



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD OCTOBER 4, 2016, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, 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 Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director [Undesignated]	Okanagan Nation Alliance

**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 10:04 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 4, 2016 be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**3. DELEGATION**

3.1 Trina Koch and Bryer Manwell – Coldstream Creek Water Quality and Land Use Study Phase II Update

The board was provided preliminary findings from water quality assessment research on Coldstream Creek. The research, funded in part by the OBWB, was conducted in 2015 and 2016 and included a look at seasonal variability and comparisons to RDNO and B.C. Ministry of Environment data.

The creek is 27 km long and 150 sites of interest were identified. Some 207 samples were taken from the creek, culverts, tributaries and more.

Dir. Fleming entered the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Findings included: elevated nitrate concentrations from three culverts crossing a dairy farm; an artesian spring was discovered with high levels of sulphate; and higher levels of sodium and ammonia in some areas suggest impact from surrounding land uses including livestock and road salting.

Ms. Manwell noted there has also been some erosion along the creek in areas where livestock watering is occurring, affecting water quality. Recommendations include efforts to address contaminants entering the culverts, and ensuring healthy riparian areas to assist with filtering of contaminants before they enter the waters,

A final report will be presented to Coldstream council in November.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2016 at the Laurel Packinghouse in Kelowna.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2016 at the Laurel Packinghouse in Kelowna be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reported on drought presentations at the Union of B.C. Municipalities conference and an invitation from the province to local governments for input on its drought response plan and strategy. It was also noted that the OBWB is a co-recipient of a provincial award with the Thompson-Okanagan’s B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources team for its drought response in 2015.

The Osoyoos Lake Board of Control held its annual meeting Sept. 20. Low sockeye returns were expected this past summer. However, it’s believed that cooler temperatures than the previous summer and a pulse flow from Okanagan Lake in early August may have helped ensure a better than expected return.

Dr. Sears also provided a weather update noting that another warm winter is expected. Like last year, this may mean a heavy snowfall but also another early melt. Chair Findlater noted the issues this caused for West Kelowna this year with algae blooms and ongoing water quality advisories requiring the city to look at a potential new water treatment plant.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

5.2 Water Stewardship Report

Mr. Jatel acknowledged the work of outgoing council chair Rob Birtles, for example with the province’s Blue-Green Algae Protocol and B.C.’s new Water Sustainability Act.

The board was asked to consider the expansion of the council to 31 member in total with three new positions: one for a youth, tapping into those conducting new water research, and two emeritus positions to include those who are retiring with their expertise.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Council add three new member positions in principle, with criteria to follow in November, for one youth and two emeritus.”***

**CARRIED**

The board was provided an update on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre web tool and its recent expansion, from use by local water purveyors to include large agricultural water licence holders. Mr. Jatel explained that \$65,000 was received to expand the tool, to improve the interface for ag users and for outreach to the ag community.

***“THAT OBWB single source up to \$48,000 to the current software designer, Brock Anderson, for the development of improvements and new software applications for the agriculture water reporting tools in BC WURC.”***

**CARRIED**

The Environmental Flow Needs project was presented at Watersheds 2016. A project wrap-up meeting is set for Nov. 28 with partners and will look at the data collection on 11 streams and lessons learned for the upcoming year. Outcomes should include determining how much water is needed to support life in these streams and the impact of over-allocated/licenced waters.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”***

**CARRIED****5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report**

Mr. Littley provided an update to the board on ongoing issues with milfoil on Vaseux Lake, noting historical records indicate it has been a problem on and off for the last 40 years. Currently, motorized equipment is not permitted in protected areas without federal approval. The area is known to be home to endangered Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels. Staff have applied to see if they can go in during certain work windows. However, staff will also require access to milfoil pick-up sites. It was suggested that RDOS be sent a letter with an update on the issues.

***“THAT OBWB send a letter to RDOS that Vaseux Lake will be added to the Water Board’s annual operational planning, beginning when permits are obtained, and once RDOS provides a suitable launch site meeting the specification in the ‘Milfoil Control Guidelines for Selection of Beach Transfer Sites and Equipment Launch Sites.’”***

**CARRIED**

The board discussed a motion put forward by the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and its provincial partners that it seek preapproval to stockpile potash and other chemicals for rapid response to invasive mussels.

Dir. Cunningham noted that the City of Vernon met with B.C. Environment Min. Mary Polak at UBCM and mentioned their concern with mussel prevention efforts. Although the minister is aware of the issue and has taken action, it was felt that local officials need to continue to push for stronger action. Chair Findlater echoed the same.

There was lengthy discussion about sending a letter to PNWER and another to the Province of B.C., noting the board’s concerns with the stockpiling and use of potash.

***“THAT OBWB staff write a letter to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and to the Province of B.C. regarding concerns about the stockpile of potash and other chemicals in an effort to respond to invasive mussels, and circulate to the Board for comment.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 5.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson noted that Make Water Work and Don’t Move a Mussel campaigns are wrapping up with the end of another irrigation and boating season. This year’s winners of a \$6,000 WaterWise yard upgrade are Rob Abbott and Felicia Taylor of Osoyoos. A visit was paid to the winners and plans are now underway to make some water efficient changes thanks to contest sponsors KelownaGardens.com, Bylands Nursery, Eco Turf Farms and ProSource Irrigation.

The board was told of ongoing communications support provided over the last few months to a number of water-related projects including “The Social Life of Water” museum exhibit opening at Okanagan Heritage Museum next month, a BC Wildlife Federation RAPP (Report All Polluters and Poachers) App to track and report illegal activity in watersheds, and an aquatic invasives exhibit at the Environmental Education Centre of the Okanagan (EECO). The first two are partly funded through the OBWB’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program.

Directors were also reminded of an OBWB-sponsored event on Nov. 29, “Flow & Grow,” co-hosted with the Partnership for Water Sustainability BC and Irrigation Industry Assoc. of BC, featuring CBC’s Bob McDonald, Lower Nicola Indian Band Chief Aaron Sam, Bob Sandford with the UN University for Water, Environment and Health, and others.

Ms. Jackson also noted a presentation given at the Okanagan Master Gardeners course. The gardeners provide information to the public at local garden centres, write garden advice columns for newspapers, lead community horticultural beautification projects and more. Staff presented on water issues in the Okanagan, Make Water Work and the MWW Plant Collection.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 5.5 Communications and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on the drafting of an Okanagan Drought Response Strategy which outlines the activities of OBWB staff in the case of drought, including working with local utilities and the province and messaging to the public.

The board was also updated on the Mainstem Lakes Drought Triggers Project, aimed at developing consistent drought triggers for those purveyors who draw off the valley’s mainstem lakes, helping ensure appropriate response in times of low-water. A consultant has developed a draft plan. The plan is being reviewed and will be presented at an upcoming workshop for discussion among the water utilities, province and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

A water meter data collection survey is also being sent out to utilities.

Dir. Pike noted a potential gap in outreach between utilities and the ag community in the case of drought, and what can be done to try and protect crops (i.e. how to keep orchard alive without

water). He suggested there may be funds through the province and crop-loss insurance to help develop materials for the ag sector.

*“THAT the Communications and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated September 28, 2016, be received.”*

**CARRIED**

**8      CORREPENDENCE**

8.1      Letter from RDOS to OBWB re: Vaseux Lake

*“THAT the letter from RDOS to OBWB re: Vaseux Lake be received.”*

**CARRIED**

**9      NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna at 10 a.m.

**10.    ADJOURNMENT**

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 4, 2016 be adjourned at 1:10 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director