



**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
AND WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD JULY 3, 2012, AT HEAD OF THE LAKE HALL
118 HEAD OF THE LAKE RD., VERNON B.C.**

PRESENT

Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Michael Brydon	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District of North Okanagan
Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Office and Project Manager
Dave Caswell	Milfoil Field Supervisor

GUESTS

Ehren Lee	WSC/Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
Doug Edwards	WSC/Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada
Ted van Der Gulik	WSC/B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Doug Flintoft	WSC/BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Lorne Davies	WSC/BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8 (alternate)
Chris Lee	WSC alternate/Environment Canada
Renee Clark	WSC/Regional District of North Okanagan
Anna Page	WSC alternate/Regional District of North Okanagan
Janice Brown	Township of Spallumcheen
Jennifer Miles	Regional District of North Okanagan

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and welcomed Water Stewardship Council members. Fairbairn acknowledged the Okanagan Indian Band and thanked them for the use of their lands and hall for the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

6.3 Report from Dr. Warwick Sears on recommendations from the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control to the International Joint Commission regarding the renewal of Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 3, 2012 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2012 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna, B.C.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2012 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted."

CARRIED

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the Water Board's next Board Meeting will be held immediately following its Annual Meeting, on Sept. 7 in Kelowna at a location to be determined.

The IJC is holding public hearings on the renewal of Operating Orders for Osoyoos Lake on July 24, 7 p.m. at Oroville High School and July 25, 7 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Sunrise Inn in Osoyoos.

Dir. Pike entered the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum netted \$25,000 as a result of cost-savings and registrations. The forum's Steering Committee voted to distribute the funds to Osoyoos and Oroville for continued Osoyoos Lake water stewardship on both sides of the border.

The OBWB's First Nations Liaison is continuing to meet with First Nations stakeholders in the valley. She is also working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which is interested in hosting an Okanagan workshop on service agreements between First Nations and local governments. This is tentatively planned for late October, and the liaison is gathering feedback from local governments and First Nations on issues to include.

Dr. Warwick Sears reported that Environment Canada has completed its first year of gathering data on Okanagan Lake evaporation. The project findings so far support the estimated numbers used in the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand models - about one metre loss per year. This project will continue for at least two more years.

Staff are continuing to monitor the threat of Zebra Mussels around Western Canada and the Northwestern United States, added Dr. Warwick Sears.

5.1.1 Summary of presentation from June 22 Climate Adaptation Workshop

Dr. Warwick Sears summarized the June 22 workshop and presented Board Directors with the findings of Phase 3 of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study. Directors were told of a tool being developed by the Insurance Bureau of Canada to help local governments do a risk assessment of their infrastructure to address such issues before they become insurance claims.

Vice-Chair Fairbairn added that the workshop was very informative, noting the insurance and legal information was of particular interest regarding how local governments should be

preparing to address climate-related water issues.

There was further discussion about the need for local governments to address hillside development which increases erosion and the chance of flood damage and the need for Official Community Plans to discourage this type of development.

In response to a question about the use of OCPs in Supply and Demand modeling to determine the effects of future growth, Dr. Warwick Sears noted that three community OCPs were used in Phase 2 and use of more was possible.

5.1.2 Review of Active Projects

Following on a request at the previous board meeting, a list of OBWB Water Management Projects was presented. There was some discussion about drinking water filtration and the need for greater source protection. It was generally agreed that Interior Health must be a player in any planning process regarding drinking water.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated July 3, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Milfoil Field Supervisor Report

Mr. Caswell provided an update on the milfoil control program.

There was some discussion about the use of milfoil weevils and if there were any negative impacts to their use. Dr. Warwick Sears answered that the weevil, a native species to the Okanagan, would have to be artificially reared in great numbers to be released on a multi-year basis.

