



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD DECEMBER 3, 2013, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN,
101 MARTIN ST., PENTICTON, B.C.**

PRESENT

Vice-chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	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 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

Vice-chair Fairbairn called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

5.1 Presentation by Ron Doucette and Terry Underwood, Town of Osoyoos re: manganese removal process

7.2 Correspondence from TOTA to the B.C. Ministry of Environment re: establishment of South Okanagan-Similkameen national parks reserve

7.3 Correspondence from IHA to the OBWB re: response protocol for blue-green algae blooms

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 3, 2013 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 5, 2013 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 5, 2013 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted."

CARRIED

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Ron Doucette with Town of Osoyoos and Terry Underwood with TRUE Consulting

Mr. Doucette gave an overview of Osoyoos' biological manganese removal pilot study, funded in part by the OBWB.

The pilot was conducted at a couple of the town's pump stations, using seed bacteria (black sand) that naturally oxidizes manganese, removing it from the water. Results showed a number of benefits, including the reduction of dissolved manganese concentrations.

It was noted that manganese is not an issue with lake water, but is a concern with ground water. It is not a health issue, but is unpleasant aesthetically and can clog pipes.

Dir. Siddon wondered whether or not mining operations in the area are causing infiltration of manganese into wells. He suggested that research into what is in our ground water may become more important as demand for this water resource increases.

Staff suggested that it could arrange to have an expert address the board regarding groundwater issues. There was general interest in the idea.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on a meeting between OBWB staff and Okanagan MLAs and MPs. There was some discussion about the province possibly taking on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, but most of the discussion focused on preventing a potential invasion of zebra and quagga mussels. While there was some debate about what level of government should take next steps and what those are, there was interest in a potential Okanagan pilot inspection program. OBWB directors encouraged staff to continue to pursue a broader solution with the province and federal government.

It was also suggested that the OBWB start to consider a response once the mussels arrive (i.e. how to address water infrastructure issues).

After some further discussion the board asked staff to research z/q mussel management plans in various U.S. states (e.g. Idaho) and a potential meeting with relevant agencies (CBS) and ministries.

"THAT staff research existing zebra/quagga mussel management plans in locations where they exist and the potential for a meeting with relevant agencies and ministries."

CARRIED

Dir. Findlater asked that letters sent from the OBWB to the province, federal government and others re: the mussels be collated and forwarded to directors.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted a successful staff workshop and public meeting hosted by RDOS that included presentations by Robert Sandford and Scott Smith about preparing communities for climate change.

OBWB staff attended a meeting of B.C. water funders at the end of November, looking at how funding can best be leveraged in the province. Staff are now reviewing opportunities for potential partnerships for Okanagan projects.

Dr. Warwick Sears told the board about her involvement in a working group on floodplain mapping led by the BC Real Estate Association. She also noted that the province is funding a study on flooding on Mission Creek. Directors noted the importance of the issue and the need for updated mapping.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Nov. 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided highlights from the previous month’s Water Stewardship Council meeting, including Mr. Dobson being elected chair (the vice-chair will be elected at the December meeting). Former Kelowna Museum Executive Director Wayne Wilson also presented on historical water management planning in the Okanagan and its effect on the valley’s landscape. Provincial staff joined the meeting via teleconference to give an update on the proposed Water Sustainability Act. And, the council discussed the donation of its \$1,000 Council of the Federation’s Excellence in Water Stewardship award, recommending that it be awarded to Okanagan College to support a Water Engineering and Technology student in financial need.

Mr. Jatel brought the recommendation forward to the board.

“THAT the OBWB approves the Water Stewardship’s donation of their \$1,000 Council of the Federation’s Excellence in Water Stewardship award to Okanagan College to support a Water Engineering and Technology student in financial need.

CARRIED

December’s board meeting will include a presentation from RDNO on its Regional Growth Strategy and its impact to water. The presentation is a follow up from similar presentations from RDCO and RDOS and will help with the development of a water plan for the Okanagan.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Nov. 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.3 Office and Project Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated directors on the milfoil control program, noting that the new operating orders have helped make the program run more smoothly. Rototilling is now underway in Kalamalka and Wood Lakes, and Okanagan and Osoyoos Lake.

