



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 10, 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 Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Director Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

STAFF

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

REGRETS

Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
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GUESTS

Jeremy Fyke	OWSC
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No late items were brought forward.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 10, 2021 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 6, 2021 held online.

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

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

A tracking measures report was provided to directors as a companion piece to the annual report, reviewing progress on goals in the OBWB’s strategic plan. The board was also updated on a submission provided to the Province of B.C. on its draft climate preparedness and adaptation strategy.

Dir. Basran entered the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Chair McKortoff noted the regional differences as it relates to climate change impacts and the importance of the province listening to local communities.

Dir. Derickson entered the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Dir. Cumming agreed with Chair McKortoff, adding that scale is an issue, noting the significant loss of forests this year due to the fires.

Dir. Fairbairn entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Dr. Sears updated the board on efforts to update governance procedures to strengthen the ONA-OBWB relationship, explaining that the changes need to be done at the regional district level. However, after some initial discussions with one of the regional district Chief Administrative Officers, Dr. Sears has now asked the province for a formal letter with their review of the OBWB’s letters patent with respect to this matter. Once that is received, staff will meet with Okanagan regional district Chief Administrative Officers and then their boards.

Dir. Derickson exited the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

The OBWB has been invited to present to the Government of B.C.’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on Sept. 29. Some of the issues the Water Board will be looking for support on include: invasive mussel prevention, ongoing funds for B.C.’s new Healthy Watersheds Initiative, and a review of the Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS).

Dr. Sears added that provincial staff have said the OLRS gap analysis report will be released soon. Several directors noted the importance of this project and the release of the report.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated August 31, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel introduced guest Jeremy Fyke with Environment and Climate Change Canada and vice-chair of OWSC.

The September council meeting held yesterday included a review of this summer's record-breaking temperatures and a look at what can be expected in future years based on modeling. Members, including those in agriculture, shared their experiences with the extreme heat and drought.

Dir. Derickson re-entered the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

The board was updated on the hydrometric program, the installation of stations, and their use by partners this summer to help maintain environmental flow needs.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated August 31, 2021, be received."
CARRIED

5.3 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia provided an update on this summer's drought, noting the impact it had on streams, especially those not supported by storage, and concerns for fish. Staff sent out two drought bulletins this summer, ensuring water utilities, elected officials, media and the public were aware of the drought status and efforts required to address it. A meeting was also held with water suppliers on Aug. 26 to allow them to share their experiences this summer and promote information sharing,

Work is continuing on completion of the Source Protection Toolkit and website, and planning for a webinar series is underway.

A UBC Okanagan report, looking at Okanagan flood plans and policies, comparing them to others in Canada, and providing recommendation for improvement, has been completed. The report is part of a larger effort to address flood protection in the valley, Ms. Garcia explained.

"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated August 30, 2021, be received."
CARRIED

5.4 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littlely noted that the topo-bathymetric LiDAR project is underway. Additional partner funding is allowing data acquisition on the U.S. side of Osoyoos Lake and a portion of the lower Similkameen River, which influences Osoyoos Lake water levels.

The board was told that although a heavy milfoil season was expected based on early observances and public complaints, there was less weed growth, possibly due to low precipitation. At the same time, fires also affected milfoil control operations, with operators required to stay off the lake one day due to health concerns with the smoke, and then having to stay off the lake another day to prevent interference with skimmer aircraft. A long-term project to provide milfoil control in Vaseux Lake is still being pursued. In addition, UBCO engineering students are being provided the opportunity to focus a school project on improving current rototilling practices to address turbidity.

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated August 18, 2021, be received."
CARRIED

5.5 Special Projects Coordinator Report

Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo reported on organizing efforts for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum now set for April 28-30, 2022. Final funds are being raised and speakers and facilitators are being

finalized.

The Western Canada AquaHacking Challenge final is being held online on Sept. 14. The three finalist teams have been working on their solutions throughout the summer and will be pitching their projects to judges with 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements announced at the finals.

“THAT the Specialist Projects Coordinator’s Report, dated August 31, 2021, be received.”
CARRIED

5.6 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson updated the board on the final stretch of the Make Water Work campaign, noting that the community champion would be announced at the OBWB’s Annual Meeting. However, she added, the outdoor water conservation campaign continues into early October with water still needed for fish returning to spawn and fall food crops. It was noted that the drought made for a very busy summer with media calls, local but also provincial and national, looking for information regarding the impacts of the drought and what people could do to help.

An update was given on the Don’t Move a Mussel campaign. New materials were designed this year to draw attention to invasive mussels, including sandwich boards that were provided to interested tourist info. centres. New digital items were also provided to interested water-related business and community partners to help spread the message. Ms. Jackson added that recent outreach and inspection numbers provided by the province are very similar to last year with the greatest number of mussel-infested watercraft coming from Ontario (7 of 16), and the greatest number of infested watercraft destined for the Okanagan (8 of 16).

Staff have also met with Okanagan Nation Alliance about the development of a *syilx* water education guide, which would be an extension of the “Our Relationship with Water in the Okanagan” guides produced earlier this year by the OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated August 27, 2021, be received.”
CARRIED

6 CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1.1 E-mail response from B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to OBWB letter of July 14, 2021 re. source protection



“THAT the OBWB receive the correspondence from B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy re. source protection.”
CARRIED

7 NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 10 a.m. online.

8 ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 6, 2021 be adjourned at 11:58 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
		
Chair		Executive Director