



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD JULY 2, 2013, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN,
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, 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
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmerman	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Alt. Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan

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 10:06 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 July 2, 2013 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 7, 2013 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

A small amendment was noted.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 7, 2013 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be amended."

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS**5.1 Neal Klassen on Columbia Basin Trust's Water Ambassadors Program**

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced Mr. Klassen.

Mr. Klassen gave an overview of the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Water Smart ambassador program. The program began in 2009 with the goal of reducing gross water consumption in the basin 20% by 2015. To start, 24 communities signed a charter to participate and then received action plans. CBT gave public presentations and provided 3-4 days training to the ambassadors, including communications materials (e.g. how to approach high water users, leak detection and fixing, the principles of xeriscape). There was also weekly reporting, twice-monthly phone conferences, year-end reports and ongoing support for the ambassadors.

The outreach focused on high-water users, inviting them to sign up for an assessment. The benefits of a valley-wide program included a structured program, expert training, the ability to share knowledge, common messaging, and that the program was accountable and measurable.

The program was paid for by arrangement with CBT cost-sharing the wages with local communities.

Mr. Klassen outlined how a similar program might work in the Okanagan, adding that it would fit well within the OBWB's current valley-wide Okanagan WaterWise/Make Water Work program. Smaller communities could share students, while larger ones could incorporate ambassadors into existing programs, he noted.

In response to questions, Mr. Klassen noted that identifying high-water users is not difficult, especially in metered-areas but also utility staff often know who these customers are. Assessments can be done with automatic and manual irrigation systems, he added.

Some communities are beginning to bring in higher rates to address infrastructure needs, and others are struggling to find the funds to do the work. Educating residents and helping them change the way they water helps in both these situations.

Peak demand can always come down, added Mr. Klassen, noting that discussions would be held with individual communities to build the most effective program possible.

6. STAFF REPORTS**6.1 Executive Director Report**Water Ambassadors Program

Dr. Warwick Sears invited discussion on the possibility of implementing an ambassador audit program in the Okanagan.

One director questioned the potential for duplication with City of Kelowna, for example, which has done this type of outreach. Other directors felt that a survey should be conducted of regional districts and water utilities in the valley, suggesting that such a program could be beneficial to some communities and it might be useful to gauge interest in having a program under one umbrella.

It was noted that having staff with expertise walk residents through their yard, looking at soil and irrigation, and helping with some of the simple fixes could be effective, providing appropriate advice for more detailed fixes. As it is, the only option is for a homeowner to hire a contractor and hope they know what they're doing – and that's if the homeowner decides to call a

contractor at all.

While a few Okanagan communities might have an audit program, there was question as to whether a component of outreach to the greater public was also in place. Staff were asked to investigate further.

OBWB August meeting and AGM

There was discussion about the need for an August board meeting or if there should be a break for the summer.

“THAT the August board meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be cancelled.”
CARRIED

The board was told that the Annual General Meeting was scheduled Sept. 6 in Kelowna, location to be determined, and the next regular meeting of the board will follow right after.

Dir. Siddon requested that a report from the recent Strategic Planning Session be provided at the September meeting and that the AGM include an opportunity to showcase some of the projects the OBWB has funded.

There was some discussion about potential guest speakers, including Premier Christy Clark (Westside-Kelowna MLA), and Bob Sandford – well known in the water world and EPCOR Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the UN Water for Life Decade.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s Annual General Meeting be held Sept. 6, 2013 in Kelowna.”

CARRIED

6.1.1 Draft letter on WAM

One amendment was noted.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward its letter regarding the Water Sustainability Act to Premier Christy Clark and Minister Polak as amended.”

CARRIED

6.1.2 Draft letter on zebra mussels and Ministry of Environment report on B.C.’s Controlled Alien Species Regulation

A couple of small amendments were noted.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward its letter on Preventing the Spread of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into BC to Premier Christy Clark, and Ministers Polak and Thomson, as amended.”

CARRIED

6.1.3 Environment Canada funding announcements

Dr. Warwick Sears provided a report on recent Environment Canada funding for an Okanagan Wetlands Strategy Project and the re-establishment of hydrometric stations in the valley.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated June 24, 2013, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel provided the board with a list of upcoming council members and noted that the BC Institute of Agrologists and the International Association of Hydrogeologists has shown interest in also having a representative at the table. Staff are also looking to include a representative of an Okanagan chamber, he added.

