



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD JUNE 5, 2018, AT SUMMERLAND ORNAMENTAL GARDENS
4200 Hwy 97 South, Summerland, B.C.**

PRESENT

Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director James Baker	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
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
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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

GUESTS

Krista Derrickson	Westbank First Nation
Mike Sokol	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Markus Schrott	BDO Canada LLP
Janelle Harrison	Regional District Central Okanagan

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Cunningham called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 June 5, 2018 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION

- 4.1 Mike Sokal, Water Quality Monitoring Limnologist with B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on the Water Quality Trends in Okanagan Basin Lakes

Mr. Sokol presented an update on water quality trends in Okanagan lakes. The value of the lakes is immeasurable, he noted, adding that much has been done by the OBWB and others to dispel the myth of abundance. Another myth, he added, is the amount of water available for diluting pollution.

Eutrophication, with nutrients entering the lake such as phosphorus, has historically been an issue. Population growth, and more treated effluent coming into our waters, has resulted in a slight increase over the years, Mr. Sokol explained. Treatment plants that use treated wastewater as spray irrigation have been an effective way to address this, he added.

Ms. Krista Derrickson entered the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

In an effort to address this issue, a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Province of B.C. and City of Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan and the District of Summerland to do trend sampling from 2018-2020. This includes monthly water sampling on Okanagan Lake at Summerland, Kelowna, Okanagan Centre and Armstrong Arm.

The first studies on the lake began around 1970 with the Okanagan Basin Study. Researchers are finding differences in phosphorus levels during La Nina and El Nino years showing that wet years increase phosphorous loads, and dry years have less, Mr. Sokol said. Phosphate levels in Skaha Lake are down since 1968, but there have been other issues, for example with nitrogen and other chemicals.

Drs. Fortin, Baker and Mr. Schrott entered the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Efforts have been made to address valley bottom source point pollution, but more needs doing, he added. Emerging issues include Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs), Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCPs), and other organic chemicals. Studies have found that levels of these chemicals are not too bad at this time given what is considered acceptable, but the ability to detect, e.g. synthetic estrogen hormone, at those "acceptable" levels is currently difficult.

Mr. Sokol, responding to a question from Ms. Derrickson, said he was unaware if flooding was having an issue on what is entering the lake.

He added that the province is conducting invasive mussel veliger sampling and noted that the Okanagan was designated in 1975 as an Environmentally Sensitive Area by the federal government.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Kelowna.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 1, 2018 at the Ramada Inn in Kelowna be approved."

CARRIED

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 7.1 Board Chair Report

Vice Chair Cunningham – no report

7. **NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 Presentation by Markus Schrott, BDO with review of Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2018

Mr. Schott presented the draft financial statements to the board and responded to questions. He noted that a Management Letter was included which has observations with recommendations. As an auditor, independent of the organization, there is an obligation to point out deficiencies or potential financial risks, and none were found, he added.

Dr. Sears added that an additional control mechanism to ensure the audit is conducted independently is that the OBWB contracts out accounting services to RDCO.

Mr. Schott answered several clarifying questions from the board. After some discussion, it was noted that reserve funds are required by letters patent for some items, but not others. The statement will be updated to reflect this, he added.

“THAT the OBWB Audited Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2018 be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

7.2 Water Management Program (WMP) Review Memo

Dr. Sears presented the final version of the WMP Review. There was no discussion.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the 2018 Water Management Program Review as presented, and directs staff to meet with the Okanagan regional districts to ask for their resolutions of support for a new term.”

CARRIED

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

8.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted that this year’s Annual Public Meeting will be held August 10. Keynote speaker is Tamsin Lyle, a flood plain mapping and flood risk assessment expert who has been working with the Fraser region.

The lower elevation LIDAR has been done, Dr. Sears added. The data is now being processed and the contractor is waiting for all snow to melt and before potential fires to do the upper elevation area. An update will be provided during a conference call tomorrow. A meeting was held with local government GIS staff in the valley and there is great interest in how these maps can be used to improve services. Another meeting, led by the Fraser Basin Council, is planned for July 25 to talk about how these maps can help communities plan. There was some discussion about the potential to expand the study.

