



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 6, 2017, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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
Alt. Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Sears called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Dr Sears respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of Okanagan Nation.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Board Appointments and Elections for 2017

Regional District of North Okanagan

Director Juliette Cunningham
Director Doug Dirk
Director Rick Fairbairn
Alternates – Bob Fleming, Jim Garlick, Mike Macnabb

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Director Doug Findlater
Director Cindy Fortin
Director Tracy Gray
Alternates – James Baker, Wayne Carson, Patty Hanson

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Director Ron Hovanec
Director Sue McKortoff
Peter Waterman
Alternates – Mark Pendergraft, Tom Siddon, Toni Boot

Water Management AppointmentsOkanagan Nation Alliance

Director – Lisa Wilson

Water Supply Association of BC

Director Toby Pike

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Director Brian Guy
Alternate – Denise Neilsen

Dr. Sears requested nominations for chair. Dirs. Findlater and McKortoff nominated Gray. Dir. Gray accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Dir. Gray was re-elected Chair.

Dr. Sears requested nominations for vice-chair. Dirs. Dirk and Fairbairn nominated Cunningham. Dir. Cunningham accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Dir. Cunningham was re-elected vice-chair.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

10.3 Correspondence from Shuswap Watershed Council to B.C. Premier and Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re: B.C.'s invasive mussels defence program

Move in-camera agenda to item 10, and correspondence to item 9.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 6, 2018 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

5. BOARD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5.1 OBWB Directors on top water issues in their area for 2018

Directors were invited to speak to the top water issues in their areas.

Dir. Findlater: West Kelowna celebrated 10th anniversary in December. When it incorporated it inherited three small water systems and went on to build a state-of-the-art water treatment plant. Soon, the municipality will move from five water systems to two. Similar to Greater Vernon Water, a new water rate structure is coming in to help pay for improvements and ongoing maintenance. Upland storage improvements are also in the works. The city is watching this year's snowpack and preparing for possible flooding.

Dir. McKortoff: Flooding and drought were big issues in Osoyoos in 2017. An International Joint Commission conference in Ottawa heard similar stories from across Canada. The municipality draws water from the lake, as well as groundwater. Boil water advisories occur often. A new liner has been installed in an Osoyoos treatment plant sewage pond and the municipality is in the process of getting a new pump and twinning its system, separating domestic and

agricultural water, the latter requiring less treatment. It is applying for grants to help pay for the twinning.

Dir. Hovanes: Oliver twinned its system several years ago and, although costly, there has been no boil water advisory. The town is now looking for funding to upgrade its 100-year-old canal. A 3% increase in water rates will help pay for the work. Currently, the ground in the south is saturated and there is concern about potential spring flooding.

Dir. Fairbairn: There still seem to be issues with B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FNRORD) and provincial staff regarding how to interpret B.C.'s new Water Sustainability Act (WSA). It would be good to have this sorted out this year. There is interest in seeing the results of the province's independent review, which is being chaired by Chief Maureen Chapman of the Skawahlook First Nation and former MLA George Abbott.

Dir. Guy: From a Water Stewardship Council perspective, the invasive mussel issue needs to remain on the front burner, as well as all the issues related to climate change and its impacts on water supply, infrastructure and ecosystems. There is also an ongoing need for more improved data and Okanagan data networks to help with decision-making. There are lots of studies being conducted, but we need to ensure that the results are being shared.

Vice-Chair Cunningham: Interior Health has approved Greater Vernon Water (GVW)'s revised Water Master Plan which includes a separate agreement on Duteau Creek. The area is looking at asset management with UBC Okanagan and the need for infrastructure improvements. Messaging on the value of water has been difficult. Having other local government's charge what is necessary to deliver water is welcomed.

Dir. Dirk: Boating and filtration in Coldstream is an ongoing issue and concern.

