



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD APRIL 2, 2013, AT OKANAGAN COLLEGE, VERNON CAMPUS
7000 COLLEGE WAY, COLDSTREAM, B.C.**

PRESENT

Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmerman	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Angelique Wood	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Office and Projects Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no new items.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2013 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 5, 2013 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton, B.C.

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

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 John Janmaat, BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability

Dr. Janmaat provided an overview of his work as Water Research Chair noting the position was developed recognizing the concern around Okanagan water issues with population growth, economic trends, climate change, cultural shifts and legal issues.

Economists study how choices are made when tradeoffs are unavoidable. As such his work is to help determine new ways to share this limited resource – trying to find solutions where nobody is worse off and some are better off.

Funding for the chair position comes from an endowment with contributions from the B.C. government (\$1.25 million), the OBWB (\$500,000), the Real Estate Foundation of BC (\$250,000). Another \$500,000 is outstanding from UBCO and additional funds are being sought. The work of the chair is intended to develop solutions that benefit the entire province, added Dr. Janmaat.

An advisory committee has been developed to help inform the work that is being done and is made up of funder nominees and invited local experts who are providing insight into local and regional issues and support.

Research areas include: water and the Okanagan economy (linking hydrology and the economy of the basin); development of models for broad or specific policy questions; the value contributed by water; governance and water; and the important role of First Nations.

There was discussion about potential issues the Water Research Chair might study. Dir. Cunningham noted the importance of food security in the face of climate change and the need to educate the public about the importance of protecting and supporting agriculture. Dir. Zimmerman added that it is sometimes hard for politicians to persuade others that their decisions are the right ones (e.g. infilling vs. building out) and hopefully having the economic research behind them will help.

Dr. Warwick Sears added that the OBWB has already seen some benefit from the chair position with an ecosystem valuation project done on Okanagan River. The research was funded by Environment Canada and conducted by consultants, but was guided by a committee that included Dr. Janmaat. Mr. Jatel agreed, adding that the chair is also assisting local governments with some of their projects.

Vice-Chair Fairbairn thanked Dr. Janmaat for his time.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears provided directors with a financial management update. She also noted an Award of Excellence given to the Water Stewardship Council by the Council of the Federation – one of 13 awarded across Canada.

Dr. Warwick Sears suggested that a joint board-council meeting be organized for June and include a strategic planning session. The meeting would be held in the South Okanagan – location to be determined.

“THAT a special joint Okanagan Basin Water Board and Water Stewardship Council meeting and strategic planning session be held on June 4, 2013 at a location to be determined in the South Okanagan.”

CARRIED

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the various initiatives underway to address zebra and quagga mussels, including OBWB staff consulting with Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) – which is working closely with the province and is planning to have a couple of outreach people at boat launches in the summer. In addition, there have been media interviews, Ms. Larratt presented at the WSABC conference and is available to speak to others. Ms. Jackson added that RDCO has sent a resolution to Southern Interior Local Government Association to address the mussels with the intention of it going to Union of BC Municipalities for resolution and discussion with the province.

Directors were reminded of the invasive mussel public information workshop being held April 4 in Osoyoos and open to Oroville, Oliver and surrounding communities. The OBWB, Ms. Larratt, ISCBC and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) will be presenting.

Directors were provided with a quick overview of the recently released RBC Water Attitudes Survey which indicates a need to continue to communicate with the public on a number of water issues, including the need for communities to prepare their stormwater infrastructure for severe storms.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that staff are developing a day-long workshop on flood risk assessments for communities as part of BC Water and Waste Association's annual conference. Directors who are interested in attending should let staff know to reserve a spot.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated March 27, 2013, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel reported on the last council meeting, noting discussion around a potential agricultural water reserve and a draft Water Management Plan for the Okanagan.

Project Updates

Staff are organizing a one-hour water supply webinar for April 23 to look at snowpack, reservoir levels and upcoming forecasts. It's geared to local governments, planners and engineering staff, ag community, fish and game and consultants.

The Groundwater Monitoring Project is winding down. The OBWB partnered with local and senior governments to drill monitoring wells in aquifers identified as sensitive. To date, 14 have been drilled with the last three being set up in Ellison (1) and the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (2). The wells are providing up-to-date and more accurate information on water supplies in these areas and are connected to the provincial groundwater monitoring network.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated March 26, 2013, be received.”
CARRIED

6.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley reported on a meeting with Lake Country regarding access to Wood Lake for milfoil control machines with redevelopment of the Pelmeash Parkway. He went on to note that with the threat of additional invasive species (e.g. zebra/quagga mussels) and other changes to the

milfoil program indicate a need to develop a plan to improve operations and prepare.

“THAT staff prepare a report on options to improve invasive-control related infrastructure which seeks to address both the needs of the current milfoil program, and the potential needs of boat decontamination/mussel treatment programs.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated March 26, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

World Water Day/Canada Water Week

Ms. Jackson reported on Canada Water Week events put on by the OBWB, including a “Love your water body” panel discussion at Summerhill Winery, moderated by CBC Radio Daybreak Host Chris Walker, as well as the launch of the 3rd annual Okanagan WaterWise Challenge for youth.

Zebra Mussel/Make Water Work campaign

Directors were provided an update on both public outreach campaigns. A committee has been put together to help with the zebra mussel campaign and includes OBWB staff, Ms. Larratt, representatives from OASISS, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, and potentially others. The first meeting was held March 11, a follow up meeting was held with Pulse Marketing and a draft marketing plan developed.

Work is continuing on the re-launch of the Make Water Work campaign.

Additional projects

Ms. Jackson noted a number of other projects she has been working on, including the news conference for the Water Stewardship Council’s CoF award, communications around the Osoyoos mussel meeting, and numerous requests for media interviews on Canada Water Week events, the CoF award, mussels, and general water issues. Staff have also posted a summer intern communications position. The deadline for applications is April 19.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated March 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 WCQI 2013 Grant Recommendations Memo

Mr. Littley provided an overview of the grant review process and list of recommendations. Staff recommendations are based on looking at the benefits to the valley as a whole, rather than solely the benefits to a specific community or region

There was some discussion about the grant award process, and it was decided that the board would take time at an upcoming meeting to review the program’s terms of reference and the application process.

Directors discussed the recommendations for 2013, made one amendment, and passed a motion.

“That the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant staff recommendations as amended.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

7.2 Signing Authority Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented an updated signing authority resolution to the board.

“THAT the OBWB approve the Signing Authority Resolution as presented.”

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 Letter from FLNRO Min. Steve Thomson to OBWB re: milfoil
- 8.2 RDCO letter to federal government re: zebra/quagga mussel response
- 8.3 Greater Vernon Advisory Committee letter to federal government re: zebra/quagga mussel response

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and Greater Vernon Advisory Committee.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The date for the next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is May 7, 2013 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2013 be adjourned at 2:07 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director