



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2019, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., 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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2019 be approved.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 1, 2019 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Oct. 1, 2019 at Regional District of North Okanagan be approved.”

CARRIED

4. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair McKortoff shared about her recent visit with family in Southern California, the recent

wildfires, the higher cost of water, efforts to firesmart homes with firebreak systems, and the strong sense of community and support in the neighbourhood she was visiting. Residents talk to each other if they're going to be away, and evacuation kits are common, she added, noting that it was an interesting learning experience.

Dir. Basran entered meeting at 10:06 a.m.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears provided an update on the LiDAR flood mapping data, explaining that the most recent data is being shared on a USB stick with local Okanagan governments. Data sharing agreements are being developed to ensure the ongoing integrity of the information. The province has ownership of the Okanagan LiDAR and will manage this public asset, but the OBWB, Okanagan First Nations and local governments have a perpetual license to use it for free.

As for weather, the long-term forecast for this winter is suggesting a neutral El Nino year, with equal probability of it being warmer and colder year. Snow is beginning to accumulate at valley snow stations, added Sears.

A database of water quality monitoring data is in the process of being established on the OBWB website and includes data collected for West Kelowna, Kelowna, and other public entities by Larratt Aquatic Consultants which has obtained client permission from their clients to share the information. This is intended as a resource for researchers.

Work is continuing on the OBWB's five-year Strategic Plan. In addition to updating the OBWB's strategic focus on water quality and water supply, the plan will more explicitly include ways OBWB will work with the Okanagan Nation. The board acknowledged this importance of this effort and interest in having an ONA director re-appointed as soon as possible.

Dr. Sears presented the board meeting schedule for 2020.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting schedule for 2020 be adopted."
CARRIED

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Oct. 30, 2019, be received."
CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the October Water Stewardship Council meeting and discussion around an Agricultural Water Reserve (AWR) and the upcoming meeting which will include a presentation from the Fraser Basin Council on some of their projects and what the Okanagan can learn from them. The Dec. 14 meeting will look at climate and weather forecasting.

The council is reviewing the province's emergency legislation update as it relates to flooding and fire. The deadline for feedback is in February 2020. The council will provide a report to the board for feedback.

The council has also invited four Okanagan bands to join the council and is waiting for a response.

In response to questions about a potential AWR, it was noted that B.C.'s Water Sustainability Act, introduced in 2016, allows for these reserves and it could be a tool for supporting food security, but it is a very complicated process.

A flood mapping meeting was held with local government and First Nations partners. Partners discussed the development of a website to share the maps, and provide information on reducing flood risks. The site will be built in partnership with the province, allowing local governments to submit and update maps. It will be hosted by RDCO's server and have support from GIS departments in the three Okanagan regional districts. Work is underway to have the site ready in time for spring freshet.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Oct. 30, 2019, be received."

CARRIED

5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley provided an update on the provincial permit for milfoil rototilling, allowing work to resume in some areas under new restrictions. Dr. Sears added that the long-term goal is to work toward a permanent exemption for the program and to have high use public areas prioritized.

There was some discussion about the board's request for provincial research that looks at the impact of milfoil on the native Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel and the need to push this. Dir. Cumming noted that he would be interested in inviting provincial staff to present to his council. There was also discussion about having provincial staff present to the OBWB directors at an upcoming board meeting.

The board discussed the upcoming call for applications to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program and the annual theme of collaboration.

"THAT for the 2020-2021 WCQI grant competition annual theme, the OBWB seeks projects in any category that have multiple partnering organizations, especially organizations from multiple Okanagan Regional Districts; and THAT applications in these categories are prioritized for funding during staff review with the awarding of up to 10 extra points toward the total score; and THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined."

CARRIED

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated Oct. 23, 2019, be received."

CARRIED

5.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the WaterSmart Innovations water conservation conference and sessions on outdoor landscapes and climate resiliency.

The board was also provided an update on various invasive mussel initiatives, including an OBWB-OkWaterWise sponsored workshop for those in the watercraft industry (marinas, retailers, storage facilities, etc.) The workshop included information on the mussels, the province's inspection and decontamination program, and tips to protect local waters.

Provincial inspection numbers were also shared for May to Sept. 15 and included interception of 19 mussel-infested watercraft, three bound for the Okanagan.

An update was provided on additional communication initiatives, including the AquaHacking launch and its posting on the Okanagan WaterWise YouTube channel.

There was some discussion about water conservation programs and messaging in spring during freshet, and then during summer when it is drier, there is more demand and competing needs for what's available. Board directors spoke in favour of efforts to encourage people to use only what they need and landscaping with waterwise plant material.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Oct. 30, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

5.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia told the board about the Lower Mainland Flood Forum she attended and its major themes which included the need for collaboration, resource capacity, and UNDRIP. The discussions will be valuable in helping inform flood planning for our valley, she added.

The WSC Source Water Protection Committee recommended creation of a source protection (SP) toolkit to address the gap in knowledge and provide examples of local governments who have implemented SP plans, and funding models for SP work. Staff will be attending the Water Supply Assoc. of B.C. fall workshop and requesting feedback on the development of such a kit.

The Sustainable Water Strategy was adopted by the council in October and the document is now with a graphic designer. A copy should be available at the next board meeting and directors will be asked to receive the strategy.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated Oct. 30, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

Dirs. Hrasko and Baker exited the meeting.

6. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 Budget Features Memo - Proposed OBWB 2020-21 Budget

Dr. Sears presented the draft 2020-21 budget and noted there is a zero over-all increase in requisitions. The overall requisition is \$3.45 mill. which funds the Milfoil Control Program, Sewage Facilities Grants Program and the Water Management Program (which includes the Water Stewardship Council, water research, Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants [WCQI], and communications and outreach).

The presented budget included a recommendation that the WCQI grant budget be increased from \$300,000 to \$350,000, the first increase since the program began in 2006, to address inflation. This does not increase the overall requisition.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the 2020-2021 budget as presented.”
CARRIED

6.2 B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 Update Memo

The board was provided an overview of the AquaHacking program and given an update, including the showing of five brief videos that explain the issues chosen to be tackled as part of the challenge. The five issues are potable water in Indigenous communities, invasive mussels, flooding, outdoor water conservation, and stormwater contaminants.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

“THAT the letter from B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development to OBWB re: milfoil control & Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels be received.”

CARRIED

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. Dec. 3, 2019 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 5, 2019 be adjourned at 1:32 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director