“THAT the Milfoil Field Supervisor’s Report, dated July 3, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

5.3 Communications Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears delivered the communications report noting that the Make Water Work campaign has launched valley-wide and includes radio, print ads and billboards. The Tap by Tap campaign is also underway in the South Okanagan in partnership with FortisBC. This year’s OkWaterWise Challenge was a success with two school classrooms winning a pizza party and pool passes. Vernon School District’s Cherryville kindergarten class submitted a scrapbook with paintings and photos, and Penticton’s KVR Middle School submitted a music video.

There has also been public outreach with the Okanagan Science Centre in Vernon and their ‘WaterWorks’ exhibit, funded in part through an OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant.

“THAT the Communication Director’s Report, dated July 3, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 Adoption of 2011-2012 Financial Statements Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the audited financial statements to the board and answered some questions, clarifying information in the document.

Dir. Findlator asked if the auditing firm provided a management letter and, if so, if it could be

forwarded to directors. Dr. Warwick Sears said that a letter was provided and would be forwarded.

“THAT the Financial Statements Memo, dated July 3, 2012, be received with the understanding that the management letter will be forwarded to Board Directors.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Bauer abstained

6.2 Approval of Strategic Planning Session – Draft Report

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the draft report from the Strategic Planning Session to the board.

Ms. Brown entered the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

There was discussion around the need to ensure that the OBWB’s water supply management includes issues such as flooding, stormwater and infrastructure development, based in part on the June 22 workshop. Directors who attended the workshop noted the value of the information provided, and those who missed the event asked that staff forward more information.

Mr. Davies entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Directors also noted the value for money offered by the OBWB and the importance of communicating this. Dr. Warwick Sears said that the upcoming Annual Report would provide this information, along with the financial statements.

“THAT the Strategic Planning Session Draft Report, dated July 3, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

6.3 Report on Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders

The Osoyoos Lake Board of Control has delivered recommendations to the International Joint Commission that refer to the continued control of lake levels and do not suggest any changes related to guaranteed flow rates. The recommendations are consistent with what the OBWB had suggested.

Following some discussion, the board agreed that Dr. Warwick Sears should attend the upcoming public hearings on behalf of the OBWB.

“THAT Dr. Warwick Sears, together with Dir. Bauer as Chair of the Water Stewardship Council, draft a letter stating the OBWB Board of Directors’ general support for the Board of Control’s recommendations.”

CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDANCE

7.1 Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Canada Keith Ashfield letter to OBWB re: Bill C-38 and changes to Federal fisheries Act

Director Siddon addressed the letter from Minister Ashfield. The board agreed to simply receive the letter.

“THAT the Board receive the letter from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Keith Ashfield.”

CARRIED

8. BEGIN COUNCIL MEETING

Vice-Chair Fairbairn handed the meeting over to Dir. Bauer, Chair of the Water Stewardship Council at 12:57 p.m.

PRESENT - WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chair Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Ehren Lee	Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
Doug Edwards	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Ted van Der Gulik	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ken Cunningham	B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Nat. Res. Ops.- Resource
Lorraine Bennest	BC Fruit Growers Association
Doug Flintoft	BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Brian Guy	Canadian Water Resources Association
Chris Lee	Environment Canada (alternate)
David O’Keefe	Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Margaret Bakelaar	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Renee Clark	Regional District North Okanagan
Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC (alternate)

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littlely	Office and Project Manager
Dave Caswell	Milfoil Field Supervisor

GUESTS

Lorne Davies	BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8 (WSC alternate)
Eva Antonijevic	Friends of Summerland Gardens
Dwayne Meredith	Kerr Wood Leidal
Keith Louie	Okanagan Indian Band
Anna Page	Regional District of North Okanagan (WSC alternate)
Jennifer Miles	Regional District North Okanagan
Zoe Kirk	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Janice Brown	Township of Spallumcheen
David Dobernigg	Okanagan grower

REGRETS - WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Denise Neilsen	Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, Research Branch
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen’s Association
Remi Allard	BC Ground Water Association
Mike Burwash	B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands & Nat. Res. Ops.- Fish
Mark Watt	City of Kelowna
Rob Birtles	Interior Health Authority
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Leif Burge	Okanagan College

Zoe Masters
Evelyn Riechert
Kerry Rouck

Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association

8.1 Opening Council Business

Chair Bauer welcomed attendees, recognizing that the meeting was taking place on OKIB lands, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

In reviewing the previous month's minutes in which he was away, the chair expressed gratitude for being re-elected as chair and thanked Mr. van der Gulik for his service as vice-chair during the previous term.

