



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCTOBER 1, 2019, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, 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
Alt. Director Christine Fraser	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
Alt. Director Sabrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

ABSENT

Okanagan Nation Alliance representative	
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager

STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Karen Christensen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

GUESTS

Laura Frank	Regional District of North Okanagan
-------------	-------------------------------------

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

8.4.1 2019 verbal outreach wrap-up report from Communications and Outreach Coordinator

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 1, 2019 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2019 at Rotary Centre for the Arts.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Sept. 9, 2019 at Rotary Centre for the Arts be approved.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Christine Fraser, Mayor of Spallumcheen - North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project

Ms. Fraser provided a summary of the North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project, including aspects of how it will improve the environment, supply treated wastewater to agriculture, service industrial areas and business interests in the corridor. Okanagan Indian Band is also hoping to have access to the plant when they receive funding from the federal government.

The plant will take septic from the service areas. The initial first phase is to hook in businesses, then residential. The Township of Spallumcheen is in the process of consulting with farming community for the organics diversion. Construction of the project is estimated to take approximately two years following design and tender.

The project is estimated to cost \$36.9 mill. OBWB will provide about \$5.9 mill. (or 16% of eligible costs) in grant funding. The Township of Spallumcheen will place \$1.5 mill. aside for this project. Application to the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* for a \$24.3 mill. grant has been submitted.

- 5.2 Laura Frank, Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Regional Planning Projects Manager - OBWB grant-funded Climate Projections Project

Ms. Frank provided a high level overview of RDNO's Okanagan Climate Projections project, funded with a \$25,000 grant from OBWB. Work was done in partnership with the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan Similkameen, and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC). They have held workshops, providing high level projections with regard to impacts on transportation, buildings, storm water, sewage, water supply, health, agriculture, tourism, recreation, ecosystems, and the local economy. The work provides technical data as a basis for moving forward. The future climate impacts include wildfire, heat waves flooding and drought. Decisions we make today will result in the climate change impacts we face tomorrow, she noted.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McKortoff noted that she attended a meeting with the B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, at UBCM. Chair McKortoff provided him with information and briefing notes about the milfoil and Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel issue from Dr. Anna Warwick Sears. Chair McKortoff spoke with him about the need to work together towards a solution and the importance of the milfoil control program. Minister Donaldson said he has learned a great deal about the problems of milfoil rototilling.

7. DIRECTORS REPORT ON UBCM

Alt. Dir. Christine Fraser reported on a meeting regarding fish habitat studies. They are required to do studies wherever they are working on culverts, even in areas that are not fish bearing. This has potential to impact budgets, with costs of \$10,000 per study. They are working to develop a five-year drainage plan so that each project doesn't need a separate study.

Dir. Toni Boot said she met with Deputy Min. Don Wright, and also spoke to the milfoil issue. She was also interviewed on Global TV regarding climate change and how it has affected Summerland (floods and fires). Dir. Boot noted new provincial legislation coming out on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adding that it is expected soon.

Dir. Fairbairn reported on meetings with BC Hydro about Wilsey Dam and discussed building a fish ladder and environmental impacts. The indications are they are going to decommission the dam, he said.

Dir. Colin Basran provided Min. Donaldson with a Kelowna perspective, emphasizing how milfoil and water quality issues impact tourism. He urged the minister to let OBWB continue with its milfoil control.

Alt. Dir. Sabrina Monteith appreciated the opportunity to network with other local government electeds and brought forth water concerns in her discussions with delegates.

Vice-Chair Cindy Fortin had three meetings. One with the B.C. Minister of Environment about zebra and quagga mussels. OBWB has become a recognized and respected group, she added. She found it very encouraging that they recognized the importance of preventing invasive mussels. She asked for another mussel-sniffing dog and that the ministry make sure people clean, dry, and drain their boats and ensure it is mandatory.

Dir. Victor Cumming said the City of Vernon had seven meetings, including discussions about forest harvesting in watersheds, including harvesting wood that is closer to the mills and support for silviculture practices. There were also meetings about managing biosolids, the environmental standards which are getting tougher, along with management costs. The City of Vernon has a climate change task force and will be releasing a report around May 2020.

Dir. Bob Hrasko attended a meeting in September where there were water workshops and a range of speakers from water utilities. Presentations included water rate setting for agriculture, water needs for agriculture and more.

Alt. Director Scott Boswell provided an update on the Okanagan Lake Management Plan, including a visioning workshop later this fall.

Dr. Sears noted that she and Ms. Garcia were at UBCM to promote the planning guide database developed in partnership with CivicInfo BC. Dr. Sears also spoke with government staff who administer Gas Tax funds and the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. She also spent time with B.C. Ministry of Environment staff, the Infrastructure Finance group from B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and the Director of Disaster Mitigation. Dr. Sears also met with the Executive Director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C.

Ms. Garcia added that a dozen people came to discuss the database. The next steps are to add more resources and information to the database. This is an ongoing project that Ms. Garcia will be working on.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted she has begun working on the budget for the next fiscal year, and felt that there would not be significant changes. Intentions are to continue to build the milfoil equipment reserve following the asset replacement schedule, and to continue the Water Management

Program at about the same level. The Sewage Facilities Grants Program budget is based on ongoing commitments. The updated budget will be presented at the November meeting and finalized by December. Dr. Sears noted that she didn't believe the North Okanagan Treatment Plant would be in this year's budget, but will probably be in the following year's budget.

