



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCTOBER 7, 2014, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, 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
Alt. Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Patty Hanson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Allan Patton	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Garry Litke	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 Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

4.1 Presentation by Jane Lister Regional Dean – North Okanagan, Okanagan College

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 5, 2014 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION

4.1 Jane Lister, Okanagan College

Ms. Lister presented an update on the Kalamalka Demonstration Garden and Patchwork Community Farm, which received two grants from the OBWB’s WCQI program.

Work began on the almost 2-acre piece of property in 2012 and today includes a xeriscape garden, rain garden and curb cuts, greenhouses, food forest (including nut and fruit trees and berries), a dry creek bed, pathways, underground irrigation, teaching space, picnic tables and storage shed.

Additional partners include District of Coldstream, RDNO, the Okanagan College Innovation Fund, Tree Canada, Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board, Interior Health, Kindale Developmental Assoc., and many more.

This year, the project will begin farm programming, expanding on the public education work it has been doing. Future plans include fundraising for additional features and continuing to expand the partnership for ag and food projects, and educational programming.

In response to questions, Lister noted that while some of the principles of the garden (e.g. permaculture) are taught through Continuing Studies there is no regular program, and that the college has been talking with the University of the Fraser Valley about a possible partnership. The food from the garden, she added, is used by OC's Culinary Arts program.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 5, 2014 at Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 5, 2014 at Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna be adopted."

CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Water Management Program Renewal

Dr. Sears reported that the WMP was renewed by all regional districts. The program's term is now four years, aligned with the new local government term of office. There are no changes to program with existing projects continuing.

UBCO Endowment Report

A written update report was provided. This is the last year of funding from OBWB.

Osoyoos Lake Board of Control Meeting

The annual meeting will be held Oct. 28, 7 p.m. in Oroville. Wash. and will include an update on South Okanagan water management issues. The meeting, noted Dr. Sears, is a good opportunity to learn of water issues on both sides of border.

SILGA Resolutions

Dr. Sears noted resolutions taken to UBCM, those endorsed and not endorsed.

Directors spoke to the resolution not endorsed regarding double-licencing of water and possible dissolution of the Environmental Appeal Board. Alt. Dir. Baker noted it was raised with Minister of Environment Polak at the UBCM and she seems interested in the issue and how double licencing relates to the new Water Sustainability Act.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated October 1, 2014, be received."

CARRIED

6.2 Office and Project Manager Report

SFA Grant Program

Mr. Littley presented on a grant application from RDOS for the wastewater treatment plant in Okanagan Falls.

“THAT the SFA application for the RDOS Okanagan Falls STP project be approved as outlined above.”

CARRIED

Hydrometric Data System Project

Mr. Littley provided an update on the launch of an Integrated Hydrometric Data System for the Okanagan. The system, which now forms a part of the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, allows for historical data to be imported to examine trends that have been recorded, but never analyzed before. The system also incorporates Water Survey of Canada sites, providing access to an even greater water supply picture.

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Updates

An update was given on the WCQI grant program, noting mid-term reports are being received. One grant that was awarded, a \$25,000 bio-solids project at Brenda Mines, did not receive required permits to proceed. These funds will be returned to the grant program.

“THAT the Office and Project Manager’s Report, dated September 29, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

6.3 Communications Director Report

Make Water Work

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Make Water Work program noting progress on a plant project with Bylands and OXA. A line of “MWW plants” has been developed, as well as marketing materials. Bylands will now begin meeting with garden centres in the Okanagan, inviting them to carry the plants as part of the larger MWW effort this spring. The plants will also be used as part of the MWW demonstration gardens that will be installed in the Okanagan thanks to partnership funding from RBC Blue Water to RDOS.

Other communication initiatives

Ms. Jackson updated the board on a number of other projects including: an update to a 2009 OBWB survey on Okanagan water issues that will begin soon; support provided to an irrigation scheduler workshop put on by IIABC for landscapers and subsidized by the OBWB; work on building Okanagan-specific water educational materials for local educators; support for a local film on the threat of invasive mussels; the DMM campaign and potential next steps, and more.

Directors noted the DMM initiative and provided personal reports suggesting that the message is reaching people.

Directors also reported updates on recent meetings with provincial and federal ministers on the mussel issue, including a meeting between RDNO and DFO minister Gail Shea who suggested a possible announcement this fall, and a meeting between SILGA and B.C. Environment Minister Mary Polak who noted the work of the OBWB and the need for further work with the federal government.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated September 30, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel noted the next council meeting is Oct. 9. An update was provided on several projects,

including a draft council work plan for 2014-15, and Phase 2 of the Wetlands Strategy.

