



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCTOBER 6, 2015, AT 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
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director Tom Siddon	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Rob Birtles	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
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

7. Report from Board on UBCM meetings

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 6, 2015 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 4, 2015 at Rotary Centre for the Arts

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 4, 2015 at Rotary Centre for the Arts be adopted."

CARRIED

5. DELEGATION

Janice Loukras – KLO Middle School parent (former) on Fascieux Creek Restoration Project

Ms Loukras presented an update on the Fascieux Creek restoration project at Ecole KLO Middle School, funded in part through the OBWB's WCQI grant program.

It was noted that the waterway, which runs through the school grounds and is a fish-bearing stream, was culverted and covered with concrete blocks in the 60s or 70s. In more recent years the creek started flooding due to sediment build-up. Also, in 2010, the students found turtle eggs in their long jump pit. They moved the long-jump pit and put up some fencing to protect the nesting grounds, but teaching staff and students at the school began to research the possibility of naturalizing the area.

They created their vision of what the creek could look like and fundraising began. Grants, including from OBWB, were used to leverage additional funding. The school also received attention from the Governor General's Leadership Conference as a place to see sustainability leadership in action.

Given the scope of the work required the project was done in two phases, Ms. Loukras added. Work included wetland rehabilitation, installation of an outdoor classroom, and a cedar fence to keep balls from the sportsfield from going into the creek.

In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Loukras noted that the budget was about \$150,000. As for water quality given its urban location, she added that students have conducted water testing with help from Okanagan College and the city has added a sediment catch basin at the incoming end.

The project has been several years in the making and will continue to be a source of project-based learning and student initiative, she said. It has also been the inspiration for collaborative projects, including one between the school's science and art classes.

Directors thanked Ms. Loukras for the update.

6. **IN-CAMERA**

"That the OBWB award Summit Environmental Consultants a contract for \$52,355 + GST to undertake the work described in the proposal: OBWB RFP 15-001, Collaborative Development of Operational Environmental Flows Designations for Okanagan Streams."
CARRIED

7. **BOARD REPORT RE: UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM) MEETINGS**

Chair Findlater and fellow directors reported on discussions at UBCM with Premier Clark, Min. Polak and others re: invasive mussels

There was discussion about possible next steps, including a survey of the boating public to see what level of support there is for a user-pay sticker program.

It was noted that the Don't Move A Mussel campaign should continue, and that there should be a look at how to get the issue higher on the radar of other jurisdictions in the province.

The Board asked for an update next month on what other jurisdictions are doing.

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

8.1 Executive Director Report

8.1.1 OBWB 2016 Budget Planning

The Board was reminded that a draft budget would be presented at the next meeting. Dr. Sears said that the plan is to put forward a 0% increase budget. The grant to UBCO for the Water Research Chair endowment is coming to an end, and so that may allow for allocating more funds to other budgets.

There was some discussion about program funding needs, including in the milfoil program. The Executive Director responded that staffing levels in the milfoil program seem appropriate at this time and there should be funds in reserve for new equipment when needed.

8.1.2 Drought Update & B.C. Climate Adaptation Initiatives

Dr. Sears provided an update on the current drought in the Okanagan and in the Western U.S., and the OBWB's project looking at drought planning in the Okanagan which is currently underway.

The board was also told of various B.C. government climate action activities currently underway for Agriculture and Natural Resource Operations (NROs). Water Board staff have been asked for input on risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities associated with climate change. The purpose is to inform the development of resources, tools, programs and policy that are supportive of agricultural and NROs, in particular forestry. It's believed these efforts are, in part, preparation for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.

8.1.3 CRA Qualified Donee Status

Dr. Sears noted that the Water Board has qualified for CRA donee status and that the OBWB will continue to be discerning regarding what funds it receives and provides.

8.1.4 Appointments to Real Estate Foundation of BC and International Joint Commission

The Board was told that an appointment to the REFBC through UBCM is available. All elected officials in the province are eligible.

Dr. Sears also noted that she and Dir. Sue McKortoff were appointed to the IJC's International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control and that there is interest in launching an International Watershed Initiative (IWI) for Osoyoos Lake. An IWI, similar to those in other Canada-U.S. transboundary water areas, could be created to help resolve mutual water issues.

8.1.4 Canadian Chamber of Commerce resolution re National Water Framework

A proposed resolution to the Canadian Chamber re: a National Framework on Water was provided as information.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Sept. 30, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

8.2 Water Stewardship Director's Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the OBWB's wetland strategy, and a summary of the Water Stewardship Council, noting a presentation in September by BC Tree Fruit Growers on its drought strategy.

The October council meeting was moved to Oct. 1 and included a presentation from Lauren Terbasket regarding possible partnerships with Okanagan First Nations.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Sept. 30, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley provided an update on the milfoil program, noting the hiring of a new Milfoil Control and Transport Operator, David Hoogendoorn, As well, the milfoil crew is finishing fall maintenance and preparing for an intensive rototilling season with extra time spent in Kelowna based on unusually heavy growth this past year.

The Operations Manager also spoke to a partnership with UBCO on asset management.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated Sept. 29, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

8.4 Communications Director Report

In the absence of the Communications Director, Dr. Sears provided a brief update on various communication initiatives.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Sept. 30, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be November 3, 2015 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 6, 2015 be adjourned at 1:27 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director