



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD OCTOBER 1, 2013, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN,  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director 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
Alt. Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director John Vassilaki	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tom Siddon	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 10:10 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

7.1 Correspondence from B.C. Minister of Environment to the OBWB re: zebra/quagga mussels

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 1, 2013 as amended."***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 6, 2013 at Rotary Centre for the Arts.

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 6, 2013 at Rotary Centre for the Arts be adopted."***

**CARRIED**

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

5.1 Executive Director Report

International Joint Commission/Osoyoos Lake Board of Control

Dr. Warwick Sears noted a discussion she had with the IJC regarding zebra and quagga mussel and the agency's interest in writing to the Canadian government, requesting quick action to allow inspections for the invasive mussels.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board forward a letter to the International Joint Commission requesting that it write to the Canadian government and urge rapid action to allow inspections for zebra/quagga mussels and other invasive species at International border crossings.”***

**CARRIED**

It was suggested that the IJC letter be cc'd to provincial and federal ministers.

It was also suggested the OBWB bring the issue forward to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. It was noted that the Water Board's request to Okanagan local governments for support on the issue led to RDOS bringing forward a resolution for action to the Union of BC Municipalities, which was passed. The UBCM resolution will be forwarded to provincial and federal ministers.

Blue Green Algae

The board was provided an update on a recent blue-green algae bloom in Osoyoos Lake and how it brought to attention the lack of a developed response plan. After some discussion the board asked staff to draft a letter to Interior Health asking that a response plan and protocols be developed.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to Interior Health, asking that a response plan and protocol to address blue-green algae be developed.”***

**CARRIED**

Water Research Chair

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an update on UBCO's Water Research Chair.

Additional updates

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that Environment Canada has provided an additional \$7,000 towards the Water Board's streamflow monitoring project.

The province is expected to release a Water Act legislative paper later this month with feedback required within a few weeks. It was suggested the Water Stewardship Council put together a committee to review it. The analysis would then be provided to the board for input before being forwarded to the province.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its updated summary for policy makers which reinforces that global warming is increasing. One of the results, noted Dr. Warwick Sears is going to be more intense storms. A summary for policy makers can be found at [www.climatechange2013.org](http://www.climatechange2013.org).

***“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Sept. 25, 2013, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the Water Stewardship Council, a presentation at its last meeting on a project that helps water managers determine water needs for fish, and work on

the Water Management Plan.

Alt. Dir. Dobson entered the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Mr. Jatel noted that October's meeting is the last of the current 16-month term. As such, Chair Bauer will be stepping down and it is expected that vice-chair, Don Dobson, will become chair, helping ensure a seamless transition.

***"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Sept. 25, 2013, be received."***  
**CARRIED**

### 5.3 Office and Project Manager Report

#### Milfoil Control Program

Rototilling is beginning in Kalamalka Lake and Osoyoos Lake.

Staff have put out a request for quotes to replace the milfoil equipment transport trailer, identified as in need of replacement several years ago. The expected cost can be accommodated by the equipment reserve fund. A recommendation will be made at the November board meeting. There was discussion about reselling the existing equipment and the need to consider liability.

Mr. Littley noted that a Request for Proposal went out to build an integrated hydrometric database for the Okanagan. As one of the members of a team that submitted a bid, Dir. Dobson recused himself.

Dir. Dobson exited the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

After some discussion the board approved the staff recommendation.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board award the \$70,000 contract for Building an Integrated Hydrometric Data System to Summit Environmental Consultants."***  
**CARRIED**

Dir. Pike abstained.

***"THAT the Office and Project Manager's Report, dated Sept. 25, 2013, be received."***  
**CARRIED**

### 5.4 Communications Director Report

Staff have been invited to present on the Make Water Work (MWW) initiative at the annual WaterSmart Innovations conference – considered the largest urban water-efficiency conference of its kind. In addition to presenting, staff will be collecting feedback from peers and attending the rest of the conference. A report will be provided at the next board meeting.

Data is still being collected regarding MWW 2013, but figures so far show \$84,000 of in-kind advertising and other support. Local government partners were invited to receive \$2-3,000 in matching funds to add their community's name to the campaign and receive additional benefits. Based on funds from the OBWB and work to secure in-kind support, partners received an advertising campaign worth \$120,000.

Ms. Jackson noted the strong participation of local government partners in 2013 as one of the key factors in the success of MWW. She also mentioned the support of Ken's Horticultural

Services and others.

The board asked staff to draw up a thank you letter to KHS for their participation.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a thank you letter to Ken’s Horticultural Services thanking them for their participation in Make Water Work 2013.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated Sept. 25, 2013, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## **6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Stormwater Needs Assessment Memo**

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an overview of a report that reviewed the potential of expanding the OBWB’s Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant Program to covering stormwater infrastructure projects. The report looks at the potential to expand the program, as well as other ways to support stormwater management in the future, she noted.

There was lengthy discussion about how the current SFA grants are beginning to phase out as communities complete upgrades to their systems, and how the greatest cause of urban non-point source pollution in the valley is now stormwater.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that the current SFA program is effective in triggering matching funds for projects that communities might otherwise be unable to do. Just as the SFA grants were intended to help local governments address sewage issues that were affecting water for the entire valley, stormwater pollution in one community affects the rest of the basin, she added.

Any change to the program, she continues, would require a change to the OBWB’s letters patent from the province and the approval of all three Okanagan regional districts.

After further discussion, the board asked the Executive Director to provide a report on the Terms of Reference and the financing plan to the board.

***“THAT staff provide a report to the Board of Directors with Terms of Reference and a financing plan regarding changes to the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant Program to include stormwater infrastructure funding.”***

**CARRIED**

Directors provided final comments with one suggesting that perhaps the grants should be set up like the SFA program which targets aging infrastructure.

### **6.2 Strategic Planning Memo**

Dr. Warwick Sears reintroduced Vic Cummings who led the OBWB’s strategic planning session in June.

Mr. Cummings provided an overview of the draft Strategic Plan. In response to questions, he suggested that directors refer to the abridged eight-page report often, which outlines the goals and direction of the Water Board. However, it is important to remember, he added, it does not

suggest that all goals and work must be done by the OBWB. It is intended to guide the work of the OBWB in helping manage and protect the water resources of the valley.

Following on some discussion by the board, directors agreed to support the document in principle with minor edits and improvements to the layout.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board support the OBWB Strategic Plan 2014-2019 in principle with edits as discussed.”***

**CARRIED**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Letter from BC Minister of Environment Mary Polak to OBWB re: zebra/quagga mussels

Board of Directors noted the letter, but also suggested that work needs to continue to ensure this issue does not get dropped. Staff agreed and will continue to strategize.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from B.C. Minister of Environment Mary Polak re: zebra/quagga mussels.”***

**CARRIED**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Nov. 5, 2013 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 1, 2013 be adjourned at 1:19 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director