



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD APRIL 7, 2020, ONLINE  
OKANAGAN, B.C.**

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**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 Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**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

**TECHNICAL OBSERVER**

Tessa Terbasket	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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**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 April 7, 2020 be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2020 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on march 3, 2020 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 4. **STAFF REPORTS**

##### 4.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted that staff are working from home, coming into the office to work only as needed.

The joint board-council meeting in May is still planned to go ahead and will be conducted online.

Work is continuing on a flood map website with a webinar for local government staff and elected officials in the coming weeks, followed by a public launch.

Dr. Sears explained that the OBWB's Strategic Plan has been revised to include additional tracking measures. The board was asked to provide final comments within the next two weeks. Dir. Cumming asked that the board, in particular, review the section on hydrometric data and provide input.

The board was provided a weather update and told that the province has been lowering Okanagan Lake to accommodate the high snowpack as it melts. At the same time, it has been relatively dry but there is no strong indication for flooding or drought, Dr. Sears explained. Dir. Hrasko reminded directors that upcoming rains are key and if the valley receives too much, too fast, some areas could have flooding.

***“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated April 1, 2020, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

##### 4.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the March council meeting and a presentation by Associated Environmental's Carrie Nadeau and Hugh Hamilton and their work on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy. UBC Okanagan Assistant Professor Matthieu Bourbonnaise and his student, Tina Deenik, spoke about new wetland mapping research and the use of LiDAR data to update wetland maps. The next council meeting will be April 9, 1 – 3 p.m. online with the province's Shaun Reimer providing an update on where Okanagan Lake levels are at and the forecast for the coming weeks.

The annual Okanagan Water Supply Webinar will be April 16, 11 a.m. – noon. It will also be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel ([youtube.com/OkanaganWaterWise](https://www.youtube.com/OkanaganWaterWise)). It will also be posted on our social media channels.

Mr. Jatel noted that a memo regarding hydrometric monitoring, looking at potential costs, is being developed based on recent board discussions.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated April 1, 2020, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

##### 4.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the milfoil control program, noting rototilling is wrapping up and the crew is doing machine maintenance, getting ready for harvesting season. Staff are working safely considering physical distancing, he added.

The province has provided maps of areas previously surveyed for Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels and where none were found. These areas are limited and do not cover most of the existing treatment areas. Staff are continuing to work with the province on this file.

The B.C. AquaHacking Challenge semi-final was held online March 21 and organizers have agreed to do the same with the final.

The Environmental Funders Canada 2020 Conference has been postponed to 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated April 1, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Make Water Work (MWW) and Don't Move A Mussel (DMM) public outreach campaigns that typically roll-out in the spring. Although some advertising contracts are already in place (e.g. billboards and buses), staff are reviewing plans to reach the public, recognizing that face-to-face outreach may be unlikely this year, she said.

The screening of “Brave Blue World,” planned for March 19 as part of Canada Water Week, was postponed and funds were returned to purchasers. As noted earlier, the AquaHacking semi-final that was held online allowed us to offer something to the public to celebrate the week. The event aired on our Okanagan WaterWise Facebook site. The board was told that as of last week, the video had reached 1,497 people. A news release announcing the five semi-finalists was also sent to media.

The composter-rain barrel sale with RDCO's Waste Reduction Office ended on March 30 with all items sold. In past years we have had pick up events. Given the current situation with COVID-19, the RDCO is looking to hire a delivery company to drop the units off to residents who ordered them.

***“THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated April 1, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on the Source Water Protection Toolkit for water suppliers, noting that a meeting has been held with the consultants to discuss project goals, timeline and more, and they have begun a literature review. Staff have also met with the Water Stewardship Council's source protection committee to gather input on the project charter and discuss membership for a technical advisory committee.

Staff are working with various water suppliers who are part of the Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project, providing e-alerts to their ag customers regarding water supplies. This project is intended to assist this sector plan and prepare for potential droughts.

Work on an updated “Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!” guide for Okanagan homeowners is well underway, with a draft ready to be submitted to a graphic designer within the coming weeks. This guide has been a popular resource and ties in with other OBWB-OkWaterWise outreach efforts, including the Make Water Work Plant Collection.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated March 30, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

### 5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 OBWB Draft Strategic Plan and Tracking Measures 2020-2024

Dr. Sears introduced the draft Strategic Plan and tracking measures and encouraged the board to review and provide final feedback.

***“THAT the Draft Strategic Plan and Tracking Measures 2020-2024 memo be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

Move to go in-camera at 11:03 a.m. under sec. 90(1)(m) of the Community Charter.

6. **IN-CAMERA**

7.1 In-camera session

Close in-camera at 11:22 a.m.

7. **RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

***“THAT the OBWB fund the Armstrong Wetland Mapping project, as described in its WCQI application, up to the amount of \$6,106 through the Water Board’s existing wetlands project, and not through WCQI funds.”***

**CARRIED**  
***Dirs. Dericksen, Hrasko and Nielsen abstained***

***“THAT the OBWB approve the 2020 grant funding as presented. AND THAT the OBWB Rise and Report the 2020 grant funding as approved.”***

**CARRIED**  
***Dirs. Dericksen, Hrasko and Nielsen abstained***

8. **NEXT MEETING**

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. May 5, 2020 at 10 a.m. at location TBD.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 7, 2020 be adjourned at 11:28 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director