



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 7, 2019, AT THE FOUR POINTS SHERATON HOTEL
5505 AIRPORT WAY, KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Toni Boot	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager

STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Stefanie Wenker	Water Demand Model Specialist
Karen Christensen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

GUESTS

Zoe Kirk	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Renee Clark	Regional District North Okanagan

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 7, 2019 be approved."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2019 at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 2, 2019 at the Regional District of North Okanagan be approved.”

CARRIED

4. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair McKortoff noted the publication of the *Building Climate Resilience Homeowner’s Guide* by the South Okanagan Real Estate Board with funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and editorial support from RDOS, Okanagan Basin Water Board, and several others. The guide is available on the OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise site at <https://okwaterwise.ca/waterwise-in-the-yard.html>.

The chair also noted a presentation by Jennifer Rice at the Southern Interior Local Government Assoc. conference. Ms. Rice, MLA for North Coast and Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, spoke to the 2018 report that came out of the 2017 B.C. flood and wildfire events, also known as the Abbott/Chapman report. She noted the recommendations and response by the B.C. government and its partners in advance of the 2019 flooding and wildfire seasons.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reported on an April 9 flood mapping meeting with local government and First Nations partners. It was noted that the rest of the LiDAR data was expected this week. Bathymetry data collection (surveying cross sections of the Okanagan River channel) is being postponed a few weeks to accommodate emerging sockeye. Also, staff participated in an Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) flood and debris flow risk/resilience assessment workshop on April 25, looking at vulnerabilities on a watershed scale, bringing traditional and western science together.

The board was provided a brief update on a potential opportunity to host the “Aquahacking Challenge” – a tech challenge aimed at solving real-world water issues. The challenge originated in Quebec and has been held in Eastern Canada for five years. Organizers are looking to bring the challenge to the west and are interested in possibly focusing on the Okanagan. The program would include partnerships with post-secondaries, the technology sector and others.

Dr. Sears reported on her presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee for Fisheries and Oceans in Ottawa, speaking to the importance of greater research and funding to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Okanagan. In response to questions from the board, she added that the federal government currently spends more than \$40 mill. a year on AIS with almost all of that spent on the Great Lakes. Staff also took the opportunity to raise the need for more research on native Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels (RMRM) and concerns that federal and provincial protection efforts could severely impact OBWB’s invasive milfoil control efforts.

Further on the RMRM-milfoil issue, OBWB staff sent a letter to the province and federal government asking for additional research on the native mussel before up-listing it as endangered and requesting authorization to continue to rototill invasive milfoil. The letter was forwarded to ONA’s Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan local governments, the Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc., chambers and yacht clubs, with a request that letters of support be forwarded to the provincial and federal officials. Dr. Sears noted that while in Ottawa, Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr arranged a meeting with Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff to request flexibility in addressing the milfoil issue.

Dir. Basran entered the meeting at 9:37AM.

Dr. Sears noted the annual launch of the valley-wide residential outdoor water conservation campaign, Make Water Work (MWW), is set for May 16 at 10:30 AM at École Glenmore Elementary. Several mayors have confirmed their attendance. Those who have not yet responded will be asked to confirm. Mayors are being paired with students on a WaterWise garden project using the MWW Plant Collection.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated May 1, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED***

Mr. Jatel noted the annual Water Supply Webinar was held on April 12, reviewing the current and forecasted water supply for 2019. The video is now posted on the OBWB-OkWaterWise YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bYsZJgK3JA>.

Ms. Garcia reported on the province’s Thompson Okanagan Drought Response Team and its first drought call. The province is working on an e-alert/text system for licencees. The OBWB has already implemented its own for Okanagan utilities, so this is a great opportunity to partner, she added.

6. NEXT MEETING

6.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

10. ADJOURNMENT

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 7, 2019 be adjourned at 9:54 a.m.”
CARRIED***

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director