



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD APRIL 3, 2018, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, 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
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	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 Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
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OBWB STAFF

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

7.1 Discussion re: meeting with B.C.'s 2017 flood and fire review committee

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 6, 2018 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 6, 2018 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen be approved."

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray informed the board of an upcoming meeting between herself, OBWB Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham and Dr. Sears with Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr re: invasive mussels.

Dr. Sears noted that the OBWB was asked by the Co-Chairs of the province's 2017 Flood and Wildfire Review committee, Maureen Chapman and George Abbott, to host a meeting between the committee and the Water Stewardship Council. Additional local government staff, who are not part of the council but who were on the front-lines of last year's flooding were also invited. About 20 people attended and provided feedback and recommendations.

Dirs. Findlater and Wilson entered the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Mr. Jatel added that there was discussion about long-term sustained provincial funding (e.g. possibly through the carbon tax) to continue flood planning and mitigation efforts. Other topics included the need for better hydrometric data, and the financial burden small local governments faced when they had to come to the table with funding for flood damage.

Mr. Waterman entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Dir. Guy said that the information and recommendations that are coming out of various reports are aligning and should help address these issues (e.g. the Auditor General's report that B.C. will not be able to meet its commitments on climate change, a report provided to the province on last year's flooding and the need for capacity-building). The Flood and Wildfire Review committee's final report is expected April 30.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears updated the board on the following month's joint board/council meeting at the Kelowna Ramada Hotel on May 1, adding that BC River Forecast Centre's Dave Campbell will be guest speaker.

Okanagan floodplain mapping is now underway with the first LiDAR flight last week. Data should be ready and available to local governments in December.

The board was given an update on the Water Management Program review and budget projections. Dr. Sears added that there has been increased productivity but there is no request for budget increases with this renewal. There were some questions. Dir. Guy asked about the long-term ability to meet increasing water management demands with no budget increase, especially as issues exacerbate with climate change.

Chair Gray exited the meeting at 10:39 a.m. and Vice-chair Cunningham stepped in.

The province is looking for input on its updated blue-green algae protocols. Several years ago, the OBWB assisted the Ministry of Health to develop its protocol after it became clear there was a gap in how to address the blooms in recreational waters. The Water Board commissioned a

review of this update by local aquatic biologist Heather Larratt. The review will be circulated to local governments and forwarded to the province.

The OBWB has received an Agriculture Canada grant to hire an intern to do GIS models looking at ag water demand in the valley.

Dr. Sears added that the higher-than-normal snowpack is worrisome and that weather and temperature will figure heavily in how it melts and how communities are able to deal with it. At this time, the South Okanagan is offering sandbags, there is mitigation work occurring in the Central Okanagan, and the province is bringing the lake level down to make room for freshet. The result of bringing the lake level down is that some fish will be killed in the process. The forecast is for a cool spring and hot summer.

Chair Gray reentered the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on last month’s council meeting and wrap up reports from various committee chairs. A new council term begins May 2018.

Partnerships with Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) are continuing with the Environmental Flow Needs (EFNs) work and sampling of 18 priority streams.

Staff are involved in two upcoming conferences. One with Canadian Water Resource Association (CWRA) in May and an Okanagan session, and a joint OBWB-CWRA conference on EFNs in Kelowna in October. The local conference is looking to share the EFN work being done in the Okanagan but also to learn from others in Canada and elsewhere.

A local government guidebook for establishing constructed wetlands in the Okanagan is now available on the OBWB website. It will also be added to the toolkit database on CivicInfo BC.

Mr. Jatel noted that a pilot project is being explored by the City of Kelowna to improve hydrometric data management to support Emergency Operation Centres during flooding and fire.

Water Supply webinars are being organized for April 16 and May 8 at 11 a.m. The webinars will include updates from provincial staff and others on precipitation/weather, flow and storage. groundwater levels, Osoyoos Lake levels, and fire preparation.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated March 28, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the arrival of a new milfoil rototiller this week. Staff are now working towards a new five-year milfoil control permit with the province.

In response to last month's board discussion, a Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program review is underway. A survey has been sent to past grant recipients to help inform the review.

The board asked for an update on milfoil control on Vaseux Lake. Mr. Littley said that he is waiting for a report from the Osoyoos Indian Band and ONA, and for RDOS to advise on a potential pick-up location.

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager's Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the RFP process for this year's Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel campaigns and the hiring of Hiilite Creative. A planning session is set for this week with the MWW committee and Hiilite, and then a follow-up meeting with Hiilite's marketing team.

Canada Water Week featured a one-night-only movie night, featuring "The River Film," a Q&A with some of those interviewed in the documentary, information tables and a mix and mingle. The event began with a special opening from Syilx Nation's Krystal Lezard. The feedback from attendees was very positive.

The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program is partnering with RDCO's Waste Reduction Office to sell rain barrels during their composter sale. A limited number of both items will be available on a first-come, first served basis during Earth Day, April 22 at Okanagan College.

The Invasive Species Council of BC is updating the 2015 Invasive Mussel Prevention Framework for Western Canada and asked for a case study from the Okanagan. Ms. Jackson provided a report on the Don't Move A Mussel campaign and its impact on raising awareness of zebra and quagga mussels. The board was also updated on outreach that was provided to the organizers of an Okanagan fishing derby to ensure that attendees from outside the valley were mussel-free.

Dir. Findlater added that he was talking with MP Dick Cannings who raised the mussel issue, asked where things are at, and offered to assist. It was noted that having wider support from our region on this issue could be helpful.

Ms. Whalen provided an update on events she has been attending including Seedy Saturdays throughout the valley. Whereas there is more outreach at this time on MWW, the focus will shift and include DMM as boating season starts, she added. Directors offered a couple suggestions of events to attend.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on a webinar OBWB cohosted with the Fraser Basin Council to introduce the new online planning guides hub available on the CivicInfo BC website. The webinar software also allowed for polling of attendees during the meeting and a follow-up survey. Project partners will be following up on the feedback and recommendations to help improve the project and ensure greater uptake of the toolkits.

Work is continuing to update the board’s 2008 Sustainable Water Strategy, helping guide the priorities of the OBWB and its Water Stewardship Council for the next decade. Updates include Climate Change Adaptation, EFNs, invasive mussels and B.C.’s new Water Sustainability Act. In response to a question about the value of the strategy, Dr. Sears added that the last SWS identified drought plans as a priority which then guided the board’s efforts on that issue. Ms. Jackson added that the last SWS identified the need for greater public communication which led to the start of the Okanagan WaterWise program, Make Water Work, Don’t Move A Mussel and more. Dir. Hrasko also noted that it fills the voids in local government plans by providing a valley-wide lens to water issues.

Ms. Garcia told the board about a BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative workshop she attended, reviewing Okanagan projects funded through the program over the last five years, including the ag water e-alert program she assisted with. The session also looked at ideas for the next five years to help address climate change issues in agriculture.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated March 26, 2017, be received.”
CARRIED

7. IN-CAMERA

7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(m) of the Community Charter)

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 12:30 p.m.

“THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (1) (m) of the Community Charter.”
CARRIED

8. RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA

8.1 The board rose from in-camera at 1:16 p.m. and reported on the approval of 2018 WCQI grant funding as presented.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be an abbreviated meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 10 a.m., followed immediately by a joint Board-Water Stewardship Council meeting until 3 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Ramada Kelowna Hotel & Conference Centre.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 be adjourned at 1:17 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director