

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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2010, AT  
COAST CAPRI HOTEL, 1171 HARVEY AVE., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Present**

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, Chair
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Denise Neilsen
BC Fruit Growers Association	Lorraine Bennest
BC Ground Water Association	Remi Allard
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch	Steve Matthews
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
City of Kelowna	Mark Watt
City of Vernon	Rob Dickinson
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Dan Millar
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Okanagan College	Douglas MacLeod
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	Howard Neufeld
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Jamie Pepper (alternate)
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Chris Radford (alternate)
Regional District North Okanagan	Renee Clark (alternate)
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert
South Okanagan Real Estate Board	Elden Ulrich
Urban Development Institute	Robert Evans
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasco

**Regrets**

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Doug Edwards
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Resource Stewardship & Parks	Ken Cunningham
Oceola Fish and Game Club	Lorne Davies
Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society	Mark McKenney
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck

**STAFF:**

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

**GUESTS:**

B.C. Ministry Natural Resource Ops, OWSC Source Protection Cttee.	Solvej Patschke
Environment Canada, Ecosystem Coordination Office	Ruta Fluxgold
Kelowna Capital News	Judie Steeves
Mission Creek Restoration Society	Drew Kaiser
MLA Kelowna-Lake Country	Norm Letnick
OBWB Chair, RDOS	Stu Wells
OBWB Director, RDNO	Buffy Baumbrough
OBWB Director, RDNO	Rick Fairbairn
OBWB Director, RDNO	Gyula Kiss
OBWB Director, RDCO	James Baker
OBWB Director, RDCO	Doug Findlater
OBWB Director, RDCO	Graeme James
OBWB Director, RDOS	Gordon Clark
B.C. Ministry of Environment	Vic Jensen
RDNO, Coldstream City Councillor	Maria Besso
Water Supply Association of BC	Toby Pike (alternate)
UBC Grad Student	Lisa Dahreuge

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Denise Neilsen

Seconded by Remi Allard

*“That the agenda for the Nov. 2, 2010 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held Oct. 14, 2010, at Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna

Moved by Dan Millar

Seconded by Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo

*“That the minutes from the Oct. 14, 2010 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**Drew Kaiser**

**Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI)**

Mr. Kaiser presented results from the restoration work conducted on Mission Creek. MCRI includes Okanagan Nation Alliance, Friends of Mission Creek, Central Okanagan Land Trust, the City of Kelowna and others.

The creek, he noted, once produced a healthy population of stream spawning kokanee and rainbow trout, but this has dropped significantly in recent years due to channelizing and dyking. This work was done for flood protection but it has led to loss of natural habitat features.

Some 16,776 kokanee returned this year to the creek – up from last year – but still one of the lowest totals in the last 10 years, said Mr. Kaiser. The objective of the restoration initiative is to renaturalize the creek. This will be done by setting dykes back, widening the streamway, controlling sediment, re-establishing the floodplain, reconnecting remnant meanders, planting riparian vegetation and conducting bank restoration, and creating wetlands and habitat for species at risk. Flood protection will still be maintained, he noted, but it is hoped that the work will rebuild the kokanee population, ensure wild stock conservation and enhance recreational opportunities along the greenway.

Success to date

The initiative has identified priority properties for purchase. OBWB grants have assisted with public outreach, a sediment source study, and a channel assessment. The group has also received funding from City of Kelowna’s Habitat Compensation Bank, a fund fed by projects that affect fish habitat (e.g. Gordon Drive bridge) that groups can draw on to do habitat work.

Next steps

Mr. Kaiser said his group is now looking to continue landowner consultation, hold public information

meetings, and acquire important land parcels to restore Mission Creek.

It was noted that the creek was channelized to address flood protection. Mr. Kaiser was asked if flood analysis has been done to look at the effects of naturalizing. He agreed that such a study needs to be done.

## **5. DISCUSSION: DIALOGUE ON OKANAGAN WATER – OKANAGAN SOURCE PROTECTION STRATEGY**

Mr. Jatel opened discussion on an Okanagan Source Protection Strategy, inviting council members to break into small groups and begin some dialogue. Comments were compiled and will be part of a report prepared by Mr. Jatel. However, a few highlights from the four groups follows.

Group 1: A source protection plan (SPP) could be difficult; Common standards need to be developed around source protection; Regarding enforcement and the right to regulate – it's unclear who would regulate, the boundaries of local government cause some difficulty; There was question as to who the source protection strategy (SPS) would be for.

