



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD SEPT. 9, 2011, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY
1380 ELLIS ST., 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 Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. director Dan Ashton	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gwen Bridge	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator
Michelle Cook	Water Research and Policy Intern

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2011 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 5, 2011 at Regional District of North Okanagan, Coldstream.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 5, 2011 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be adopted."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS**5.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Warwick Sears presented her report to the board noting the Water Management Program was renewed by the three Okanagan regional districts. A provisional budget will be brought to the board in October. UBC-O's Water Resource Chair is close to being finalized, she added.

Dr. Warwick Sears provided information regarding recent grant applications. An application was made for a \$10,000 Infrastructure Planning Grant as part of a joint OBWB-Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program project. The project will integrate the information from the Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM) study with current Official Community Plans and Regional Growth Strategies, identifying currently protected areas and what other areas should be protected.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board supports the Infrastructure Planning Grant application to conduct an Okanagan Lake Foreshore Gap analysis."

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

The board was told about funding applications to Natural Resources Canada for five small short-term projects, totaling \$142,275. The projects include: 1) further study of the Okanagan water supply and demand models in various sub-basins to help local planning, 2) a tools planning workshop for local government staff, 3) a project to develop techniques using satellite imagery to assess snow/water, 4) assisting with an SFU project that will survey water utility customers regarding their acceptance of various water conservation policies, and 5) a source protection workshop for Okanagan water suppliers.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board supports the funding applications as submitted to Natural Resources Canada on August 29, 2011."

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

The board asked for an update on the milfoil issue in Okanogan County. Dr. Warwick Sears noted that no decision has been made, but the U.S. seems to be leaning in favour of use of herbicide control. The OBWB is continuing to rototill where it can, mapping its work areas. The maps will be submitted with the OBWB's work application to B.C.'s Ministry of Environment, she added.

Alt. Dir. Ashton added that milfoil seems to be an issue in the south end of Okanogan Lake, on the east and west sides of the lake. Staff will look at this.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Sept. 1, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the groundwater well monitoring program noting, in addition to the six already installed in the South Okanagan, five more wells are being arranged in the North and Central Okanagan.

Dir. Bauer added that the Water Stewardship Council is moving ahead on a number of other priorities including source water protection and hydrometric monitoring (HM). The HM committee is looking at adopting the same funding formula as the groundwater well project,

sharing costs between the provincial and federal governments and municipalities where a monitoring site is established. In response to the FIM report, the council is also looking at how to create a vision for the Okanagan's shoreline.

Dir. Pike exited the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Sept. 1, 2011, be received."
CARRIED

5.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the launch of the "Make Water Work" campaign as a pilot project in Vernon over the summer. The campaign will be reviewed over the fall and winter and built out to create a valley-wide ad campaign for water conservation in the spring/summer 2012.

The Water Board has also launched a YouTube channel as an additional form of communication with the public. YouTube is the world's second largest used search engine, added Ms. Jackson, explaining the significance of adding this to our communication toolbox. The channel is a holding place for a number of videos, including the 1970's "For Our Children's Children" – the story of the formation of the OBWB, as well as videos created for the Water Board and WaterWise this summer.

Ms. Jackson also noted the very high volume of stories, connected to the OBWB, in the media over the summer.

The board discussed what drives water conservation and noted that metering seems to encourage people to turn the taps off. It was further noted that with conservation comes less funding to utilities and the concern that there isn't the money to address ongoing operating costs. There was recognition that an appropriate valley-wide pricing structure could help alleviate this problem.

"THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator's Report, dated Sept. 1, 2011, be received."

CARRIED

6. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

6.1 Matters pertaining to UBC-O Water Research Chair

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 1:06 p.m."

CARRIED

7. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

Dir. Bauer exited the meeting at 1: 20 p.m.

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Letter to Environment Canada

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send the attached letter to Canadian Environment Minister Peter Kent."

CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Letter re: OBWB Water Management Program from Regional District of Central Okanagan
- 9.2 Letter re: Milfoil Control Program from District of West Kelowna to B.C. Ministry of Environment

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the correspondence from Regional District of Central Okanagan and District of West Kelowna.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be October 4, 2011 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2011 be adjourned at 1: 23 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director