



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2022,
OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY - KELOWNA DOWNTOWN BRANCH
1380 ELLIS ST., KELOWNA, 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
Alt. Director Christine Fraser	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Alt. Director Jeremy Fyke	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

REGRETS

Director to be appointed	Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)
Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Caitlyn Glasser	ONA Technical Staff

STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Deputy Administrator
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Director
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Office and Grants Manager

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 5, 2022 held online.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on July 5, 2022 held online be approved.”

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears discussed the post-election board schedule and explained that it is unlikely that OBWB directors will be appointed in time for a December meeting. She suggested that the board hold a meeting on the second Tuesday in January to avoid having an extended time between meetings, while still giving staff time to prepare the agenda package and send it out after the holidays.

“THAT the January OBWB meeting be held on January 10, 2022.”

CARRIED

Dr. Sears told the board that as of August 17, 2022, all three Okanagan regional districts have approved our request to make the OBWB's Water Management Program an ongoing function of the organization.

She gave an overview of recent changes and updates to the organizational structure in the office, including updates to several job titles to reflect actual activities and responsibilities.

Dr. Sears explained that in June she made a submission to the B.C. Budget Consultation that included three points. Their report was released on August 11, 2022. The committee directly supported two out of the three points in their summary recommendations:

Recommendation 96. Implement 24/7 inspection facilities at all major border crossings to inspect vessels for quagga mussels and other invasive species.

Recommendation 103. Provide \$75 million in sustained funding to the BC Watershed Security Fund.

Although the committee did not make a recommendation directly related to the third point around the need for funding a review of the Okanagan Lake Regulation System and Operating Plan, the summary of the report section stated: *“While reflecting on the presentation by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, Members felt that the group effectively demonstrated the risks to lives and the economy of not ensuring that BC's dam infrastructure is up to date to deal with severe weather events”* (page 50). More generally, the OBWB's request could be accommodated under the following:

Recommendation 85. Provide urgent and substantive investment into climate adaptation, mitigation, and prevention strategies with a view to reduce the worst impacts of climate change.

Dr. Sears reminded directors about the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum to be held on October 27 to 29. The forum will be hosted in partnership with the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Okanagan Nation Alliance, with particular emphasis on bridging Western and Indigenous approaches to water and watershed management. More details about the event such as: agenda, venues, hotels info. and much more can be found at: <https://www.obwb.ca/olwsf/>. OBWB directors should let staff know if they plan to attend.

“THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated August 30, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

5.1.1 Tracking Measures Report

Dr. Sears explained that this is the third year of applying tracking measures for our annual report. The measures continue to be a mix of quantitative and qualitative data.

“THAT the 2022 - Tracking Progress towards the Goals of the 2020 Strategic Plan report be received.”

CARRIED

6. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Purchasing Policy Update Memo

Dr. Sears provided an overview of recent updates to the OBWB purchasing policy. The policy is structured to fit existing guidelines and best practices, consistent with those of the regional districts and other local governments. It was structured with the help of Andy Brennan, of Interior Purchasing, who is a consultant to local governments across B.C.

“THAT the OBWB adopt the updated 2022 OBWB Purchasing Policy as presented by staff.”

CARRIED

6.2 Budget Features Memo – Proposed Budget for 2023 – 2024

Dr. Sears presented the budget for 2023-2024. She explained that the overall OBWB requisition is \$3,833,982, up from the 2022-23 requisition of \$3,693,017. In total, this is equivalent to 3.0 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down from 3.8 cents/\$1,000 assessment because of increased property values. The budget includes a new 0.5 FTE communications position, a four-month casual milfoil operator for the summer of 2023, and funds to accommodate renewal of milfoil control permits and equipment.

“THAT the OBWB adopt the 2023-2024 budget as presented.”

CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., online.

8 ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 9, 2022 be adjourned at 1:27 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director