



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD JUNE 7, 2016, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL,
1171 HARVEY AVE., 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 Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director James Baker	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 Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director [Undesignated]	Okanagan Nation Alliance

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Lisa Houle	OkWaterWise Communications and Outreach Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Findlater called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

6.2 Invasive mussel strategy

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 7, 2016 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 3, 2016 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 3, 2016 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved.”

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears presented her report to the board including floodplain mapping efforts and an invitation by the Union of BC Municipalities to submit a workshop proposal on climate adaptation.

Directors were provided an overview of a June 3 OBWB workshop for Okanagan local governments on drought planning. The province has determined the Okanagan is currently in Level 2 drought, Dr. Sears added. With an early warm spring and freshet, stream levels are now dropping and water is being released in the southern part of the watershed to prevent flooding, she explained.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated June 1, 2016, be received.”
CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Review of Audited Financial Statements

Peter Geh presented the financial statements ending March 31, 2016.

In response to a question from the board, Mr. Geh noted that the OBWB follows public sector accounting standards and these policies seem suitable for the organization.

“THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 be received as presented.”

CARRIED

6.2 Mussel strategy

At the May board meeting, the board voted to send letters to the province and feds requesting stronger invasive mussel protection based on current statistics and information showing B.C. is still at significant risk for an infestation. Following up on those letters, the board discussed next steps in raising awareness regarding the OBWB’s concerns.

Directors voted to send the letters and a news release to media, outlining the OBWB’s concerns, recommendations to the Government of B.C. and Canada, and noting the latest inspection stats from the province.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a media release out explaining the board’s latest position on invasive mussels and the need to strengthen provincial and federal mussel prevention efforts.”

CARRIED

Discussion continued with some board members suggesting the OBWB’s Don’t Move A Mussel initiative extend beyond the Okanagan, and the importance of reaching tourists with the message. Ms. Jackson provided a brief update on what is being done to reach tourists and offered to follow up (e.g. with CBSA).

Ms. Jackson added that although the province has been stating that the province is mussel-free, that this cannot be said with certainty and that it is more accurate and important that the board continue to include the message “as far as we know.”

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter from Federal Environment Minister to OBWB re: invasive mussels

“THAT the correspondence from Federal Minister of Environment re: invasive mussels be accepted as information.”

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be July 5, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Regional District of North Okanagan.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 7, 2016 be adjourned at 9:48 a.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director