



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD APRIL 5, 2016, 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 Cindy Fortin	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 Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director [Undesignated]	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
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Communications and Planning Specialist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

9.5 Letter from B.C. Ministry of Environment to OBWB re: Water Sustainability Act

5.3.1 Provincial announcement re: mussel inspection stations

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 5, 2016 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 1, 2016 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 1, 2016 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be approved."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears began her report to the board noting she had been elected chair to the Real Estate Foundation of BC for a one year term.

She then introduced Kellie Garcia, who has been hired to provide direct support to local governments for drought planning and water bylaws.

Dr. Sears went on to note that the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society will be hosting Osoyoos Lake Appreciation Day on May 21.

Columbia River Treaty Letter and Federal Involvement

Dr. Sears told the board that the Canadian Water Resources Assoc., including OBWB Alt. Dir. Brian Guy, has sent a letter to the federal government, requesting a Canadian science advisory panel be appointed as part of the Columbia River Treaty renegotiation and that the International Joint Commission also be included in negotiations. The OBWB was asked to write a letter of support, noting that the treaty could affect the Okanagan watershed in a number of ways, including on fishery restoration efforts.

“THAT the OBWB write a letter to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, supporting the requests made by the scientists with the Canadian Water Resources Association.”

CARRIED

Purchase of Aquarius Software upgrade

The board was provided information on the proposed purchase of software to assist with the Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) project and to update the BC Water Use Reporting Centre (BC WURC) program. The software is budgeted for with the recent granting of Gas Tax funding and required board approval.

“THAT the OBWB approve the purchase of an expanded licensing agreement with Aquarius Informatics for a cost not to exceed \$38,000.”

CARRIED

Hullcar Aquifer Update

Dr. Sears provided an update on the Hullcar aquifer issue, noting the response from the province to the OBWB and that a plan is said to be in place.

Dir. Birtles added that two committees have been struck, one to respond to public questions and another providing information to farmers. An inter-ministry group, which includes reps from Interior Health as well as the Ministries of Agriculture; Environment; and Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), is looking at the issue and tracking the pollution source. Nitrates are hard to track and the group is trying to determine the largest contributor.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Feb. 24, 2016, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director’s Report Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) Project

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the EFN project looking at some high priority streams, noting a workshop was held with Okanagan Nation Alliance and FLNRO to determine next steps. This is the largest EFN project in the province.

2016 Okanagan Water Supply Webinar

The annual water supply webinar will be held April 15, 11 a.m. to noon and will include an update on snow pack levels, weather forecasts, and groundwater and reservoir levels.

Water Stewardship Council

The March council meeting had Ted van der Gulik present on agricultural use of BC WURC and a new provincial tool to help farmers determine what water licencing they should be applying for, based on the water needs of their crops.

The April meeting will look at forestry and water.

Mission Creek Study

The board was updated on a study now underway to look at the connection between surface and groundwater and the volume available in the Rutland aquifer and other Kelowna aquifers. The project will include the OBWB working with ONA and FLNRO to measure water volume in Mission Creek over two years, as well as monitoring groundwater wells to see what sections are gaining and losing water. The information will help determine where groundwater licencing or surface water extraction should be limited to protect fish.

Mr. Jatel noted the study is connected to the larger EFN project and will allow the team to see how best to proceed with the rest of the EFN work.

Dir. Waterman entered the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Dir. Gray noted the number of licence applications in the queue and the impact this could have on the research being done. Dir. Pike responded that it will be up to the province to determine what is a safe amount to licence while the study is underway. If the research determines that the aquifer is being mined and First-in-Time, First-in-Right (FITFIR) licencing is in place, FLNRO will be asked to respond, he added.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated March 30, 2016, be received.”
CARRIED

5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Milfoil Control Program

Mr. Littley told the board that rototilling is now closed in most areas, except north Wood Lake and Osoyoos Lake. Staff will be working with a consultant over the summer to map new areas of concern, he added. This work is being done in anticipation of the Water Board’s next five-year permitting application in 2018.

WWF Canada Watershed Report – Okanagan-Similkameen

The World Wildlife Fund released a preliminary watershed report on March 10th for the Okanagan-Similkameen which notes the local watershed is in good overall health but the information on water quality suggests there is insufficient data and a high threat from pollution exists. A final report will be released in the summer and delivered to the board.

Dir. Fleming noted a 2015 land use study conducted on Swan Lake and that additional work is expected in 2016. It also found pollution concerns, he explained. The study can be made

available to the OBWB and WWF, he added.

Zebra-Quagga Mussel Inspections Announcement

Staff gave an overview of the provincial announcement for mussel inspection stations. In all, \$2 million has been committed for the 2016 boating season with the funding coming from BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Columbia Power and Columbia Basin Trust. The province is also providing in-kind support with staff time, office space and equipment.

The funding will increase the number of inspectors from 12 in 2015 to 32 for this year (April 1 to October). There will be 5 stations (3 permanent, 2 mobile) along the B.C.-Alberta border and 3 mobile stations to cover the B.C.-Washington border. The inspection stations will be operating 10 hours a day (minus travel time), seven days a week.

