

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

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012, AT
BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, 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 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
City of Kelowna	Mark Watt
City of Vernon	Rob Dickinson
Oceola Fish and Game Club	Lorne Davies
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Margaret Bakelaar
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasko

Regrets

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture	Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Enviro. Branch	Doug Edwards
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Kendall Woo
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Kelowna Fish and Game Club	Doug Flintoft
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Aaron Deans (alternate)
Okanagan College	Douglas MacLeod
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	Howard Neufeld
Okanagan Nation Alliance	James Pepper
Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society	Mark McKenney
Regional District North Okanagan	Anna Page
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck
South Okanagan Real Estate Board	Scott Rowlands
Urban Development Institute	Robert Evans

STAFF:

OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications Director	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Office and Projects Manager	James Littlely
OBWB, First Nations Liaison Intern	Kyla Lavalee

GUESTS:

District of Coldstream Council	Maria Besso
FORREX	Suzan Lapp
Kelowna Capital News	Judie Steeves
Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers Association	Christine Dendy
Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen	Zoe Kirk
UBC Okanagan	John Janmaat
Urban Systems	Michelle Cook

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bernie Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 7.1 was deferred to the following month.

Moved by Don Dobson

Seconded by Remi Allard

“That the agenda for the April 12, 2012 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 March 8, 2012, at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

Moved by Bryan Guy

Seconded by Don Dobson

“That the minutes from the March 8, 2012 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT

Mr. Jatel reported on the latest Board meeting and read a letter from Chair Stu Wells, thanking Water Stewardship Council members for volunteering their time and expertise to the OBWB. A joint board/council meeting was also suggested.

The board was told about a Climate Change Workshop planned for June 22. The workshop is geared to Okanagan mayors, chiefs and board directors and to local government senior staff (e.g. CAOs).

There was also discussion about the proposed use of the native weevil to control milfoil in other jurisdictions.

The board approved grants under its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Program and discussed possible improvements to the program. This will be further discussed at an upcoming strategic planning session with the board. Council Chair Bauer invited council members to provide input to the grant program as well.

Chair Bauer also noted discussion at the March board meeting regarding the use of Qualified Environmental Professionals, adding the board asked if the council might want to look at the issue. The board has also asked the council to inform them of any new or emerging threats to water, he added.

5. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Ms. Dendy: BC Ag Council provided input to the Water Act Modernization (WAM) process and was told that first draft may be available in the fall and then there would be public consultation. BCAC is continuing to work on the concept of an Ag Water Reserve.
- Mr. Buchler: BCAC has also been looking at groundwater and the system of First in Time, First in Right. Town of Oliver was able to settle with CUPE and an agreement is now in place that ag water is considered an essential service.

- Dr. Nielsen: Ag Food Canada staff recently attended a meeting between Canada and China on climate change and water resources. With the federal budget there will be some changes including going back to a more regional administration approach.
- Dr. Guy: The CWRA holds its annual conference June 5-8 in Banff at the same time the geophysical union is holding its conference, also in Banff, which works well. Early bird rates are available until April 30.
- Dr. Lapp: Provincial and federal staff, the OBWB and FORREX are working out details to hold a drought tournament in the Okanagan.

Bob Hrasko entered the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

- Mr. Dobson: Working with Urban Systems, we are working with the OBWB on re-establishing hydrometric stations sometime this year.
- Dr. Janmaat: As water research chair at UBC Okanagan, we are looking at water storage options, and water quality data analysis with Columbia Basin Trust.
- Mr. Dickenson: Vernon is finalizing stage 2 of its Liquid Waste Management Plan and RDNO is working on its Master Water Plan which ties together nicely.
- Ms. Besso: RDNO held a meeting with elected officials re: its new MWP for 2012 and there was discussion around separation of ag and domestic water.
- Mr. Hrasko: We are 20% above normal snow pack in Mission Creek and are expecting things will be fine. We are helping with the Glenmore pump station development.
- Ms. Bakelaar: RDCO is working on a foreshore structures bylaw as well as Foreshore Inventory Mapping outreach. The regional district received funding for a groundwater monitoring well in Ellison. The Regional Growth Strategy is moving forward and water resources are one of the issues being looked at.
- Mr. Davies: OCEOLA is working with Okanagan Nation Alliance on a Middle Vernon Creek project.
- Mr. Cunningham: FLNRO has been looking at dam safety.
- Ms. Bennest: BCAC met with the province re: WAM but there's concern that the potential for an election will slow the process. There was discussion that the draft legislation is going to be provided for comment which is unheard of and will mean potential delay but that this is important to getting it right. The council discussed inviting someone from the province to come and provide an update at a joint board/council meeting. Mr. Jatel added that OBWB staff attended a Water Sustainability Act (formerly WAM) meeting. There was discussion around watershed sustainability plans, groundwater legislation, and about drafting a piece of legislation that could be adopted in the fall to test pilot how the WSA would work. Chair Bauer added that OBWB Board of Directors have asked that a letter be sent to the province encouraging that the modernization process continue.
- Mr. Allard: BCGWA held its annual meeting in Kamloops. We are working on a groundwater legislation process. There is work underway to create a standard for testing water for subdivision and other approvals that will be appropriate for real estate transactions.
- Ms. Riechert: The Similkameen is developing a watershed plan, a three to four year project.
- Ms. Kirk: RDOS has put out an RFP for metering in Naramata and hopes to have them installed in June.
- Ms. Jackson: OBWB attended and spoke at UBCO's UN World Water Day opening ceremonies, and held its own annual panel discussion at Summerhill Pyramid Winery. Each of the five panellists also appeared on AM1150's Early Edition as feature interviews throughout the week. There was a piece on Giant FM as well. All clippings and radio interviews are available on the WaterWise website www.okwaterwise.ca/news-okww.html. The Okanagan WaterWise Challenge launched, inviting classrooms to enter multimedia submissions on the topic "save water for what matters most." The contest runs until May 4 with winners announced May 16, during Drinking Water Week. Details are at www.okwaterwise.ca. The OBWB held a water supply update webinar on March 9. Council had previously noted there should be media attention to the webinar and there was. Work is underway on the 2nd Phase of the Make Water Work valley-wide water conservation campaign. The Water Board was invited to participate in the Tap by Tap campaign, a water conservation campaign with Fortis and Environment Canada and City Green Solutions. We're providing an outdoor water

