

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2013, AT
BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

UBC Okanagan	Bernie Bauer, Chair
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson, vice-chair
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Scott Smith (alt.)
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh
BC Fruit Growers Association	Lorraine Bennest
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8	Lorne Davies (alt.)
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture	Andrew Petersen (alt.)
B.C. Ministry Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops.(Resource)	Ray Crampton
B.C. Ministry Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops.(Resource)	Bob Warner (alt.)
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
City of Kelowna	Jason Ough (alt.)
Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region	Ian Rogalski
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	David O'Keefe
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Zoe Masters
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Margaret Bakelaar
Regional District North Okanagan	Renee Clark
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Evelyn Riechert

Regrets

BC Ground Water Association	Remi Allard
B.C. Ministry Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops.(Fish/Wildlife)	Grant Furness
City of Vernon	Rob Dickinson
Okanagan College	Leif Burge
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association	Kerry Rouck

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications Director	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Office and Project Manager	James Littley

GUESTS:

City of Kelowna	Jason Angus
District of Coldstream	Maria Besso
District of West Kelowna	Carol Zanon
Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens	Eva Antonijevic
Kelowna Capital News	Judie Steeves
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Zoe Kirk
UBC Okanagan	John Janmaat
UBC Okanagan	Craig Nichol
UBC Okanagan	Natasha Neumann
Water Supply Association of BC	Patty Meger
Westcoast CED	Victor Cumming
Westcoast CED	Kate Cumming
Western Water Associates	Laurie Welch

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4.1 Addition of a presentation by John Janmaat

Moved by Remi Allard

Seconded by Zoe Masters

“That the agenda for the Oct. 10, 2013 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held Sept 12, 2013, at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

Two small amendments were noted.

Moved by Don Dobson

Seconded by Brian Guy

“That the minutes from the Sept. 12, 2013 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the most recent board meeting and discussion about the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control annual meeting regarding the management of Zosel Dam. The International Joint Commission, she added, is being asked to assist the OBWB in advocating for federal legislation to address the threat of invasive mussels spreading into the Okanagan and other parts of Western Canada.

The board also discussed September’s blue-green algae bloom in Osoyoos and the need for Interior Health to develop a protocol to address such issues. A letter will be sent to IH.

Environment Canada has provided an additional \$7,000 for the OBWB’s hydrometric monitoring project, making data more accessible to partners.

Staff provided the board with a valley-wide water plan progress report. The OBWB’s draft strategic plan was also delivered and discussed.

Dr. Warwick Sears said an update on Water Act Modernization was provided to the board. A draft legislative paper is expected to be released around Oct. 15 with a deadline for input in mid-November.

Council held a brief discussion about a small working committee being struck to help review the paper and draft a response for the board. Council members who volunteered to sit on the committee include Mr. Dobson representing APEG, a representative of WSABC as well as the GWABC, UBCO’s Drs. Janmaat and Bauer, and OBWB staff. Others were asked to contact Mr. Jatel.

4.1 Dr. Janmaat told council about a study being done regarding environmental valuation. He invited council member to fill a quick survey out and noted they are also looking for a few people to participate in an advisory capacity.

5. OBWB STRATEGIC PLAN (2014-19)

Dr. Warwick Sears presented the council with the draft Strategic Plan recently adopted by the board.

It was noted that the SP is goal-oriented and it would be good to determine the impact to local governments/agencies.

Dr. Warwick Sears added that staff are now looking at developing a 'state of the basin' report/gap analysis to determine what we have and what we need in the valley (e.g. what communities are metered, which are not, how do we get them metered). Over the next short while, staff will be meeting with RDCO, RDOS and RDNO to develop the survey.

6. GUEST PANEL: CURRENT STATE OF OKANAGAN WATER POLICY

Evelyn Riechert, RDOS

Margaret Bakelaar, RDCO

Mr. Jatel introduced Ms. Riechert and Bakelaar, adding that RDNO's Anthony Kittel was unable to present.

Ms. Riechert presented on the RDOS Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) noting that it only includes the Okanagan portion of the regional district. It is not prescriptive, but it is a bylaw that needs to be followed as OCPs are amended, she noted. It was adopted April 1, 2010 and the most contentious issue was urban growth. Primary growth areas were identified (e.g. Summerland, Penticton, Ok Falls, Oliver, and Osoyoos) and secondary areas (where infrastructure is in place).

The RGS includes an environmental goal, ensuring the health of ecosystems. It includes a goal to promote water sustainability through conservation and related best practices (including support of an inter-regional water plan, support of education and outreach and universal metering, and a recognition that all uses will have to cut back in times of drought).

In 2011, average water use in the region was showing at 896 l/capita (residential and irrigation combined). The RDOS is now reporting water use in most areas through OBWB's BC Water Use Reporting Centre to help understand water use and guide conservation.

As part of the RGS, the RDOS adopted a policy to develop a protocol agreement to work with First Nations which was signed June 21, 2013 on National Aboriginal Day.

Ms. Bakelaar noted RDCO adopted its current RGS in 2000 and is currently updating it to include areas where there has been significant growth. Staff are also reviewing existing policies and where updates are needed. The RGS, she noted, includes a look at transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, housing, water resources (how to manage and protect them), and more. The document is intended to be a baseline for upcoming reviews, added Ms. Bakelaar, saying that it's about choices, managing conflicts and developing partnerships.

