



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD MAY 4, 2021, ONLINE
OKANAGAN, 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 Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
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STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Special Projects Coordinator
Kellie Garcia	Planning Specialist
Farah Kanani	Technical Writer

TECHNICAL OBSERVER

Tessa Terbasket	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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GUESTS

Renee Clark	Emeritus (Regional District North Okanagan – ret'd)
Denise Neilsen	Emeritus (Agriculture & Agri-food Canada – ret'd)
Brittany Lange	Regional District Central Okanagan
Tony Zanotto	B.C.Min.Forests,Lands,Nat.Res.Ops,RuralDev. (Res.Mgr)
Micheal Firlotte	City of Penticton
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Tricia Brett	Regional District North Okanagan
Bernie Bauer	UBC Okanagan
Jeremy Fyke	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Rob St. Onge	Okanagan College
Rob Birtles	Interior Health Authority
Ian McLellan	Recreation Sites and Trails BC
Brian Guy	Canadian Water Resources Association
Kristen Hannam	Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
Lorne Davies	BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Randy Hardy	Gorman Brothers

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 May 4, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 6, 2021 held online.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on April 6, 2021 held online be approved.”

CARRIED

4. STAFF REPORTS

4.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reported on a meeting between herself, OBWB Chair McKortoff, Dir. Derickson, ONA technical observer to the board Tessa Terbasket, and ONA Natural Resources Manager Cailyn Glasser. The meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen the relationship between the Water Board and the Syilx nation around mutual water goals. Dir. Derickson noted the importance of the meeting in addressing water issues and in the journey of reconciliation.

The board was updated on a roundtable discussion on water between various water organizations and NGOs with B.C. Minister of State Nathan Cullen.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated April 28, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

4.2 Operations and Grants Manager

Mr. Littley noted the B.C. government’s response to the OBWB’s March 4th letter with calls to action on invasive mussels. While the province has said it is working on “pull-the-plug” legislation there was no immediate commitment for additional outreach funding for invasive species groups, or resources to local governments to conduct vulnerability assessments. It was suggested that OBWB may want to ask partners to enhance these last two items.

There was general agreement for working more closely with partners. Dir. Derickson added that an introduction of invasive mussels would devastate Syilx culture and that ONA is looking forward to working with OBWB on this issue. Dirs. Cumming and Baker noted the significant role that could be played by promoting social responsibility among watercraft owners. Ms. Jackson noted that social responsibility is a key element of the Don’t Move A Mussel campaign being developed with Habit Creations Marketing.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated April 27, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

4.3 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the “Make Water Work” (MWW) campaign, now in its 10th year, noting participation from local governments throughout the valley. Plans are underway for a launch similar to last year, with mayors and elected officials creating short MWW pledge videos for social media. Further details will be provided in the next few weeks.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated April 28, 2021, be received.”
CARRIED

5. **NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1 Okanagan Hydrometric Information Program

Mr. Jatel introduced a memo and resolution for the installation of new hydrometric stations, maintenance, and data collection. This is in line with the board’s goal to increase hydrometric monitoring and is within the current budget, he added.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve a sole source contract in the amount of \$76,500 with the Okanagan Nation Alliance for the operational support and management of the 2021 OBWB hydrometric information network service.”
CARRIED

“THAT the Hydrometric Network Memo, dated April 27, 2021, be received.”
CARRIED

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 6.1 B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy letter to OBWB re: invasive mussels
- 6.2 Shuswap Watershed Council letter to Province of B.C. and cc’ed to OBWB re: invasive mussels

“THAT the correspondence from B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to OBWB re: invasive mussels, and from Shuswap Watershed Council to the Province of B.C. and cc’ed to OBWB re: invasive mussels be accepted.”
CARRIED

7. **NEXT MEETING**

- 7.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tues. June 1, 2021 at 10 a.m. at location TBD.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 4, 2021 be adjourned at 9:34 a.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director