

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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011, AT
BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, Chair
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture	Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Denise Neilsen
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
BC Fruit Growers Association	Lorraine Bennest
BC Ground Water Association	Remi Allard
B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Ops.	Ken Cunningham
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Dan Millar
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Oceola Fish and Game Club	Lorne Davies
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Margaret Bakelaar
Regional District North Okanagan	Anna Page
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasko

Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Enviro. Branch	Doug Edwards
B.C. Ministry of Environment, Fish and Wildlife Branch	Steve Matthews
City of Kelowna	Mark Watt
City of Vernon	Rob Dickenson
Kelowna Fish and Game Club	Doug Flintoft
Okanagan College	Douglas MacLeod
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	Howard Neufeld
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Gwen Bridge
Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society	Mark McKenney
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert
South Okanagan Real Estate Board	Kevin Kole
Urban Development Institute	Robert Evans

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications and Research Coordinator	Corinne Jackson
OBWB Office and Grants Administrator	Genevieve Dunbar
OBWB, Water Projects Coordinator	Melissa Tesche
OBWB, Water Policy and Research Intern	Michelle Cook

GUESTS:

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Ops.	Solvej Patschke
Black Press – Kelowna Capital News	Judie Steeves
Environment Canada	Deborah Glanville
Forrex	Suzan Lapp
Regional District North Okanagan	Renee Clark
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Zoe Kirk
Southern Interior Stock Association	Dave Casorso
UBC Okanagan	John Janmaat
Water Supply Association of BC	Toby Pike

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bernie Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add item 9.1 Roundtable re: WSC operations

Moved by Rob Birtles

Seconded by Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo

“That the agenda for the Dec. 8, 2011 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held Nov. 10, 2011, at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

Moved by Rob Birtles

Seconded by Kerry Rouck

“That the minutes from the Nov. 10, 2011 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears reported that there was no OBWB board meeting in December due to local government elections. She added that a number of the board members were re-elected. The makeup of the board will be determined by the appointments made by the three Okanagan regional districts.

5. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. van der Gulik: Environment Canada has been in contact with B.C. Ministry of Environment regarding a potential partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense program. MoE is interested in working with the OBWB to bring the program to B.C.
- Mr. Hrasko: Water Supply Association of BC held its AGM in October. Source protection is a common issue of concern.
- Mr. Millar: The Environment Canada representative to the WSC noted he is retiring as of Dec. 23. The Osoyoos Lake Board of Control received a submission from the OBWB regarding the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. Others who are interested in submitting comments should do so as soon as possible.
- Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo: The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program rep noted she is taking a maternity leave soon. Her position will be covered by Aaron Deans. The OCCP is applying for funding to develop a biodiversity conservation strategy as well as further Foreshore Inventory Mapping work.
- Ms. Dunbar: Applications will be available next week for the OBWB’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. The deadline is Feb. 24. The *Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!* guidebook for Okanagan residents is also available.
- Ms. Patschke: The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) staffer is going on sabbatical to study integrated water management in Australia.
- Mr. Rouck: The three major forest licences in the Okanagan are looking to redistribute operating areas, which will share mature timber post-pine beetle more effectively. This should be in place by the end of the fiscal year and may change who is operating in which watershed.