Dr. Sears said she is still waiting for an update from MP Stephen Fuhr’s office on federal support on the invasive mussel file. Staff are also working with RDNO to extend the lease on the work yard.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated May 30, 2018, be received.”

CARRIED

8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted that the presentations from the May joint board-council meeting are available online. This month the council will be looking at the next 18-month term.

An update was provided on the Environmental Flow Needs project. The project team is collecting water data flow information on Whiteman Creek, looking at critical flows. If they are satisfied with the work, the model will be replicated on other streams.

The Okanagan Hydrology Modelling project team met for the first time in May. This Gas Tax-funded project will look at priority tributaries, helping water managers ensure proper flows especially in summer when there are high irrigation demands and need for water to support aquatic, riparian and wetland habitat.

Efforts are continuing for the planning of the EFN conference in October. The conference is being co-hosted by the OBWB and the B.C. branch of the Canadian Water Resources Assoc. (CWRA). The CWRA's national conference was just held and included a full day of Okanagan content, including invasive mussel information, drought planning and more.

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

8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Litley provided an update on the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network Conference and noted he was elected to the board.

OBWB directors were updated on the province's mussel prevention efforts for 2018 including the expansion of inspection stations from 10 to 12 and, for the first time, \$1 million in dedicated annual funding for the program. Staff will be going through correspondence to see what the OBWB's next steps should be.

8.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson noted that the Don't Move a Mussel campaign is ramping up with buses and billboards. The DontMoveAMussel.ca website has been updated to include the new inspection station locations and information on how to access an inspection outside of station hours. Our 2018 outreach coordinator is joining the new outreach staff at Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society and local inspectors for an introduction meeting and training.

The Make Water Work launch was held May 17 with mayors from around the valley at the UnH2O gardens, despite flooding at the time. Ms. Jackson explained the reasons for going ahead, including treatment plants that were being overburdened and people already in their gardens. The launch profiled the MWW Plant Collection and had Mayors learning how to properly plant. The event was videotaped and will be used to help promote the campaign.

Staff are assisting with the October EFN conference. Staff have also been providing classroom presentations.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated May 30, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

8.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia briefed the board on the updated Sustainable Water Strategy which includes chapters on water quality issues (e.g. source protection, aquatic invasive species, and land use planning), and water quantity. In response to questions, she noted that the strategy will spell out the issues, as well as recommendations and targeted call to actions to assist local governments address them.

It was noted that the original strategy was released in 2008. A formal analysis and progress update was conducted in 2010, but there have also been reviews done every 18 months.

Ms. Garcia gave an overview of a BC Water and Waste Assoc. conference she attended in Penticton, including a presentation by B.C.'s Auditor General on drinking water audits conducted in RDOS and at City of Kelowna. A summary of the recommendations from the audits are being shared with other utilities to learn from. She also noted the CWRA conference and presentations by OBWB consultants on our Drought and Flood Planning projects.

"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated May 28, 2018, be received."
CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- 9.1 Letter from Summerland to Province of B.C. re: mining exploration
- 9.2 Letter from Peachland to Province of B.C. re: mining exploration

There was considerable discussion regarding the province's approval of a mine exploration permit in a watershed that includes the District of Summerland and Peachland, without prior consultation with the municipalities. Dir. Fortin (Peachland Mayor) and Dir. Waterman (Summerland Mayor) noted that instead of consultation they received a Notice of Work, and there is concern about mining contaminants entering their water source.

Dir. Baker noted that, as a new government, perhaps they need to be reminded that source water protection is important. Dir. Wilson added that the ONA sees many mining requests and a committee is looking at this, and perhaps there's an opportunity to address together. A Chiefs meeting is scheduled next week with B.C.'s Water Comptroller regarding consultation, she added.

After some additional discussion the board agreed to write a letter to the province, noting that Okanagan communities rely on these watersheds for drinking water. The letter will recommend that when the province receives such applications that it consult with local governments before making a decision. A draft of the letter will be circulated to the board for input.

"THAT the letters from Summerland and Peachland to the Province of B.C. re: mining exploration be received."

CARRIED

10. FIELD TOUR

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Friday, August 10, 2018 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The meeting will follow the Water Board's Annual Public Meeting to be held earlier in the morning. Location TBA.

12. ADJOURNMENT

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2018 be adjourned at 2 p.m."

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director