The May 20 minutes were reviewed. A small amendment was noted.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of May 20 be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

8.2 Board/Council Strategic Planning: Policy Prioritization 2012-13

Dr. Warwick Sears provided a board update to the council. In response to some discussion, staff agreed to forward website links for reports provided to the IJC regarding the renewal of Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders.

Chair Bauer noted the significance of the recommendations provided by the international Osoyoos Lake Board of Control to the IJC and the fact that the OBWB's concerns appear to have been heard.

Dr. Warwick Sears also reported on the June 22 Climate Change Workshop for local government staff and elected, as well as the latest results from Phase 3 of the Water Supply and Demand Study.

The Executive Director provided a brief review of the board's Strategic Planning Session held in June.

Mr. Cunningham entered the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

In response to questions about potential changes to the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant Program, Dr. Warwick Sears said changes would need to be approved by the board and each of the Okanagan's regional districts.

Ms. Bakelaar entered the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

There was discussion about the Water Act Modernization process and a report that the project has been delayed until 2014.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Council draft a letter to the Province of B.C. encouraging the Water Act Modernization process to continue."

CARRIED

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on a number of projects including the upcoming drought tournament, a First Nations/local government workshop on service agreements, and communication efforts to

promote water conservation.

In follow-up discussion, Board Directors had a number of requests to the Council, including a request for the WSC to help develop policy that could help local government's mitigate the impacts from potential flooding events. A number of directors also suggested that there would be great benefit in the creation of a document that explains the economic significance of the OBWB and its programs.

Dir. Fielding exited the meeting at 2 p.m.

Dir. Findlator exited the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Chair Bauer provided a brief history and background on the Council, and on the Council's guidebook, The Sustainable Water Strategy.

There was discussion around priorities of the Council and of the Board, including the importance of meeting with local government councils and boards to explain the role of the OBWB and make sure that everyone's goals are being met.

Mr. Buchler added that there should be a review of the Sustainable Water Strategy, and recommendations should be made to the province's Water Act Modernization team.

Chair Bauer suggested that some of the past committees be re-assembled to check on projects and report to the WSC as a whole.

8.3 Position Paper – Irrigation Efficiency in the Okanagan

Mr. van der Gulik presented the discussion paper noting that 85% of water in the Okanagan goes to irrigation. Topsoil bylaws are needed in the valley and a toolkit should be ready by the end of the month, added van der Gulik. The toolkit should receive the Board's endorsement, but it needs even more than that, he suggested. It is up to Board Directors and council members' to ensure that the toolkit is adopted and used.

A couple of small wording changes were suggested.

Mr. Ehren Lee exited the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

“THAT the Irrigation Efficiency in the Okanagan Paper be amended as discussed and submitted to the Board of Directors.”

CARRIED

8.4 Member Updates

- Mr. Louie: A brief update was provided on the fishery in Beaver Lake Creek and it was noted that work is being conducted on a dry section of the creek.
- Ms. Bakelaar: First draft of RDCO growth strategy discussion papers are complete and will be given to RDCO's board on July 13th.
- Mr. Flintoft: There is an issue at Oyama Lake with fish stream removal around the dam. There has been a number of incidents of environmental damage near smaller lakes. BC Wildlife Federation is working to “observe, record and report” to help local conservation officers.

8.5 Other matters

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held Sept. 13th at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna.

“THAT there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of July 3, 2012 be adjourned at 3:55 p.m.”

CARRIED

WSC Chair Bauer turned the meeting back over to Board Vice-Chair Fairbairn.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will follow directly after the Annual Meeting on Sept 7th in Kelowna. Location to be announced.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 3, 2012 be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director