



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 1, 2012, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 K.L.O. RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance

REGRETS

Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
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OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Office and Project Manager
Kyla Lavalee	First Nations Liaison
Melissa Tesche	Phasmid Environmental Consulting

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.1 Move item 7.2 to 5.1.2

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2012 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2012 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream, B.C.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2012 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be adopted."

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Dr. Brian Guy – Okanagan Hydrometric Connectivity Project Update

Dr. Guy, of Summit Environmental Consultants, presented the results of the recently completed Okanagan Hydrologic Connectivity Model (OHCM), noting that a poster summarizing the model and its results will be available from the Water Board shortly. The OHCM was intended to build on the work of the Water Supply and Demand Study. It demonstrates how water suppliers in the valley are linked by the flow of water through the valley, and how their ability to supply water to their customers is influenced by the current First In Time, First In Right (FITFIR) licencing system. He noted that instream flows are not currently protected (with a few rare exceptions). The OHCM model allows the study of various scenarios such as of current vs. increased upland storage, potential protection of instream flows, and current water use vs. increased water use (by drought or population increase).

Dir. Findlater entered the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Dr. Guy explained that the OHCM examined 21 of the largest water suppliers in the valley and the 12 main sub-basins that they draw water from. The model was built by accounting for the reservoirs and mapping the withdrawal points in the system.

The general pattern in the scenarios suggest that if demands were to increase to the volumes licenced, most utilities would struggle with unmet demands unless the storage is increased. Under some scenarios, he said, Okanagan Lake (a major withdrawal point) could end up being mined below the fill level.

There was some discussion about how the instream flow needs were calculated. Dr. Guy explained that where exact needs were not known, the model used a 25th percentile flow. Instream flow needs remain to be calculated for most areas and are not currently protected, it was noted.

There was also some discussion as to whether or not fish are at risk. Dr. Guy noted that if instream needs are prioritized, we can still meet current demand, but the Okanagan is over-licenced.

It was noted that if flows are brought into the Osoyoos Lake operating orders, it would be an additional stress on the system.

Dr. Guy noted that next steps include looking at potential climate scenarios and how they might affect the available water supply, as well as obtaining more accurate estimates of instream flow needs.

Dr. Warwick Sears said that the OHCM is not ready to be a decision-making tool, but that senior levels of government are interested in the tool. She noted that the province has recently committed some \$90,000 to look at these next steps, so that each major sub-basin can be looked at separately.

Dir. Bauer added that one of the values of the model is that it allows one to input the importance of each component (fish needs vs. lake levels vs. FITFIR licences), so it allows societal values to be gamed. Dr. Bauer requested there be a discussion on the future potential of this tool in the board's upcoming strategic planning session. There was agreement to hold a future discussion on how the OBWB might lead policies based on the OHCM results.

5.2 Dir. Tom Siddon – Changes to Federal Fisheries Act

Dir. Siddon, former federal Fisheries Minister, brought concerns forward to the board over the proposed changes to the Canadian Fisheries Act. He noted that the federal government, which had previously acknowledged fish habitat as a national asset, is now suggesting changes to the protection of fish habitat. The Okanagan is attempting to reintroduce the sockeye salmon and the new regulations could reduce the impetus to do this, he added, saying the Okanagan sockeye are not considered a major fishery so would not be protected under the proposed changes.

Dir. Siddon also noted that the two clauses that were the “teeth” of the Act are being changed. He also noted that changes to the maximum fines and to who can be held responsible have been proposed.

There was some discussion as to whether fish fall under the mandate of the OBWB. Following some discussion, board directors agreed to craft some wording and send it to staff to draft a letter to the federal government to be brought back to the board for approval.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced James Littlely as the new Office and Project Manager.

Last week the OBWB, along with 13 of its partners, received the BC Water and Waste Association’s Award of Excellence for its Water Supply and Demand Project.

Dir. Pepper exited the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Dr. Sears noted the OBWB recently received \$50,000 in additional provincial funding for the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, \$20,000 to study the possibility of expanding the Sewage Facilities Grant Program to include stormwater projects, as well as \$30,000 to do fish flow studies as an extension of the OHCM and a special guidebook for water conservation.

There was some discussion around the proposed outline for the strategic planning session. There was general agreement that there should be lots of time allotted for open discussion of issues. Dir. Siddon requested more policy issues be added to the session. Dir. Bauer noted that a couple of years ago the Board wanted to see position papers from the Water Stewardship Council. He would like to have discussion at the planning session around issues for new position papers from the WSC. Dir. Bauer also requested that the OBWB review the structural model of the board, staff, and WSC, including communication strategies.

Dir. Zimmerman noted that six of nine Kelowna City Council members are new and they would like to be briefed on the OBWB. Dr. Warwick Sears said she would make it a priority to present at more of the local councils. Dir. Fairbairn suggested the OBWB present to the Regional Districts at a joint time when other local councils can be there.

Dir. Pepper re-entered the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted the OBWB is still waiting to hear from the International Joint Commission with an update on the renewal of the Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated April 23, 2012, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted the Water Stewardship Council's 18-month term has come to an end. He invited board members to attend the next WSC meeting with the new council.

Invitations have gone out for the OBWB's June 22 climate change adaptation workshop. Topics that will be discussed include engineering, legal, and insurance implications related to climate change. The event is also intended to encourage local Okanagan governments to share what they are doing to address these issues. In addition, Dr. Warwick Sears will present some of the new climate change scenario results from the Water Supply and Demand Study. Mr. Jatel encouraged board directors to support their local invitees to attend.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board actively encourage invited First Nation and local government leaders and water professionals to participate in the OBWB Climate Change Adaptation Workshop with a focus on action."

CARRIED

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the Groundwater Monitoring Project, noting nine monitoring wells have been drilled but budget changes for some of the partners might slow future progress.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated April 25, 2012, be received."

CARRIED

6.3 Eurasian Milfoil Control Progress Report

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the report on behalf of Mr. Caswell.

There was some discussion about the potential of biocontrol using the milfoil weevil. Chair Wells noted that the American side of Osoyoos Lake is very interested in a pilot project.

6.2 First Nations Liaison Report

Ms. Lavallee noted that staff are looking at holding a joint community forum with First Nations from the En'owkin Centre and the OBWB. Dr. Warwick Sears added that Ms. Lavallee has been busy learning the workings of the OBWB so that she can better communicate and building bridges with First Nations communities.

6.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Dr. Warwick Sears presented Ms. Jackson's report and the various communication and public outreach initiatives underway. As for Make Water Work, the valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign, eight Okanagan local governments have requested matching funds to bring the campaign to their community (between \$1,000 and \$3,000). These funds have been matched by the OBWB/Okanagan WaterWise bringing the total to \$30,000. This has further been leveraged up to more than \$70,000 with media partnerships. Part of the campaign includes a contest with Astral Media with the winner receiving WaterWise yard improvements (irrigation and/or xeriscaping) worth \$2,000.

"THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator's Report, dated April 25, 2012, be received."

CARRIED

7. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 OBWB Signing Authority Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears provided the board with an updated signing authority resolution.

“THAT the Signing Authority resolution be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer, Pepper and Pike abstained.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

7.1 The date for the next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is June 5, 2012 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2012 be adjourned at 2:10 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director