



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD June 2, 2015, AT SUMMERLAND WATERFRONT RESORT,  
13011 LAKESHORE DR. SOUTH, SUMMERLAND, B.C.**

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**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 James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Andre Martin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Don Dobson	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Peter Waardenburg	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Adjourn to in-camera.

**2. IN CAMERA**

Return to regular meeting (10:15 a.m.) Rise and report from in-camera.

Minutes accepted from previous in-camera. Accept proposal from Tim Dillon and Associates as recommended and will receive interim report.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 2, 2015 be approved."*

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2015 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 5, 2015 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be adopted.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5. **STAFF REPORTS**

### 5.1 Executive Director Report

#### August Board Meeting

Dr. Sears reminded the board that the August meeting has been cancelled.

#### OBWB Annual Report and AGM

Directors were told that the AGM would be held again on the first Friday of September at Rotary Centre for the Arts.

The theme this year is “It starts with water.” Morning AGM will be followed by a short board meeting. Registration at 8:30 a.m.

#### Source Protection Concerns

There was lengthy discussion about off-road vehicles creating dam safety and water quality concerns in Greater Vernon source water areas, and other parts of the Okanagan. Dir. Cunningham reported that the RDNO will be meeting at UBCM with Premier Clark and other ministers whose files relate to water, asking for greater jurisdiction over water sources.

Although the penalty for disturbing a drinking water source is \$100,000 and signs with this warning have been posted in source areas around the valley, one of the issues is there is not enough enforcement, directors noted. Dir. Cunningham added that the regional district is looking at adding security and cameras to help with protection and enforcement.

Some directors noted that although the province requires utilities to meet water quality standards, they also encourage multi-use watersheds based on the economic benefits.

Chair Findlater reminded the board of the Bear Creek example, where West Kelowna worked with the province and local trail riders association to develop a plan that would protect source water while allowing recreational riding.

There was discussion about reviewing the OBWB’s “Multi-use Watershed Policy,” as well as sending a letter to the province asking for increased enforcement, and a review of other potential solutions to address the issue.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board write to B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, urging them to increase enforcement and levy stiff fines on violators to deter continued damage to the water, dams and levees.”***

**CARRIED**

#### Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

Dr. Sears provided a brief update on the forum, Oct. 7-9, 2015 in Osoyoos and an extra special event on the Columbia Basin Treaty with the Canada Water Resources Association.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated May 27, 2015, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

### 5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Water Stewardship Council

Mr. Jatel reported on the May council meeting and election of Rob Birtles as Chair and Brian Guy as vice-chair.

Communications & emergent Okanagan water issues

The board was provided an update on some of the issues the council is looking at including the state of B.C.'s "Environmental Flow Needs" policy. The council is looking to develop an Okanagan solution.

2015 State of the Okanagan Water Supply webinar

Mr. Jatel provided an overview of a webinar held May 15 to review the most recent and forecasted information on the Okanagan's water supply. Generally, it appears that the supply will be fine, but precautions will be necessary given our dry fall/low snowpack, and early freshet, he noted.

There is a history of three year droughts in the Okanagan and we are seeing increasing variability over the last 10 years, he added. Looking at low snow water indexes around the province, directors noted concern. Mr. Jatel responded that June rains could make a difference.

The importance of drought plans and water use plans was noted.

Dir. Pike added that Water Board's Make Water Work initiative is helping keep conservation on the public's radar. This will help purveyors if, and when, they need to bring in stronger restrictions. Dir. McKortoff added that Osoyoos has already gone to stage 2 watering restrictions and feels education is key.

***"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated May 27, 2015, be received."  
CARRIED***

### 5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Vernon Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant Applications

Mr. Littley presented the board with applications for funding.

***"THAT the SFA application for the City of Vernon, Beachcomber Bay Local Service Area be approved."***

***CARRIED***

***"THAT the SFA application for the City of Vernon, Adventure Bay area be approved."  
CARRIED***

Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Workshop

The board was told of an event being planned to showcase and celebrate 10 years of the WCQI program. A workshop is set for Sept. 3, the day before the OBWB's AGM.

Following Mr. Littley's formal report there were some questions about the milfoil program, specifically if there are enough resources to tackle the issue. Mr. Littley responded that there are increasing requests for additional areas to be cleared but that staff and equipment resources appear adequate.

***"THAT the Office and Project Manager's Report, dated May 26, 2015, be received."  
CARRIED***

#### 5.4 Communications Director Report

##### Make Water Work (MWW) launch

Ms. Jackson reported on the launch of the MWW campaign with a news conference at Bylands Nursery. Mayors from around the valley attended and pledged to Make Water Work, encouraging their residents to do the same at [www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca) in a bid to conserve and for a chance at their community being named “Make Water Work Champion.”

The event was also used to launch the new MWW Plant Collection, developed in partnership with Bylands and the Okanagan Xeriscape Association, and available at seven participating garden centres throughout the Okanagan.

Ms. Jackson added that those who take the pledge at [MakeWaterWork.ca](http://MakeWaterWork.ca) are also entered to win more than \$8,000 in WaterWise yard prizes, including a yard upgrade worth \$6,000 thanks to KelownaGardens.com, Bylands, ProSource Irrigation and Eco-Turf. The event provided an opportunity to also recognize prize sponsors, she said.

##### Don't Move A Mussel (DMM)

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the DMM campaign, noting the strong interest by the public in the issue, especially given recent news of Alberta inspection stations snagging mussel-fouled boats, including one from B.C.

The board was also updated on a \$100,000 grant from RBC Blue Water to RDOS to extend DMM efforts. RDOS leveraged the \$149,000 from the DMM campaign (\$45,000 from OBWB, the remaining from in-kind support) to bring in the additional RBC dollars. The funds will go to expanded outreach throughout the Okanagan, led by the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society in partnership OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, RDOS, RDCO and RDNO.

There was discussion about the recently adopted position statement by the board regarding the mussels. The board agreed to send a news release regarding the position statement.

##### Other communication initiatives:

The board was updated on the hiring of a Communications and Outreach Coordinator for the summer, Christine Cooper, who will be conducting outreach to ensure OBWB water messages are heard in the Okanagan during the valley's busiest season for water conservation and protection (e.g. from invasive mussels).

***“THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated May 27, 2015, be received.”  
CARRIED***

There was further discussion about coordinating a delegation from OBWB to UBCM on the mussel issue. Dr. Sears noted that she will be presenting the idea to the RDCO board on June 8.

Regarding federal regulations, allowing CBSA officers to stop and inspect incoming watercraft, various staff and directors noted that local MPs are indicating that the new regs could be in place shortly.

The board was also updated on a resolution, led by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and adopted by the BC chamber at the end of May, asking that the province introduce permanent inspection stations at the B.C.-Alberta border.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated May 27, 2015, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 Adoption of 2015 Audited Financials

Michael Gilmore of BDO Canada presented directors with a report on the financial audits.

***THAT the OBWB adopt the financial report as presented.***  
**CARRIED**

Mr. Gilmore then presented the financial statements. Following a few questions around the financials, directors were presented the financials for adoption.

***THAT the OBWB adopt the financial statement as presented.***  
**CARRIED**

There was some discussion around OBWB’s Letters Patent and whether it was time to review the powers and authority of the agency, and whether it should incorporate as a body like the Sterile Insect Release program. The board was reminded that any change would require adoption by all three regional districts.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be July 7, 2015 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 2, 2015 be adjourned at 11:53 a.m.”***  
**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director