Rural Development, regarding Topsoil Bylaws Primer grant

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the \$10,000 grant from the province will allow the Water Board to develop a Topsoil Bylaws Toolkit, similar to its Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit, and will include model bylaws that local government can use. Proper topsoil, she added, relates to good water quality and quantity.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Ben Stewart, Ministry of Community and Rural Development, regarding a Topsoil Bylaws Primer grant."

CARRIED

10. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Farm classification memorandum – Ted van der Gulik, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. van der Gulik asked the board to send a letter to the province supporting an initiative that would allow local governments, or water purveyors, to request growers to not grow a crop in Level 3 drought conditions when there is a severe water shortage. The letter should further request that the province waive the income required to retain the farm status in the drought stricken region for that year only.

Mr. van der Gulik noted this was an issue last winter in the North Okanagan. Fortunately, the rains came in the spring and farmers were able to farm, but a policy such as this would allow us to be ready if a drought hits the Okanagan in coming years, he added.

There was much discussion around the implications of such a policy. The board agreed to send a letter supporting the principle issues of assisting farmers to save water in times of drought without losing their licence while supporting agricultural land.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff draft a letter to the province regarding waiving the income requirement for farm status in Level 3 drought conditions."

CARRIED

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Dec. 7, 2010 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

12. ADJOURNMENT

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 2, 2010 be adjourned at 1:25 p.m."

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director