



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 6, 2014, AT POWERS CREEK WATER TREATMENT PLANT
3184 SHETLER DR., WEST KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Keith Fielding	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gerry Zimmermann	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Wes Hopkin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Allan Patton	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director James Pepper	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

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 Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 6, 2014 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2014 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 1, 2014 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be adopted."

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Peter Geh – BDO auditor

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears introduced Mr. Geh who provided an overview of the Financial

Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Dir. Dirk entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

There was discussion of the province's recent audit of a local government that found potential conflict of interest issues around procurement and requisition processes. With other local governments required to go through the same auditing process, the board suggested that OBWB's Executive Director review these processes with the agency's accountant.

In response to a question, Dr. Warwick Sears explained the OBWB's procurement process and added that staff recognize perception of conflict of interest is as significant as real and they work to ensure it is not an issue.

A final version of the Financial Statements will be provided to the board at the June board meeting.

5.2 Wayne Wilson – Central Okanagan Land Trust

Mr. Wilson provided an historic overview of irrigation in the Okanagan. His presentation included how irrigation systems evolved and improved, how water was brought to dry areas to help farm, and how the Okanagan moved from cattle ranching to crop farming.

Dir. Patton entered the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Mr. Wilson noted that better decisions can be made when we understand historical context.

It was noted that the public often asks why communities didn't build twinned water systems to begin with, one for agriculture and one for domestic use. Having this historic context, understanding that the systems were originally built by farmers for ag use, helps answer those questions.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Executive Director Report

Joint OBWB/Council meeting June 3 in Penticton

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an overview of the meeting plan, noting that there will be a short board meeting followed by the joint board/council meeting. There will also be presentations by the ONA regarding its work on a Sylix Water Strategy and an update on the Columbia River Basin Treaty.

Blue Green Algae Response Protocols

Staff will be meeting with IHA regarding development of response protocols for blue green algae, providing assistance to communities. Staff will report back at the next board meeting.

Licence Allocation Report

Following up on the workshop on the licence allocation tool plan, a report has been developed. This will help the province with its water licence allocation decisions, taking into account various issues including flows for fish, and under vs over-allocation of water.

Endocrine Disruptors Report for OBWB/OkWaterWise websites

The OBWB is developing an outreach piece regarding Endocrine Disruptor Compounds research.

In response to questions, Dr. Warwick Sears explained that it is still unclear what amount of

EDCs cause harm to humans, but local research is showing that it can potentially have an impact on fish. Since there are ways people can prevent ingesting EDCS and subsequently flushing them back into our waters, it is something we should be messaging out on.

Protection of Drinking Water in Community Watersheds

Dr. Warwick Sears noted a recent report from B.C. Forest Practices Board suggesting the need for improved forestry management practices in watersheds. The timing, she added is important since the North Okanagan has been working to address protection of drinking water in community watersheds, finalizing their Duteau Creek Watershed Assessment Response Plan.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated March 26, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the previous month’s Water Stewardship Council (WSC) meeting and a presentation by Lael Parrott of UBCO’s BRAES (Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystems Services) Institute, which represents another access point for local governments to relevant water research.

This month have UBCO’s Water Research Chair John Janmaat coming to talk on the province’s “Pricing BC Water” document and ALR changes and implications to water resources in the Okanagan.

Last year the WSC was awarded \$1,000 through Council of the Federation for its work. The council will be presenting the funds to the OC Water Engineering Technology Program for a student on behalf of the council and board.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated March 26, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6.3 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an overview of various communication projects including Drinking Water Week (May 4-10) and the Map Your Tap contest, noting winners would be announced soon and information could be found at www.OkWaterWise.ca.

In response to requests from Okanagan local governments for invasive mussel boat launch signs with Don’t Move a Mussel, staff have been gathering quotes to have signs made and will then have them built. The signs will retain some of the look of the Invasive Species Council of BC signs to assist recognition and ensure consistent messaging in B.C. but will include the Okanagan specific DMM messaging and local government logos. Eight communities have requested signs.

The DMM website is also being built out to allow people to connect to their senior government officials and register their concerns. This will be supplemented with radio, social media, and a news release.

Work is also continuing on rolling out the Make Water Work outdoor water conservation campaign with a growing number of local government, media and local business partners.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated March 26, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

6.4 Office and Project Manager Report

Mr. Littley noted milfoil control rototilling is done for the season. Staff are now investigating how to implement the “Clean, Drain, Dry” protocol for moving equipment between lakes.

There was lengthy discussion about potential solutions (e.g current availability of proper decontamination units, potential purchase of a unit for use by the OBWB only or also for use by others on a cost-recovery basis/revenue-generating basis).

The board asked staff to investigate the units further (e.g. the ability to move one of the two provincial units to the Okanagan which is considered a high-risk region; whether or not a proper unit is already available in the Okanagan for use).

“THAT staff continue their investigation into processes related to decontamination equipment and report back to the board at next meeting.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated April 28, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

7. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 BC Water Use Reporting Centre (BCWURC)

Mr. Jatel opened discussion noting an ongoing conversation between the OBWB and the province regarding the BC WURC web tool and the Water Board’s interest in having the provincial government take it on as a tool for water rent collection.

In reviewing the new Bill 18 Water Sustainability Act (its need for water use reporting – surface and now ground water, as well as various other water management initiatives that will require funds), the OBWB is recommending an independent agency be created and that the province use the BC WURC program and the water rents collected to help fund the new agency and pay for the initiatives outlined in the WSA.

The Water Board was invited by Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Steve Thomson to present a business case based on this recommendation, added Mr. Jatel.

There was discussion around the pros and cons of independent commissions. It was noted that more funding is needed to be able to implement the changes proposed in the WSA and this is one possible solution, ensuring water rents fund water projects rather than going into general revenue as it does currently.

“THAT the Board send Ministers Thomson and Polak the attached cover letter and information package to support improving water-use data and consider establishing a new provincial Water Use Reporting Centre either as part of FLNRO or as a new commission.”

CARRIED

7.2 Update on Zebra Mussel Letter Writing Campaign

Dr. Warwick Sears provided an update to the board noting the OBWB sent letters to various B.C. local governments voicing concern about invasive mussels and asking for support. Several municipal councils have responded, including Midway, Cranbrook, and Vernon.

The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) is doing outreach, she added. Also, the Kelowna-Lake Country and Kelowna-Mission Liberal Riding Associations will be sent a policy submission to address the mussel issue. The board asked that the same submission be forwarded to the BC NDP and Green Party.

There will also be discussion about invasive mussel prevention at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit Meeting, July 22 in Whistler. Mr. Littley will be attending. Dir. Wells noted he may also attend.

Directors noted other initiatives in their communities, including Friends of Kalamalka Lake planning to write letters. There was also discussion about the warning from Manitoba’s water stewardship minister to the B.C. government, to act fast and prevent the mussels from entering B.C. waters.

“THAT the Mussel Update Memo, dated April 29, 2014, be received.”
CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Urban Development Institute letter to Interior Health Authority

There was some discussion about a letter from UDI to Interior Health and a new water information initiative that would make it appear that many systems are unsafe – based only on the treatment system in place and not their actual water quality.

The board agreed to send a letter supporting UDI’s concerns about the new system

“THAT the OBWB send a letter to IHA, cc’d to those noted on the original UDI letter, expressing support for UDI and its concerns.”
CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be June 3, 2014 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort in Penticton.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 6, 2014 be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director