



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 7, 2013, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN,
1450 KLO 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 Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Gerry Zimmerman	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Michael Brydon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
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

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 May 7, 2013 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2013 at Okanagan College – Vernon campus.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2012 at Okanagan College – Vernon campus be adopted."

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Glen Zachary, Urban Systems – Planning for future water demand in Peachland using OBWB research and models

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced Mr. Zachary of Urban Systems to the board noting that his research is the first time someone has specifically used the OBWB's Water Supply and Demand Study (WSD) climate data to help determine the future water needs of a local community.

Mr. Zachary explained that Peachland is looking at ways to ensure a sustainable water supply, improve water quality and move from several supply areas to a single surface supply for its water - Peachland Creek, with Okanagan Lake serving as a back-up emergency supply. The project includes development of an operational plan, a drought plan and more, but it also looked at the community's historic, current and future water demands. While there is large annual variability the data indicates that use went down in 2010 and 2011. This coincides with the time meters were installed in the community, but it may also be in part due to conservation education which the community also began to promote at this time, he noted.

Domestic outdoor use in Peachland is much higher than all other uses – especially in summer. Domestic indoor is the second highest use. And together, these uses account for more water used than all other uses combined (i.e. agriculture, commercial, industrial, institutional, golf courses, parks and open space).

Looking at historic reservoir levels and their fluctuation, modeling suggests that without management and in drought there could be steep drops in levels. The figures are pretty close to what the WSD predicted, Zachary added, noting water management strategies like odd/even watering days can partly help address the community's water needs in this type of scenario.

The purpose of the WSD was to help Okanagan communities plan for the possibility of water shortages, said Dr. Warwick Sears, adding it is good to see the data is adaptable to local issues. Given the consistent basin-wide context to the research, there is also an opportunity to share the information and collaborate with other local governments.

Next steps include refining the data and developing management scenarios and operational plans to adapt to changing circumstances.

Dir. Fielding added that Peachland is using flat rates for water, augmented by user rates, as a way to generate the revenue needed to manage the infrastructure. The rates are reviewed each year and set accordingly.

Dir. Findlater noted that Westbank Irrigation District went to metered billing seven years ago. Between metered billing and education, water use dropped 20% drop within five years. Uplands storage is now not a concern. Since West Kelowna incorporated, the entire community has moved to metered billing and, again, it's working, he added.

There was some discussion about automatic irrigation not set properly being partly responsible for over-use. Ms. Jackson noted that having qualified people help homeowners schedule their irrigation timing and amount can help. The OBWB/Okanagan WaterWise's Make Water Work campaign provides homeowners with tips for outdoor water conservation and encourages using Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. certified contractors.

Dir. Fielding exited the meeting.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

OBWB Strategic Planning 2013

Dr. Warwick Sears noted plans for June's joint strategic planning session (SPS) with the Water Stewardship Council. There was discussion about several reports coming out on climate change and the impact on water supplies. In response, Dir. Bauer noted the council's work on an Okanagan Water Management Plan could be a significant planning document, helping communities prepare for climate change since it will consider what is expected and how to reduce conflict.

BCWWA Job Shadows

The OBWB has agreed to work with BCWWA and take on two job shadows for two weeks – people who are looking at the water and waste industry as potential careers.

First Nations Water Workshop

Staff were invited to a water workshop put on by the First Nations Fisheries Council – one of six being held across B.C., held in part to prepare a Water Act Modernization submission.

Water-related Community Grants

Funding is available through UBCM for community to community forums and for flood protection grants.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated May 1, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel reported on April's council meeting, noting a presentation by Dr. Nichols of UBCO who provided an assessment of various water research projects underway in Kelowna and the potential for collaboration. Dr. Nichols is continuing to gather information and will report results to the council soon. The ONA fisheries department also presented on the historic fishery of the Okanagan and the challenges it has faced over the last several decades due to channelization and damming. They also spoke to the work that has been done to bring the fishery back.

The council discussed how to use the \$1,000 awarded by the Council of the Federation. Based on feedback, staff are looking at ways to fund student water projects.

This month's meeting is at Manteo Resort and the ONA's James Pepper will be discussing the Sylix Water Strategy that is now underway.

There was discussion about a potential presentation by Sylvis and the company's proposal to spray treated bio-solids from the Westside Treatment Plant on lands near the Rose Valley Reservoir, a drinking water source for West Kelowna. Dir. Findlater noted that the proposal is being promoted as a safe way to get rid of treated effluent while helping regenerate growth on Westbank First Nations forestry lands. There were some questions about the safety of the drinking water if this project were to go ahead. Mr. Jatel was asked to encourage the council members to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.

Mr. Jatel reported on the OBWB's recent water supply webinar which showed that groundwater is rebounding. The forecast suggests variable rains in the coming weeks and then a trend towards a drier summer. It is possible that the Okanagan will experience flooding and drought this year he added.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated May 1, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley noted that rototilling is wrapping up and milfoil staff are preparing for harvesting. A meeting was held with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff to further discuss ways to continue milfoil control efforts while addressing ministry objectives to protect the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel. FLNRO has hired a post-doctoral student to conduct research on the issue, including what the impact is on the mussel without milfoil control.

Zebra/Quagga Mussel Workshop

Staff attended an April 30 Invasive Species Council of BC workshop for an update on efforts to prevent zebra/quagga mussels in the province. It was noted that Conservation Officers have the authority to conduct inspections now. The CO service is looking for safe pull out area to establish inspection stations. Mr. Littley suggested this might be an opportunity for Okanagan regional districts to partner and receive additional support.

One of the tools now available to clean boats include a \$300 Hotsy. It requires access to water and electricity, and is one of the less-expensive tools being used in Lake Mead.

