



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCTOBER 4, 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
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 10:02 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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 4, 2022 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2022 held at Okanagan Regional Library, downtown Kelowna branch.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Sept. 9, 2022 held at Okanagan Regional Library, downtown Kelowna branch be approved.”

CARRIED

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears presented the proposed meeting schedule.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the 2023 meeting schedule as presented.”

CARRIED

The board was presented with a memo regarding updating signing authority.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the updated signing authority memo as presented.”

CARRIED

Directors were told that the forecast is for La Niña conditions to continue through the autumn.

Staff are continuing to work on projects while waiting for the new board to convene in the new year, Dr. Sears added, noting Ms. Garcia is wrapping projects up as she prepares to leave for a position with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program. The OBWB will be looking to hire a replacement in the spring.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Sept. 28, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Policy and Planning Director Report

Ms. Garcia provided an overview of drought conditions in the valley, noting that the watershed rebounded from the previous summer’s drought with a cold, wet spring. It wasn’t until late July when the Okanagan experienced hot, dry conditions which have created concerns in some streams. With drought conditions continuing, B.C.’s Thompson Okanagan Drought Response Team will continue to meet into October. OBWB staff have been working with the provincial team to create a primer, she added, to help communicate the difference between local water restriction stages, provincial drought levels, and drought ratings from the Canadian Drought Monitor.

Staff are preparing for an upcoming presentation on the OBWB’s Source Water Protection Toolkit to B.C.’s Drinking Water Leadership Council this month. The council includes drinking water managers, regulators, medical health officers, policymakers, and engineers.

Additional projects over the last few months have included working with the District of Lake Country and several other partners to develop a Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan. It is hoped that the plan will be a pilot for other watersheds. And, the CivicInfo BC Planning Guides database has been updated.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Director’s Report, dated Sept. 27, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

5.3 Water Stewardship Director Report

Dr. Jatel noted that the last Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting included a presentation from Cassidy Rankine on the use of satellite data for watershed management. The Oct. 13 meeting will include Jeffery McDonnell who has retired here from the University of

Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security, presenting on carbon-dating of water and how it can be used to manage water.

The board was also told that work to update Okanagan flood hazard maps should be completed this month. The additional risk map layers will support communities with flood planning and adaptation. Work on hydrometric stations also continued in September with project partners Environment Canada and Okanagan Nation Alliance installing new stations and collecting hydrometric data.

"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Sept. 28, 2022, be received."
CARRIED

5.4 Deputy Administrator Report

Mr. Little reported on the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Invasive Species Working Group conference and discussions around significant U.S. federal government funding to states for their invasive mussel inspection programs. Although B.C. and Saskatchewan received some Canadian federal funding, other Western provinces received none. It was also noted that invasive mussels continue to multiply and spread in Lake Manitoba. And South Dakota, which has had mussels for years, has announced a new detection less than 100 km from the Montana border – a concern since two reservoirs in Montana were just this year declared mussel-free after five years of testing negative.

Although B.C.'s inspection program is one of the more robust programs in Canada, it has also seen funding reduced. Provincial staff report that they are continuing to negotiate for more funding and appreciate the OBWB's continued support. They are also still working on an updated economic analysis of a potential infestation in B.C.

In response to questions, it was noted that an infestation can occur with one boat if there is sufficient mussel diversity. Between April 1 and Sept. 28, inspection crews intercepted 12 watercraft with adult mussels coming from Ontario (10), Manitoba (1) and Quebec (1). The watercraft were destined for the Lower Mainland (5), Okanagan (4), Thompson-Nicola (2) and Vancouver Island (1).

An update was given on the milfoil control program, including work on Vaseux Lake where the milfoil crew spent 10 operating days on the lake, removing 30 loads – approximately 87 tons of the weed. The board was updated on the potential purchase of milfoil harvester and agreed to defer the purchase to allow staff to review options.

"THAT the Board defers the purchase of a new milfoil harvester to provide staff time to gather information and make an updated recommendation."
CARRIED

The board was updated on a review of the Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grant Program including a Request for Proposals to hire a contractor to review pertinent information including Okanagan municipal bylaws and variances regarding OBWB's one-hectare bylaw, and provide recommendations.

"THAT the Board authorizes the Executive Director, following a full RFP process, to contract for the services outlined above to support the SFA Program Comprehensive Review to a maximum of \$45,000 plus GST."
CARRIED

“THAT the Deputy Administrator’s Report, dated Sept. 28, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

5.5 Office and Grants Manager Report

Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo reported on the upcoming “Nk’mip (Osoyoos Lake) - The Heart of the Watershed” water science forum, Oct. 27-29, adding this is the fourth forum with previous events in 2007, 2011 and 2015. The theme of this year’s forum is bridging Indigenous and western approaches to knowledge, science and management. Topics include how water is managed, climate change impacts, fisheries restoration, and more, and will be presented by Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents living on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border. A short documentary will be filmed and a follow-up report will be written on the event. Current registrations are at about 150.

“THAT the Office and Grants Manager’s Report, dated Sept. 28, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

5.6 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Make Water Work campaign, encouraging outdoor residential water conservation. Given the warm weather and fall being a good time to plant, staff are continuing to work with garden centre partners and the Okanagan Xeriscape Association to promote the Make Water Work Plant Collection and help residents transition to more WaterWise landscapes.

Work on the Don’t Move a Mussel campaign has slowed down as water recreation tourism winds down. It was noted that early results suggest stronger engagement with the campaign this year, and most recent water testing suggests no invasive mussels have been introduced into Okanagan waters this summer. Directors were told that a full report would be provided at the next board meeting.

Additional communication projects have included work on the OBWB’s Annual Report, a media drought primer and assistance with the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Sept. 28, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

6. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 2023 Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program Memo

Ms. Restrepo noted that the WCQI program provides grants between \$3,000 to \$30,000. A call for applications is planned for the end of November with proposals due by Feb. 24. Staff will review the applications based on scoring criteria and the annual theme. The board was asked to consider this year’s theme: data towards action for community resilience.

“THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined; AND THAT for the 2023-2024 WCQI grant competition, 10 bonus points will be awarded for projects in any category that apply data toward action for community resilience.”

CARRIED

“THAT the WCQI Grant Program memo, dated Sept. 27, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

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

Chair McKortoff thanked board members and staff for all their work and offered best wishes to those retiring and those seeing election again. Directors Baker and Cummings offered similar wishes.

8 ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 4, 2022 be adjourned at 11:26 a.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director