- Ms. Bakelaar: The final report for the Source Water Assessment and Protection Plan for Upper Fintry has been completed, as well as a draft source assessment for Killiney Beach. Other ongoing projects include the silvopasture pilot, OCCP projects, and Joe Rich stream restoration.
- Mr. Cunningham: FLNRO is welcoming a new regional hydrologist, Neil Gellar. Skye Thompson has moved over to the groundwater division.
- Dr. Neilsen: Just returned from Australia on a water efficiency tour focused on how cherry growers cope with water shortages, noting that in the 1980s, water was allocated to properties based on crop coverage at the time—this has not worked out well for them.
- Mr. Allard: BC Ground Water Association is continuing work on accreditation of drillers for non-water well projects like geothermal. BCGWA's workshop for well-owners held in November was a success.
- Ms. Kirk: Work has begun on the OK Falls wastewater treatment plant. Work is ongoing on the Naramata metering project.
- Ms. Tesche: The Climate Adaptation Tools workshop was postponed to March 1, 2012 because of lack of registrations. OBWB is working to increase interest in the next couple of months. Work has begun on collection and archiving of Okanagan non-integrated hydrometric data.
- Dr. Warwick Sears: Planning for the upcoming year has begun, with plans for additional modelling that will expand on hydrometric connectivity work. OBWB staff will also be involved in a water governance workshop on the Coast.
- Chair Bauer: A reminder that BC Sustainable Communities conference will be held in late February, with a portion focusing on water.
- Mr. Jatel: The Agricultural Water Reserve committee is moving forward with modelling work. Work continues on the Source Protection Primer. The hydrometric stations reestablishment project is going well, with Lake Country showing interest in partnering on the first hydrometric station. Work continues on the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT), with a focus on information flow between the utilities and the B.C. government.
- Mr. Pike: FLNRO is asking for feedback on the Natural Resource Road Act, which could be critical for source water protection. WSABC will be submitting an official position.
- Ms. Clark: Current projects at RDNO include completing work in snow courses, putting in piezometers, and developing watershed signs. The Kalamalka Lake watershed assessment was endorsed by RDNO.
- Ms. Page: RDNO staff are currently assisting in the Shuswap's watershed sustainability planning process.

6. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Kelowna Joint Water Committee

Bob Hrasko – Black Mountain Irrigation District

Mr. Hrasko introduced Kelowna Joint Water Committee's draft Integrated Water Supply Plan, developed to coordinate the city's five major water utilities (South East Kelowna Irrigation District, Black Mountain Irrigation District, Rutland Waterworks District, Glenmore Ellison Improvement District and City of Kelowna.)

The joint committee reviewed all utilities in Kelowna, including 13 smaller utilities. SEKID, BMID, RWW, City of Kelowna and GEID, all completed an inventory and determined their demands. Together they had 41 sources of water, mostly ground water wells, but also four creek intakes and a few large lake intakes. The committee then ranked these sources into primary domestic, secondary domestic, and irrigation sources based on water quality and the treatment they received.

The committee then calculated water demands to find out where water is currently being used to determine how the systems could be separated and where there would be an advantage of installing dual pipe systems. They examined climate change scenarios with growth projections for Kelowna, and believe that Kelowna will have enough water to meet future demands, Mr. Hrasko noted.

Finally, they committee developed water supply and treatment plans, noting UV disinfection where needed. Mr. Hrasko added that if source water is clean enough and treated with chlorine and UV, then filtration is not required. Secondary separation is not cost-effective unless water is being filtered, because filtering is very expensive (whereas chlorine and UV treatment are not as costly).

The cost for the KJWC to carry out all the stages of their plan, including filtration, will be almost \$362 million. They calculated potential rate impacts, both with and without funding assistance from the B.C. government. Without financial assistance, rate increases would be substantial, as much as \$1000+/household.

In response to questions, Mr. Hrasko noted that most utilities have enough funds in their reserves to do the work, but SEKID would have to have a borrowing referendum. The areas that are most challenged to meet the plan are SEKID and GEID, he added.

Mr. Hrasko explained that the report is still in draft form and the executive summary is available on the City of Kelowna's website. The committee also held a governance workshop, where they proposed eight different models for the future of water governance in Kelowna, he added.

Mr. Hrasko concluded his presentation with a series of photos showing the installation of the new lake water intake for GEID.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Discussion: Irrigation workshop

Ted van der Gulik, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. van der Gulik told council members that he would be presenting a workshop on the Okanagan Irrigation Management (OKIM) web-tool 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 12, just preceding the next WSC meeting.

The workshop, he explained, is intended as primer on Okanagan irrigation. To be effective, the workshop will be limited to approximately 30 and is well-suited to those working with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and like-organizations. People can register through the OBWB.

Dr. Warwick Sears, Ms. Dunbar and Ms. Tesche exited the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS & DISCUSSION

8.1 Agriculture Water Reserve Committee

Dr. Neilsen reported that the committee is looking at various modeling programs, studying their limitations, ways to improve them, and determining the best way to proceed on the Agricultural Water Reserve work.

In response to a question, she added that groundwater will be looked at as part of the AWR and will likely use the WEAP modeling tool.

Chair Bauer concluded the discussion noting recent comments from Bob Sandford (with the UN Water for Life Decade), that the OBWB is being looked to as a leader in B.C.'s Water Act Modernization process and this project is an important as part of this work.

