



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 6, 2019, AT ROTARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS
421 CAWSTON AVE., 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 James Baker	Regional District Central 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

ABSENT

Okanagan Nation Alliance representative

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
Karen Christensen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- 6.4.1 2019 verbal outreach wrap-up report from Communications and Outreach Coordinator
- 8.13 Letter from Okanagan MLAs to Province re: RMRM and milfoil

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 4, 2019 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 4, 2019 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on June 4, 2019 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen be approved.”

CARRIED

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McKortoff provided a brief report regarding a grant for a water twinning project in Osoyoos. She also noted a citizen science project inviting Okanagan residents with docks to conduct invasive mussel sampling. The project is being led by the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, supported by the OBWB's Don't Move A Mussel program.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted that the acquisition of LiDAR and orthophotos for floodplain mapping has been completed. The contractor is now conducting quality assurance, intending to deliver the results by December to be distributed to Okanagan community partners shortly after.

OBWB and provincial staff met to discuss the Water Board's milfoil control program and concerns around the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel and were told that the province would be reviewing its regulations. Chair McKortoff noted that RDOS has asked for a meeting with B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Doug Donaldson at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities conference to discuss the matter. Dir. Boot added that she has also been in touch with the province to have a meeting.

Dr. Sears noted that staff will be attending UBCM to promote the Planning Guides and Toolkits database project OBWB has developed with CivicInfo.

The board was told of a funding proposal to the International Joint Commission to fund hydrology modeling on the Similkameen River, recognizing the waterway's impact on Osoyoos Lake. If approved, the OBWB would provide in-kind support to the project.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated August 27, 2019, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on a recommendation from the Water Stewardship Council to move from an 18-month to a 24-month term and that this start in April 2021 to line up with the board's Water Management Program renewal and with the election cycle.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board change the Water Stewardship Council term from an 18-month to 24-month term to align with the OBWB Water Management Program's renewal, and municipal election cycle.”

CARRIED

The next council meeting is set for Sept. 12 and will include a presentation by former council chair Bernie Bauer of UBCO presenting on new research regarding water quality stressors in multi-use watersheds.

The board was provided a brief update on the bathymetry study and Okanagan flood mapping project's integration of new LiDAR data.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated August 27, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley explained that a cooler and wetter summer resulted in slower milfoil growth than in the past couple years. The milfoil crew is now starting fall maintenance to get ready for rototilling season in the winter.

The Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network, of which OBWB is a member, is holding its annual conference in Kelowna May 26-28 with several opportunities for OBWB directors to engage. More details will be provided in the months ahead.

OBWB and AquaHacking staff will be touring B.C. universities to garner interest and participation in the challenge for the kick-off in October.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated August 26, 2019, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson noted several projects since the last board meeting in June including a boat cruise with a Vernon Gr. 1 class and another with a Kelowna Gr. 9 class for winning the Okanagan WaterWise “Be a Climate Hero” Challenge. Both won a two-hour cruise with a presentation on water issues delivered in partnership with Okanagan Science Centre and the Environmental Education Centre of the Okanagan.

Following the May launch of Make Water Work, the campaign has been rolling out with an improved, dynamic website, bus/bus shelter/ billboard, radio, social media advertising and more. Garden centre partners promoting the Make Water Work Plant Collection has grown from six to nine. These, plus an irrigation business, have been providing gift cards for WaterWise yard product to randomly selected winners who pledge to Make Water Work. The contest runs until Sept. 21 with the campaign wrapping up shortly after as people begin to turn off their outdoor taps for another year. A wrap-up report will be provided later in the fall.

Similarly, the Don’t Move A Mussel campaign was re-launched with an improved, updated website encouraging stronger public engagement. Outreach and updated print, radio and social media advertising was rolled out. Materials were provided to several partners to further promote the message, including to the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS), West Kelowna RCMP volunteers, and others.

Ms. Christensen reported on spring/summer outreach efforts, including eight classroom presentations to 214 students and 28 events throughout the valley, meeting with nearly 1,900 people. The outreach was coordinated with MWW local government, utility and garden centre partners, as well as DMM partners including OASISS and Bell Media. Interestingly, she added, local government officials visiting the Okanagan showed interest in both campaigns. Also, awareness around invasive mussels is high with several tourists who have experience with them warning of their impact.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated August 27, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia noted that the low snowpack this past winter and the dry spring resulted in the Okanagan being declared in Level 2 drought on June 11 and then elevated to Level 3 on June 17. The provincial and local government Drought Response Team met on a regular basis throughout the summer as conditions changed. Ms. Garcia collected feedback from local water suppliers and reported this to the team to help inform the local response.

Cooler, wetter conditions in July brought the Okanagan back to Level 2, but there is concern about the potential for a multi-year drought and having less water available at the beginning of the next year’s irrigation season. The Mainstem Drought Triggers and Agricultural Drought Communications projects will help address this concern. Both of these tools were tested this year and will be refined, she added.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated Aug. 23, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

7. **NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 Update OBWB signing authority

Dr. Sears presented a memo updating the signing authority for OBWB.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the Signing Authority Resolution as presented.”

CARRIED

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Several letters were presented to the board supporting the OBWB’s position on the milfoil rototilling - Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel issue.

“THAT the correspondence from Town of Oliver, Vaseux Lake Stewardship Assoc., City of West Kelowna, District of Peachland, B.C. government, City of Kelowna, Greater Vernon Chamber, Okanagan-Shuswap MLAs and the OBWB be received.”

CARRIED

9. **NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. Oct. 1, 2019 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 Sept. 6, 2019 be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director