



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2013, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN,
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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 Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmerman	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director Allan Patton	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

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 10:04 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

7.2 Correspondence from B.C. Minister of Environment to the OBWB re: national park

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2013 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 1, 2013 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 1, 2013 at Regional District of North Okanagan be adopted."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

OBWB Strategic Plan

Dr. Warwick Sears introduced the draft strategic plan. After a brief discussion the plan was adopted.

Valley-wide water planning update:

Staff are doing a gap analysis, interviewing water utility staff throughout the valley re: metering, drought plans, etc. and will be developing a strategy to create common approaches to water management, reduce fragmentation and determine what valley-wide approach would bring greatest value. Staff expect to report back to the board in about six months.

Meeting with Minister Polak

A meeting was held with Min. Polak during her recent Water Sustainability Act tour. We discussed the BC Water Use Reporting Centre and its potential use B.C.-wide, as well as concerns regarding zebra/quagga mussels.

Tides/RBC workshop on urban water conservation

The OBWB has received funding to hold one of three workshops in Canada regarding urban water conservation issues. We are looking to expand the Make Water Work campaign, working with existing partners and bringing in additional sectors (e.g. the landscape and nursery industry). The workshop will be in early 2014.

Licence Allocation Plan RFP

The next step in the Water Supply and Demand Project is to develop a tool to help make water licencing decisions. The Water Board put out an RFP and received one bid (a collaboration of agencies). The bidder is well-qualified but their submission was broader in scope than necessary and came in higher than requested.

The board agreed with the importance of the project and asked staff to renegotiate a narrower focus for less cost.

“THAT the OBWB Executive Director renegotiate the scope and cost of the project with the single RFP respondent.”

CARRIED

Sandford and Smith presentation in Penticton

RDOS has arranged a staff training workshop and public presentation on Nov. 19, featuring Canadian Chair of the UN Water for Life Decade Robert Sandford (keynote speaker at the Water Board's recent AGM) and soil scientist Scott Smith from the Pacific Agri-Food Research Station. Staff will be learning about what to expect from climate change and what needs to be done to prepare communities. A few spots are still available.

January OBWB meeting cancelled

Dr. Warwick Sears requested a motion to cancel January's board meeting due to the holidays and people on vacation.

“THAT the January 7, 2014 OBWB board meeting be cancelled.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Oct. 30, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the previous month's council meeting and presentations by RDOS and RDCO staff on regional growth strategies and how water fits within them. RDNO was unable to attend, but will be speaking to council in December. Dr. Warwick Sears also reported on the OBWB's strategic plan and gathered feedback, added Mr. Jatel.

Next month council will be talking about the Sustainable Water Act. Also, Don Dobson was elected vice-chair at the start of the last 18-month term with the intention that he would be prepared for the role of chair for the following term, starting in December 2013. A formal election will be held at the next meeting. Guest speaker this month will be Wayne Wilson, talking about the changing landscape of the Okanagan and the role of water management decisions.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Oct. 29, 2013, be received."

CARRIED

5.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley reported on a request for quotes for a new milfoil equipment trailer and a recommendation for purchase.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approves the order and purchase of a new milfoil equipment trailer from AQUAMARINE of Oakville, Ont."

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Dobson abstained.

Sewage Facilities Grant Program

Mr. Littley provided background to recent SFA grant applications from the City of Vernon.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the SFA application for the City of Vernon, Tronson Rd – Beachcomber Bay to Bella Vista area."

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Dobson abstained.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the SFA application for the City of Vernon, Bella Vista Rd. area."

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Dobson abstained.

Mr. Littley noted pending SFA applications from the City of Vernon for work completed in past years. There was some discussion about retroactive applications. Mr. Littley noted that the city was unclear on the terms of the SFA program which have now been clarified.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the SFA Notifications as detailed above for payment in the 2014-15 fiscal year without requiring further applications from the City of Vernon."

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Dobson abstained.

Mr. Littley reported on an application from Vernon requesting approval in principle for a project at Adventure Bay.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the SFA Notifications as detailed above in principle pending approved applications.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Pike and Dobson abstained.