Dir. Siddon noted that the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) received a resolution on zebra and quagga mussels from the RDOS, recommending immediate border controls and more. The resolution will be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities.

There was some discussion about the need for a certification/sticker program similar to the U.S. and the possibility of local governments implementing bylaws preventing boats from launching unless they have been certified as safe. It was suggested that UBCM might be an agency that could lead this effort with the province. In the meantime, Okanagan regional districts, First Nations bands and other local governments might need to lead a valley-focused effort.

“THAT staff develop a draft motion for board directors to take back to their councils and regional districts with options for consideration.”

CARRIED

There was discussion about what the options may include, such as gaps that local government can fill.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated May 1, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Dir. Dirk exited the meeting.

6.4 Communications Director Report

Make Water Work campaign

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the outdoor water conservation campaign for the Okanagan. Work is being done to tweak the look and messaging of the campaign. Work includes a redesign of the website, new radio ads, a series of articles in newspapers throughout the valley thanks to a partnership with Black Press. Also, Ken’s Horticultural Services (www.kelownagardens.com) is providing a \$5,000 prize for WaterWise upgrades. Valley residents will be encouraged to Take the Pledge at www.makewaterwork.ca and be entered to win. Astral Radio is again partnering

on the contest and will be helping promote it.

Don't Move a Mussel campaign

Staff are continuing to work on the development of a campaign to raise public awareness around zebra and quagga mussels and help prevent them from coming into the Okanagan. Staff are collaborating with OASISS and the ISCBC to prevent duplication and encourage reinforcement of each others' efforts and ensure messaging is consistent.

The OBWB is developing a number of partnerships to deliver the message, including Astral Media (for radio and more) and Pattison (for billboards and bus shelters). A website is being developed at www.dontmoveamussel.ca, as well as posters, Facebook and Google ads and more.

Internship

Staff are reviewing applications for a communication intern position for the summer. More than 40 applications were received. Interviews begin this week.

Additional projects

A news release was sent out regarding awarding of Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants and was picked up by several media outlets. The Okanagan WaterWise Challenge ended May 3. Entries will be reviewed and winners announced as part of Drinking Water Week (DWW) on May 21. DWW materials are now available for communities – contact the OBWB office for more information. Staff have been responding to a growing number of requests for outreach materials from a number of local governments and non-profits. Staff also accepted an invitation to present to KLO Middle School students as part of a human library event, inviting community members into the school to talk about their work.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator's Report, dated May 1, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Draft Contracting Policy

Dr. Warwick Sears provide the board with an update on a contracting policy, noting that it was developed based on input from RDNO, RDCO and RDOS.

A clarification in wording was suggested.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt a formal OBWB Contracting Policy as amended.”

CARRIED

7.2 WCQI Awarding Procedures Memo

Mr. Littley presented a memo reviewing the WCQI grant awarding procedures.

There was considerable discussion around the process of grant approvals.

There was also discussion about whether or not local governments should be allowed to apply for funding or if it should be for non-profit NGOs only. It was noted, however, that one of the issues may be that there are not enough Okanagan NGO's capable of taking on such projects.

Others pointed out that projects are supposed to provide valley-wide benefit and applications are graded on this. However, there have been instances when applicants have requested

resolutions of support from all three regional districts and it has been misconstrued as “double-dipping,” suggesting some RD boards may misunderstand the objectives of the program.

One director asked if the program has outlived its usefulness since there are few innovative projects in the last few years. Others notes that a lot of good work has resulted from the grants that may otherwise not have happened without such funding.

It was decided to continue the discussion at a later date. Dir. Siddon suggested that grant recipients be invited to attend the Annual Meeting and report out on their projects.

“THAT the WCQI Awarding Procedures Memo, dated May 1, 2013, be received.”
CARRIED

7.3 Eco-blast Kids Camp - Sponsorship request

Ms. Jackson presented the request for sponsorship funding from Fresh Outlook Foundation for an Eco-Blast Kids Camp, noting the board’s interest in outreach to children. The camp, Aug. 13-17, is being delivered in partnership with Okanagan Boys and Girls Club. Children will be able to participate in a five-day camp that focusses on various environmental issues, including energy efficiency (sponsored by FortisBC), waste reduction (with the Regional Waste Reduction Office) and water conservation. On the last day, the children present what they’ve learned to their parents and other interested passersby at an outdoor concert in Stuart Park. The OBWB/OkWaterWise has negotiated to have a table at the event to share more information.

Whereas previous sponsorships have been provided for weekend or one-day events, this is week-long with the opportunity to reach children and parents, as well as additional members of the public. A table will allow us to deliver Make Water Work and Don’t Move a Mussel information, and more.

“THAT the OBWB award Fresh Outlook Foundation a \$1,000 sponsorship for its ECO-BLAST Kids’ Camp and Concert.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Pike abstained.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- 8.1 Letter from Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Keith Ashfield to OBWB re: zebra/quagga mussel
- 8.2 Letter from B.C. Minister of Environment Terry Lake to OBWB re: zebra/quagga mussels
- 8.3 Letter from B.C. MoE Min. Terry Lake to RDCO re: zebra/quagga mussels

There was discussion about the correspondence and a suggestion that Okanagan MPs be invited to a meeting to discuss the board’s concerns around the invasive mussels. It was also suggested that Min. Ashfield be responded to with a copy of the UBCM document.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Federal Fisheries Minister Keith Ashfield, B.C. Minister of Environment Terry Lake and from RDCO regarding its letter from the Hon. Dr. Lake.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be a joint board/council meeting on June 4 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2013 be adjourned at 1:55 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director