



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2018, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, 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 Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alt. Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
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**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**

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

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

10.2 Correspondence from Shuswap Watershed Council to MP Arnold and cc'ed to OBWB re: federal funding for invasive mussel prevention

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 7, 2018 be approved as amended."***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Aug. 10, 2018 at the Okanagan Regional Library, Downtown Kelowna branch

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Aug. 10, 2018 at the Okanagan Regional Library, Downtown Kelowna branch be approved.”***  
**CARRIED**

**5. CHAIR’S REPORT**

7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray explained the need to leave early and that the Vice-Chair would take over, but the agenda was reorganized to ensure the chair was in attendance for a couple of items.

**6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 Proposed OBWB budget for 2019-20 - Budget Features Memo

Dr. Sears presented the proposed 2019-20 budget to the board noting that there has been no increase in the tax requisition since 2011-12.

Dir. Wilson entered the meeting at 10:05 a.m..

Dir. Cunningham noted that it is a responsible budget.

Dir. Dirk entered the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Dir. Findlater agreed with Dir. Cunningham but noted that there won’t be the same growth in assessments in future years and to be aware this will affect future budgets. Dir. Gray cautioned the same. Dr. Sears responded that the Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants program costs will go up if there’s a substantial increase in applications to the program and if interests rates rise but we have a reserve fund to help buffer those increases. The Milfoil program will continue to fund equipment replacement through our equipment reserve – slowly over time. The Water Management Program is funded in part through grants, and we are beginning to include administration fees to the applications to ensure project costs are covered.

In response to additional questions, Dr. Sears noted that staff are reviewing the SFA program and the number of eligible pre-1977 properties in the valley to determine demands on the program in future years.

***“THAT the 2019-20 budget be accepted as presented.”***  
**CARRIED**

**7. IN-CAMERA**

7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter)

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 10:24 a.m.

***“THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (2)(b) of the Community Charter.”***  
**CARRIED**

Came out of in-camera at 10:35 a.m.

**8. STAFF REPORTS**

8.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reviewed the upcoming board meeting schedule in light of the October municipal elections. As such, there will be no November meeting and the December meeting will be rescheduled to Wed. Dec. 12.

***“THAT the December 2018 regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be rescheduled to Wednesday, December 12, 2018.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board 2019 meeting schedule be accepted as presented.”***

**CARRIED**

Dr. Sears provided an update on the LiDAR project and the unfortunate death of the pilot and mapping technician on Aug. 1 when the plane they were using for the project crashed on its way home to Alberta. The board asked staff to send a letter of condolence to the families through the company contracted to do the work.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter of condolence to Eagle Mapping, to pass along our sympathies to the company and the families of the deceased.”***

**CARRIED**

Dir. McKortoff noted that the International Joint Commission’s Osoyoos Lake Board of Control has its annual public meeting on Sept. 17 in Oroville. Flooding and the effects of high water and drought on Osoyoos Lake will be discussed, she added.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated August 29, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel spoke to the upcoming council meeting and a presentation by Freshwater Alliance’s Christine Mettler on their Water Sustainability and the City project. The council will also review a workplan for the new term and an exit survey completed by outgoing council members.

Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) has a new lead on the Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) project. Work on calculating Okanagan EFNs should be complete in the next six months. Planning for the October EFN conference is continuing with early-bird registration ending Sept. 14. The conference will showcase Okanagan EFN work conducted by OBWB, ONA and the province.

A project to conduct hydrology modeling of several tributaries into Okanagan mainstem lakes, linking surface and groundwater flow with the Okanagan Water Demand Models, is underway. An RFP for the project closed on Monday and a committee is now reviewing applications. The project is funded through federal Gas Tax funding.

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

**CARRIED**

## 8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley provided an update on the Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant program, noting that between 2007 and 2017, the annual SFA payment has declined from more than \$2.17 mill. to less than \$1.56 mill. as interest rates have declined and some large grants have expired. He added that because federal and provincial grants are now available and can be

used with the OBWB grants, it is possible that there will be new applications. In all, the OBWB has provided \$65 mill. towards sewer infrastructure in the Okanagan since it began in 1975.

Harvesting of invasive milfoil is now complete for the summer and the milfoil crew are now preparing for the upcoming rototilling season. In response to a question about milfoil in Vaseaux Lake, Mr. Littley noted that the OBWB has received a federal permit to do weed control and RDOS has provided a launch site. Staff are now waiting for ONA to complete its review of potential issues working in the area.

With another invasive mussel inspection season almost complete, staff will be reviewing the past year, including what the board has requested of the province and the federal government, and what is being recommended by other various agencies, to determine next steps for the Water Board.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated August 28, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 8.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on efforts to connect a local Okanagan resident with recreational property in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District with officials to erect boat launch signage regarding invasive mussels. There was a discussion about efforts to elevate the mussel issue as a concern with the TNRD. A similar effort, sharing information and efforts to address the issue, was done in the Shuswap with success.

***“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board offer to present on the invasive mussel issue to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.”***

**CARRIED**

The board was provided a synopsis of outreach efforts from Feb. to September 2018, during the term of the Okanagan WaterWise Outreach and Communications Coordinator, Jocelyn Whalen. Outreach included attendance at 36 events and interactions with about 2,400 people, and four classroom presentations which reached about 210 students. In addition to outreach, a new interactive “fishing game” was created to engage young people in water issues which will be used in future years.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated August 29, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 8.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia explained that work to update the Sustainable Water Strategy is ongoing which should be ready to be reviewed and adopted by the new board in the spring. The strategy includes sections to address water quality and quantity, as well as an introductory chapter that speaks to the importance of water, and an implementation/delivering the strategy chapter with action items (e.g. communication, collaboration, water governance, funding).

The board was updated on the drought, and coordination efforts with the province to address the issue. Ms. Garcia noted that staff attended drought calls every two weeks with the province during the summer. The province elevated the Okanagan to Level 2 drought on Aug. 24, especially out of concern for three fish-bearing creeks, Vaseux, Shuttleworth and Middle Vernon, and continued hot, dry conditions. The OBWB responded by putting out its second Drought

Bulletin to water utilities and media to draw attention to the need for conservation. Staff will be working with the province’s Water Sustainability Coordinator to further improve coordination efforts.

In response to questions, directors were told that the drought levels are announced by the province but are based on technical information provided by staff in local areas. The province is also improving how it determines and announces drought levels, understanding that low-water supply may be in a specific watershed rather than an entire region, they were told.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated August 28, 2018, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1 Letter from B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to OBWB re: mining activities in Okanagan watersheds

Directors discussed the letter from the province. Dir. Fortin added that she will be addressing the issue with the ministry at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities convention. Dir. Wilson added that the ONA has had similar issues and has developed a mining policy to try and address it. She invited directors to contact the ONA for more information.

***“THAT the letter from B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to OBWB re: mining activities in Okanagan watersheds be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

10.2 Correspondence from Shuswap Watershed Council to North Okanagan-Shuswap MP Mel Arnold and cc’d to OBWB re: federal funding for invasive mussel prevention

***“THAT the letter from Shuswap Watershed Council to North Okanagan-Shuswap MP Mel Arnold and cc’d to OBWB re: federal funding for invasive mussel prevention be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 7, 2018 be adjourned at 11:49 a.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director