



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2022, 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 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 Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

REGRETS

Director Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)
Caitlyn Glasser	ONA Technical Staff

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

GUESTS

Sarah North and Piotr Kuras	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Hannah Rempel	UBC Okanagan student
Rob Munro	InfoNews

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Exec. Dir. Sears called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Dr. Sears welcomed directors appointed for 2022.

Directors appointed to the board:

From **Regional District of North Okanagan**

Mayor Victor Cumming

Director Rick Fairbairn

Director Bob Fleming

Alternates – Christine Fraser, Amanda Shatzko, Shirley Fowler

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Mayor James Baker
Mayor Colin Basran
Mayor Cindy Fortin
Alternates – Mark Bartyik, Charlie Hodge, Stephen Johnson

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Director Doug Holmes
Director Rick Knodel
Mayor Sue McKortoff
Alternates – Mark Pendergraft, Subrina Monteith, Ron Oberik

Water Management AppointmentsOkanagan Nation Alliance

Chief Chris Derickson
Alternate – TBD

Water Supply Association of BC

Mr. Bob Hrasko
Alternate – Vacant

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Chair Scott Boswell
Alternate – Vice-chair Jeremy Fyke

Dr. Sears requested nominations for chair. Dir. Baker nominated Dir. McKortoff. Dir. McKortoff accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Dir. McKortoff was re-elected chair.

Dir. McKortoff offered her thanks to the board and staff.

Dir. McKortoff requested nominations for vice-chair. Dir. Baker nominated Dir. Fortin. Dir. Fortin accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Dir. Fortin was elected vice-chair.

Dir. Fortin offered her thanks to the board and staff.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No late items were brought forward.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 1, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 7, 2021 held online.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on December 7, 2021 held online be approved.”

CARRIED

6. DELEGATION

Sarah North and Piotr Kuras of Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, on new Okanagan floodplain

maps to be published in March or April, 2022.

Dr. Sears provided an introduction, noting Northwest Hydraulics Consultants worked on the flood maps that were released in 2020 and were part of the launch of the OkanaganFloodStory.ca website. The earlier maps looked at flooding if the B.C. government were to update the Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS), as they had recommended. These new maps show where flood waters will reach given the current operating plan for the Okanagan Dam at Penticton.

The new maps will also be published on the flood story website and are part of the recommended “Plan of Study” to review and update the OLRS and operating plan that control Okanagan lake levels.

Chair McKortoff thanked Ms. North and Mr. Kuras for the presentation.

Ms. North, Mr. Kuras and Mr. Munro exited the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears told the board of upcoming meetings with Okanagan regional district boards regarding an update to OBWB’s Supplementary Letters Patent and Okanagan Nation Alliance voting powers.

There is still some work to be completed before the flood maps, discussed during the delegation part of the meeting, are officially released. However, once that is done, the OBWB will renew talks with the province to push forward on the OLRS Plan of Study recommendations.

The board was updated on the B.C. Government’s proposed Watershed Security Strategy and call for input by March 18. The OBWB will be submitting a joint response from the board and its Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC).

It was noted that snow pillows in the Okanagan are showing near normal. That said, it is still too early to know what to expect this spring and summer for water availability

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated January 26, 2022, be received.”
CARRIED

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted that the next OWSC meeting will look at flood management with Tamsen Lyle of Ebbwater Consulting and Graham Watt, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Flood Recovery at City of Grand Forks.

An update was provided on the Hydrometric Information Network. It was noted that Associated Engineering has been reviewing the data to ensure it meets data requirements to be posted on the B.C. government water data website. The loss of engineer Don Dobson in December, a key proponent of this and other Okanagan water projects, was acknowledged. Directors suggested that a card be sent to the family from the board. It was added that Mr. Dobson has been nominated for a 2021 City of Kelowna “Champion for the Environment Award. A letter of support is circulating and will be passed along for those who wish to sign on.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a card of condolence to Don Dobson’s family from the board.”

CARRIED.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated January 25, 2022, be received.”
CARRIED

7.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grant Program review noting the need to look at the 1 ha policy, along with what eligible areas remain (built prior to 1978 and not yet sewered), and finally, the future of the program. There was some discussion about the program and agreement that a review would be prudent.

Milfoil control staff are expecting a new crane truck to arrive soon. Once it does, the existing truck will be sold at auction and, like other program vehicles sold at auction, the funds will go into the milfoil equipment reserve.

Staff are waiting on the province to provide more details regarding its invasive mussel program and plans for the upcoming year. This will help prepare a call for action from the OBWB to senior levels of government.

Topobathymetric LiDAR data processing is currently underway. It was noted that the data will be available on the B.C. government website and high resolution imagery will be available on a hard drive.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated January 25, 2022, be received.”
CARRIED

7.4 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia explained that the nine-session series of Source Water Protection (SWP) Toolkit webinars are now available on the SWP website and the OBWB-OkWaterWise YouTube channel. Participants included local government staff in the Okanagan and beyond, senior government and First Nations staff, and others. Presentations on the toolkit to municipal councils in the valley are wrapping up, she added.

An overview was provided on a debrief meeting with the province’s Thompson Okanagan Regional Drought Response Team. Challenges were discussed and how to make improvement for 2022.

Staff have completed a final report on the Agriculture Water Supply Communications Project. The three-year project was aimed at helping water suppliers improve communication with their agricultural customers and help prepare for water supply challenges, for example with e-alerts.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated January 25, 2022, be received.”
CARRIED

7.5 Special Projects Coordinator Report

Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo reported that the AquaHacking 2021 program is completed and an update on the 2020 and 2021 winners will be presented at the March board meeting.

Planning for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum is continuing. Although partners were ready to host the event in April, the decision has been made to postpone the forum until October due to travel restrictions and continuing uncertainty with COVID-19. The call for posters for the event closes tomorrow.

“THAT the Specialist Projects Coordinator’s Report, dated January 25, 2022, be received.”
CARRIED

7.6 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson told the board that work is getting started for Don't Move A Mussel (DMM) and Make Water Work (MWW) 2022 campaigns with an updated contract with Habit Creations for marketing services, and an offer of matching funds to local governments and utilities for MWW.

Staff have also been working on a partnership agreement with Okanagan Nation Alliance to create a "Syilx siwɬkʷ (Water) Knowledge and Perspectives" education guide, a companion piece to the OBWB's previously published "Our Relationship with Water in the Okanagan" series of three guides. At the same time, support among Okanagan teachers for the "Our Relationship" guides is continuing to grow, she added.

Ms. Jackson also reported on ongoing participation in UBC Okanagan School of Education's Co-Curricular-Making project, aimed at working with community partners and Okanagan teachers to de-colonize and Indigenize education. A strong focus of the project is on water and our relationship with water.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated January 26, 2022, be received."

CARRIED

8. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1 Contract approval for Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc. to improve Okanagan hydrology model to support Okanagan lake level review work.

Dr. Sears noted that the new contract is for work to model for low flows on Okanagan lakes, required to properly review lake level management and what changes are needed for future operations and infrastructure.

"That the OBWB approve the single-source contract to Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Inc. for \$44,955, starting in April 2022, to complete the Okanagan Hydrology Model update."

CARRIED

9. **NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 10 a.m. Location to be determined.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 1, 2022 be adjourned at 11:59 a.m."

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director