Directors were provided with a draft “Call for Applications” for the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant program.

The 2014 board meeting schedule was also provided. Dir. Findlater offered a tour of the Westside Treatment Plant, suggesting it might be of interest as part of an upcoming board meeting in the Central Okanagan.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated Nov. 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Blue State Digital project, noting that a sign-up form is now on the OBWB website, allowing the public to sign up for updates from the Water Board. This and other BSD tools will be implemented in the coming months to encourage greater engagement with the public on water issues. The OBWB received funding from Canadian Freshwater Alliance for this project.

The board was provided an update on other communication efforts including discussions around Canada Water Week (March 16-22), including its annual panel discussion and Okanagan WaterWise contest for youth.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated Nov. 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Move to in-camera at 11:50 a.m.

The board reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

7. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 Water Conservation Quality Improvement Grant Review Memo

1. Sharing information about project successes

Mr. Littley introduced his memo, noting one of the issues the OBWB is trying to resolve is the improvement of information sharing among grant recipients.

In response, staff recommended that the OBWB host a WCQI workshop for grant-eligible organizations. Directors discussed the recommendation noting the objectives of the workshop. There was mention of potentially making it mandatory to qualify for funding. It was also suggested that the workshops could be held in each region to make it easier for non-profits to attend.

“THAT the OBWB host a WCQI workshop on a regular basis for grant-eligible organizations (local government, improvement districts and non-profits) to share project successes, improve basin-wide collaboration and identify ways to achieve OBWB strategic goals.

CARRIED

2. Clarify grant approval process

Based on misunderstandings around resolutions of support from local governments for applications, staff recommend a letter be forwarded to local government partners explaining the program’s objectives, the process and the basis for supporting applications.

Following discussion by the board it was agreed that a clarification letter could be useful, in particular, to clarify the role of the board in approving or not approving staff recommendations.

“THAT staff forward letters to local governments providing information clarifying the basis for supporting applications to the WCQI program as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

There was discussion of a recommendation that would allow the board to approve annual themes for funding (issues of importance in a particular year) that staff would consider in making recommendations to the board.

“THAT in addition to approving scoring criteria, the Board also approve and weight an annual theme or themes, prior to the call for applications. This would allow the Board to pre-determine which type of projects should score higher, while also meeting the regular criteria of the grant program.

CARRIED

“AND further that for 2014, the priority weight be given to proposals aligned with the goals in our strategic plan.”

CARRIED

Directors discussed a staff recommendation regarding how directors vote for projects (region vs. valley). It was decided that, as with other board decisions, directors should vote considering the valley as a whole.

“THAT discussion and voting on grant awards should occur as any other regular business, with input from all Directors.”

CARRIED

3. Reconsider the regional distribution of funding

Staff noted that the current funding distribution considers funding by regional district tax requisition rather than water needs and there are several examples where one region may benefit greatly from a project funded in another region. There was discussion about reviewing the current funding distribution and general support.

Dr. Warwick Sears noted that if there is a change in funding allocation it would have to come forward as part of the Water Management Program Review in 2015.

Dir. Zimmermann exited the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

7.2 Land Use Inventory MOU Memo

Dr. Warwick Sears presented a memo regarding an agreement between the OBWB and B.C. Ministry of Environment, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC and Ag Canada to update the Land Use Inventory for the Okanagan Water Demand Model.

There was some general discussion about the project. It was noted that the model is the most highly-used tool to come out of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project and has been used by the Kelowna Joint Water Committee and Okanagan local governments to create agricultural plans, water master plans, and more.

“THAT the OBWB enter into an MOU with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Partnership for Water Sustainability to update the Okanagan Land Use Inventory for the Okanagan Water Demand Model.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Dobson and Pike abstained.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from B.C. Minister of Environment re: WSA

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from BC Ministry of Environment re: WSA.”

CARRIED

8.2 Letter from Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association to Province of B.C. re: national park

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from TOTA re: national park.”

CARRIED

8.3 Letter from IHA to OBWB re: standard response protocol for blue-green algae blooms

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the correspondence from IHA re: standard response protocol for blue-green algae blooms.”

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Feb. 4, 2014 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 3, 2013 be adjourned at 1:52 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director