



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 6, 2013, AT ROTARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS,  
421 CAWSTON AVE., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Mike Macnabb	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
Director John Vassilaki	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

**REGRETS**

Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
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**

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 12:23 p.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 September 6, 2013 be approved."***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 2, 2013 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 2, 2013 at Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted."***

**CARRIED**

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

### 5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears presented her report to the board, noting that following on the Strategic Planning Session held in June, that a draft plan will be developed and brought back to directors. The board was also presented with a copy of the package sent to the Premier and Okanagan MLAs with an update on the reservoir lots issue.

#### Zebra/Quagga Mussels

Following on a request from the board, Dr. Warwick Sears noted that letters were recently sent to federal MPs requesting a boat inspection program to help prevent the spread of invasive mussels. There was a follow-up discussion with MP Ron Cannan and discussions with federal and provincial officials are continuing, noted.

Dir. Findlater said that he also spoke with MP Dan Albas and that the OBWB should continue a conversation with him as well.

There was some discussion about the Don't Move a Mussel campaign and it was noted that the Shuswap River Ambassadors are using the materials.

Dir. Findlater added that a resolution is going forward to the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities annual convention, forwarded by RDOS and endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association, requesting the province and federal government to implement legislation and border controls to stop the spread.

#### Stormwater Grants Needs Assessment Survey

A survey of Okanagan local governments regarding the OBWB's Sewage Facility Grants Program and the possibility of expanding it to include stormwater infrastructure projects has been completed. There is great interest in pursuing this, added Dr. Warwick Sears. A full report will be brought to the board in October.

#### Licence allocation RFP

The province has provided the Water Board with funds to develop a tool that will help with licence allocation decisions – the project is part of the ongoing Water Supply and Demand Project. An RFP will be going out to develop the plan for the creation of such a tool.

Directors voiced strong support for the plan.

#### BC WURC Concept Paper

Staff have presented the province with a concept paper, suggesting that the BC Water Use Reporting Centre be considered as a starting point for a new Crown corporation. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) Steve Thomson is taking the suggestion forward as part of the province's Core Review.

The water use reporting software is being used in the Okanagan and by Nanaimo Regional District. There is interest in other parts of the province, added Mr. Jatel. The software is of great use to various ministries, but there isn't the capacity to take it on. This is one potential solution.

Dir. Pike exited the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Aug. 28, 2013, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

### Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel reported on the upcoming council meeting and a presentation on a new tool developed by ESSA, with FLNRO and Okanagan Nation Alliance, to assess instream flow needs.

### Okanagan Wetland Strategy: Phase 1

The board was updated on a wetland strategy for the Okanagan being developed in partnership between the OBWB, BC Wildlife Federation, and RDCO. Environment Canada has provided \$35,000 in funding. The OBWB would be providing \$5,500 of in-kind project management support.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board staff project manage, in partnership with the BC Wildlife Federation and the RDCO , the Okanagan Wetland Project: Phase 1 and contract with Ecoscape Environmental Consultants to provide the work detailed in their RFP submission for a total project cost of \$51,321.”***

**CARRIED**

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

**CARRIED**

## 5.3 Office and Project Manager Report

### Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley presented his report and noted that rototilling seems to be working effectively on milfoil, especially in Osoyoos where it has been a problem this summer.

### WCQI Grant Program

At the request of the board, an extensive review of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Program is underway. A report will be brought to directors in November.

### Arctic char fish farm

Mr. Littley provided a report on a visit to the Arctic char fish farm near Oliver and noted that the operator seems to be taking appropriate precautions to ensure there’s no environmental harm done.

Alt. Dir. Allan Patton added that he agreed that all the proper measures seem to be in place but that he would like to see greater provincial oversight. Dir. Siddon said that he still had questions and concerns.

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

**CARRIED**

## 5.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided a brief report on the Make Water Work and Don’t Move a Mussel campaigns, noting that the initiatives run until the end of September and that a complete report would be provided at the end.

### Make Water Work campaign

Ms. Jackson noted that with MWW, pledges to conserve water outdoors increased four-fold from the previous year, and the number of visitors to the [www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca) website also more than doubled. The campaign has included an updated microsite with an interactive map, billboards, posters, postcards and fridge magnets for partners to hand out, a series of articles in local newspapers, Facebook ads, radio ads, a contest, and a secondary contest page on SunFM websites in the valley.

Partners are reporting that they are very happy with the way the campaign is going and there is interest in moving forward in 2014 with some new additions.

#### Don't Move a Mussel campaign

The Don't Move a Mussel campaign has used most of the same elements as MWW (the creation of a new website at [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca), posters, billboards, radio ads, etc.) and has gained enormous traction in its first year. The campaign asks people to "Spread the message. Not the mussel." and people are responding – reposting Facebook posts, sharing DMM Facebook ads, messages on Twitter, picking up and distributing posters, rack cards, etc., noted Ms. Jackson. In addition, she reported, a partnership with radio stations has been very successful with event staff attending events throughout the Okanagan, handing out DMM muscle shirts – helping, again, spread the message.

Ms. Jackson also reported on the success of the first Eco-Blast Kids Camp, put on by Fresh Outlook Foundation in partnership with the Okanagan Boys and Girls Club and sponsored in part by the OBWB.

***"THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator's Report, dated August 27, 2013, be received."***

**CARRIED**

Dirs. Findlater and Pepper exited the meeting.

#### **7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### 7.1 National Park Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program has requested that the OBWB pass a resolution asking the B.C. Government to re-engage in a discussion process for a national park.

Following some discussion, the board voted to approve a resolution with some amendments, noting the park project is consistent with OBWB's objectives for water protection.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the resolution, as amended."***

**CARRIED**

#### **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### 8.1 Letter from District of West Kelowna to Federal Ministers of Environment and Fisheries and Ocean re: zebra/quagga mussel

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from District of West Kelowna to Federal Ministers of Environment and Fisheries and Ocean re: zebra/quagga mussel."***

**CARRIED**

9. **NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Oct. 1, 2013 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 6, 2013 be adjourned at 1:57 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director