Alt. Dir. Baker: Flooding in Lake Country was a significant challenge last year. One example was the damage done to the channel at Holiday Park. Efforts are underway to have it fixed before this year's freshet. There have also been some opportunities that were created. When Vernon Creek was channelized it created problems for fish and perhaps this, as well as wetlands, can be addressed now. The district is looking at source protection and off-stream watering for cattle. There has been discussion at Lake Country's Agricultural Advisory Committee about twinning, but the issue that comes up is the potential customer response from the export market to using non-potable water on crops. The district has also looked at the cost of twinning and found it cheaper to treat the water than twin. Lake Country has had an application into the province for additional upland storage for about seven years and has not received a response yet.

Chair Gray: The City of Kelowna is also concerned with flooding. Last year's cost was \$2 mill. which resulted in other projects not being funded. The city is looking at daylighting creeks to minimize flooding. The health of the shoreline and public access are also issues, as well as access for dogs, and how docks affect water quality. There are 27 small and five large water systems within the city boundaries. City of Kelowna was asked to take on South Okanagan Mission Irrigation District when it failed and now it is working to incorporate South East Kelowna Irrigation District. The intention is to build resiliency in the system and the city is now discussing water rates.

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 5, 2017 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 5, 2017 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be approved.”

CARRIED

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray noted the recent follow-up letter to the federal government regarding invasive mussel response, adding she is looking forward to a response.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears updated the board on the floodplain mapping project. Several Okanagan local governments are working together to do LiDAR, potentially with provincial funding or through other grant funding, pooling their funds to get the work done. Flood-prone areas need to be done in low-water. An RFP was posted Feb. 2 in preparation for the project. Emergency Management BC will be helping with applications. GeoBC, a department of FLNRORD has agreed to assist with project management with LiDAR. The board will have an opportunity to approve the contract and final project plan.

In response to questions, Dr. Sears added that the high elevation images taken with LiDAR will allow for better flood management planning and construction. The collaborative approach, which saves each partner money, is of great interest to the province and local governments.

Directors were told about letters that have gone out to local governments about the BC Water Portal, a water data portal developed by FLNRORD with consultants. They are looking to expand its use in the south interior and staff are looking to learn more. Dr. Sears added that if local government staff have questions they are welcome to call her directly.

The board received funding in 2017 from AgCanada to hire an intern to update the Water Demand Model. That contract has ended and staff have reapplied internship funds for 2018.

The Water Management Program is up for review. A draft overview will be provided to the board in May and Dr. Sears has arranged to meet with the three Okanagan regional districts in June and July to present on the program and request resolutions of support for another four-year renewal. The program has been running since 2006 and includes Water Stewardship Council (WSC), Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants, the Okanagan WaterWise public outreach program (including Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel), and water research such as the Water Supply and Demand Study.

Snowpacks are above average in the Okanagan. Ideally, we want to see snowpack in the higher elevations and drier conditions in the valley bottom, Dr. Sears explained. In response to questions, she added that lake levels in Okanagan level have been lowered by the province to meet February target levels in the south. Also, Oliver had significant bank erosion after last year's flooding so work is underway to fix this. This will require lower lake levels. Flows from Penticton will be increased earlier this year to allow this work to occur and then eased back.

Dir. Guy added that he was hired as a consultant to conduct a review of last year's flooding for the province. It's expected the study will be released in March.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated January 31, 2018, be received.”

CARRIED

8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided a council update. January's meeting included a presentation from BCWF regarding a proposed wetland policy. Dir. Guy, chair of the council, spoke on corporate response to climate change. And Ms. Garcia gathered input on an updated Sustainable Water Strategy.

The council's current 18-month term ends in April. The board was provided with a recommended list of member organizations for the new term. There was some discussion about the list and a suggestion that a second list be created, inviting organizations to attend and contribute to discussions with the potential to consider them next term.

"THAT the attached Appendix 1. Water Stewardship Council Proposed Membership List be approved for a term of 18 months (May 2018 – October 2019)."

CARRIED

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's report, dated January 31, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Litley explained that work on the new rototiller is well underway and should be ready by at least the end of the 2018 winter rototiller season so that it can be tried out.