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program Review

Following on a request from the board, staff have been conducting a comprehensive review of the WCQI program. Preliminary findings were presented, indicating grants provided for various projects including source protection, restoration, mapping, xeriscaping, education and more. The average grant amount has been \$16,260. The maximum permitted is \$30,000 per grant. In total, \$2.6 million has been awarded over eight years.

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

CARRIED

5.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the WaterSmart Innovations conference and her presentation on the Make Water Work (MWW) initiative, including some of the feedback received. A number of directors had questions about the conference and the water situation in Vegas as compared to the Okanagan.

It was suggested that the OBWB consider presenting on some of its other work at a future WSI conference.

Ms. Jackson reported on various OBWB-sponsored initiatives that she has been helping promote (e.g. a joint Summerland Ornamental Gardens/RDOS water conservation workshop for residents, the showing of “Lost Rivers” as part of the REEL Sustainability Film Fest, and an Okanagan Wetlands Strategy workshop and open house).

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated Oct. 29, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Annual Budget Features Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an overview of the 2014-15 budget for review. Directors were pleased to see the OBWB continue its many projects with no increase in the requisition.

The overall tax requisition is \$3.44 million, or 5.8 cents /\$1,000 assessed value.

The budget covers the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant Program, Watermilfoil Control Program, the UBCO Water Research Chair, and the Water Management Program with its many components (e.g. Water Stewardship Council, WCQI Grant Program, Education and Outreach, and Research).

The board approved the budget in principle and moved in-camera to discuss staff salaries.

Move to in-camera at 11:45 a.m.

The board reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

“THAT the Board adopt the provisional budget and requisitions at a zero percent increase.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Sustainability Act Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented a backgrounder report and noted that the changes will be rolled out over time as regulations are developed, adding that most believe the act won't have a lot of details itself.

Director Keith Fielding exited the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Mr. Jatel provided the board with an overview, going over the Water Act modernization (WAM) process and the currently proposed Water Sustainability Act (WSA). He also reviewed the board's earlier WAM submission.

Mr. Jatel went on to review the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council's recommendations for an OBWB submission to the WSA, adding that – although the council supports where the WSA is going – it believes the act requires proper financial support and regulations in place to ensure its success.

There was discussion about a cover letter, suggesting that the OBWB add a note that it supports the work of the B.C. government on the WSA and offer the expertise of the council to help as the province moves forward on developing regulations.

Drs. Pike and Cunningham also noted their interest in seeing the draft legislation before it's passed. Chair Wells and Dir. Siddon agreed.

After some further discussion, the board asked staff to draft a cover letter and circulate to directors for feedback.

“THAT staff draft a cover letter, based on the above discussion and as part of the OBWB's Water Sustainability Act submission, and provide it to the board to review before forwarding to the province.”

CARRIED

It was suggested that Chair Wells follow up the OBWB submission with a personal phone call to Min. of Environment Mary Polak and Min. of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thompson, reiterating the letter –that the OBWB supports the government's efforts and is available to assist further.

6.3 Sewage Grant Policy Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented a memo regarding a referral from RDNO and a zoning bylaw change that would affect the OBWB's one hectare policy in the Sewage Facilities Assistance Grant program.

Following some discussion, the board agreed to update the Water Board's SFA Grant Terms of Reference to prohibit detached accessory dwellings on properties less than 1 ha.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board update its grant Terms of Reference, and explicitly prohibit detached accessory dwellings on properties less than one hectare.”

CARRIED

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter from federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to District of West Kelowna re: zebra/quagga mussels

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to District of West Kelowna re: zebra/quagga mussels.”

CARRIED

7.2 Letter from B.C. Min. of Environment to OBWB re: national park

The board was presented a letter from the MoE saying that the province is not interested in discussing a national park at this time.

Chair Wells noted that the letter is dated a month ago and much has happened since then with RDOS and RDCO noting their support to the province. RDNO was expected to do the same in the coming days. A feasibility study by four First Nations bands shows in favour, and other support is growing, he added.

Chair Wells closed the meeting announcing that this was his last meeting as chair and he would be stepping down. A new chair will be elected at the first OBWB meeting of 2014. Chair Wells served on the Water Stewardship Council for four years before being elected to the board in 2009. He thanked his fellow directors and staff for their work on valley-wide water issues.

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Dec. 3, 2013 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2013 be adjourned at 2 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director