Group 2: A SPP should reflect environmental water too, and riparian and environmental protection is part of that; Important to have a plan for the valley but should have a broad context and look at quality and quantity; Groundwater was discussed and how to protect it; Multi-jurisdictional use like recreation and boat traffic crossing over water utilities are problems; Cross-border issues need to be looked at; Plan could start with defining area of plan, hazards and providing recommendations from a high-level perspective.

Group 3: It's hard to get beyond the issues of mudboggers and recreation; Drinking source protection was discussed; Stormwater management was discussed and use of grey water; Point and non-point source pollution was also addressed.

Group 4: A valley-wide protection plan will be more difficult; Perhaps there should be focus on three areas – large lake, groundwater and reservoir areas; The plan will need to look at quantity and quality.

Following the reporting on the break-out sessions, it was suggested that the council needs to determine who will implement any SPP. Dr. Warwick Sears responded that the plan could be very much like the council's Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS). Although the council is focussing on some areas of the strategy, several agencies are moving forward on various recommendations within the document.

Chair Bauer suggested that OBWB staff look at how this could proceed and report back to council.

## **6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1 OBWB Project Updates**

Mr. Jatel reported that the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool is expected to launch in January. Also, the OBWB received a provincial grant to develop a Topsoil Bylaw Toolkit. Finally, staff have submitted a funding proposal to AgCanada that will look at the value of water, develop a water pricing toolkit, an agriculture water pricing survey, and research into an agricultural water reserve.

## **7. ROUND TABLE – MEMBER UPDATES**

- Dr. Bauer: The Aggregate Task Force is looking for funding to do public outreach and for an aggregate study. A lot of progress and good work is being done in the Bear Creek Watershed, for example, to control erosion and more should be done to look at managing multiple uses in the area.
- Mr. Birtles: Interior Health has been busy working on source protection plans.
- Mr. Allard: The BC Groundwater Association is providing input on the first draft of the Water Act

Modernization report.

- Dr. Guy: The BC branch of the Canadian Water Resources Association is organizing seminars, including a look at the flooding in Bella Coola and the slide in Oliver. The CWRA's next national conference is in St. John's, Nfld. in June
- Mr. Hrasko: The Water Supply Association of B.C. held its annual conference in Osoyoos. Utilities are busy, looking to develop long term water supply strategies.
- Mr. Matthews: B.C. Ministry of Environment is going through a reorganization. Staff are also reviewing more than 40 dams, following up on the Testalinden Dam break.
- Ms. Fluxgold: The Government of Canada announced today that it has rejected the Prosperity Mine proposal.
- Mr. MacLeod: Okanagan College's water program is being revamped. The college's Centre of Excellence in Penticton, which opened March 31, 2010, will include rain roofs and storm collection.
- Mr. Millar: The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control is looking forward to the possibility of another Water Science Forum next fall.
- Mr. Pepper: Okanagan Nation Alliance is doing fish habitat and flow control assessments.
- Mr. Jensen: Ministry of Environment is developing common water quality monitoring strategies for municipalities. Monitoring is being conducted on Okanagan Lake and will be extended to Vernon and other areas.
- Ms. Patschke: Ministry of Environment is participating on the technical advisory committees that are conducting various water source assessments, including one at Silver Star.
- Ms. Tesche: The OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant applications will be available in early December. Mid-term reports are being provided by last year's grant recipients.
- Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo: The Okanagan Habitat Atlas is available for viewing on the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program website at [www.okcp.ca](http://www.okcp.ca).
- Ms. Clark: The Regional District of North Okanagan is studying the economic impacts of drought in Greater Vernon. The RDNO is also working with OBWB and the province on developing drought signage and a communication plan. Staff are also involved in a province-wide Drinking Water Week committee with the BC Water and Waste Association.
- Ms. Dahreuge: As a UBCO student, I am working on a thesis on Okanagan Water Governance. Thesis supervisor is John Janmaat.
- Mr. Radford: Regional District of Central Okanagan is conducting source water quality studies and completing metering projects in some areas. A new water system is being constructed in Fintry.
- Dr. Warwick Sears: The OBWB's "From Rain to Resource" workshop was very successful. The event was the culmination of discussions we have had over the years on rainwater management and the council's Sustainable Water Strategy.
- Dr. Bauer: SFU was here with Adaptation to Climate Change Team, looking for information on why the Okanagan is as successful as it is in planning and preparing on these matters. The Stewardship Council is recognized as an important piece in the managing water puzzle. Sometimes it feels like the council is not making progress but it is seen as a leader.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held Dec. 9, 2010.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

**Moved by Dan Millar**

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

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**