



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 1, 2018, AT THE RAMADA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE
2170 HARVEY AVE., 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
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Kathy Holland	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

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 10:00 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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2018 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

A small change in attendance was noted.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray asked people to introduce themselves.

The Chair provided a brief update on the past month, including a meeting between herself, OBWB Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham and Dr. Sears with Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr regarding invasive mussels. Chair Gray also noted the news conference regarding LiDAR funding for floodplain mapping, a meeting with the new Water Stewardship Council Chair Denise Neilsen and Vice-Chair Scott Boswell about aligning research, advocacy and working together, and attendance at the opening of the Munson Pond project.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears delivered a draft Water Management Program review to the board and noted that she will be meeting separately with the three Okanagan regional districts over coming weeks. She is also working with finance staff on the OBWB's year-end audit, she added.

An update was given on the LiDAR project, noting conference calls are held every two weeks with GeoBC and Eagle Mapping. Low water areas and a number of floodplains are completed already. Aerial photos of the upper watershed will be done in July.

The Real Estate Foundation is presenting a water project award. Local governments are eligible.

Dir. Pike noted that the Water Supply Association of BC (WSABC) is putting a policy paper together on source water protection, but there is no mention of invasive mussels and there may be other topics that should be addressed. He suggested the OBWB follow up on this.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated April 25, 2018, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel told the board that the Water Stewardship Council elected Denise Neilsen as chair and Scott Boswell as vice-chair. These are 18-month terms.

Dir. Findlater entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Nicole Pyett presented at the April council meeting on groundwater wells. Dir. Fairbairn asked for an update on well registration. Mr. Ted van der Gulik, with the Water Sustainability Partnership of B.C. and formerly with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, noted that he has heard concerns and that the registration process is backed up. Additional staff have been hired to address the backlog, he added.

Mr. Jatel noted that the Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) project is continuing and staff will be finalizing a contract with ONA on next surveys. An EFN Conference is planned in Kelowna Oct. 17 and 18, 2018.

A Water Supply Webinar was held April 16 with updates on snowpack, groundwater, Okanagan River and Lake levels, summer weather forecasts and more. Another is planned for May 8 at 11 a.m.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated April 25, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

6.3 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the Make Water Work and Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM) campaigns, the contracting of Hiilite Creative, and follow-up meetings to build out the campaigns for 2018.

The board was provided information regarding a watercraft purchased by an Osoyoos resident from a mussel-infested region and stopped by a Canada Border Services officer. The province was called in to do a follow-up inspection and decontamination. The province is planning an announcement regarding its 2018 inspection program in mid-May, Ms. Jackson added.

Although the OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise (OkWW)’s formal DMM campaign will be starting ahead of the May long-weekend, watercraft are on the move. As such, staff are already spreading the message regarding the mussels. Staff have also received a call and are following up with Manitoba’s Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve which is interested in adopting the DMM campaign.

The OBWB’s OkWW program partnered with Regional District of Central Okanagan’s Waste Reduction Office to sell rain barrels during their composter sale, April 22. All 125 rain barrels were sold within 90 minutes of a 6 hour sale. Ms. Jackson said she and Waste Reduction staff have met to discuss potential improvements to the program for next year.

The board was given a brief update regarding the April 10 LiDAR news conference. The news conference was well-attended and included representation from the province and ONA.

Ms. Whalen provided an update on outreach efforts, including Seedy Saturday events with the Make Water Work message, and Okanagan WaterWise presentations to Gr. 2 and 5/6 classrooms.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated April 25, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

6.4 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia told the board about a presentation she gave at the recent WSABC spring workshop regarding the update to the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) that is underway, the OBWB’s mainstem drought triggers project and agricultural water supply communication project. The next few months will be busy focussing on the SWS, she added.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated April 24, 2017, be received.”
CARRIED

7. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program Review

Mr. Littley provided an overview of the WCQI grant program review. There was follow-up discussion.

Currently those eligible to receive grants include local governments, improvement districts and non-profits. Dir. Fairbairn questioned if local governments should be removed as potential grant applicants. It was noted that local governments often have a greater capacity to conduct important water projects and there are not very many NGOs taking on such projects. It was also noted that by ensuring non-profits have access to the funds it also connects the community to the issues the OBWB has determined are priorities and promotes community engagement on water projects.

There was some discussion about the current program design where funds flow through the regional districts (RDs) to the OBWB to decide what water projects to approve in the RDs. It was noted that by providing the funds to the OBWB to administer, there is a guarantee that the funds are spent on water projects, and that the projects are reviewed with a valley-wide lens, ensuring valley-wide benefit. Staff also promote collaboration between projects to ensure greater success and impact. Dir. Cunningham voiced concern that having these funds stay with RDs would likely spell the end of water-funded projects.

There was discussion about the program's current requirement for a resolution of support from a local government (i.e. municipal council or regional district board). Dirs. Fortin and Findlater, spoke in favour of local government involvement to ensure municipalities know what projects are proposed. Dir. Findlater noted that perhaps a resolution is not necessary, and a referral for comment could suffice. There was general agreement that a referral for comment was a better solution.

The board considered the \$300,000 grant budget that has been in place since the program began in 2006 and the possibility of increasing the amount to \$370,000 to at least meet the rate of inflation. The board tabled this question.

Dr. Sears added that the WMP Review will be going to the three RDs to reaffirm the program as is, and if the three boards want the WCQI program to move to a valley-wide funding model this would need to be voted on and changes made to the grant program's terms of reference.

A vote was taken on the following motion.

"THAT future WCQI grants be awarded on a valley-wide basis, according to the merit of each proposed project, based on the board-approved scoring criteria, pending approval by the Regional Districts during the Water Management Program review."

CARRIED

**Dirs. Findlater, McKortoff and Fairbairn opposed,
and Alt. Dir. Holland, and Dirs. Pike and Neilsen
abstained**

7.2 Water Management Program (WMP) Review

Dr. Sears introduced the draft WMP Review, noting that the program closely aligns with the OBWB's 2014-2019 Strategic Plan and the budget is driven by the need for the program.

Responding to questions, Dr. Sears explained that the maximum regional districts can provide for the OBWB's WMP is 2 cents per thousand of assessed property value, although we are currently at 1.6 cents/\$1000. Despite an increase in activity, funding for the program is proposed to stay at 2018 levels. This is in large part, she added, thanks to growing partnerships

and grant funding (e.g. flood mapping). Dir. Findlater added that having a cap means not everything can be funded which forces the board to fund what is best.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the 2018 Water Management Program Review Draft, in principle, and directs staff to move forward with the final version subject to minor revisions as requested and required.”

CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Federal Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness to OBWB re: invasive mussels

“THAT the letter from the Federal Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness to OBWB re: invasive mussels be received.”

CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, June 5, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2018 be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director