It was suggested that if a chamber member cannot be found, the OBWB has been working with Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association and perhaps they would be a good fit on the council.

There was a question about the need for municipal government reps on council if each regional district is already represented and there is not enough room for all municipalities.

After further discussion, the board approved the list as presented.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Council proposed membership list be approved.”
CARRIED

Reservoir lots

The board asked that a package be compiled on the reservoir lots issue and be forward to B.C.'s new premier, new minister of environment, as well as Minister Thomson with Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward an up-to-date package of materials regarding the Reservoir Lots issue to Premier Christy Clark, and Ministers Polak and Thomson.”

CARRIED

Water Management Plan

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the Water Management Plan, noting a full report will be provided at an upcoming board meeting.

There was some discussion about the process. Mr. Jatel noted that professionals were originally consulted in helping develop the plan, providing technical input. There have also been discussions with various sectors, including Okanagan local government planners and engineers. The report will be compiled and brought to the board to be then taken to the regional districts and others for feedback, and to determine next steps.

There was some discussion about how to engage youth, similar to what ONA is doing with its Syilx Water Strategy.

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

6.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley presented an update on the Milfoil Control Program, noting an agreement with the province for a five-year go-ahead to continue its operations.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program Operational Plan and Policy Manual as Policy with Appendices A and B forming the memorandum of understanding between the OBWB and MFLNRO for the five-year approval.”

CARRIED

Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant Program

Mr. Littley reported on the SFA program, including updates on grants to Okanagan local governments and new requests for funding.

“THAT the SFA application for the City of Vernon, Fleming – Bella Vista Rd area be approved.”

CARRIED

Drs. Bauer, Hrasko and Pepper abstain.

“THAT the SFA Notifications as detailed above be approved in principle pending project completion and approved applications.”

CARRIED

Drs. Bauer, Hrasko and Pepper abstain.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated June 25, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Make Water Work campaign

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the MWW campaign for summer outdoor water conservation. This year’s campaign has expanded and includes: the launch of its new website (www.MakeWaterWork.ca) with interactive map, posters, billboards, radio ads, contest with \$5,000 prize for WaterWise yard upgrades from KelownaGardens.com, a secondary contest page on all SunFM stations in the valley (Vernon, Kelowna, Penticton), newspaper articles, magnets for local government/water utility vehicles, rackcards and fridge magnets to hand out, Facebook ads, and social media postings by OkWaterWise, SunFM and KelownaGardens.com.

Don’t Move a Mussel campaign

An update was given on the new DMM campaign to help stop invasive mussels from coming into the Okanagan. A new website has been created at www.DontMoveAMussel.ca, as well as supporting materials, including posters, rackcards, billboards and bus shelters, radio ads on Astral’s SunFM and sister stations in the valley. Astral’s event cruiser staff will also be handing out rackcards and DMM muscle shirts throughout the summer.

Additional projects

There’s been very positive feedback to the Okanagan WaterWise Challenge 2013, inviting students to share what they are doing to save and protect Okanagan water. Winners were announced during Drinking Water Week, May 22. Two winning classes went out on a “Love Your Water Body” cruise to learn more about water in the Okanagan, and a third class won a pizza party and pool passes, thanks to Kelowna Dinner Cruises, Cruise Okanagan, Panago and H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre.

Directors provided feedback on the MWW and DMM materials with a couple noting the billboards seem to work and stand out. Dr. Warwick Sears added that the DMM campaign is gaining attention outside the valley and was noted at a national water convention she attended.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated June 26, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Findlater and Pepper exited the meeting.

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Memo on Audited Financial Statements

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced Peter Geh who went over the OBWB’s most recent audited financial statements with the board.

Following some discussion, the board moved to adopt the statements.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the 2012-13 fiscal year as presented.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Bauer and Hrasko abstained.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Federal Minister of Environment Peter Kent to RDCO re: zebra/quagga mussel

8.2 Letter from Federal Minister of Environment Peter Kent to DWK re: zebra/quagga mussel

8.3 Letter from District of Peachland to OBWB re: WCQI program

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent to RDCO and DWK, and from District of Peachland to the OBWB.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will follow the Annual General Meeting on Sept. 6 in Kelowna. Location TBA.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 2, 2013 be adjourned at 1:27 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director