



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

Source Protection Wetland Committee

Okanagan Water Stewardship Committee
Renee Clark, Manager, Water Quality, RDNO
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Overview

The committee was tasked with:

- Focusing on the source protection to meet OBWB's Strategic Goal of "Excellent source water quality – drinkable, swimmable, fishable"
- Developing specific actions and strategies to make progress on these goals.
- Committee broke into 5 task groups with an assigned lead.

Task Group 1

- Task 1- “How is Water Protected in BC” outline regulations, decision making framework, roles and responsibilities, prevention and inspection.
- There are fourteen pieces of legislation that promote water protection, however there are conflicts amongst some of them.
- In most provinces of Canada, the Ministry of Environment are the lead in source protection, where as in BC water is not overseen by any one ministry.

Legislation promotes water protection in BC:

- Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA)
- Public Health Act (PHA)
- Water Sustainability Act (WSA)
- Groundwater Protection Regulation (Review where this fits below for GW)
- Environmental Management Act (EMA)
- Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)
- Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR)
- Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR)
- Integrated Pest Management Regulation (IPMR)
- Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (AWCR)
- Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR)
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation (MWR)
- Land Act (LA)
- Fisheries Act (FA)
- Okanagan Shuswap Land Resource Management Plan

Task Group 2

- The Task Group 2 reviewed and summarized the factors affecting wetland protection and restoration in the Okanagan to provide a foundation for future actions to support ongoing conservation of wetlands and the benefits they provide for our communities.
- It considers strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for wetland protection and restoration in the Okanagan context in order to clarify possibilities for action.

Wetland –Threats

- **Land Use Activity (Development, Water Extraction, Resource Use – Agriculture, Ranching, Forestry)**
- Hydrological change – change in water flow patterns
- Removing wetlands, riparian areas, and lakeshore vegetation reduces the ability of the landscape to act like a sponge and filter
- Not enough enforcement officers and funding to enforce. More enforcement needed for development, and recreation infractions.
- **Cumulative impacts**, fragmentation, through urban development, forestry practices, and agricultural land use over time.
- **Climate change**

Task Group 3

- To gain a better understanding of the current state of source protection and the effective implementation of Source Water Protection Plans, the committee conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis.
- An in-depth SWOT Analysis was generated by Task group 1, 2, 4 and 5.

SWOT Analysis

A High level SWOT characterized by Topic looks further into:

- **Planning and Legislation:** To Develop, Implement, and Enforce Source Water Protection Efforts
- **Resources and capacity:** Develop and Implement Source Water Protection Plans
- **Land Use:** Looks at Source Water Protection from Specific Land Uses or Risks, or Scale

Task Group 4

- Task Group 4 were tasked in exploring ‘How are referrals are generated and to whom’, water utilities, local government, stakeholders.
- Task Group 4 also identified that coordination and communication between the province and the stakeholder

Task Group 4

- Front Counter -provides a base for all government applications to be sorted and directed to the Ministry program who is responsible for decision making.
- *Mapping tools: BC [Discovery Tool](#), [iMap](#), [catalogue data/water-resource-management](#), [Integrated Land and Resource](#) and NEW: [Water Portal](#) all require integration for sharing data with links among them.*
- Water purveyors and local government do not readily know who to contact for Source Water Protection.

Task Group 5

- Task 5 working group focused on reviewing source water assessments for surface water sources completed by/for water suppliers in the Okanagan basin area.
- 17 Source Water Assessments have been completed by water suppliers using surface water sources in the Okanagan basin:
 - Of these, 7 were lake sources while 12 were upland tributaries.
 - Two source assessments were started, but not completed.
 - There are 4 completed Source Water Protection Plans and 7 protection plans that are in progress. A third of the water suppliers have not proceeded to the source protection planning stage at this time.

Recommendations

- In Term 8 continue the work of the Source Protection Wetland committee from information to implementation
- OBWB to lead the Source Protection Plan as a non-partisan, well informed body, would be a good candidate to lead an Okanagan basin watershed management planning process
- Funds allocated to Watershed protection that are sustainable. OBWB help establish a funding model to support ongoing watershed protection initiatives.
RDN (parcel tax)

Recommendations

- **Advocate for the development of a Provincial Wetland Policy, and expansion of regulations for wetland protection under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA).**
- **Support enhanced wetland protection through local and regional government action**
- **Enhance education, outreach, and collaboration to support wetland protection**
- Develop a workshop for local government and water purveyor to assist on referrals, provide consistent messaging, and acknowledge cumulative, economic, social and environmental impacts.

Recommendations

- Provide a mechanism for ongoing funding. Reliable funding is key to implementing source protection activities throughout the Okanagan basin. Relying on individual water suppliers to carry out source protection activities results in the splitting of limited resources and duplication of time and efforts of stakeholders.
- Coordinate Source Protection Plans, More cost effective manner than each water utility working on their own Source Protection Plans. Work towards a common goal through coordinated projects, rather than one offs.
- Lead Ministry – apply lessons learned from other areas
- SIDWT – MOU (Health lead) Why did this not work?

SPWC Term 7

- Thank you to the sub-committee members for participating and all the hard work through Term 7. The Source Protection and Wetland Committee Members:
 - Lorne Davies
 - Marni Turek
 - Don Dobson
 - Patti Meger
 - Krista Derrickson
 - Amy Nixon
 - Heather Larratt
 - Rob Birtles
 - Rob Dinwoodie
 - Ed Stranks
 - Judi Ekkert
 - Tanis Gieselman
 - Suzan Lapp
 - Scott Smith
 - Nicole Penner
 - Tricia Brett
 - Ed Hoppe
 - Renee Clark (chair)