He delivered a presentation on invasive mussels to a group from the Fraser Basin Council (FBC). Mr. Litley noted that a follow-up conversation was held with FBC staff who provide program management to the Shuswap Watershed Council. The council has funding to conduct outreach in 2018. Ms. Jackson added the council and its regional invasive species group has been in touch regarding the arrangement between the OBWB and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, looking to enter into a similar service contract. SWC was provided an overview of the Don't Move A Mussel (DMM) campaign and its various components, and offered outreach support and access to resources.

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager's Report, dated January 30, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

8.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson updated the board on the hiring of a 2018 Okanagan WaterWise Communications and Outreach Coordinator, hired in part through a grant from the UN Assoc. of Canada and Social Development Canada's Green Corps program. Jocelyn Whalen joins the team on Feb. 15.

Distribution of "A River Film" is continuing. Copies are now available at Okanagan Regional Library branches. Copies are also being made available to museums, school districts and more. The film has now received an Award of Excellence at the international Impact DOCS Competition.

Following up on a WSC recommendation, staff have been following up with professional organizations with members who work in and around water, to promote best practices to prevent the spread of invasive species, including zebra and quagga mussels. A letter, as well as an article, have been submitted for circulation and picked up by some, including the Environment Operators Certification Program's quarterly digest.

In addition to discussions with the Shuswap WaterShed Council, noted above, Ms. Jackson added she has been contacted by the Saskatchewan chamber which is interested in the DMM campaign.

The board was provided with final reports for the Make Water Work (MWW) and DMM 2017 campaigns. With a budget of just under \$48,000 for MWW (\$1-3,000 from local government and utility partners, matched by OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise), and more than \$35,000 provided in-kind by contest and media partners, the 2017 campaign was worth almost \$83,000. As for DMM, OBWB's OkWaterWise spent a little over \$48,000, and with almost \$65,000 provided in-kind, the program is valued at over \$113,000.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated January 31, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

8.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia updated the board on work with CivicInfo BC to upload 60 local government toolkits. The toolkits are aimed at engineers, planners, and the development community, who will be looped in in the next phase. It was suggested that architects and developers coming in from outside of our region need to be looped in as well. A webinar will be held in March to raise awareness regarding the new toolkit hub on CivicInfo.

Work is continuing on an update to the Sustainable Water Strategy. A working session was held during the last WSC meeting and writing is now underway with the editorial committee. A draft will be presented at the joint board-council meeting in May.

Ms. Garcia noted that she is continuing work on the Mainstem Drought Triggers Project, working with water suppliers to develop drought stages and the province with its drought levels to ensure a more coordinated approach to drought response.

The OBWB presented on its agricultural water supply outreach project at the Pacific Agriculture Show on Jan. 26. The project, which was piloted last year with Greater Vernon Water and City of Penticton, includes an email and text alert system to keep ag users up-to-date on local water supplies.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated January 30, 2017, be received.”

CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Letter from Southern Interior Local Government Association to B.C. Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re: B.C.’s invasive mussels defence program
- 9.2 Letter from District of Coldstream to B.C. Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re: B.C.’s invasive mussels defence program 9.1 Letter from PMO as federal Min. of Intergovernmental Affairs re: invasive mussels
- 9.3 Letter from Shuswap Watershed Council to B.C. Premier and Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re: B.C.’s invasive mussels defence program

“THAT the letters from the Southern Interior Local Government Association, District of Coldstream, and Shuswap Watershed Council to B.C. Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re: B.C.’s invasive mussels defence program, be received.”

CARRIED

10. IN-CAMERA

10.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(2)(b) and 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter)

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 12:40 p.m.

“THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (2) (b) and 90 (1) (k) of the Community Charter.”

CARRIED

Dir. Dirk exited the meeting at 12:50 p.m..

The board rose from in-camera at 1:24 p.m. and reported on an MOU for floodplain mapping, and a contract was awarded to Associated Environmental for \$32,350 to develop a streamflow dataset as part of the Environmental Flow Needs Project.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, March 6, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton at 10 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 6, 2018 be adjourned at 1:25 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director