



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCT. 4, 2011, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
9848 ABERDEEN RD, COLDSTREAM, 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 Gordon Clark	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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- 5.1.4 Public consultation on the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel
- 6. 3 Rose Valley Reservoir

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 4, 2011 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2011 at Okanagan Regional Library, Kelowna.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2011 at Okanagan Regional Library in Kelowna be adopted."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

- 5.1 Executive Director Report

5.1.1 Washington State milfoil control

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that herbicide control for milfoil on Osoyoos Lake in the U.S. has been approved and the OBWB has been told that it will be notified prior to application of the chemical.

5.1.4 Public consultation on the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel

Department of Fisheries and Oceans is holding public consultations in Penticton regarding the potential listing of the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel as endangered. If listed, it could affect milfoil control. Staff will be providing comment at the meeting. Board members and their communities were encouraged to also attend and speak to how the listing could affect them and activities around their waterfronts.

Dir. Ashton entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Staff will prepare a position paper on the issue and present it to the board for feedback. It will then be provided to DFO in time to meet their Nov. 30 deadline.

5.1.3 Building Sustainable Communities sponsorship

A request for sponsorship funding for the 2012 Building Sustainable Communities conference in Kelowna - water session, was brought to the board for discussion.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board provide \$1,000 sponsorship to support the water session programming of the 2012 Building Sustainable Communities conference in Kelowna.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Sept. 27, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Chair Wells entered the meeting at 10:24 a.m. Vice-chair Fairbairn continued to chair the meeting.

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted a recommendation from the Water Stewardship Council regarding shoreline management. There is a need to develop a plan for the Okanagan shoreline and work with municipalities and senior levels of government to do this, he added.

After some discussion, staff was asked to come back to the board with a recommendation on how the OBWB might take a lead role in such an effort.

“THAT Okanagan Basin Water Board staff provide the Board with a recommendation on how the agency could take a lead role in helping create Shoreline Management Guidelines for Okanagan Lake.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Sept. 27, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

5.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson provided a report on the OBWB Annual General Meeting and the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated Sept. 27, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum Report

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the Osoyoos forum, noting a recommendation from the U.S. that guaranteed flows be considered as part of the new Operating Orders for Osoyoos Lake and its importance in protecting fish. It was recommended that a technical summary be submitted to the International Joint Commission (IJC) that addresses fish flows but also protects Okanagan interests.

The board agreed and noted the importance of having the OBWB at the table to represent Canadian Okanagan interests. Funds for the report will come from previously awarded funds from Natural Resources Canada.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board direct staff to commission a report, bringing together the results of the eight IJC studies, to provide a recommendation on protecting fish passage and meeting water needs below Zosel Dam without compromising Canadian Okanagan water interests.”

CARRIED

Dr. Warwick Sears went on to note that the IJC has proposed the creation of an International Watershed Board that would be part of the renewal of Operating Orders and would replace the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control.

There was some discussion about how an International Watershed Board (IWB) could include greater representation of the various stakeholders, including First Nations. The existing board is made up of representatives from Environment Canada, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers – who meet once a year, and whose discussion is limited to certain issues. The IJC has funding to establish an IWB, added Dr. Warwick Sears.

There was some concern about potential downloading of costs in the future, and a suggestion that perhaps an additional local committee could be struck instead.

The board decided to wait to hear more from the IJC before making any judgments or motions on the matter.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum Report, dated Sept. 26, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 2012 Budget Features Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the board with the proposed 2012-2013 budget, noting the suggested Water Board requisition is \$3.5 million, down 7.3% from the previous fiscal year.

The board decided to discuss budget approval later in the agenda, following the in-camera discussion.

6.3 Rose Valley Reservoir

Dir. Findlater spoke to the board about District of West Kelowna concerns regarding the Government of B.C.'s proposed land swap with Westbank First Nations, related to land around a DWK drinking water reservoir. A letter was also presented from aquatic consultant Heather Larratt, voicing concerns about the fragility of the water source and the need for protection. Dir. Findlater noted that while the current WFN Chief and Council have assured the district that they will ensure the area's protection, DWK is concerned that there is no guarantee that the area will be protected in the future.

There needs to be guaranteed protection of the reservoir, he added, taking into account future growth and need for water, and the cost of finding another water source, he added.

After some discussion, the Water Board agreed to forward a letter to the province voicing their concern about the disposition of lands around the drinking water reservoir, noting it has forwarded similar letters in the past. It was suggested that a copy of the OBWB's policy on such matters should be attached.

“THAT Okanagan Basin Water Board staff draft a letter for the board to review, voicing concern about the provincial disposition of lands around the Rose Valley Reservoir; THAT the approved letter be forwarded to Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson with a copy of the current OBWB policy on such matters; AND THAT the letter be cc'd to Kevin Dickenson with FLNRO, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Environment Terry Lake, Minister of Health Mike De Jong, Westside-Kelowna MLA Ben Stewart and other areas MLAs, Westbank First Nations, Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and District of West Kelowna.”

CARRIED

Dir. Pike left the meeting 12:20 p.m.

7. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

7.1 Matters pertaining to staff compensation

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

CARRIED

8. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

8.1 Regular meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

The OBWB rose and reported the following motion:

“THAT the 2012-13 OBWB Annual Budget be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

Dir. Bauer abstained.

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be November 1, 2011 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 4, 2011 be adjourned at 1: 50 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director