The wetlands project will include three projects completed by March 2015 and three more in 2016.

Mr. Jatel gave a status report on projects for the 2013/15 council term, noting completion of an irrigation efficiency position paper, progress on expanding the network of hydrometric stations, continued work on an Ag Water Reserve, First Nations partnerships on water strategies and efforts to manage Okanagan water data.

A number of council committees are being struck to address additional upcoming issues, he added, including a groundwater regulation committee – a major focus in the new Water Sustainability Act.

2014 Innovation Leadership Program

Mr. Jatel reported on a recent workshop he attended, hosted by the Universities of Waterloo, Victoria and the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society. The program focused on strategic approaches to address complex water management and governance problems.

In discussing the council committees and priorities for the coming year, it was recommended that a Drought Management Plan for the Okanagan be added.

“THAT the OBWB direct the council to proceed with a valley-wide Drought Management Plan (DMP) and further, that the plan include a template for specific purveyors to construct their own DMP.”

CARRIED

There was discussion about the motion. A work plan will be discussed by the council and brought to the board in November.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated October 7, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Budget Features 2015-2016 Memo

Dr. Sears provided the board with an update on the budget for 2015-2016, noting a net increase in the budget of 0.1%, with no increase to the Sewage Facilities Grant Program or Watermilfoil Control Program, a final payment to the UBCO Water Research Chair endowment, and a small increase to the Water Management Program (WMP) from 1.7 to 1.8 cents/\$1,000 assessment – under the 2 cents permitted. As in previous years, the board anticipates additional matching funds for MWP projects, added Dr. Sears,

“THAT the 2015-16 OBWB Budget be adopted as presented, and that the Budget Features memo be received.”

CARRIED

7.2 In-camera discussion

The board went in-camera at 11:32 a.m. and completed this portion of the meeting at 12:04 p.m. On their return, they rose and reported the outcome of the in-camera discussion:

“THAT the 2015-16 budget be amended to reflect a reduction in the staff salary budget.”

CARRIED

7.3 Ok Falls Wastewater Treatment Outfall Project Update

Dr. Sears presented an update on the Ok Falls sewage outfall project and the potential for UBCO to apply for funding for lab equipment that will, in part, allow researchers to conduct Endocrine Disruptor Compound testing for RDOS. Current testing is done through a private lab at \$1,000 per test.

It was recommended the OBWB provide \$9,000 from its water quality project budget to support this work. The project, added Dr. Sears, will provide a better understanding of Okanagan River water quality and fish health, support RDOS’ goal of constructing a treatment wetland, and the ability to conduct EDC testing at less cost in the valley.

“THAT the OBWB provide up to \$9,000 to support RDOS EDC testing.”

CARRIED

7.4 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Update

Mr. Littley updated the board on the z/q mussel issue, noting a letter from DFO Minister Gail Shea and a conversation with B.C. MoE’s Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Matthias Herborg, including his effort to provide information sessions to Canada Border Services Agency staff.

Dr. Sears noted an FOI request from a Penticton newspaper regarding the March incident with a contaminated boat at the Osoyoos border. The FOI information suggests that the boat was inspected in Idaho and allowed to proceed based on how long it was out of water. In B.C. it is illegal to bring invasive mussels – alive or dead – into the province. This suggests that B.C. can’t rely on other inspection stations, she added.

After further discussion the board voted to send a letter to the province recognizing its efforts to-date and the need to push forward on the matter, including on inspection stations.

“THAT the board write a letter acknowledging the progress being made by the provincial Ministry of Environment, and calling for specific action on those items that need further progress.”

CARRIED.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of funding for a NorthWest perimeter defence, pushed by Alberta and B.C., and interest in the Kootenays in potentially adopting the Don’t Move a Mussel message. Also noted was a resolution passed by UBCM to urge the province to move on inspection stations and other supports to address the issue, and a resolution adopted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, calling on the federal government to bring in legislation allowing border agents to stop and inspect incoming watercraft.

Dir. Findlater gave a brief update on a meeting at UBCM with FLNRO Min. Steve Thomson and discussion re: the OBWB’s proposal for a user-pay sticker program to pay for the inspection stations and the need to have boaters on-board. The chair went on to note that the boating community appears to be on-board considering this strategy protects them. He also commented that there appears to be growing interest in the issue by NDP and Green Party MLAs who have asked for information to be forwarded.

“THAT the Zebra/Quagga Mussel Update memo be received.”
CARRIED

1. NEXT MEETING

1.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be November 4, 2014 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna. No December meeting.

2. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 7, 2014 adjourned at 1:08 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director