Zoe Masters entered the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Water issues are noted throughout the RGS, added Ms. Bakelaar, for example with the sections on land (need to protect water resources), economy (includes protecting water assets), food (support for agricultural water), and ecosystems (support aquatic ecosystems). But this is a high-level plan that is not intended to include specific policies. This would be done within bylaws and other legislation, she said.

The RDCO expects to implement the latest RGS this fall and is planning to review it every five years.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Jatel thanked Chair Bauer for his time as chair of the council. Chair Bauer spoke briefly about his time as chair and noted his appreciation to the council.

Ms. Antonijevic, Restrepo-Tamayo, Cumming, Mr. Cumming and Dr. Guy exited the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

8. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Ms. Jackson: Staff delivered a presentation at the recent WaterSmart Innovations conference on the Make Water Work campaign - the unique partnerships, lessons learned, and plans to move forward in 2014. Final reports are still being compiled, but Ms. Jackson noted that initial results show that local government partners that provided \$2-3,000 for advertising support received a valley-wide campaign worth \$120,000 with almost \$84,000 provided in-kind by media and other campaign partners.
- Ms. Besso: District of Coldstream has requested funding for water sampling on Coldstream Creek.

Mr. Buchler exited the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

- Ms. Clark: RDNO was found guilty in relation to a water contamination case. The case and lessons learned will be presented at the upcoming WSABC conference Oct. 17.
- Mr. Ough: The UV facility for Cedar Creek is almost ready to come online; The city is dealing with drainage issues – high intensity flows – and infrastructure needing immediate attention. Dr. Warwick Sears noted that West Coast Environmental Law is producing a report on risk assessments in response to climate change which may be of interest.
- Ms. Masters: ONA recently provided its U.S. funders with a tour of its habitat projects which are showing great success, meeting milestones to improve sockeye spawning habitat.
- Ms. Riechert: Ok Falls treatment plant is now operational. RDOS staff have been asked to review how licences can be renewed on reservoir lots.
- Ms. Kirk: RDOS is holding a workshop Nov. 19 for emergency preparedness and water staff to discuss the impact of climate change and extreme weather on infrastructure and how to meet the challenge. Speakers include Ag Canada's Scott Smith and world-renowned water expert Bob Sandford.
- Ms. Meger: The WSABC conference Oct. 17 – 18 will include a dam inspection course, the RDNO water contamination court case, the double-licencing issue (e.g. with South East Kelowna Irrigation District).

Ms. Meger exited the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

- Dr. Janmaat: Please complete and return Environmental Valuation surveys; the Invitational Drought Tournament model used in the Okanagan is being taken to Nepal for a workshop.
- Mr. O'Keefe: The real estate market is improving and appears to be on the rebound.
- Mr. Birtles: IH will be at the WSABC conference to discuss its drinking water objectives and new guidelines.

Ms. Richert and Kirk exited the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

- Mr. Crampton: Council members were encouraged to check out a new video on the fish management tool developed for the Okanagan. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xTF7xMm-UY>. FLNRO staff attended a flood debrief meeting in Kamloops and tested the emergency management system.
- Lee Hesketh: The Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program (FRISP) is facing financial troubles. The biodiversity tour held in September was a great success.

Mr. Crampton exited the meeting at 4: 10 p.m.

- Mr. Petersen: The Irrigation and Industry Assoc. of BC is holding its annual conference and training sessions in Richmond Dec. 3-5.
- Mr. Rogalski: Staff are happy to hear the joint EC and OBWB hydrometric project is underway; Listened in on a recent Polis webinar re: water management and polling on water attitudes in Canada and good to hear how the OBWB is held in high regard as an agency to replicate; Repairs are continuing on Okanagan Lake monitoring stations.
- Dr. Nicholls: Studies working on include GHG emissions from fertilization of grapes, and groundwater discharge into Ok Lk.
- Dr. Neumann: Have been working with ONA on the hydrometric station near the Swalwell Reservoir.
- Mr. Davies: BCWF is continuing its wetland work with the OBWB and development of an Okanagan strategy.
- Dr. Smith: Dr. Neilsen is meeting with PICC about climate data sets developed in the Okanagan and making them available province-wide.
- Ms. Bakelaar: Staff have been reviewing regulations around docks in the Okanagan noting that when a property is sold it does not include the dock and the new owner must reapply for it; Staff are also looking at a species and ecosystems at risk symposium.
- Mr. Dobson: A second hydromet station has been installed on Vernon Creek with ONA; An update was provided on SEKID being denied an appeal on the issuance of a licence on its reservoir. An appeal on a similar matter with District of Lake Country is still being considered. Mr. Dobson noted that the main issue is whether B.C.'s Water Stewardship Division has the right to double-licence water on reservoirs that are licenced to/built by/ and maintained by water suppliers.
- Dr. Warwick Sears: The OBWB was invited by Tides Canada to conduct a workshop on urban water issues. It will be using this opportunity to extend the work on Make Water Work.
- Mr. Jatel: Staff are talking with the province about furthering the work of the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, exploring various models including the possibility of it becoming part of a Crown Corporation. The province is undergoing a core review including looking at water rents, licences and how to make improvements.

Steeves exited the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be at the Best Western Inn on November 14, 2013.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Moved by Rob Birtles

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of October 10, 2013 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director