



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD JUNE 6, 2017, AT SUMMERLAND WATERFRONT RESORT HOTEL  
13011 LAKESHORE DR. SOUTH, SUMMERLAND, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alt. Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
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**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Alyssa Bougie	Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Nargiz Ragimova	Technical Writer

**GUESTS**

Janelle Harrison	RDCO Financial Analyst
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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- 5. Chair Report
- 8.1 Kelowna Chamber of Commerce correspondence re: policy on mussels

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 6, 2017 be approved."***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 2, 2017 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 2, 2017 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**5. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Gray reported on the meeting in Ottawa during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention. She was joined by Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham, Dir. and Past-Chair Doug Findlater, and Dir. Peter Waterman. Also at the meeting was Burnaby North-Seymour MP Terry Beech who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Min. of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Nicholas Winfield – Director General Ecosystems Management for DFO, Ashraf Amlani – DFO Special Assistant for the Pacific - West Coast, and Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr.

At the meeting, the OBWB delegation pressed the concerns raised by the mussels and asked for stronger federal support, including funding to help provinces with prevention programs and help for mussel-infested provinces for increased containment measures. It was noted that the federal government allocated \$43 mill. in the 2017-18 budget to address invasive species in Canada but there is no spending plan yet. According to Chair Gray, it was agreed that it made sense to consider the mussel issue as part of that plan. Federal officials were also asked to work with Canada Border Services Agency to enhance protection at the Canada-U.S. border. It was acknowledged that there have been some gaps in enforcement and they committed to speak with the minister responsible. The OBWB also received a commitment that the federal government would send a senior official to the July Pacific Northwest Economic Region meeting in Portland where mussels are to be discussed. The OBWB also asked for a follow-up letter to its requests, added Ms. Gray.

Dir. Cunningham added that there appeared to be genuine interest in the issue and a request for as much information as possible. Dir. Findlater added that although the issue is well-known in the Okanagan and Kootenays, it's obvious there has been little attention in other regions. These types of discussions are important in helping get the word out, he added.

Ms. Jackson was asked to send an email as follow-up with federal officials and include copies of the OBWB's Briefing Note and Invasive Mussel Backgrounder.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**6.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears noted that the July board meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is August 1. The September meeting will be an abbreviated meeting that will follow the AGM.

The board was provided an update on flooding and told that in the case of Osoyoos Lake it is, in part, being affected by the inflow from the Similkameen River which is slowing down the flow from Okanagan Lake.

The lake is expected to reach historic levels, which will mean a new high water mark and the need to look at how to prepare for future events with climate change, added Dr. Sears.

The board discussed the conditions that led to the flooding, including the lower than normal snowpack and concerns about drought. But with spring came precipitation, with heavy rains in the valley bottom and snow in the upper elevations, followed by a warm spell that melted the late snowpack, adding to the water already running in the creeks.

It was noted that dam operators are releasing the maximum amount of water they can while trying to prevent erosion, but the amount coming in is more than they can release.

Dir. Findlater added that there is still a lot of high elevation snow at Big White, Silver Star, Little White, and Apex mountains.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated May 31, 2017, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 Review of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2017

Dr. Sears and Ms. Harrison answered several clarifying questions from the board.

***“THAT the OBWB Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2017 be adopted as presented.”***  
**CARRIED**

7.2 Contract approval request for Environmental Flow Needs Project – Hydrology Support and Auditing Service

Mr. Jatel introduced the Environmental Flow Needs project and contract to Associated Engineering. The contract is for additional field support and an audit on data, as well as for monitoring equipment that was lost with high flows in Mission Creek.

***“THAT the OBWB enter into a service agreement with Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. for the provision of field work related to the Environmental Flow Needs project for the 2017-18 project year in a time and materials contract valued at \$74,000.”***

**CARRIED**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Correspondence from Kelowna Chamber of Commerce to OBWB re: federal mussels policy. Ms. Jackson will follow up with the chamber and provide feedback.

***“THAT the correspondence to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, August 1, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 6, 2017 be adjourned at 10:40 a.m. “***  
**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director