conservation element. South Okanagan residents will be invited to pick up a water saving kit and will find a postcard with tips to MAKE WATER WORK outside and an invitation to take the Make Water Work pledge and enter to win up to \$1,000 in WaterWise yard improvements. Okanagan WaterWise is also presenting Brock Dolman on April 23 at Penticton's Okanagan College in partnership with OBWB and South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program.

- Chair Bauer: A Water Science Strategy draft framework was sent to the Phase 2 committee and there will be a public engagement process.
- Mr. Jatel: The OBWB has sent out letters to council members for the new WSC term. Staff are working with consultants on next steps for the WEAP model and how to improve hydrology information. Staff are talking with Okanagan Nation Alliance about a potential conference in the fall regarding fish in the Okanagan and Columbia Basin, the concern with issues including zebra mussels and milfoil. Staff have also been working to further develop the BC Water Use Reporting Centre (formerly SWURT).

At 2:50 p.m. Mr. Watt, Ms. Dendy and Ms. Lapp exited the meeting.

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Okanagan Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) Model Brian Guy, Summit Environmental

Building on Phase 2 work, and demonstrate how water suppliers are linked by water and by legislation, with a view to improving cooperation between suppliers in times of water scarcity.

The project looked at how we can strategically increase storage in upland reservoirs and help instream conditions and suppliers. Also looked at how licenses work and can be diverted, and what would happen.

Okanagna Hydrologic Connectivity Model (OHCM) uses outputs from WSD Study, and looks at additional info. It allows more rapid evaluation of scenarios. We looked at 21 of the largest water suppliers which take from main lake and rivers and 12 main tributaries. Model built on WEAP model developed by Stockholm Environmental Institute.

6.2 Joe Rich Creek Restoration Project Margaret Bakelaar, RDCO

Ms. Bakelaar noted that this cooperative outreach project was a result of 12 years of mapping, including SHIM on private land. Began in 2004 and started with an assessment and then bringing stakeholders together to do the work. Out of concern about water quality with erosion, direct cattle access. In 2007, Work was done on 1.7 km of private agriculture land on Joe Rich Creek, Bank stabilization, riparian planting and fencing.

We will be holding a riparian stewardship workshop, looking at grazing and range use in riparian areas May 24, looking at crown and private land, and look at BMPs.

6.3 BC Water Use Reporting Centre (formerly SWURT – Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool) Michelle Cook, former Water Policy and Research Intern with OBWB Water Resources Planner at Urban Systems

Ms. Cook provided an update on the 20 water utilities used the system this year to report their water use and another 20 are beginning to get started on the program

It is linked to the water act modernization process currently under way since the province has said that it will require all large water users to report their water use (check BCWURC). Nanaimo is beginning to pilot it. Golden interested in it too.

Have added new features for 2nd pilot year to encourage more people to use it. Water Used % tab is new. Have new reports available on the site, making it easier for utilities to track and report information. Can find us at info@bcwaterusereporting.ca and www.bcwaterusereporting.ca

Next step will be to also engage groundwater users but don't have to report as of yet but under changes with WAM they likely will and will be ready for that.

6.4 Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders Bernie Bauer, University of British Columbia Okanagan

Presented paper developed by his students that has been provided to the International Joint Commission regarding the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake.

Lake lvls managed by controlled release from Zosel Dam affects lake levels and shoreline in BC and Washington. Due to expire in 2013 so up for renewal. Options: decommission the dam, maintain status quo, agree to new terms of operations.

Guaranteed flow south has now entered the discussion as result of some US studies.

Instream flow important to US and Canada for fish

1982: Dept of Ecology (WA) responsible for dam and Dept of Fisheries and Depr o f Wildlife in WA estabkish MOU for Zosel Dam with out Canadian input (?)

Leading up to renewal of OO, eight studies commissioned, including Washington State University. In their study 5 and 1 they talk about flows, nowhere in Canadian studies.

Students did critical review of studies, each as important? Is flow based criteria legally possible, necessary, and what recommendations can they make to the IJC.

Study 4 of water quality was considered least relevant. Studies 2 and 3 about drought were judged well done and relevant. Study 1 had flaws in logic. Should have done study on flow for fisheries conservation.

Found no legal precedent for flow-based criteria. (Boundary Waters Treaty and Columbia River Treaty are treaties that note flow, not this...) IJC in 1982 said cant mandate flows – looked at it and said no.

Based on historic record we can't meet the Washington State University's suggestions for flow. Under the cooperation agreement we can't meet either at times because of natural hydrology. Would be unwise to guarantee in a new operating order.

Students propose an allowable range of +/- 1 foot that are invoked after a drought declaration or flood declaration

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Strategic Planning - Policy Prioritization 2012-13

Mr. Jatel deferred to next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held May 10, 2012 at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Hans Buchler

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of April 12, 2012 be adjourned.”

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director