On September 17, 2019, Dr. Sears attended International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC) meetings. Historically, the mandate has been about managing Osoyoos lake levels and the ability to hold extra water in the lake during drought. This all connects with OBWB's work on flood mapping, including the LiDAR data. Similkameen can back up into Osoyoos Lake, she added, noting that OBWB's models should align with what is happening on the Similkameen. The OBWB will be working with the IOLBC to assist with hydrologic modeling on the Similkameen.

Dr. Sears gave an overview of the Aquahacking Challenge Finale in Montreal. This event was also attended by Mr. Littley and Ms. Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo in preparation for OBWB hosting the 2020 challenge. Staff are working with partner Aqua Forum to recruit additional sponsors.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received."
CARRIED

RECESS for lunch at 11:47 am
RESUME meeting at 12:18 pm

8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported that the September Water Stewardship Council meeting included presentations from Drs. Bernie Bauer and Keith Duhaime with research on water quality stressors in multi-use Okanagan watersheds. The new data and findings noted the downstream impact from ATV's and cattle on road-stream crossings in two north Okanagan sub-basins. Potential solutions to mediate damage and upstream sedimentation affects were identified. Future water quality improvements may be informed by this research.

On October 10th, the council will meet and hear from a panel who will discuss implementation of an agricultural water reserve. An agricultural water reserve can be used as a licensing tool to conserve water.

The council is completing its 8th term. A proposed membership list for the next term was submitted to the board which includes 32 organizations for consideration. The board was asked to consider approving another 18 month term, and then extending the regular term length to 24 months.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the attached Water Stewardship Council membership list (Appendix 1. Water Stewardship Council Proposed Membership List) for a term of 18 months (November 2019 – March 2021) and, thereafter, Council membership be appointed for a term of 24 months."

CARRIED

A flood planning workshop is planned for Oct. 2. Attendees will include planners, engineers, GIS staff. The OBWB is learning more about flood mapping standards and is looking to develop a web tool that the Water Board and other local governments can adopt to increase communication, using a similar strategy as one developed for the City of Calgary. The mapping being developing will populate the website and complement work local governments are doing.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Sept. 24, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Dr. Sears presented for Mr. James Littlely.

Dr. Sears provided a summary of the funding forecast for the North Okanagan Sewage Treatment Plant. The project has received \$24.3 million in funding so far through federal grants and will be eligible to receive up to 16%, estimated now at \$5.904 mill. from the OBWB Sewerage Facilities Grants. The grants are paid on a 20-year schedule, based on Municipal Finance Authority terms and rates. Based on the current MFA interest rate, the OBWB SFA grant for this project will pay approximately \$409,000 per year for the first 10 years, and then will be re-set with the current interest rate for the remaining 10 years. It is likely the grant will not begin until the project is complete and long term borrowing is in place. Once project costs are finalized, the grantee will submit a notification to OBWB for approval of the grant in principle, one year ahead of the formal start of the 20-year term in order to ensure that OBWB can include the \$409,000 grant in its annual budget.

Dr. Sears noted that the Aquahacking Challenge advisory committee has selected the five final water issues to be addressed. The issues will be announced at the kick-off this fall. In broad terms, the five themes include storm water contamination, waste water, flood damage, polluted water in indigenous communities, and aquatic invasive species.

In mid-October, the BC Water Funders Collaborative will be meeting for a workshop in Merritt. Mr. Littlely is a member of the steering committee and will be attending. During this workshop, attendees will be taking a field trip to observe the new Nicola Watershed Pilot.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.4 Communications Director Report

Dr. Sears presented for Ms. Jackson who is attending WaterSmart Innovations, the world’s largest water conservation convention.

The Make Water Work and Don’t Move A Mussel campaign’s ended in late September as residents began to turn off their outdoor irrigation and water recreation wound down. Wrap-up reports will be compiled in the weeks ahead and brought to the board. The reports will help inform the 2020 campaigns.

‘A River Film,’ as well as several film shorts that focus on various issues covered in the film (e.g. agriculture, the fishery, dams and other infrastructure) are now posted on our Okanagan WaterWise YouTube channel. A link to the film will also be posted on the OkWaterWise website.

There is an extensive list of news clippings included in this month’s report, including stories on the milfoil/RMRM issue, this summer’s drought and the OBWB response, the board’s response to the provincial invasive mussel inspection numbers and push for stronger action, Make Water Work results, and more. A few examples are hyperlinked, but all of them are posted on the OBWB website and where applicable, on OkWaterWise, Make Water Work or Don’t Move A Mussel websites as well.

8.4.1 Ms. Christensen gave a verbal outreach wrap-up report. Ms. Christensen summarized the last 3 events and interaction totals for 2019 outreach. Karen will be staying on another two months to work on web content and updating/redesigning outreach materials.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on her participation at the UBCM convention this past September, promoting the OBWB/CivicInfo BC Planning Guides database, including valuable conversations with representatives from more than 25 agencies. The online database holds more than 100 bylaw toolkits, guides and other resources focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable land and water use.

Ms. Garcia also reported on the Local Government Flood Policy Review. OBWB staff are working on hydrology modeling studies, LiDAR data collection, and bathymetric survey to inform the preparation of floodplain maps for the Okanagan. With this compiled data, local governments will be in a better position to plan flood management and policies. New flood maps will give a better idea where changes need to be made. The Sustainable Water Strategy draft was forwarded to the WSC yesterday for review and adoption next week.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated Sept. 24, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

“THAT the letter from Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to OBWB re: Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel, the Species at Risk Act listing decision, and milfoil control be received.”

CARRIED

10. **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. Nov. 5, 2019 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 1, 2019 be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director