



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD JUNE 1, 2021, 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 Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
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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	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 10:00 a.m.

Chair McKortoff respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. She also called for a moment of silence to honour the 215 children discovered by the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 1, 2021 be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of May 4, 2021 held online.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on May 4, 2021 held online be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

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

##### **4.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears noted that a report is being prepared with Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on ways the two groups can work more strategically together on mutual water goals. A joint memo will be taken to the ONA Chiefs Executive Council later in June and then brought to the OBWB board in July. ONA’s upcoming release of its *Syilx siw̓kʷ Water Strategy* was noted. Dr. Sears said that she would inquire about a possible presentation to the board.

The board was told that the province is expected to release the OBWB’s gap analysis report soon, with study recommendations to update the Okanagan Lake Regulation System infrastructure and management plan.

Staff are working on a source water protection letter to be sent to the provincial government. The letter is based on the presentation by B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy’s Ted Zimmerman at the joint board-Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting in May, as well as the council’s Source Protection Committee report to the board in April.

Dr. Sears added that conditions are dry and there is increasing concern about potential drought and wildfires.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated May 26, 2021, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

##### **4.2 Policy and Planning Specialist Report**

Ms. Garcia told the board that updates have been made to the Okanagan Drought Response Strategy, including updating local utility contact lists for potential drought communications. It was noted that the province will be adjusting its reporting of droughts from four to six levels this summer, to be consistent with North American Drought Monitor’s six-level framework. If found beneficial, this will become a permanent change. Also, local water utilities are starting to roll out communications to its agricultural customers, promoting water efficiency in anticipation of a dry season.

Work on the Source Protection Toolkit is almost complete and work is now underway to develop a website and webinars for local government and First Nations staff.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated May 25, 2021, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

##### **4.3 Special Projects Coordinator Report**

Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo noted that it was decided to move the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum to April 28-30, 2022. Several contributions and grants have been confirmed and the event planning committee is looking to fundraise the remaining \$15,000. Work on a web-microsite for the event is also underway.

The AquaHacking Western Canada challenge recruited 137 participants and created 21 teams. Participants came from across Canada and even international students took part. In the end, 10

teams pitched at the semi-final on May 15 and four top teams were selected and announced at a May 18 live event. These four teams are now being mentored and are honing their projects. The final event will be on Sept. 14.

Tessa Terbasket joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

***“THAT the Specialist Projects Coordinator’s Report, dated May 26, 2021, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson told the board that the “Make Water Work” (MWW) campaign will be launching June 14, with mayors being invited to post pledge videos. Additional items will be rolling out in the days just prior and after the launch. Final creative is also being developed for a re-launch of “Don’t Move A Mussel.” The campaign will include some of the same advertising elements as MWW, but also some specific efforts to target water recreationists coming to the Okanagan.

Work is continuing on the “*Our Relationship with Water in the Okanagan*” education guide project, she added, noting a co-presentation with Syilx Knowledge Keeper Pamela Barnes at a Vernon Teachers Professional Development Day Conference in May.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated May 26, 2021, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.5 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and committee work, including the addition of two new committees on climate change and alluvial fans. Dr. Brian Guy will be presenting at the next meeting on his report, prepared for the OBWB to the B.C. government, regarding studies to update the Okanagan Lake Regulation System.

Work on the hydrometric network project is continuing with the recent re-establishment of a hydrometric station on Pearson Creek with Environment and Climate Change Canada. West Kelowna is also working with the project team to put a station on Powers Creek.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated May 26, 2021, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 4.6 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley gave an update on the milfoil control program, noting that de-rooting is done and the milfoil crew is preparing for harvesting season in late June-early July. New milfoil trucks have arrived and a new crane truck is expected to follow in the fall. Staff are looking at the possibility of doing milfoil surveys on the eastside of Wood Lake. The question of the potential relationship between milfoil and algae was discussed. Dir. Fleming suggested that the province should be made aware of this. The potential benefit of milfoil control in helping with the protection and recovery of native chinook and prevention of invasive predator fish, was also noted.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated May 26, 2021, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

## 5. IN-CAMERA

5.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter)

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

*“THAT the OBWB approve the allocation of an additional \$70,000 as outlined above to the 2021 Okanagan Lakes Bathymetric Project.*

*“AND THAT following the RFP process, the Executive Director is authorized to execute a contract with the selected supplier for the 2021 Okanagan Lakes Bathymetric Project, up to \$370,000 plus any external funding received for the project.*

**CARRIED**

*“THAT the OBWB provide a sole source contract to Northwest Hydraulics Consultants Ltd. for a fixed contract price of \$75,000 to produce a comparison of Okanagan and Wood-Kalamalka Lake Floodplain Maps under two management scenarios.*

**CARRIED**



**NEXT MEETING**

6.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tues. July 6, 2021 at 10 a.m. at location TBD.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 1, 2021 be adjourned at 11:37 a.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
		
Chair		Executive Director