



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 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 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 Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance

**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
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Special Projects Coordinator

**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 Sept. 4, 2020 be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2020 held online.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on July 7, 2020 held online be approved.”***

**CARRIED****4. STAFF REPORTS****4.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears provided her report to the board and presented the 2020 Annual Report and tracking measures. These tracking measures are intended to help staff and directors track progress on their strategic plan, she noted, adding it will be reviewed and reported on every summer as part of the annual report.

Staff are planning an OBWB 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration by the water with physical distancing measures in place. The event will be limited to 50 people, per provincial health guidelines, and include current board directors, past chairs, and current and past Water Stewardship Council chairs. Further details will be sent by email. A public event with a guest speaker will be held online later in the fall.

Dir. Fleming joined the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

The board was updated on an effort by the OBWB to support RCMP volunteers in conducting invasive mussel outreach at boat launches. Chair McKortoff voiced concern about three mussel-fouled watercraft that were intercepted coming across the Canada-U.S. border. Ms. Jackson explained that the watercraft were purchased from mussel-infested regions, by B.C. residents, and came in on transport carriers. Provincial inspectors were notified by Canada Border Services to ensure proper inspections and decontaminations were done. The OBWB, through its Don't Move A Mussel campaign, also ran radio ads and other messaging, reminding residents who purchase watercraft from outside B.C. to contact inspectors before launching.

Ms. Terbasket joined the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Dir. Fortin noted that Peachland was interested in having RCMP volunteers at their boat launches next year. Ms. Jackson offered to put Dir. Fortin in touch with the RCMP liaison.

Dr. Sears noted that the OBWB sent a letter to the Province of B.C., supporting a B.C. Watershed Security Fund as part of a COVID-19 economic recovery plan. Ms. Garcia added that the OBWB has recommended that funds could help implement the source protection toolkit that is currently in development.

Staff are working with Entrepreneurship UBC to develop a workshop for local business leaders to educate them on flood risks and the related research that is underway in the valley. The workshop will profile the OBWB's recent flood mapping efforts, as well as work by Okanagan Nation Alliance on flooding and debris flow, and City of Kelowna's Mill Creek flood response.

The board was provided a weather update and told that with La Nina, we could have a warm autumn and wetter winter. Dir. Neilsen added that although it could be wetter, La Nina often leads to cooler temperatures.

***"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Aug. 26, 2020, be received."***

**CARRIED****4.2 Water Stewardship Director Report**

Mr. Jatel reported on a meeting of past council chairs and discussion about past projects and a look ahead to potential future ones. Dr. Rita Winkler joined as a special guest to discuss

succession planning at the senior government level and management of legacy scientific data. It was proposed that a Council sub-committee be formed to explore needs and opportunities to store valuable Okanagan water data and have it publically available.

The next Council meeting will be held by Zoom on Sept. 10th from 1 – 3 p.m. and will include a presentation and discussion on local government accounting of natural assets.

A brief update was provided on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre tool and the Environmental Flow Needs project. The board was told about an update that will be completed this fall to some of the recent flood mapping. The update is intended to assist local governments that are using an older vertical datum for location reference points.

Mr. Jatel added he has been appointed to the St'at'imc Eco-Resources Board of Directors in Lillooet and hopes his involvement will be useful in helping address Okanagan water issues.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Sept. 1, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley provided an update on milfoil control noting surveys of the weed were done of various portions of Okanagan Lake. OBWB will apply to extend permits into these areas. RFPs have now gone out to purchase a new trailer and crane for the program.

In preparing for a final report from provincial invasive mussel inspection staff with recommendations for the coming year, Water Board staff are preparing to enlist support for the OBWB’s calls to action. In the meantime, Mr. Littley added that local governments should be doing an analysis of their water intakes to determine actions they can take. In response to questions, it was noted that research using copper sulphate and Zequanox to combat the mussels has been found to have issues and would not be suitable to the Okanagan.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated Aug. 25, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.4 Communications Director Reports

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the OBWB’s Make Water Work, summer outdoor water conservation campaign, including an update to the website ([www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca)) with information on new water supply and demand numbers for the valley. In response to questions it was noted that the numbers are based on water meter data from 2015-2018 and reports water use per household, rather than per person.

An update was also provided for the Don’t Move A Mussel campaign, which also included updates to the DMM website ([www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca)) and efforts to assist partner agencies with outreach materials and support. In response to questions, Ms. Jackson added that there was a request for additional DMM signs at government and private boat launches on the Westside. Staff made some calls and sent emails and are waiting for a response from those responsible for the launches.

A brief update was provided on additional projects including new water curriculum resources for teachers.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Aug. 24, 2020, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 4.5 Policy and Planning Specialist

Ms. Garcia explained that a new Thompson Okanagan Stream Watch Tab has been added to the province's B.C. Drought Information Portal. This is significant since past provincial drought declarations have lumped the Okanagan together even though it was certain streams that were of concern. This will now allow provincial officials to manage at the sub-basin level. Although most of the Okanagan has fared well this year, she added, there are two South Okanagan streams that are of concern this summer. Vaseux and Shuttleworth are important for fish spawning and have dried in the lower reaches, stranding at least one female Chinook in Vaseux. The province is working with those who have water licences on the creeks and looking at how to better manage these streams.

Work on a source protection toolkit should be completed in December.

***"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated Aug. 21, 2020, be received."***

**CARRIED**

## 4.6 Special Projects Coordinator

Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo presented on the 2020 B.C. AquaHacking Challenge and plans for 2021, engaging young professionals in helping solve critical water issues.

***"THAT the OBWB host the 2021 BC AquaHacking Challenge in partnership with Aqua Forum; AND THAT the OBWB Executive Director be authorized to sign a final agreement with AquaForum on or before September 30th."***

**CARRIED**

***"THAT the Special Projects Coordinator Report, dated Aug. 25, 2020, be received."***

**CARRIED**

**5. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## 5.1 Request support for review of Okanagan Lake Level Management

Dr. Sears presented a report to the board, responding to a letter from the District of Peachland asking for a review of Okanagan Lake level management to address flooding. She noted the importance of a review, adding that it should include input from local governments, Okanagan Nation Alliance and the federal government.

Provincial staff, responsible for Okanagan Lake dam management in Penticton, have offered to attend the October board meeting to begin the discussion.

Dir. Cumming noted that the issue isn't just with Okanagan Lake but with the management of the valley's mainstem lakes. Dr. Sears noted that following the October board meeting, staff can begin discussions with other regional districts.

***"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receive the letter from District of Peachland and wait until October to respond after receiving more information."***

**CARRIED**

***"THAT the Okanagan Lake Level Management memo, dated Aug. 26, 2020, be received."***

**CARRIED**

6. **IN-CAMERA**

6.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter)

*Move to go in-camera at 11:59 a.m.*

**CARRIED**

Rise and report...

*“THAT the OBWB approve the Okanagan Hydrometric Program Terms of Reference.”*

**CARRIED**

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

*“THAT correspondence from B.C. Environment and Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman, regarding Water Sustainability Act implementation, be received.”*

**CARRIED**



8. **NEXT MEETING**

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tues. Oct. 6, 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 Sept. 4, 2020 be adjourned at 12:18 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
		
Chair		Executive Director