8.2 Hydrometric Monitoring Committee

Mr. van der Gulik noted that the province is looking at building a system that can house its climate network information. There is some discussion about the possibility of housing hydrometric monitoring information in the same place.

Ms. Glanville added that Environment Canada has approved the deploying of two more buoys to monitor evaporation on Okanagan Lake. This is in addition to the three that were put on the lake in the summer.

Mr. Jatel reported that the committee is working with Don Dobson on re-establishing 15 federal hydrometric stations in the next three to five years in the Okanagan. Also, it is trying to gather the data from a number of hydrometric stations that exist in the valley which are uncoordinated but which can help provide a clearer picture of our water supplies.

8.3 Source Water Protection Committee

Ms. Cook introduced the Source Water Protection discussion paper.

Committee member Mr. Birtles noted that the paper shows what various agencies are doing in the area of source water protection (SWP). Council members were asked to submit feedback by the end of December so the next draft can be brought to the WSC's January meeting.

Chair Bauer noted that SWP is a complex issue and suggested that the council think about who is the audience for this document and what is its purpose.

Dr. Guy entered the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

There was some discussion that in addition to the need to note the challenges to source protection that solutions need to be emphasized. Mr. Jatel said that staff will address this.

Mr. Pike noted that one area that should be looked at is provincial legislation which states that it is up to the water purveyor to prove that activity will harm a water supply in order to prevent that activity. Instead, he said, it should be up to the person/agency looking to conduct activity around a watershed to prove no harm.

Mr. Dobson exited the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Ms. Clark added that an inventory of what policies exist to protect water should be included.

9. OTHER BUSINESS - ROUNDTABLE

Members were invited to discuss the operations of the WSC and potential improvements

- Mr. van der Gulik: Like member updates and themes for sessions so can have strong dialogue but not enough time for discussion and getting solutions on the table. Would like to be an action-oriented body: gathering information, discussing and hammering out solutions.
- Mr. Hesketh: Meetings are valuable, educational, and the information is then taken out to the ranching community which wouldn't normally get this.
- Mr. Hrasko: Like to see functional, leadership direction.
- Mr. Buchler: More dialogue would be good, but the committee structure is also useful – appreciate the dialogue that goes into the material that is presented to council.
- Mr. Page: Find the meetings valuable because of the various perspectives that are represented. Also, the council is a great way to get various groups talking with each other which is useful.
- Dr. Janmaat: The council meetings are a valuable way to stay plugged in on water issues.
- Mr. Pike: As a Board Director it's important council know that the board is very interested in what the council sees as issues and solutions. Members should continue to feel comfortable bringing their perspectives and issues to the table.
- Ms. Glanville: Have found the collaboration to be valuable.
- Mr. Millar: The council is a great way to network – knowing who to call for information on various issues. Would be valuable to alternate presentations between local stakeholders and outside experts (e.g. a presentation from the local real estate sector would be useful).

- Ms. Bakelaar: The networking and hearing member updates is interesting. Different perspectives are useful. Connecting science to policy to action is important; The council and its connection to the board does this.
- Mr. Cunningham: Member updates are useful. Might be helpful to post recommendations from the Sustainable Water Strategy when council is discussing topics covered in the document. This could help guide discussion and keep the council's work connected to the strategy.
- Dr. Neilsen: The link between academics and various levels of government, and other stakeholders is valuable. Like the presentations and discussions. Maybe one topic instead of two per meeting since second seems to be cut short.
- Mr. Allard: As a representative for the BC Groundwater Association and the council's Groundwater Committee, really enjoy dialogue and hearing other perspectives, as well as learning about the work of other committees.
- Mr. Davies: It is important to continue to try and reach the public with our messages and deliver projects that do this. The Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! guide is a good example.
- Ms. Bennest: The coffee breaks are valuable for networking. Agree that we need to be action-oriented and continue to forward ideas to the board.
- Ms. Steeves: The meetings have been great for generating story ideas.
- Dr. Guy: Agree with the idea of being action-oriented, and of the importance of being able to provide technical and policy advice to the board.
- Chair Bauer: Would like to see more policy statements developed and adopted by the board.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held January 12, 2012 at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Moved by Brian Guy

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of Dec. 8, 2011 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director