The board noted the importance of ongoing funding. Chair Findlater asked that a letter be sent, acknowledging the funding for this year and the work of the province to establish the inspection stations, and that the letter include a request that a stable, long-term funding solution be developed.

Directors noted that although the eight inspection stations are a vast improvement over last year, that watercraft can still get through and that the public awareness campaign is still necessary.

There was some discussion about one of the stations being based out of Penticton, rather than Osoyoos. It was noted that Canada Border Services Agency has staff that are now required to stop incoming watercraft and inspect them if deemed necessary. If an inspection finds that decontamination is required, the province's auxiliary Conservation Officer staff will be called. Also, the Penticton station allows staff to also set up at Midway and Kaleden.

Dr. Sears noted that since the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program launched the Don't Move A Mussel initiative in 2013, it has leveraged \$294,000 in funding (including \$105,000 to Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society - OASISS) to build a campaign that has been worth almost \$700,000.

"THAT The OBWB send a letter to the province acknowledging what has been done to-date regarding mussel inspections, and note the board's request that permanent, stable, long-term funding be found, and request more operational details."

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager's Report, dated March 30, 2016, be received."

CARRIED

5.4 Communications Director Report

Make Water Work (MWW) & Don't Move a Mussel 2016

Ms. Jackson noted that work is underway to update and re-launch the MWW residential outdoor water conservation initiative and the DMM zebra-quagga mussel awareness campaign.

Discussions have been held with the MWW garden centre partners, as well as Bylands and the Okanagan Xeriscape Assoc. re: the plant collection, and a meeting is set for April 7 with the MWW committee (made up of local government utility and communications staff from throughout the Okanagan).

Discussions are also underway with DMM partners, including OASISS.

Rain Barrel Sale Pilot Project

In response to ongoing interest in rain barrels, the OBWB's OkWaterWise (OkWW) program agreed to partner with the RDCO's Waste Reduction Office in a pilot program, selling the barrels (at cost) at the same time as their annual composter sale. Initially, the number was limited to 100. When those sold within the first week of a month-long sale, another 50 were added. With the sales rolling over through the weekend, a total of 156 were sold by the time the sales were cut off on the Monday.

Ms. Jackson said the pilot appears to have been successful and will be reviewed to determine how to proceed in 2017.

UN World Water Day/Canada Water Week

The Water Board and OkWW partnered with UBCO's Biodiversity, Resilience and Ecosystem Services (BRAES) Institute to hold a keynote address by Margaret Catley-Carlson and panel discussion on March 22. The event sold out.

Panelists included Sarah Alexis and Richard Bussanich with ONA providing a history of water issues in the valley, Dr. Sears speaking on drought and Don Dobson on flooding. There were staffed display tables from groups including the Okanagan Xeriscape Association and City of Kelowna contractor, Waterkind Irrigation Consulting.

Other communication initiatives

Ms. Jackson noted other communication initiatives undertaken in the last month, including the OBWB's attendance and issuing of a media release regarding the mussel inspection stations.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated March 29, 2016, be received."
CARRIED

6. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program

Mr. Littley provided a report with recommendations for WCQI funding in 2016, adding there were 27 applications for a total ask worth about \$495,500. A total of \$300,000 is available.

After a brief discussion, including the process, the board was invited to vote on the recommendations.

"THAT the OBWB approve the Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant recommendations as presented."

CARRIED
Dir. Dirk opposed.

6.2 Contracting Policy Memo

Dr. Sears presented a memo to the board noting that the 2013 contracting policy is restrictive under certain circumstances, for example requiring a Request for Proposals when specialized services are required.

There was a brief discussion about the proposed changes, acknowledging that sole-sourcing be permitted where there is clear benefit to the OBWB due to the knowledge or experience of the consultant or the specialized nature of the goods.

“THAT the Contracting Policy resolution be adopted as presented.”
CARRIED

7. IN-CAMERA MEETING

8. RISE AND REPORT

8.1 Service Agreement with Okanagan Nation Alliance

“THAT the OBWB enter into a service agreement with the Okanagan Nation Alliance for the provision of field work related to the Environmental Flow Needs project.”
CARRIED

8.2 Approval of RDOS Grant for Treatment Wetland

“THAT the OBWB confirm the grant to RDOS of \$19,344 toward the purchase price of the land for the Okanagan Falls treatment wetland.”
CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Letter from Town of Oliver to B.C. Ministers of Environment and Finance re: invasive mussels
- 9.2 Letter from federal Min. of Transport to OBWB re: invasive mussels
- 9.3 Letter from federal Min. of Fisheries and Oceans to OBWB re: invasive mussels
- 9.4 Letter from B.C. Min. of Environment to OBWB re: Hullcar aquifer
- 9.5 Letter from B.C. Min. of Environment to OBWB re: Water Sustainability Act

“THAT the correspondence from Town of Oliver, federal Ministers of Transportation, and Fisheries and Oceans, and the B.C. Minister of Environment be accepted as information.”
CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be May 3, 2016 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 April 5, 2016 be adjourned at 12:06 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

